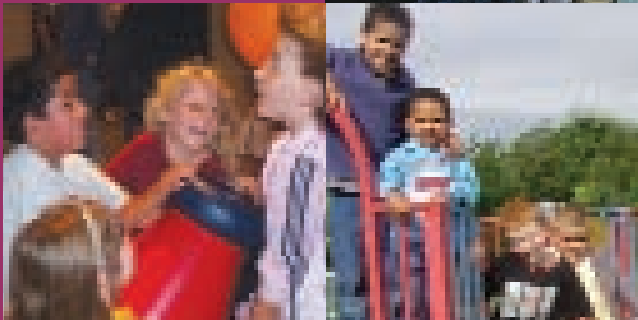




# SPRINGFARM SHARED NEIGHBOURHOOD



report produced  
by **Rubicon  
Consultancy**

Community Relations Council





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The Springfarm & District Community Association would like to thank CRC, NIHE Community Cohesion and the OFMDFM racial equality unit who have worked closely with us guiding and supporting us through the consultation process also the Springfarm community for their positive contribution and ongoing commitment to make Springfarm a better place for all.

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# 1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 Over several years the Springfarm and District Community Association has recognised both the long-term needs of the Springfarm area and the potential the Springfarm estate in Antrim and its residents have to improve the quality of life locally. As a result Springfarm & District Community Association has sought to work in collaboration and partnership with a variety of public, voluntary and community organisations to tackle needs.
- 1.2 The timeline below demonstrates both the long-term commitment made by the volunteers of Springfarm & District Community Association and the volume of work they have undertaken to tackle racism and sectarianism and to help make Springfarm a genuinely shared neighbourhood:

| Date                 | Activity  |
|----------------------|---|
| 2004-2005            | Ongoing racist attacks in the estate  |
| September 2004       | Meeting with Homefirst Trust regarding migrant workers  |
| October 2004         | Meeting with Indian workers from Homefirst Trust  |
| November 2004        | Meeting with Polish workers from Homefirst Trust  |
| January 2005         | Meeting with Indian workers from Homefirst Trust  |
| February 2005        | Participation in minority ethnic promotional video for the NIHE   |
| March 2005           | Meeting with Indian workers from Homefirst Trust  |
| April 2005           | Cultural dinner at Roundtower and first Indian christening in Antrim  |
| May 2005             | First meeting with CRC and NIHE Community Cohesion and OFMDFM Racial Equality Unit re changing demographic profile of the area and the issues that were arising |
| August-December 2005 | Mapping exercise carried out in the estate  |
| March-June 2006      | Community consultation and development of strategic plan  |
| August-December 2006 | Follow-up to consultation and development of strategic plan   |
| April 2006           | Mapping report launched   |
| May 2006             | Welcome Pack launched   |
| October 2006         | Diversity Development Strategy launched   |
| December 2006        | Further racist incidents  |
| January 2007         | CRC presentation to the management committee  |
| March 2007           | Participation in News Letter feature on Shared Neighbourhoods   |
| April 2007           | NIHE launch hate crime leaflet in Springfarm  |
| April 2007           | Adult consultation  |
| May 2007             | Steering group established  |
| May-June 2007        | Youth consultation  |
| September 2007       | Summary of process and next steps   |

- 1.3 The Association have committed to being a shared neighbourhood in the long-term and for the long-haul.
- 1.4 Springfarm & District Community Association has worked closely with the Community Relations Council (CRC) for the past year to devise and introduce a Shared Neighbourhood Scheme. This is a different approach to the Northern Ireland Housing Executive's purpose-built mixed community social housing scheme launched in Enniskillen in October 2006, as it is set in an established residential housing estate that is self-determining as a shared neighbourhood.
- 1.5 Rather than use the term mixed housing CRC and Springfarm & District Community Association have developed the term Shared Neighbourhood Scheme. The Scheme aims to put in place a plan of action to build on the existing work of Springfarm & District Community Association in the development of best practice in the promotion of good community and race relations, and develop a shared vision for Springfarm which will:

- Place the promotion of good relations at the centre of policy, practice and delivery of public services;
- Establish greater clarity on the respective roles of all key stakeholders;
- Underscore the need for all citizens, political parties, service deliverers and churches to play a role in promoting good relations in Springfarm;
- Put in place a clear framework for the approach;
- Promote joined up approaches to policy and funding by public sector bodies towards community and race relations work in Springfarm;
- Seek to support staff in public authorities in their work to promote good community and race relations;
- Monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of the programme.

The Shared Neighbourhood Scheme for Springfarm is a groundbreaking project in Antrim, which it is hoped, will be a model of best practice for others to learn from and replicate.

- 1.6 This will include the development of a voluntary charter agreed by all residents of Springfarm, which will feed in to the Shared Neighbourhood Scheme being developed by the Northern Ireland Housing Executive (NIHE) and supported by the International Fund for Ireland.
- 1.7 As such, Springfarm & District Community Association wishes to work in partnership with all other relevant public, private voluntary and community organisations, to progress the vision and plans for good community and race relations in Springfarm.
- 1.8 The Springfarm & District Community Association has already undertaken a wide range of consultation activities to include local residents in the visioning process, and develop buy-in to the vision and actions that will emerge from the consultation process. An innovative and exciting children and young people's consultation process was also developed and delivered by Wheelworks.

"Springfarm & District Community Association has delivered essential community support with no paid workers and little funding. We have enjoyed the support of the CRC, NIHE and others in the development of the Shared Neighbourhood Scheme; but it will only succeed with the buy-in and long term commitment and support of all agencies with responsibility for addressing social and economic problems of which Springfarm has many."  
**Seamus Davis, Springfarm & District Community Association**

## 2

# WORK OF SPRINGFARM AND DISTRICT COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

2.1 The Springfarm & District Community Association was formed in 1993. The Association was given the use of 2 adjacent properties in 1996 which were opened as the Springfarm Community House, a third adjoining property was added in 2000. The Community House gave the group a central point from which to work and a community facility to provide support and services to respond to increasing anti social behaviour and problems that arise with a transient population. Around five years ago the experience of the Springfarm & District Community Association was that the area was suffering from social and economic problems including:

- Older neighbours started moving out of the estate, demoralised by increasing social problems;
- Young people were moved into the estate, who did not want to stay;
- The estate had a growing reputation for drug selling;
- Members of the Association committee were being intimidated due to their stance against drugs;
- Some graffiti appeared of a sectarian and racist nature;
- Incidences of domestic violence, often hidden;
- Violence against the person incidents and a murder locally;
- Tendency toward vacancies in the housing stock;
- Higher than average proportions of single parent families and unemployment;
- Low incidence of home ownership.

Throughout this period the Association worked hard to combat disadvantage, organised a campaign against drug dealing in the estate, and hosted a number of community-based activities to develop a sense of cohesion. It also successfully opposed an off licence application for the estate, and began to galvanise local opinion to take steps to improve the image and appearance of Springfarm.

2.2 With significant commitment and voluntary time the Association has helped to transform the estate into an area where people want to stay, and for the first time since the estate was built, it began to demonstrate a growing waiting list. They identified motivating local people to have a reason to stay in the estate as especially important, and started a campaign to clean bins, cut grass and circulated a Springfarm newsletter for residents. Particular efforts were made to keep the estate mixed and avoid the display of flags and paramilitary presence.

Springfarm & District Community Association aims "to improve the quality of life for all...regardless of political or religious persuasion, social status, age or gender by...building friendship and promoting...mutual respect and understanding."  
**A New Era, Springfarm & District Community Association**

2.3 The Springfarm & District Community Association believes it is making considerable progress in the building of good relationships with all political parties; maintaining the lack of murals, graffiti and paramilitary activity; and the maintenance of the mixed community with a growing ethnic population. They are working in close co-operation with the PSNI and a Neighbourhood Watch Scheme is now in place. Diversionary activities are organised for young people and the estate avoids having a bonfire.

2.4 The Association's community house is the only facility in the estate – community, commercial or public. It is a conversion of three terraced houses, provided by the NIHE. The community house includes meeting and training rooms, a youth centre, youth cinema facility, crèche, gardening facility, library, fitness suite and office. The community centre offers advice and information on domestic violence, rent arrears, repairs and housing matters, employment, rubbish collection and street cleaning, and lighting. It offers a range of services for black and minority ethnic residents living in Springfarm and neighbouring areas. The Association has two full-time and four part-time volunteers, with administrative support. It has recently employed a part-time administrative assistant.

2.5 The Springfarm & District Community Association is seeking to move the estate toward a self-designated Shared Neighbourhood, committed to the participation of all people with a sense of belonging and security. The drive toward the Shared Neighbourhood vision has partially originated from overt racism in the area in recent years through personal abuse, graffiti, attacks on property and a general sense of tension. The Springfarm & District Community Association wish to both maintain the mixed community in Springfarm, avoid any slipping toward a more single identity community, and to ensure Springfarm continues to have a welcoming environment for migrant workers and minority ethnic communities.

2.6 Springfarm & District Community Association has particularly committed to involving young people in the visioning process for the Shared Neighbourhood Scheme. Wheelworks were employed by the Association to undertake a youth consultation programme. The consultation programme included a number of workshops for young people from the area, using photography in the planning exercise.

"The issue of shared space and shared housing is fundamental to the building of sustainable peace and prosperity and I commend both Springfarm and District Development Association and the Northern Ireland Housing Executive for the work they are doing to help achieve this end."  
**Eamonn McCartan, Chair, Community Relations Council**

2.7 The young people energetically participated in the consultation activities and identified a number of activities that both they and those "in charge" can do to maintain and develop their integrated community.

2.8 Activities young participants identified they could action included:

- Don't say the wrong thing to anyone different or make them feel unhappy;
- Respect everyone around you;
- Do not say nothing – that's maybe worse than being actively racist;
- Be honest.

"Springfarm is good but it is a very risky area and scary too. There are fewer lampposts"  
**Young person from Springfarm**

2.9 Activities young participants identified "those in charge" could action included:

- Don't litter the streets and encourage others not to do so;
- Use posters and stuff to tell people about the good stuff about integration; like putting posters in bus stops;
- Should give money to keep what's going on already.

2.10 The facilities young people would like to see in Springfarm included:

- Football pitch;
- Other sports facilities;
- A wee shop;
- Park to play in;
- Transport;
- Childcare;
- Pizza place.

2.11 Young people, during a second consultation event, identified ways they could maintain and develop the integrity of their community including:

- Show people we can all run around in Celtic and Rangers tops and still get on;
- Show people that we're not bitter;
- Make an effort to stay mixed with Catholics, Protestants and whoever else is beating about;
- Put no flags up in case they offend people;
- Don't let anyone push you to be one sided.

"Don't just jump on the same bandwagon as your friends"  
Young person from Springfarm during a discussion on racist behaviour

2.12 The Springfarm & District Community Association also hosted a consultation event focussing on the Shared Neighbourhood Scheme for all residents of the estate, attended by over 100 people. The meeting included a number of suggestions from local residents including:

- Developing a wider vision for the area, including exploring what has worked elsewhere;
- Considering social economy solutions to some issues, including housing;
- Need for a local shop;
- Need for better public transport;
- Developing an inter-agency approach to address the needs of the area and to develop and deliver a shared neighbourhood scheme;
- Developing good relations initiatives.

"CRC worked with Springfarm & District Community Association on the development and delivery of one of the best consultation processes that I have ever witnessed. Springfarm & District Community Association were very adamant that the young people of Springfarm had a voice in the development of their Shared Neighbourhood Scheme. This open and inclusive process will reap great rewards in the rolling out of the programme in the future."  
Ali McAllister, CRC

2.13 The follow-up consultation meeting in September 2007 was attended by 120 people from the local community, from all ages and community backgrounds. The feedback meeting was informed of the outcomes from the youth consultation and the identification of key issues from both the youth and adult consultation. The local community attending were extremely supportive of Springfarm & District Community Association and the work to date.

2.14 Springfarm & District Community Association has recently produced a Welcome Pack, in association with the Community Relations Council and South Antrim Rural Network. The Welcome Pack is designed to help all new residents, and especially new black and minority ethnic residents, get to know the area and the services they may access.

- 2.15 The Springfarm & District Community Association also carried out a mapping exercise to inform a good relations and cultural diversity programme. The report, produced independently of Springfarm & District Community Association by AWCT Consultancy, included recommendations such as:
- Establishment of a Roundtable on Racism for Springfarm facilitating a strategic approach to the issues in the estate, with the inclusion of Antrim Borough Council, the CRC, Education & Library Board, Health Service, NIHE, PSNI and the Springfarm & District Community Association;
  - Specific programmes targeting young people including securing play areas, a portacabin for a youth facility, a programme of anti-racism training and increasing arts and crafts participation;
  - Acquisition of a heating system for the community house;
  - Stop housing migrant workers in clusters in the estate;
  - Continued diversity training for the PSNI.
- 2.16 The Association identifies future success as continuing with existing progress, maintaining a mixed community at ease with itself, and strengthening the sense of local ownership and responsibility for the estate, including by and between parents and young people, and the development of adequate services and facilities.
- 2.17 Key issues include:
- Good relations is an important element of the work of Springfarm and District Community Association, in the context of sustaining the local community as a mixed community welcoming of people from different political, religious and racial backgrounds;
  - Springfarm and District Community Association pro-actively responded to sectarian and racist issues as they emerged;
  - Springfarm and District Community Association has been recognised by the main statutory bodies and policy makers, in the work it has undertaken in the area;
  - Consultation to date has been well supported locally, engaging both young people in a significant and imaginative way, and the general community;
  - Ideas identified already by Springfarm and District Community Association such as a Roundtable on Racism will be broadened to become the Shared Neighbourhood Project Team.

### 3 SOCIO-ECONOMIC BACKGROUND

3.1 Springfarm is located within Antrim Borough, on the outskirts of Antrim town. The estate consists of 450 NIHE built units.

3.2 The area has limited facilities, with the Springfarm & District Community Association identifying:

- Poor public transportation and relative isolation;
- One small shop;
- Poorly lit footpaths;
- One public telephone;
- Lack of cash point;
- Lack of play facilities;
- Lack of litter and dog bins.
- Absence of bus shelters

3.3 Antrim Borough is located in northern County Antrim and consists of major settlements in Antrim, Crumlin, Randalstown and Templepatrick. At nearly 50,000 people (2.9% of the total population of Northern Ireland) at the 2001 Census the Borough Council area is nearly 421 square kilometres in area. The Borough is strategically located with strong communication and transportation channels to all parts of Northern Ireland, Ireland and beyond.

3.4 The Borough has a strong manufacturing and technology base and an increasing profile as a retail centre with the recent arrival of the Junction One Retail Outlet.

3.5 The Borough has a lower older age profile than the Northern Ireland average – 14.8% of the Council area is over 60 years compared to 17.6% in Northern Ireland.

Key general background for the Borough includes:

- A younger than average population as indicated above – the average age in the Borough is 34.7 years compared to 35.8 years in Northern Ireland;
- A slightly lower than average rate of births to unmarried mothers – 30.7% of all births in the Borough compared to 34.5% of all births in Northern Ireland;
- While ranked 16<sup>th</sup> overall for deprivation out of 26 Council areas, Antrim Borough has 6% of its overall population living in Northern Ireland's most deprived Super Output Areas;

- The Borough has an approximately average proportion of the population with a degree or higher qualification – 14.4% compared to 15.8% in Northern Ireland;
- Only 9.5% of the post primary school population are entitled to free school meals compared to 18.9% in Northern Ireland;
- There are 1,630 VAT registered businesses in the Borough – 3.0% of the total VAT registered businesses in Northern Ireland while the Borough has 2.9% of the overall Northern Ireland population;
- There are 736 farms in Antrim with 1,438 jobs (2.7% of the overall number of farms in Northern Ireland and 2.9% of the total agricultural labour force for an area with 2.9% of the Northern Ireland total population);
- In Antrim 10.0% of the population provides unpaid care compared to 11.0% of the Northern Ireland population.

3.6 The community background of the population in the Borough is 56.7% Protestant and 38.6% Roman Catholic.

3.7 The table below highlights these key socio-economic indicators for Northern Ireland, Antrim Borough, Springfarm ward, Springfarm SOA 2, and the Super Output Area that includes Springfarm, to allow for comparison and contrast.

| Indicator  | NI % | Antrim Borough % | Springfarm ward % | Springfarm SOA 2 % | Springfarm COA % |
|--|------|------------------|-------------------|--------------------|------------------|
| <b>Protestant</b>                                | 53.1 | 56.7             | 47.8              | 49.8               | 54.6             |
| <b>Roman Catholic</b>                            | 43.8 | 38.6             | 43.7              | 37.6               | 40.2             |
| <b>60 years and over</b>                         | 17.6 | 14.8             | 10.9              | 8.8                | 21.8             |
| <b>16 years and under</b>                        | 23.6 | 23.9             | 26.4              | 29.2               | 19.4             |
| <b>Average age</b>                               | 35.8 | 34.7             | 32.3              | 30.4               | 40.3             |
| <b>Births unmarried mothers</b>                  | 34.5 | 30.7             | 51.3              | 69.2               | N/a              |
| <b>Degree or higher</b>                          | 15.8 | 14.4             | 9.5               | 7.3                | 4.7              |
| <b>School leavers 5+ GCSE's</b>                  | 63.1 | 61.9             | 77.5              | N/a                | N/a              |
| <b>Free school meals</b>                         | 18.9 | 9.5              | 12.1              | N/a                | N/a              |
| <b>Income support</b>                            | 10.8 | 7.2              | 9.8               | N/a                | N/a              |
| <b>Limiting long-term illness</b>                | 20.4 | 17.8             | 20.0              | 22.1               | 45.2             |
| <b>Providing unpaid care</b>                     | 11.0 | 10.0             | 9.9               | 8.0                | 7.2              |
| <b>Health is good</b>                            | 70.0 | 72.8             | 70.2              | 69.3               | 54.1             |
| <b>3-5 year olds with dentist</b>                | 62.4 | 65.5             | 51.0              | N/a                | N/a              |
| <b>Owner occupied</b>                            | 69.6 | 71.1             | 54.9              | 41.6               | 29.3             |
| <b>Rented</b>                                    | 30.4 | 28.9             | 45.1              | 58.4               | 70.7             |
| <b>Lone pensioner households</b>                 | 12.8 | 9.6              | 6.7               | 3.1                | 3.1              |
| <b>Lone parent households dependent children</b> | 8.1  | 7.4              | 12.1              | 13.7               | 21.1             |

N/a = Not available

3.8 The table above highlights:

- That Springfarm area is genuinely mixed according to community background and also mixed in terms of age and social profile with an older population and a high incidence of single parent households with dependent children;
- The estate has a significant older population, with an average age 10 years older than the surrounding Super Output Area;
- The number of people achieving degrees or higher is more than three times less than the Northern Ireland and Antrim Borough averages;
- Twice the Northern Ireland average of people in the estate have a limiting long-term illness;
- Just over half the estate's population describe their health as good;
- In a reversal of the Northern Ireland and Antrim Borough averages, more than seven people in ten rent their accommodation, and less than three in ten are owner occupiers;
- Over one household in five is a lone parent household with dependent children, despite the older population profile.

3.9 The updated Noble Indicators (2005 Measures of Deprivation) suggest that Antrim Borough ranks 16th out of the 26 local government areas for the average Super Output Area rankings when weighted for population size. It ranks 17th most deprived for local deprivation concentration, 19th for extent of deprivation and 21st worst for income, and 18th worst for employment. The extent of deprivation suggests that 6% of the population of the Borough live in the most deprived Super Output Areas in Northern Ireland.

3.10 Other interesting statistics from the relevant ward Super Output Area and Census Output Area rankings include the following. Where the area ranks in the worst 10% in Northern Ireland it is highlighted in bold:

| Indicator  | Springfarm ward – out of 582 wards in Northern Ireland | Springfarm SOA 2 – out of 890 SOA's in Northern Ireland | Springfarm COA – out of 5,022 COA's in Northern Ireland |
|--|--|---|---|
| <b>Multiple deprivation</b>                      | 153rd  | 152nd   | N/a   |
| <b>Income</b>                                    | 274th  | 329th   | 1104th  |
| <b>Employment</b>                                | 190th  | 151st   | <b>225th</b>  |
| <b>Health and disability</b>                     | <b>44th</b>  | <b>55th</b>   | N/a   |
| <b>Education, skills and training</b>            | 208th  | 234th   | N/a   |
| <b>Proximity to services</b>                     | 386th  | 494th   | 2817th  |
| <b>Living environment</b>                        | <b>28th</b>  | <b>59th</b>   | N/a   |
| <b>Crime and disorder</b>                        | 114th  | 126th   | N/a   |
| <b>Income deprivation affecting children</b>     | N/a  | 297th   | N/a   |
| <b>Income deprivation affecting older people</b> | N/a  | 583rd   | N/a   |
| <b>Economic deprivation</b>                      | N/a  | N/a   | <b>509th</b>  |

N/a = Not available.

### 3.11 Key issues include:

- Springfarm is a genuinely mixed local community, estimated currently locally as approximately 40% Protestant, 40% Catholic and 20% minority ethnic, and evidenced as mixed through the 2001 Census;
- While the average age in the Census Output Area is 40.3 years (older than the average Borough population), more than one in five households were lone parent households with dependent children (around three times the Borough average);
- More than 70% of households in the COA were in rented accommodation, much more than twice the Borough and Northern Ireland average;
- Nearly half of people from the COA had limiting long-term illnesses;
- The COA ranked in the top 10% worst in Northern Ireland for employment and economic deprivation, and the SOA is in the worst 10% in Northern Ireland for health and disability and living environment (no statistics on both at COA level).

## 4 REGIONAL POLICY AND STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK

4.1 The policy and strategic framework for good relations, as relevant in Springfarm, is framed around the Programme for Government, and building on the foundations for sharing laid by A Shared Future and the Racial Equality Strategy for Northern Ireland. It is also shaped by guidance to all public bodies in developing a good relations response to policy and practice, through, for example, the Equality Commission and Community Relations Council.

4.2 In addition all public bodies are required to take into account developments with the European Convention on Human Rights that was integrated into Northern Ireland's policy framework from October 2000, the Race Relations Order of 1997 and Section 75 of the Northern Ireland Act 1998. The Equality Scheme, and the equality policy that Antrim Borough Council has developed, in accordance with its statutory duty and in association with all other local authorities, deems that equality duties extend beyond religious or/and political dimensions to include also minority ethnic groups. The section 75 categories include the following:

- Persons of Different Religious Belief, Political Opinion, Racial Group, Age, Marital Status or Sexual Orientation;
- Men and Women Generally;
- Persons With a Disability and Persons Without;
- Persons with Dependants and Persons Without.

Without prejudice to these obligations a public body is also required, when carrying out its functions, to have regard to the desirability of promoting good relations between people of different religious beliefs, political opinion or racial group. A public body is bound to have regard for affirmative action.

4.3 The Northern Ireland Act 1998, with the focus on Section 75 responsibilities for all public authorities affirms their good relations duty to the desirability of promoting good relations between persons of different religious belief, political opinion or racial group.

4.4 Under the Race Relations Order 1997 public bodies are also obliged to ensure that its "functions are carried out with due regard to the need to eliminate racial discrimination and to promote equality of opportunity and good relations between persons of different racial group." Indeed public bodies, including local government, have a duty to mainstream both good relations and equality and place both at the heart of their policy and practice.

4.5 The Equality Commission believes that the current context provides "unprecedented opportunity for government and the public sector to show leadership in establishing innovative, challenging and ambitious action plans that target resources where they are most needed, and ensure that equality and good relations are at the heart of the development of public policy and service delivery..." **Equality Commission Guidelines on Good Relations for Public Bodies**

## **Programme for Government**

- 4.6 The draft Programme for Government 2008-2011 is a 17-page document that outlines key priorities for the current Executive. The programme identifies that “working together we can build a better future for all – a society which is at ease with itself and where everyone shares and enjoys the benefits of this new opportunity”.
- 4.7 The principles identified in the Programme include a number identified already in various public policy documents. They include good leadership, working in partnership, raising standards across government and delivering fair outcomes and social improvements. The Programme identifies fairness, inclusion and equality of opportunity as cross cutting themes.
- 4.8 Promoting tolerance, inclusion and health and well-being is a priority area. The Programme particularly highlights:
- Vulnerable people and people living in areas experiencing high levels of poverty;
  - People suffering from poor health, low educational achievement and unemployment;
  - Addressing significant inequalities in health and educational outcomes;
  - Need to provide more social and affordable housing as a cornerstone of sustainable communities;
  - Need to address divisions in society where sectarianism, racism and intolerance are too evident;
  - A better future based on tolerance and respect for cultural diversity.

## **Community Relations Unit**

- 4.9 The Community Relations Unit (Central Community Relations Unit from 1988 until 2000) is part of the Good Relations and Reconciliation Division operating within the Office of the First and Deputy First Minister. The Unit aims to increase cross-community contact and co-operation and to encourage mutual respect, understanding and appreciation of cultural diversity.
- 4.10 The Unit formulates policy, provides advice to Ministers, undertakes research and allocates funding, including the distribution of match funding for local authorities’ good relations strategies.
- 4.11 The Unit is keen that the good relations strategies in local authorities across Northern Ireland build on developing a shared future. As a precursor of building a shared future the initial A Shared Future policy document emphasised the need for recognition of hard key issues, integrated strategic co-ordination, and realistic measurements. These issues may be carried forward into the new devolved administration thinking on building on the

foundations of A Shared Future, to further promote sharing in Northern Ireland, with a new devolved administration deciding how to build on the initial work.

4.12 The community relations programmes and interventions overall have been reviewed. The review concluded that much valuable work had been done, with significant energy and effort invested. However the conclusion was drawn that current policies have had relatively limited effect on broader divisions in society or on the levels of tolerance. As a result, CRU are currently proposing specific policy aims to promote better relations that include:

- To support the development of integrated/shared communities where people wish to learn, live, work and play together;
- To encourage communication, tolerance and trust in areas where communities are living apart;
- To promote respect, communication and celebration of different cultures, faiths and traditions;
- To eliminate sectarianism and racism and to enable individuals to live and work without fear and intimidation;
- To reduce tension and conflict at interface areas;
- To shape policies, practices and institutions to enable trust and good relations to grow.

Within this context CRU are also suggesting a number of underpinning principles for policies, strategies and actions that may be undertaken. These are:

- **Acknowledgement of the Problem** – including within and between communities;
- **Leadership** – including from elected and community representatives;
- **Need for Long-Term, Cross-Government and Coordinated Action** – including time, resources and effort;
- **Widespread Ownership and Engagement** – including all sectors and key stakeholders;
- **Local Action** – including individuals and local communities taking responsibility;
- **Targeting** – specific actions at local level including looking at areas with a history requiring intervention, and the encouragement of existing good local practice.

4.13 The changing environment includes emphasis on Good Relations incorporating political, religious and racial group focus within the core Section 75 categories, and the challenge to local authorities of preparing for the Review of Public Administration and the Good Relations Challenge Programme.

4.14 One of the most concise definitions of community relations is offered by the Peace II “Setting the Scene” document:

*“Community Relations isn’t about the eradication of differences or the creation of imposed consensus. Disagreement and diversity are the stuff of healthy societies...A key task must be to make our expressions of identity less abrasive and to assist local communities in exploring how they might be themselves without denying that right to others.”*

4.15 In addition local authorities are also tasked with ensuring compliance with equality obligations both in the external provision of services and in the internal operation of the Council itself.

4.16 The broad categories of action that have been included in Borough Council Community or Good relations strategies, include:

- **Community Relations /Community Development Work** – strengthening the ability of communities to take responsibility, and recognising that cooperation may take place on common social, economic and environmental issues. This approach stresses the appropriateness of community structures and the need to get community support infrastructure adequately developed;
- **Reconciliation** – attempting to develop appreciation of a community’s background and develop respect for another community’s background;
- **Cultural Activities** – developing mutual respect for each other’s cultural traditions, particularly where common interest in heritage and history exists. Capacity and confidence building single identity work may be required;
- **Education and Individual Work** – providing space for people to develop skills, awareness and confidence to explore issues on a personal basis;
- **Promotional and Profile Work** – the worth of contact such as through festivals has increasingly been questioned if outcomes are not thoroughly thought through;
- **Reactive** – responding to local situations, critical pressures or events that cause serious community relations difficulties, including issues such as single identity work, cross-community and cross-border work, regional and other localised needs.

4.17 The Review of Public Administration may change the policy context for all local authorities, as Antrim Borough currently is scheduled to amalgamate with Carrickfergus, Lisburn and Newtownabbey. However, a further review is underway that will re-examine the groupings, numbers and responsibilities of local authorities. That review is further examining the seven, 11 or 15 Council model.

4.18 Local authorities will take on enhanced or new responsibilities, but the exact nature is unclear given the Executive review. The potential new or enhanced responsibilities include community planning, local roads, regeneration and economic development. It is likely that

some responsibilities initially suggested in November 2005 will not be transferred to Councils including fire service, aspects of housing and roads.

- 4.19 It is expected, as the RPA Task Force teams start to put flesh on the bones of the directional papers to date, that the “community planning table” will include health and social services, local commissioning groups, educationalists, PSNI, housing providers, the voluntary and community sector, the private sector, and others as appropriate. As in Scotland it is expected that public bodies will have a statutory duty to participate in the community planning processes.
- 4.20 The belief is that the community planning function will allow local authorities to “punch above their weight” in influencing what and how services are delivered in their areas, including those relevant to good relations. The Community Planning role may be dependent on the eventual outworking of the RPA for local government, and the size and viability of Council areas.

### **A Shared Future**

- 4.21 A Shared Future has been the touchstone for public policy in good relations but is likely to be replaced by a new strategy reflecting the new Executive’s priorities rather than those of the previous direct rule administration. It sought the establishment, over time, “of a normal civic society, in which all individuals are considered as equals, where differences are resolved through dialogue in the public sphere, and where all people are treated impartially...where there is equity, respect for diversity and recognition of our interdependence”.
- 4.22 A Shared Future, within the framework of which the strategy was drafted, suggests a number of core themes around which activities are structured. It may be as the A Shared Future priorities are further built upon, the new document will also be structured around themes such as:

- **Tackling the visible manifestations of sectarianism and racism** – active promotion of local dialogue involving elected representatives, community leaders, police and other stakeholders to reduce and eliminate displays of sectarian and racial aggression;
- **Reclaiming shared space** – whether places are safe and welcoming for people of all walks of life;
- **Developing shared communities** – where people of all backgrounds can live, work, learn and play together, and supporting and protecting existing areas where people of different backgrounds live together;
- **Shared education;**
- **Promoting diversity and cultural diversity** – through a culture of tolerance and promoting good relations;

"CRC see it's role within this task as that of being a generative space, which this society so desperately needs - a space which exists to create new possibilities and to take risk - because without risk there is only management and more of the same"  
**D. Morrow CEO**

- **Developing shared workspaces;**
- **Linking community development and community relations, and tackling disadvantage**
  - through good community development work that helps communities develop internally and externally;
- **Ensuring the victims’ voices are heard;**
- **Developing shared services.**

4.23 The NIHE is regarded as a key player in the shared communities theme. It believes residence in an area should be a matter of housing need or personal choice. Some of the actions proposed in *A Shared Future* include:

- The NIHE will bring forward as a priority pilot schemes on integrated housing, and consider how best (in consultation with the PSNI and others) to protect mixed housing areas;
- The NIHE will continue to support relationship building at neighbourhood level.

4.24 *A Shared Future* promoted “sharing over separation and suggested there is “overwhelming support for a shared society”. A new overarching policy document may build on those values.

4.25 The fundamental principles of sharing in a divided society may therefore include:

- Political, civic and community leadership;
- Separate but equal is not an option – parallel living and parallel services are unsustainable;
- Improving relations is an issue that affects all public services;
- Relationships matter and are central;
- Becoming more culturally diverse enriches Northern Ireland.

### **Racial Equality Strategy**

4.26 A new Executive policy document may supersede and build on the existing racial equality strategy. The current Racial Equality Strategy 2005-2010 seeks a society “in which racial diversity is supported, understood, valued and respected, where racism in any of its forms is not tolerated and where we live together as a society and enjoy equality of opportunity and equal protection”.

4.27 The Racial Equality Strategy for Northern Ireland operates alongside the Race Relations Order 1997 and Section 75 of the Northern Ireland Act, 1998.

4.28 The current Racial Equality Strategy sets a high level vision for “a society in which racial diversity is supported, understood, valued and respected, where racism in any of its forms is not tolerated and where we live together as a society and enjoy equality of opportunity and equal protection.”

4.29 The existing Racial Equality Strategy includes six aims for the future. These are:

- **Elimination of racial inequality** – promote equality of opportunity in all aspects of life, including public life, for people of different ethnic backgrounds in Northern Ireland;
- **Equal protection** – combat racism and afford protection and redress;
- **Equality of service provision** – equal opportunity for people from minority ethnic backgrounds to access and benefit from public services;
- **Participation** – increase participation and a sense of “belonging” of people from minority ethnic backgrounds in public, political, economic, social and cultural life;
- **Dialogue** – promote dialogue and mutual understanding of different faiths and cultural backgrounds;
- **Capacity building** – to develop a vibrant and sustainable minority ethnic sector at both regional and local levels and help minority ethnic people fulfil the aims of a shared future.

The strategy makes clear it is not about putting people from minority ethnic groups into one category, and that to do so would “fuel the politics of division”.

4.30 The strategy suggests each person in Northern Ireland has a role in combating racism but “there is a need for leadership to combat racism at the political, civic and community levels”.

4.31 The conflict in Northern Ireland may have helped create patterns and attitudes – including separation in housing and greater territorial awareness – that will impact on minority ethnic communities.

“The damage that can be done by even the isolated display of racial prejudice or stereotyping is incalculable”  
Racial Equality Strategy

4.32 Indeed, the conflict may have encouraged a pattern and expectation of public services geared to political and religious division that are inadequately prepared for minority ethnic inclusion issues. However, the strategy points out that “the damage that can be done by even the most isolated display of racial prejudice or stereotyping is incalculable”.

### **Community Relations Council**

4.33 The Community Relations Council was established in 1990 with the aim of helping people recognise and counter the effects of community division. It seeks to do so by:

- Providing support to local groups and organisations;
- Developing opportunities for Cross-community understanding;
- Increasing the public’s awareness of community relations work;

- Encouraging constructive debate throughout Northern Ireland.

In addition to its core work the Community Relations Council also manages one element of the Peace monies, firstly through the European Union Special Support programme for Peace and Reconciliation (Peace I), and currently through Peace II and Peace II Extension. The CRC will be centrally involved in the introduction of civic leadership and community challenge function in local government.

The functions of a revamped Community Relations Council have currently been identified to include, for example:

- Assisting Government in the development of its triennial plan and actions for good relations;
- Delivering on actions falling to it as a result of those plans;
- Promoting, in partnership with ECNI, good relations actions in the statutory, private and voluntary and community sectors, youth sector, church and other faith-based sectors within their respective areas of responsibility;
- Providing training and development, support, advice, guidance and a source of specialist expertise to district councils, up to and after the Review of Public Administration, in the development of their good relations plans;
- Providing a challenge function to district councils specifically on their good relations plans;
- Working in partnership with departments to promote cultural diversity;
- Acting as a main funding source for the voluntary and community sector to provide innovative community and race relations programmes;
- Promoting high risk action such as developing and supporting interventions at interfaces and other “at risk” areas;
- Developing and producing good practice advice;
- Commissioning and undertaking research;
- Preparing a three-year assessment on the health of community relations in Northern Ireland which will form part of the Government’s triennial report which the Assembly or the Northern Ireland Affairs Committee will be invited to consider, debate and report;
- Ensuring that best practice in addressing divisions and the problems of diversity in Northern Ireland is of international standards, and encourage the flow of ideas and practice on North-South, East-West, European and international levels.

However, this may be reviewed as the outworking of the RPA and strategic framework becomes further clarified.

### Equality Commission

- 4.34 The Equality Commission has recently produced new guidelines for all public bodies in promoting good relations. In these guidelines they define good relations as “the growth of relationships and structures for Northern Ireland that acknowledge the religious, political and racial context of this society, and that seek to promote respect, equity and trust, and embrace diversity in all its forms.”
- 4.35 The Equality Commission has a vision for Northern Ireland to be “a shared, integrated and inclusive place, a society where difference is respected and valued, based on equality and fairness to the entire community”.
- 4.36 The Commission believes that key principles for the implementation of good relations obligations for public bodies are critical, as is building a shared society.
- 4.37 The Equality Commission also believes that for public bodies the key principles include:
- **Leadership** – as a public demonstration in an unequivocal manner that sectarianism and racism are unacceptable, backed with a clear strategy for improving the quality of life of those most affected by intolerance;
  - **Commitment** – best measured through visible allocation of resources of people, time and money;
  - **Address both equality and good relations** – people need to feel confident that they are being accorded equality of opportunity;
  - **Integration not segregation** – a shared society is one at ease with wide individual diversity;
  - **Collaboration and co-ordination** – partnership work is particularly important with the voluntary and community sector, which has made a substantial contribution to achieving better relations between communities.
- 4.38 Public bodies are obliged to develop equality schemes, which include a commitment to have regard to the desirability of promoting good relations. They also will have good relations strategies. The role of the Equality Commission is to review and advise public authorities in how they carry out their obligations under the Northern Ireland Act 1998, the Race Relations Order 1997, and the Fair Employment and Treatment Order 1998.

Key principles for public bodies in their good relations obligations are:

- Leadership;
- Commitment;
- The need to address both equality and good relations;
- Integration not segregation;
- Collaboration and co-ordination.

Equality Commission for Northern Ireland

## **DSD – Neighbourhood Renewal**

4.39 The *People and Places* strategy will concentrate resources on disadvantaged neighbourhoods through 7-10 year Neighbourhood Renewal Vision Frameworks and three-year rolling action plans for Neighbourhood renewal areas. A Physical Development Strategy will also incorporate Comprehensive Development, Environmental Improvement Schemes and Urban Development Grant.

"Community renewal – to develop confident communities that are able and committed to improving the quality of life in their areas."  
**DSD Delivering Neighbourhood Renewal**

4.40 The DSD sees Neighbourhood Renewal incorporating a multi-agency approach including the Voluntary and Community Unit, Social Security Agency, NIHE, and the DSD development offices.

4.41 The priorities for renewal are articulated through the four strategic objectives of the programme which are:

- Community renewal;
- Economic renewal;
- Social renewal;
- Physical renewal.

The Neighbourhood Partnerships that implement Neighbourhood Renewal should, according to the DSD, adhere to the following underpinning principles:

- Engagement of local communities;
- Voluntary effort;
- Commitment by government (and agencies to work in partnership);
- Use, where possible, of existing structures;
- Openness and commitment to change;
- Flexibility (including innovation and adaptability of structures and procedures locally, and avoidance of duplication).

4.42 However, the DSD does not recognise any ward, (or Urban Environment Districts outside the 50 most deprived wards), from Antrim Borough in the top 50 most deprived wards in Northern Ireland, according to the Noble Multiple Deprivation Measure

## **DSD - Voluntary and Community Unit**

4.43 The Voluntary and Community Unit is a section of the Department of Social Development that provides a focus on voluntary and community activity in Northern Ireland. The Unit advises other Departments about the voluntary and community sector and promotes volunteering and research. It provides input to Neighbourhood Renewal and has developed a funding database.

4.44 The Unit also provides funding through a variety of EU Programmes, the Local Community Fund and the Community Investment Fund. It also coordinates the Borough Council

Community Support Programme that can provide up to 50% assistance toward local authorities' activities through their Community Support Plan.

## **DENI**

4.45 The Department of Education has identified community relations as a key theme and has sought to influence better communities principally through:

- Cross-community contact programmes, some of which operate in the Borough council area;
- Education for Mutual Understanding, and the emphasis increasingly on citizenship within the curriculum;
- Support for integrated education, which accounted for 14,000 pupils by 2001 (5.5% of the total numbers in secondary school education).

In their recent report "Toward a Culture of Tolerance" the Department of Education have moved to put community relations issues at the core of their service as a "seminal purpose of the education service".

## **Re-Imaging Communities**

4.46 Re-Imaging Communities is three-year programme, which was launched on 10<sup>th</sup> July 2006 for local communities and is aimed at tackling the visible signs of sectarianism and racism across urban and rural Northern Ireland. The consortium delivering this £3.3 million programme includes the Department for Social Development, The Office of the First and Deputy First Minister, the Community Relations Council, NIHE, the International Fund for Ireland, and the Arts Council of Northern Ireland. They are seeking to work through local authorities, NIHE and the PSNI as points of contact and conduits for projects.

## **Key Issues**

4.47 Key issues include:

- Leadership by public bodies, and with local communities, is regarded as a consistent critical factor in strategies and policies of government;
- The draft Programme for Government targets many of the priority issues that exist in Springfarm estate;
- A Shared Future suggests that real change will be stimulated by leadership, vision, institutional commitment and long-term policies;

- A Shared Future suggests public bodies should set the pace on movement towards a shared society with genuine commitment;
- Acknowledging problems, including within and between communities, is a significant first step for many, and supporting those communities that have taken that first step;
- There is a clear commitment to long-term, cross-government and co-ordinated support in local areas;
- The need to link community development and good relations work is seen as important, especially in areas that are already disadvantaged;
- The NIHE is fully committed to promoting mixed housing, and is seeking to bring forward pilot schemes as a matter of urgency;
- At local government level civic leadership by elected representatives is regarded as critically important, as well as by community representatives;
- Dialogue between these leaders – elected representatives, minority ethnic people, community leaders, police and others – is seen as part of the process in tackling manifestations of sectarianism and racism;
- The conflict in Northern Ireland may have created attitudes toward minority ethnic groups facilitated by greater territorial awareness, and have helped public bodies to focus on political and religious division.

## 5 LOCAL POLICY AND STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK

- 5.1 Strategic co-ordination between those organisations impacting on good relations is a significant part of the Shared Future and Review of Public Administration. A number of organisations within the statutory and voluntary and community sectors deliver positive work relevant to developing good relations. Council is keen to play its role in encouraging and enabling those organisations, and in helping to facilitate increased cohesion between funders and delivery agents.
- 5.2 A number of bodies are involved in funding, and operating relevant good relations initiatives, many of which are identified below.

### **Review of Public Administration**

- 5.3 The Review of Public Administration consultation document in November 2005 saw local government as the “heart of the local community providing civic leadership; ensuring the provision of local services, locally delivered; and working with local interests to develop their areas...” (“Better Government for Northern Ireland” p5).

The existing powers and/or enhanced roles for local government outlined in the document include community development, community planning, community relations, local events, and urban and rural regeneration.

It will also include a new power of well-being to allow local authorities to “take any action, not already the responsibility of another agency, linked with the community plan that will improve the well-being of the local community or the local area” (p7)

While the RPA is itself being reviewed by the Northern Ireland Executive it is likely these core enhanced responsibilities will continue, but aspects of roads and planning will not, it appears, be delegated to local government.

### **Antrim Borough Council**

- 5.4 The structures for managing and supporting good community relations have developed in real terms since the mid-1980s. The Central Community Relations Unit was established in 1987 with three broad objectives:
- To ensure that there was equality of opportunity and equity of treatment for everyone in Northern Ireland;
  - To encourage greater contact between different communities in Northern Ireland;
  - To encourage greater mutual understanding and respect for cultural diversity.

The schools cross-community project was established in 1987, the Education for Mutual Understanding programme followed in 1989, and in 1990 the Community Relations Council was formed. Local authorities were asked to play their part with the Local Government Community Relations Programme starting in 1989, to which all local authorities in Northern Ireland are now contributing.

5.5 Antrim Borough Council has recently produced a new good relations strategy for the 2007-2010 period. It is yet to be published.

5.6 The Council budget for the financial year 2007-2008 included a £48,199 allocation to community relations after taking out the CRU contribution, which in the draft estimates for 2008-2009 shows, at this stage before being finalised, a 13% increase. However, the community relations budget is still less than other similar aspects of delivery.

5.7 We could not find specific allocation in the draft estimates for Springfarm estate for litter, play facilities or other services. Provision may be made but not specifically allocated.

Antrim Borough Council mission statement:

"Antrim Borough Council will develop good relations from an intra as well as inter-Borough perspective. The Council's Good Relations Team will develop and implement the Council's Action Plan, to include the delivery of an appropriate Borough-wide annual programme of good relations activity, in order to establish over time a normal civic society within Antrim"

### **Antrim District Policing Partnership**

5.8 Antrim District Policing Partnership was established in March 2003. It consists of a partnership of representatives of Antrim Borough Council, and other members from a community, voluntary and statutory sector background. There are ten elected members on the Partnership and nine other independent members. Its role is to help develop priorities for local policing with the Police Service of Northern Ireland, discuss and consult with local communities on policing, and increase accountability of the PSNI to local communities.

5.9 The District Policing Partnership has five objectives that are to:

- Consult the community;
- Identify local policing priorities;
- Monitor local police performance;
- Engage with the community to gain co-operation with the police;
- Act as a general forum for discussion on policing matters.

The District Policing Partnership carried out extensive consultation in 2004 and again in 2005 in the Antrim area, relating to issues causing most concern to residents.

5.10 The Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency carries out regular surveys of opinion in Northern Ireland about policing. In 2005 the views of local people about policing priorities in the Borough were:

- Domestic burglary;
- Youths causing annoyance;
- Underage drinking;
- Drug dealing;
- Road safety;
- Paramilitary activity.

5.11 The response to this, according to the community, should be:

- Increased police presence including foot patrolling;
- Increased community engagement and communication, especially with victims of crime;
- Faster response times;
- Crime prevention initiatives.

5.12 In June 2006 the Antrim element of the wider Northern Ireland NISRA Policing Board survey included the following key conclusions:

The six main public concerns in the Borough were:

- Domestic burglary;
- Young people causing annoyance;
- Underage drinking;
- Vandalism;
- Speeding or careless driving, and;
- Assaults.

#### **Community Safety Partnership**

5.13 Antrim Community Safety Partnership was established in March 2004 following the Review of Criminal Justice System in Northern Ireland, 2000. It is a partnership between Antrim Borough Council, other relevant statutory agencies, and local community and voluntary organisations. Members of the Partnership include representatives from the Antrim Borough Council, PSNI, DPP, LSP, Victim Support, PBNI, Youth Service and NIHE, amongst others.

#### **Northern Ireland Housing Executive**

5.14 The NIHE has produced a number of documents relative to community relations, such as “Towards a Community Relations Audit” in 1999 and in 2000 a “Community Relations – Community Safety” Plan. The Executive recognises the issue and the housing management aspect, including those relating to murals, graffiti and kerb stone painting. It also acknowledges the development of more segregated housing, with more than 70% of housing estates in Northern Ireland now being deemed as segregated (no more than 10% of a type of community background). The Executive recognises the perceptions associated with such developments in social housing areas and recognises the intra community as well as cross community implications and needs.

5.15 The community relations strategy of the NIHE includes the Executive as the lead body to bring together the “housing family” and other key stakeholders to examine the potential for improving relations, and the maintenance of neutral working spaces. The NIHE also seeks to target the removal of sectional symbols, working with local residents and the community.

- 5.16 The Housing Executive has been proactive in Antrim in managing the Neighbourhood Renewal programme, and along with other public bodies and funders has supported the development of a number of community learning and resource centres in estates in the Borough.
- 5.17 The role of the NIHE is due to change with the outworking of the Review of Public Administration (RPA), although it is unclear as yet exactly what shape the final RPA will take. Functions that may transfer to local government include private sector grants, group repair, houses in multiple occupancy, unfitness, energy conservation, sites for the traveller community, urban renewal and supporting people. Overall housing functions could also be transferred when the RPA has bedded in.
- 5.18 The existing corporate objectives of the NIHE are:
- Delivering the decent homes standard, including maintenance and reducing unfitness in the private sector;
  - Promoting independent living, including supporting homeless people, and improving housing conditions for people with disabilities;
  - Urban and rural regeneration, including neighbourhood renewal and group repair;
  - Promotion of affordable housing, including social housing development programme, house sales scheme and a joint strategy for the private rented sector;
  - Building a stronger community, including community safety and development of mixed community housing;
  - Better public services, including a modernising programme and equality screening of policies.
- 5.19 The NIHE works closely with 11 community and voluntary organisations on-the-ground, one of which is Springfarm & District Community Association.
- 5.20 In March 2006 of 460 social housing stock in Springfarm estate, 158 had been sold (34%). This compares with 77% in Firfield/Dublin Road, 85% in Menin/Springfarm Road, 58% in Ballycraigy, 61% in Parkhall/Steeple, 39% in Greystone, and 46% in Rathenraw.
- 5.21 Of 95 empty dwellings in the Borough, the NIHE in December 2005 recorded 12 of them in Springfarm estate. This was the fourth highest number after Parkhall/Steeple (24), Newpark/Ballycraigy (22), and Stiles/Rathkyle/Rathglynn (19).
- 5.22 The Neighbourhood Renewal Programme aims to tackle disadvantage in the most deprived urban communities through a regeneration partnership approach. In Antrim Neighbourhood Renewal is running in Springfarm. An Environmental Improvement Scheme has been completed, which sought to address issues of parking, security, defensible space and pedestrian circulation. It included the demolition of four dwellings in Angus Street to improve road layout and circulation. In addition the NIHE are considering a number of vacant army dwellings previously leased to the Ministry of Defence. The NIHE has an open market approach.

- 5.23 The NIHE has also been involved in the Creating Common Ground Consortium, responsible for distributing £5.3 million of funding through the BIG Lottery and the Sustainable Communities Programme. In Antrim, Creating Common Ground includes Rathenraw and Stiles estates. Activities include a youth shelter, play sports facility, giant bird table, community house improvements including a safety surface, awnings, rendering and murals, and entrance features. A total of seven derelict dwellings have been demolished, and the area is being landscaped as an amenity area for the community. The NIHE believes the Creating Common Group projects in Rathenraw and Stiles have allowed residents an opportunity to engage in and acknowledge issues of cultural relations.
- 5.24 The NIHE has a community safety team based in their Headquarters office responsible for processing Anti Social Behaviour (ASB) Orders, and managing ASB approaches and policy. The NIHE also employs 57 Neighbourhood Wardens across different estates in Northern Ireland. In 2005-2006 the NIHE in Antrim had recorded no incidents of homophobic abuse, three of intimidation, and two incidents of racial abuse throughout the Borough.
- 5.25 Where disputes in estates do occur any NIHE district office may avail of the central mediation service to deal with low level anti social behaviour.
- 5.26 The NIHE's race relations policy includes the following key elements:
- Mainstreaming black and minority ethnic issues through engagement;
  - Tackling racial harassment through a multi-agency approach, support packs for victims and the appointment of two race relations officers;
  - Promoting black and minority ethnic inclusion, through increasing the skills and capacity of staff, and improving translation services;
  - Community participation and involvement through better research and communication;
  - Migrant workers are assisted through linking with the Race Forum and removing barriers to housing services.
- 5.27 In Antrim Borough, the NIHE has contributed to the Antrim, Ballymena and Larne Area Plan 2016 Issues Paper, and work has commenced on the Draft Area Plan. Through that and the DRD consultation document for house growth, Antrim Borough is expected to add 8,000 new units in the area by 2015.
- 5.28 The 2001 Housing Condition Survey suggested that 2.9% of housing stock in Antrim Borough was unfit, compared to 3.8% in 1996. However, 32.8% of all dwellings in the Borough (5,550) failed the Decent Homes Standard.
- 5.29 The NIHE spent £4.55 million in 2006-2007 in the Borough - £1.7 million on Improvement Work, £1.29 million on Planned Maintenance Work, and £1.18 million on Response Maintenance. It also spent £380,000 on private sector grants.

- 5.30 The NIHE plans an improvement scheme for 43 units in Springfarm estate post 2006-2007. No specific date has yet been set.
- 5.31 In 2006 the NIHE carried out a Latent Demand Test, to identify housing demand that was not evident through their waiting lists. The result of the Latent Demand Test was that no preferences were identified for the Springfarm estate – there were 44 identified for Firfields, 27 for Parkhall/Steeple, 14 for Moylena Grove and 13 each for Ballycraigy and Menin Road/Springfarm Road. A total of 32 others were identified.
- 5.32 One of the other schemes that the NIHE in Antrim support Borough-wide is floating support to victims of domestic violence, in association with Ballymena Women’s Aid.
- 5.33 The Shared Future Neighbourhood Programme is delivered through the Shared Future Housing Advisory Panel. It aims to provide people with the opportunity to live in a shared neighbourhood where diversity is welcomed. It aims to deliver 30 designated Shared Future Neighbourhoods over a three-year period – five in year one, ten in year two, and 15 in year three. The outcomes of the Programme anticipated include:
- Increased use of shared space;
  - Increase in community dialogue;
  - Increased community leadership;
  - Greater sustainability;
  - Increased social capital;
  - Contribution towards physical and social renewal.

#### **Antrim Borough Strategic Partnership (LSP)**

- 5.34 The Antrim Borough Strategy Partnership has been implementing the European Union Special Support Programme for Peace and Reconciliation in the Borough for nearly ten years.
- 5.35 It is currently overseeing the completion of Peace II projects and the allocations of funding for Peace II Extension. These Extension projects may run until the middle of 2008. They have an additional focus on reconciliation. Peace III is already being discussed and its outline agreed.
- 5.36 The Strategy Partnership has grouped its priorities into five broad themes:
- A vibrant and sustainable local economy;
  - A modern and dynamic tourism sector;
  - An attractive and welcoming Borough incorporating thriving towns, villages and rural areas;
  - A thriving and sustainable community and voluntary sector throughout the Borough;
  - A healthy and flourishing population.

"A positive image, an attractive place in which to work, live and play with vibrant, sustainable towns and villages"  
**Antrim Borough Strategy Partnership**

5.37 Some of the key strategic objectives for the Partnership include:

- **Foster a sense of civic pride amongst residents** - through the development of cultural and commercial amenities foster a sense of belonging and confidence in the Borough.
- Suggested activities included promoting environmental good practice, foster pride through culture, sport and the arts, adopt a strategic approach to tackling vandalism.
- **Build the capacity of the community and voluntary sector** – invest in community infrastructure by developing human, physical, natural, financial and social capital in a balanced way to meet the needs of communities.
- **Networking and forming partnerships** – encourage effective networking.
- **Resourcing the community and voluntary sector** – equipping communities to work effectively.

5.38 In addition the LSP has gained considerable reputation for managing other related public initiatives including the Local Community Fund and Neighbourhood Renewal.

5.39 Along with the NIHE the LSP has supported a number of local community learning and resource centres in estates in Antrim.

5.40 Key issues, therefore, across the existing work, include:

- The implications of the Review of Public Administration are not yet clear, especially regarding Community Planning and the Good Relations Challenge programme, or the size and nature of local government;
- Leadership by public bodies is a consistent theme, including through local government in future with a good relations challenge function;
- Antrim Borough Council has a good relations programme and seeks to establish, over time, a normal civic society within Antrim;
- Springfarm estate has had 34% of NIHE houses sold, lower than other social housing areas in Antrim Borough;
- The NIHE plans an improvement scheme in the estate, without a specific date set yet;
- The Shared Future Neighbourhood Programme aims to deliver 30 designated shared future neighbourhood areas in the next three years, areas where diversity is welcomed, as the Springfarm residents and Springfarm and District Community Association have been working towards in recent years;
- Antrim Borough LSP seeks to foster a sense of civic pride amongst residents and build the capacity of the local voluntary and community sector.

## 6 KEY ISSUES AND NEEDS

- 6.1 The key issues identified are replicated below in full. However, it is clear from an assessment of need in the estate and the policy and legislative backdrop for the estate, both regionally in Northern Ireland and locally, that needs should be met by policy and practice of public bodies but often are not.
- 6.2 The table below highlights core needs and how they should be met, according to the Springfarm & District Community Association:

| Need  | Principle Body Responsible              | Action  |
|---|---|---|
| Bins/litter   | Antrim Borough Council, Roads Service   | Inclusion of ring fenced provision in budget for 08-09 for bins in the estate, and their regular emptying                               |
| Civic leadership from public bodies                           | Public bodies                           | Recognition of the main issues and needs as a first step  |
| Civic leadership from the community                           | Community                               | Involvement of local people in the Association and continued outreach to, and with, local residents                                     |
| Civic pride   | Community, Antrim Borough Council, NIHE | Continued development of vision and motivation to take pride in the estate  |
| Community meeting place/centre                                | Community, NIHE, Antrim Borough Council | Provision of heating in the community house and exploration of further use of space for youth activities                                |
| Linkage of community relations and community development work | Antrim Borough Council                  | Specific reference to the needs and support requirements of Springfarm in Council's Good Relations Strategy and Community Support Plan. |
| Play facilities   | Antrim Borough Council                  | Provision of ring-fenced allocation in Council's estimates for 08-09, and identification of site  |
| Police presence   | PSNI                                    | Continued liaison with PSNI and increase of community policing  |
| Shared neighbourhood  | Community, NIHE, CRC                    | Commitment by NIHE to Springfarm as one of the five pilot shared neighbourhood areas; continued support from CRC                        |

| Need                       | Principle Body Responsible | Action  |
|----------------------------|----------------------------|---|
| Shops                      | Commercial operation       | Development of plan, with all relevant statutory bodies, for private sector and social economy response to lack of local shop facilities                            |
| Support for lone parenting | Community                  | Lone parenting support group developed  |
| Transportation             | Translink                  | Review of provision to the estate, and commitment to equal availability of services, especially targeting people in employment, schoolchildren and evening services |
| Youth facilities/ support  | Community, Youth Service   | Development of a business case in 08-09, for a youth facility in years to come  |

6.3 The Springfarm & District Community Association recognise their own role in the development of services and facilities, and the support received to date from several public bodies, particularly the CRC and NIHE. The Association believes - while there is some way to go before the delivery levels reflect the high level that residents and the Association wish - that progress has been made and there is major potential for rapid movement forward in the next few years.

6.4 The key issues highlighted in the report include:

- Good relations is an important element of the work of Springfarm and District Community Association, in the context of sustaining the local community as a mixed community welcoming people from different political, religious and racial backgrounds;
- Springfarm and District Community Association pro-actively responded to sectarian and racist issues as they emerged;
- Springfarm and District Community Association has been recognised by the main statutory bodies and policy makers, in the work it has undertaken in the area;
- Consultation to date has been well supported locally, engaging both young people and the general community in a significant and imaginative way;

- Ideas identified already by Springfarm and District Community Association, such as a Roundtable on Racism, have been endorsed as good practice by many public bodies;
- Springfarm is a genuinely mixed local community, estimated currently locally as 40% Protestant, 40% Catholic and 20% minority ethnic, and evidenced as mixed through the 2001 Census;
- While the average age in the Census Output Area is 40.3 years (older than the average Borough population), more than one in five households were lone parent households with dependent children (around three times the Borough average);
- More than 70% of households in the COA were rented accommodation, much more than twice the Borough and Northern Ireland average;
- Nearly half of people from the COA had limiting long-term illnesses;
- The COA ranked in the top 10% worst in Northern Ireland for employment and economic deprivation, and the SOA is in the worst 10% in Northern Ireland for health and disability and living environment (no statistics on both at COA level);
- Leadership by public bodies, and with local communities, is regarded as a consistent critical factor in strategies and policies of government;
- Public policy suggests that real change will be stimulated by leadership, vision, institutional commitment and long-term policies;
- A Shared Future suggests public bodies should set the pace on movement towards a shared society with genuine commitment;
- Acknowledging problems, including within and between communities, is a significant first step for many, and supporting those communities that have taken that first step;
- There is a clear commitment to long-term, cross-government and co-ordinated support in local areas;
- The need to link community development and good relations work is seen as important, especially in areas that are already disadvantaged;
- The NIHE is fully committed to promoting mixed housing, and is seeking to bring forward pilot schemes as a matter of urgency;
- At local government level civic leadership by elected representatives, as well as by community representatives is regarded as critically important;
- Dialogue between these leaders – elected representatives, minority ethnic people, community leaders, police and others – is seen as part of the process in tackling manifestations of sectarianism and racism;

- The conflict in Northern Ireland may have created attitudes toward minority ethnic groups facilitated by greater territorial awareness, and have helped public bodies to focus on political and religious division;
- The implications of the Review of Public Administration are not yet clear, especially regarding Community Planning and the Good Relations Challenge programme, or the size and nature of local government;
- Leadership by public bodies is a consistent theme, including through local government in future with a good relations challenge function;
- Antrim Borough Council has a good relations programme and seeks to establish, over time, a normal civic society within Antrim;
- Springfarm estate has had 34% of NIHE houses sold, lower than other social housing areas in Antrim Borough;
- The NIHE plans an improvement scheme in the estate, without a specific date set yet;
- The Shared Neighbourhood Programme aims to deliver 30 designated shared future neighbourhood areas in the next three years, areas where diversity is welcomed, as the Springfarm residents and Springfarm and District Community Association have been working towards in recent years;
- Antrim Borough LSP seeks to foster a sense of civic pride amongst residents and build the capacity of the local voluntary and community sector.

## 7 RECOMMENDATIONS

7.1 The recommendations below need to be based on a number of drivers and underlying commonalities. The underlying drivers include:

- Follow-on from key issues and policy and strategic priorities of government, both local and central;
- Recognition of the positive work and strategic direction already taken by both local and regional bodies, especially Springfarm and District Community Association;
- Adherence to the priorities and values set by the draft Programme for Government and agendas regarding sharing over separation and racial equality;
- Support for practical action on the ground, in partnership with all relevant stakeholders.

### **Policy**

7.2 Springfarm should be considered as one of the first five pilot areas for the Shared Future Neighbourhood Scheme given its history, demographic profile and recent work to involve the local community in identifying issues;

7.3 While a multi-agency approach is critical to the success of future development work in Springfarm, the co-ordination of the efforts of public bodies needs to be real and genuine;

7.4 Leadership within and by the public sector is a central part of good relations policy, and its practice in moving communities like Springfarm forward is equally important.

### **Structures**

7.5 In devising public sector responses to issues in Springfarm, the local community need to be consulted and bought in, as far as possible, to actions that are proposed. That includes elements of the Shared Future Neighbourhood Scheme;

7.6 Communities need help to be involved in the development of projects, including resources, funding and mentoring;

7.7 Provision of local facilities – both community and services – is a core part of cohesion within communities, and needs to be considered for Springfarm;

7.8 Those involved in establishing and managing the structures need to be both skilled in the processes and aware of the expectations on them to help lead the programme;

### **Delivery**

7.9 Setting indicators and targets for delivery in taking forward a Shared Neighbourhood programme will help set a baseline, and help motivate those involved;

- 7.10 The media, and elected representatives input may impact positively and negatively on relationships in communities such as Springfarm, and work may be needed both with those influencers and local media;
- 7.11 Any community may have particular incidents or problems that may threaten to derail any programme. A rapid intervention fund or mechanism may be appropriate to deploy when needed;
- 7.12 Areas such as Springfarm will benefit from practical and managed contact between people from different backgrounds on-the-ground as a consistent theme of the programme;
- 7.13 This includes local people being involved in setting targets, and in setting a vision and identity for the area.

#### **Local Facilities and Services**

- 7.14 The estate lacks bins as a core service, both regular litter bins and dog waste bins;
- 7.15 While the community house has developed significantly, it needs space for youth;
- 7.16 There is a lot of open space in and around the estate, but no play facilities in the form of a playground for young children or facilities for older young people;
- 7.17 The community believes there is poor public transportation, targeting school children, employees and the nighttime economy.

## **Appendix**

# Community Relations Council

## Springfarm Youth Consultation Project

**Group 1:** 12 – 14 years

**Session 1:** 18<sup>th</sup> April 07

### A bad day in Springfarm

One day in Springfarm, it was a bad and damp day. Me and Donny were walking down to Junction One on the Niblock road; a car came flying down and the mirror hit Donny on the side. The bloke driving got out of the car and came over to Donny and said, "What are you doing you wee nigger?" I had to say something and he hit me. When we got back we discovered a crowd was running around springfarm breaking things and abusing people.

### A good day in Springfarm

One day in Springfarm everyone met up at the Community House and we had a great time. I made friends with Tammy-Lee and many more people; I was very happy that day. Some other people were playing footy out on the field and sean got hacked by chuck; usually sean would take a freaker and accidentally slabber 'bout chuck's stutter but today he didn't and was dead calm. Later that day some of my old mates were being dead cheeky to other people and I stood up to them. I have lots of new friends now.

### What can we do to maintain and develop our integrated community?

- Invite someone new to play football
- Don't talk wrong to anyone different or make them feel unhappy
- Be helpful to people; like help a pensioner with their shopping. Never mind their religion
- Respect everyone around you
- Don't join in with racism: be brave!
- If it's safe to do so don't stay silent if you hear or see anyone saying anything unfair
- Try to break down silly opinions people have about polish people and other eastern European people.
- Tell people how good integration is because you live in an integrated area and you like it.
- Do not tolerate racism
- Do not say nothing - that's maybe worse than being actively racist
- Be honest

### What can the people in charge do to maintain and develop our integrated community?

- Use posters and stuff to tell people about the good stuff about integration; like putting posters in bus stops and stuff.
- The PSNI could put up posters all over the place telling us important numbers and stuff if there are any problems in the community
- Should give money to keep what's going on already alive
- Put cameras up in the street to reduce crimes
- Don't litter the streets and encourage others not to do so

What facilities would you like to see in Springfarm?

- Football pitch
- Other sports facilities
- A wee shop
- A park to play in and for wee kids to play in
- Transport
- Childcare
- Pizza place

Wee Quotes:

“A nice place, but needs more excitement; like a better atmosphere”

“They simply don’t care” – about public transport

“It’s a nice place but no entertainment for us kids”

“Springfarm is good but it is a very risky area and scary too. There is less lampposts.”

“I like that I have friends here”

“I love Springfarm; love every blade of grass and it is such a quiet place and the people in Springfarm are very kind.”

# Community Relations Council

## Springfarm Youth Consultation Project

**Group 1:** 15 – 17 years

**Session 1:** 9<sup>th</sup> May 07

A bad day in Springfarm

One day in Springfarm Fred went to the Maxol and on the way got jumped by hoods and got his money and phone stolen. On his way back from the maxol (with his fags) he got mugged again. Later that evening, having already been mugged twice he was a little disorientated and made his way to the local shop to buy some bread to make a wee sandwich when he remembered the shop had been closed for quite some time. This meant he had to walk a mile, more or less, to get bread for his wee sandwich. He spent the whole time there and back worrying if he was going to get jumped again... not a good day.

A good day in Springfarm

One day in Springfarm Janine won the lottery: she won £33. To claim her £33 she decided to walk the mile or so to the Maxol and today she didn't get jumped! She was delighted! On her way back she had a game of football with her mates and later in the evening had a BBQ with them. She had a burger 'cause the sausages didn't look cooked. While she was beating the burger into her the love of her life asked her to go away with him; she finished her burger while she was thinking. She decided it was best to go away with him 'cause she could always come back to Springfarm, her home.

What can we do to maintain and develop our integrated community?

- Show people we can all run around in Celtic and Rangers tops and still get on.
- Show people that we're not bitter
- Show people how to bring up their young children to not be bitter
- Be friendly
- Make an effort to stay mixed with Catholics, Protestants and whoever else is beating about
- Don't give abuse
- Put no flags up in case they offend people
- Help others out no matter what they are
- Slag everybody and when you're slagged don't take it to heart: take it to bed: it's warmer.
- Don't let anyone push you to be one sided

What can the people in charge do to maintain and develop our integrated community?

- Set up trips which include both sides
- Set up a scheme where people don't know each other's religions for a few days and see how they get on
- Put money into a centre for people to go to with facilities for everyone. It should include activities for every culture and sports stuff that everyone can play together
- More facilities for people with special needs
- Make more information available for people to find out the truth about other cultures

What facilities would you like to see in Springfarm?

- A dome - shelter where young people can go and have the craic/crack if they fancy without hassle
- A park with football teams both male and female
- Transport to take people places more quickly
- A shop
- A fish and chip shop
- Stef's Pizza Parlour
- All weather sports pitch
- A fishery

Wee Quotes:

“There are women who can play football just as well as men and are amazing!” – A young man to a young woman who doubted women's ability to play

“We don't get on like that here.” - In response to discussion about sectarian activities

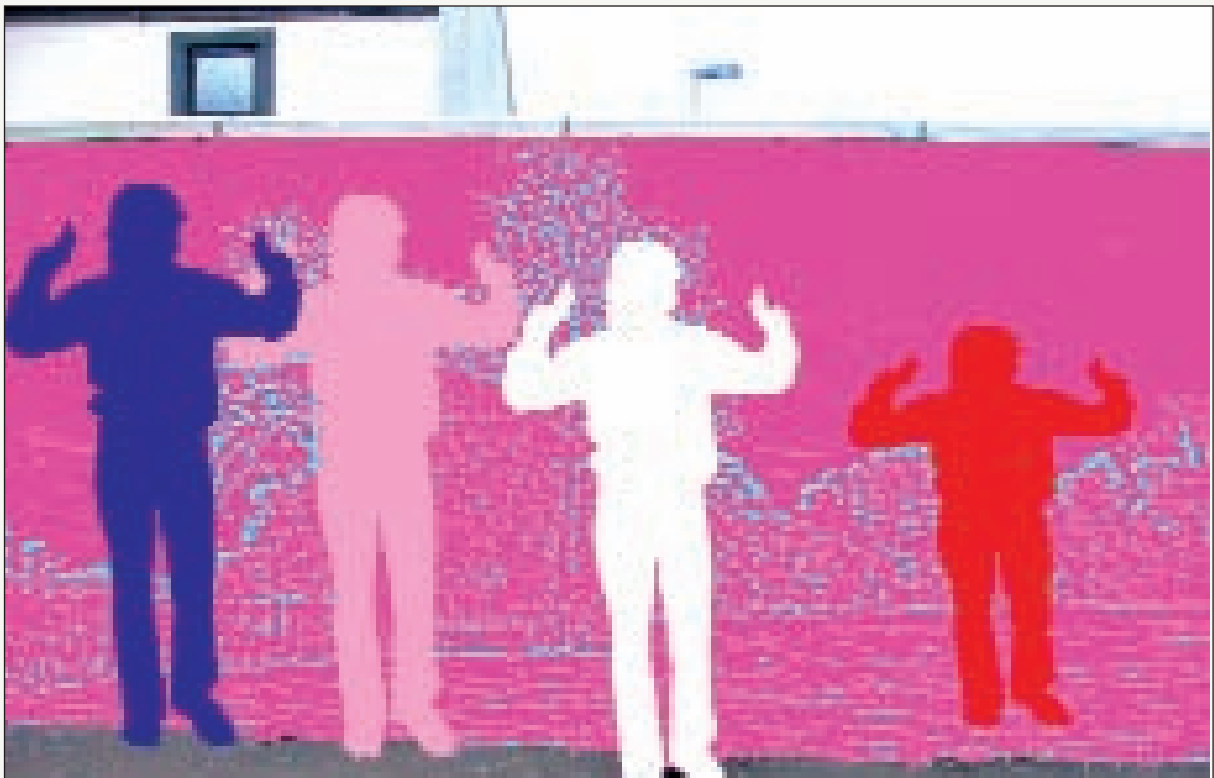
“Just think before you speak!” - In response to discussion about using discriminatory language in everyday conversation

“Don't just jump on the same bandwagon as your friends.” - In response to a discussion on racist behaviour

“All people in the estate make Springfarm's community”



Invites someone new to play football



"It's a nice place but no entertainment for us kids"

"I like that I have friends here"



Show people we can all run around in



Celtic and Rangers tops and still get on



# Springfarm Shared Neighbourhood Scheme

## Adult Consultation event – Monday 2nd April 2007

### What do I as an individual need to do to ensure that Springfarm is a safe welcoming place for all?

- Be a good neighbour
- Help make a safe place
- Be neighbourly
- Look out for each other
- Report racist and sectarian incidents to PSNI/SDCA
- Respect for self and others
- Equality for all
- Understand that others may have different opinions
- Tolerance for what you may not understand
- Feel ownership – (of good and bad in the area)
- Everyone needs to be able to have a say: there needs to be transparency and consultation
- Neighbours need to talk to each other, have one to one contact
- Opportunities to do projects together e.g. community gardens – do it ourselves – work to our own strengths/skills – demonstrate commitment to improving the area to engage statutory support
- Commitment to share time, skills, ideas for community benefit e.g. time bank – 2hrs per month per household
- Children to take an interest – make it their space too
- Key commitment from young people – learn & earn
- People need to **learn** to live together – sort problems as they arise through community meetings/activities
- Support neighbourhood watch
- Be proud of our area
- No flags
- Attend regular Shared Neighbourhood meetings
- Adults supporting activities for children and young people
- Adhere to an agreed Code of Conduct/Charter
- Celebrate SDCA achievements
- Report dumping of rubbish to ABC/SDCA

### What do Springfarm & District Community Association need to do to ensure that Springfarm is a safe and welcoming place for all?

- Wider consultation
- Support the whole estate
- Continue to provide support to new families
- Assist parents to build good citizenship in young children
- More frequent newsletters and more widespread e.g. Kintyre has 120 houses – this should be supported by the residents
- More events like this – they are heartening and help build community spirit
- More positive good news stories without ignoring problems
- Need to publicise what they do much better
- Continue on with the work they are doing – build on good work already done
- Wider vision – visit other areas to help generate ideas – Cloughmills
- Transport – fundraising towards minibus
- Community business – skills similar to ACE
- Time out for mums on their own

- Sign – Springfarm Shared Neighbourhood
- Lobby for services for the area – shop, transport, footpaths on Niblock Road, streetlights
- More involvement with integrated school; this will build a positive message
- Meetings to resolve problems
- Better community facility – Central community building needed – present one appears to service mostly top of the estate
- Need paid workers – but role needs to be carefully defined
- Needs more support – worker and running costs
- More social events
- Myth busting programmes as well as cultural awareness
- Need to meet with detached youth workers
- Summer festival/fete to promote Shared Neighbourhood
- Cultural exchange programmes
- Summer scheme
- Activities for older people – civic week in the summer
- Education classes for parents and unemployed
- Need to consult with new housing estates re: shops, parks, etc – lots of young families living here

**What do public bodies and agencies need to do to ensure that Springfarm is a safe and welcoming place for all?**

- All agencies to understand what a Shared Future and Shared Neighbourhood mean through regular contact with SDCA
- Action plan and timetable to address local concerns
- Springfarm has potential as it has green spaces Antrim Borough Council (ABC) need to work more closely with residents to develop full potential
- View that Council (ABC) has neglected Springfarm for many
- Secure play park for young children – one at each end
- Ramps needed in all parts of the estate
- ‘No Alcohol’ signs and fines
- Address issues around drugs
- Bus shelters
- Army houses – shouldn’t go to speculators but to those in estate needing homes - could form housing association and buy up
- Arran Street – empty flats and boarded up houses need opened up – at present they are a frightening place and a breeding ground for anti social behaviour
- Flats should be knocked down not refurbished – too close to houses
- Sports field/facilities – floodlit multi-sports area
- ABC needs to respond to requests for clean-ups – 7 weeks response time
- Should be affordable housing for young people who are coming back to the area and others who want to come and live in Springfarm for the first time (young and older)
- Private landlords bring new problems – can a contract be put in place to sign up to Shared Neighbourhood
- Fear of who is coming into the area – dumping ground for those not wanted elsewhere?
- PSNI need to be more visible – a bit better but needs to be strengthened

- No regular patrols
- Poor response times
- Bad lighting in many areas need addressed – shop area, field, alleyways and path to blue bridge
- Alleyways need closed off
- School needs to open up full time for young people
- Estate is bland needs colour e.g. hanging baskets
- Wheelie bins being stolen
- Fly-tipping by those driving past
- Perimeter of school – dump – who owns/responsible?
- Community facility
- Allotments for young and old
- School used by community but not an alternative to own facility
- Accessible youth facilities
- Provision for babies and Parent & Toddlers
- Need local shop – kids crossing roads to Junction 1 – design of shop to be better – last one was like a fortress!
- Accountable/Mature political representation
- Local councillors need to become more involved
- Opportune time for this project in changing positive political environment – politicians should be supportive
- Need to use this quiet time to provide/plan services for young people
- NIHE need to give a face lift to all areas of estate (major scheme 2008? e.g. painting, pebbledash – but not all residents want/need this)
- Reports made to PSNI but person responsible became known to offenders – how to ensure safety of those willing to report?
- Community justice system may be useful
- Employment opportunities in Junction 1 and others in area- need match skills with training
- Comments by elected representatives about Travellers and black and minority ethnic people influence young people to be racist
- Awards for best kept areas could brighten the areas up
- Dog litter bins needed and need to be used – people come from private areas and allow their dog to mess
- Bus service needs changed – buses stop at 6 p.m – people working later have to get taxis or walk
- Government depts – resources to support self help
- Public bodies need to agree to meet community to deal with local issues
- NIHE – need good maintenance programme ‘warm homes’
- ABC – recognise and acknowledge community commitments and be prepared to support Springfarm shared neighbourhood scheme and develop the idea in other areas that may be interested
- No more broken promises - action

Written and performed by the youth of Springfarm at the Shared Neighbourhood Next Steps Event on 25th September 2007

## The Springfarm Rap

I'll tell you a story about where we're from  
It's a place that welcomes everyone  
British or Irish, Black or white  
We'll always try to do what's right

Springfarm's the place  
Don't care about your race  
The colour of your hair  
Or the colour of your face  
'bout racism and bigotry  
We don't care  
We'd rather live in peace  
And do what's fair

Springfarm's the place  
Don't care about your race  
The colour of your hair  
Or the colour of your face  
'bout racism and bigotry  
We don't care  
We'd rather live in peace  
And do what's fair

We want to grow up here  
We want to live with no fear  
We care about community  
It gives us an immunity

Springfarm's the place  
Don't care about your race  
The colour of your hair  
Or the colour of your face  
'bout racism and bigotry  
We don't care  
We'd rather live in peace  
And do what's fair

Springfarm's the place  
Don't care about your race  
The colour of your hair  
Or the colour of your face  
'bout racism and bigotry  
We don't care  
We'd rather live in peace  
And do what's fair

We'd love a wee shop here  
And a park too  
Sporting facilities  
And more things to do  
Bins and bus shelters would also be good  
We try our best, maybe others should

Springfarm's the place  
Don't care about your race  
The colour of your hair  
Or the colour of your face  
'bout racism and bigotry  
We don't care  
We'd rather live in peace  
And do what's fair

We want to grow up here  
We want to live with no fear  
We care about community  
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And do what's fair





Community Relations Council t. 028 9022 7500  
6 Murray Street f. 028 9022 7551  
Belfast e. info@nicrc.org.uk  
BT1 6DN w. www.nicrc.org.uk