



# CRC e-Bulletin



## CR Week 2011

Never before have we had a political system which enjoys genuine intercommunity support. Political agreement offers a chance to change what we used to think of as ‘normal’ here. But it is a long haul before we make decisions as partners, and even friends instead of as old enemies. Living in a shared society is a promise and a challenge. But now that we have stopped trying to force each other out, then the obvious question is how to make this a genuinely open, free society in which fear is no longer a primary consideration and we can assume the equality and rights of each.

Words are easy. What we need is action that changes what we think of as normal. The legacy of hatred continues to impact on the life chances of our children, the quality of life we lead and the economy we can grow. Some change is economic, because a reputation for violence has huge costs. Jobs, customers and an end to public sector dependency will remain elusive if there are safer places for investment to go. Now economic necessity is pressing hard choices. But change in the economy will require action to change society as well.

Apartheid has costs beyond pounds and pence, and it has never yet been benign. We have to revisit how we provide housing, what is normal in education and how we ensure the safety of every person wherever we are. These are serious issues requiring serious measures. A sticking plaster will quickly fall off under pressure.

These things matter to real lives and futures. It is a subject which must be led by politicians, supported by action and have the engagement of the whole community. **Community Relations Week** provides an opportunity for the wider civic society to demonstrate that it is engaged in this enterprise. The fact that people, groups and organisations have put together events for this week to challenge sectarianism and racism offers the prospect that an open and shared society is more than a pious hope.

*Community Relations Week begins on 23 May with over 130 events taking place across Northern Ireland.*

*For an up-to-date programme please visit our website:*

<http://www.community-relations.org.uk/about-the-council/cr-week-2011>

Duncan Morrow, CRC Chief Executive

Issue 28

May 2011

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## Summer Intervention

### **“The same process, the same people, the same problems and bad planning” – Community Representative**

Synonymous with rioting and violence, summer has become a period dreaded by many living in Northern Ireland. In response community representatives have collectively voiced frustration at the absence of a strategy to prevent these disturbances securing themselves as an annual event.

At a meeting last month, held at Grosvenor Hall and hosted by CRC, a large number of community representatives from interface areas gathered to discuss summer disturbances, concerned about the lack of funding and leadership and anxious as to what progress could and should be made. Present also were a number of representatives of statutory organisations.

The primary concern at the forefront of the discussions was that short term funding produces only short term effects, and instead should be additional funding within a pre-existing strategy. As one community representative highlighted: *“when thrown at groups at the last minute, spending is not planned and subsequently will have no true effect - it needs to be more strategic in that it should be early, effective and flexible”*

The call at the meeting was for planning for summer 2012 to start now as a 15 month trajectory period commencing with the short-term run up to this summer. As one community representative pointed out the need was for the creation of a calendar of contentious dates for maximum response.

*“There is the ability to plan for things that we know will happen, in particular around dates and events, such as old firm football/sporting matches, the Tour of the North and other parades, as each of these have the potential for conflict.”*

*“One of the things that we can do this year to make a big difference, would be for the statutory, community and public sector to get together to have emergency response services on recognised key dates.”*

*“The needs of people within these communities extend beyond the working hours of 9 to 5, Monday to Friday and there should be a coordination of public services.”*

## **Summer Intervention (contd)**

To ensure that funding achieves maximum effect, it was agreed that within this trajectory process the evaluation framework needs consideration. This would incorporate a set of funding questions to funding applicants- including what they are trying to achieve by intervention and how this can feed into a long-term strategy.

Planning is also required to identify gaps so that practitioners can address needs with Government, particularly those of leadership and cohesion. As one of the participants explained:

*“MLAs should produce a collective statement on this issue in advance of the summer...statutory groups, voluntary groups, public sector bodies, churches and politicians need to engage with the issue of summer intervention in a more vocal and collective way.”*

The groups represented were encouraged to submit summer intervention programmes to CRC, Belfast City Council and other funding sources.

The key issues from the meeting were highlighted to the North Belfast Ministerial Working Group meeting on Monday 18 April 2011. Another meeting will be convened in the near future.

Grace Hamilton, CRC

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**Compiled and edited by Patricia O'Neill and Ellana Tomasso**

## Why the Economy is Crying out for a Shared Future

*by Ben Collins, Director, RICS (Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors) Northern Ireland*

The cost of division to Northern Ireland each year is about five times as high as the likely impact on the block grant from any reduction in corporation tax. It is several times more than the bill we would incur to upgrade our water infrastructure.

Rightly, there has been a lot of concern and debate about the other two issues - is lowering corporation tax worth a £300million annual reduction in the Executive's budget? How do we fund the investment needed to bring our water infrastructure up to standard?

But we haven't heard quite as much concern being expressed about how much division costs. At up to £1.5billion per annum, it should certainly be one of the major issues of this Assembly Election.

The fact is that sectarian division is a defining feature of Northern Ireland, determining where people live, are educated, work, and socialise. It also has a major bearing on how public money is spent. Are these the features of a society that is going to maximise its economic potential?

There's the obvious point that addressing division has a very natural synergy with a reduction in corporation tax. Lower taxation alone won't attract the large international organisations that it is targeted at. Northern Ireland needs to demonstrate that it is a modern, peaceful, integrated, shared and cohesive society as well. In this respect, the legacy of division will continue to undermine efforts to attract investment to Northern Ireland.

In addition to reducing Northern Ireland's appeal to foreign investment, division also deters potential leisure and business tourism, prolongs poverty in interface communities, leads to enormous duplication, and prolongs the 'brain drain', which has seen an exodus of talented people out of Northern Ireland for years.

Northern Ireland needs to retain its best people for the long-term. If we don't address the causes of ongoing violence, conflict and social division, are we really going to be able to do that? Or are we going to see the continuation of the brain drain that has been so debilitating for so long?

## ***Why the Economy Is Crying out for a Shared Future (contd)***

Northern Ireland also needs to make best use of its limited resources. Are we doing this if we are funding duplicate provision across our public services? There is a huge amount of money spent 'servicing' division that could certainly be put to much better, much more productive use in the interests of everyone.

There are also more hidden effects of division – too numerous to go into here in full. But consider this as one of many: large numbers of people have to travel further due to the segregated nature of society here (avoiding particular areas for reasons of safety, for instance), therefore using more energy than is necessary. With fuel prices so high, this is an added cost to our society that should not be discounted.

RICS believes that creating a vibrant and sustainable economy can only be achieved by creating a shared society. For this reason, RICS is committed to a shared future, including shared spaces, shared amenities and resources as a key tool in promoting tolerance and inclusion and in creating a better future for all.

Achieving a shared future will require significant input from all government departments and agencies, as well as many other stakeholders in society. It will take a significant amount of time and effort. But we think this is essential. Given the huge cost of division, is there any other alternative?

We certainly believe that the case for a shared future stands on its own merits, and, given the current financial situation, we believe there is indeed an added imperative to commit energies post the election to devising a Programme for Government that has at its base a strategy for addressing division. Northern Ireland will reap the benefits well into the future.

**RICS has some 3,000 members in Northern Ireland, employed in the land, property and construction markets and in associated environmental issues. RICS has a Royal Charter which requires it to act in the public interest.**

*This article appeared in the Belfast Telegraph and was supported by the One Small Step Campaign.*

*Ben Collins is one of the keynote speakers at CRC's Annual Policy Conference during CR Week.*

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## Kids Tackle Sectarianism at Seaview

More than 200 children from interface communities across Belfast came together on Good Friday for a seven a side soccer tournament at the Seaview Stadium in North Belfast.

The Interface Soccer Sevens Project was organised by the Suffolk and Lenadoon Interface Group (SLIG) and was funded through the Housing Executive's Cohesion Unit. All of the children attending on the day also participated in Good Relations Workshops which examined the 'similarities and differences' between their communities.

Brian Rowntree, the Housing Executive's Chairman welcomed the event:

*"The development of positive relations at a local level, regardless of religion or ethnic background, is at the heart of what we do. The Housing Executive is about more than just providing houses, through our policies we can contribute towards a society which embraces diversity in all its forms."*

*"Some of the children here today will be our future tenants and we want to contribute to the positive work being done by groups like SLIG in interface communities across Belfast. Collectively we can make a real difference to people's lives."*

*"If we uncover the next George Best or Pat Jennings along the way then that will be a bonus!"*

Neill McKee from the Suffolk and Lenadoon Interface Group commented

*"The Good Friday Agreement was signed thirteen years ago today and many of these kids weren't even born then. I believe that events like this will help them to see just how much they have in common."*

If you would like to comment or submit an article for this bulletin or advertise a community relations event or publication, please contact Patricia at [poneill@nicrc.org.uk](mailto:poneill@nicrc.org.uk) or Ellana at [info@nicrc.org.uk](mailto:info@nicrc.org.uk).

### ***Kids Tackle Sectarianism at Seaview (contd)***

*“Today is all about building on the positive relationships that already exist between communities as well as forging new ones. Real progress is being made through the hard work being done day in and day out within interface areas.”*

And it wasn't just the teams that were drawn from interface communities, all of the participating referees are from Suffolk and Lenadoon and were provided training through SLIG's Coach Education Programme.

Brian Rowntree also expressed his thanks to Crusaders Football Club for hosting the event.

The winning teams within each category received a trophy and a trip to the Carling Nations Cup match between Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland at the Aviva stadium in Dublin on the 25<sup>th</sup> May.



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## CRC News

### Remembering the Future - A Decade of Anniversaries

by Deirdre McBride, Director of CRC Cultural Diversity Programme

#### Background

The forthcoming period 2011 -2021 marks a number of particularly important anniversaries which have shaped the sense of British and Irish identity in Northern Ireland in the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

The list of anniversaries is illustrative and includes the Ulster Covenant 2012, Titanic 2012, Plantation of Ulster 2013, First World War 2014, Somme and Easter Rising 2016, the Labour Movement, Universal Male and limited Women's Suffrage 1918, , Treaty of Versailles 2019, War of Independence 2019, Partition and Government of Ireland Act 2021 and the more recently 20<sup>th</sup> and 40<sup>th</sup> anniversaries of salient events within the troubles (Civil Rights 2018, outbreak of 'the Troubles' 2019, internment and hunger strikes) and indeed anniversaries of international significance. Partition and the foundation of the Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland occurred in the 1911-1921 decade and therefore commemoration may include some symbolic gestures or state acts with a north south and east west dimension.

The Community Relations Council and Heritage Lottery Fund organised a well attended "Remembering the Future" conference on 21<sup>st</sup> March 2011 in Belfast City Hall. 250 participants who attended the conference were drawn from departments, agencies, councils, community and cultural organisations in Northern Ireland, the Republic, academics, media and representatives from the Department of Foreign Affairs, British Irish Intergovernmental Conference and US Consulate.

This commenced a conversation which seeks to raise the issue of remembering in public space and perhaps to promote a process that leads to the development of practice models and principles. This process has potential to reinforce the development of political and civic culture – engaging with culture and identity, rights, what we mean by democracy and the nature of political change, a process that also acknowledges the legacy and supports engagement.

#### Next Steps

The development of partnership will be critical in inviting individuals and groups to consider the complexities of our legacy. CRC acknowledges the work within communities and continues to support opportunities for communities and groups to reflect on and address issues of identity. We do suggest these are significant centenaries for us and how we mark them will define us "now".

We look forward to publishing a set of articles from the conference contributors. CRC has also procured a piece of work to engage with a wide range of cultural groups throughout Northern Ireland which will be completed in May /June 2011. Over the coming months together with Heritage Lottery Fund we aim to speak with the department and key agencies.

A discussion paper on the Decade of Anniversaries can be accessed on the Community Relations Council website:

<http://www.community-relations.org.uk/fs/doc/remembering-the-future-discussion-paper-2011-may.pdf>

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## CRC News (contd)

### EU Peace III Programme Update

Priority 1 Reconciling Communities, Theme 1.2 Acknowledging and Dealing with the Past  
A Consortium of CRC and Pobal were appointed by SEUPB as the Intermediate Funding Body to deliver this Measure. The total allocation under this measure was €50m and the first round of funding was implemented using a three strand approach:

Strand 1 Addressing the Past in Public Memory  
Strand 2 Support for Participation  
Strand 3 Securing the Future

Following Phase 1 the SEUPB commissioned an external review of the Measure in mid 2010, carried out by Deloitte. This made several recommendations for future implementation of the programme. The report recommended that the remaining funding (circa €25m) be allocated through the following types of intervention:

1. Open Call
2. Direct Commissioning
3. Funder led interventions

Whilst Numbers 2 and 3 are still under consideration by the Consortium and SEUPB the Open Call was launched just before Christmas 2010 with a closing date of 4<sup>th</sup> March. Consortium staff held a number of workshops throughout the eligible area with very high attendances throughout.

The result has been overwhelming with the indicative budget of €12m being over five times oversubscribed. The inevitable result will be that assessment times will be greater than expected and unfortunately many people who have put great effort into applying will be disappointed. On the positive side initial mapping of application suggest a much more even spread of applications throughout the entire eligible area than in the past. It is hoped this spread continues into successful funded applications.

Frank Murphy, CRC EU Programme Director

### CR/CD Grant Scheme Financial Guidelines 2011

The CR/CD Grant Scheme has produced new financial guidelines which will provide successful applicants with helpful information relating to their award and the submission of financial claims.

The Guidelines are in the main an outline of already existing practice and cover a number of key areas including the claim process, the submission of invoices, guiding principles for project management as well as a number of pro-forma documents which groups can use when submitting claims.

All successful applicants will receive a copy of the new financial guidelines. However, we would advise that those seeking to apply for funding take time to read them before making an application as this will give a clear outline of what is expected from organisations that receive support from the grant scheme.

The guidelines are available to download from the Council's web-site, [www.nicrc.org.uk](http://www.nicrc.org.uk).

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## Policy Update

### Beyond Belfast Update

CRC and Rural Community Network hosted a series of dissemination events which explored the need for dedicated work and a policy response to the recommendations made within the *Beyond Belfast* report. The events took place in Irvinestown, Portadown, Strabane, Keady and Cookstown, were well attended, explored models of best practice on the ground and produced recommendations for action.

In addition to this, Duncan Morrow recently presented the findings of the Beyond Belfast report and potential next steps to the North Belfast Ministerial Working Group.

To obtain a copy of the report please visit our website [www.nicrc.org.uk](http://www.nicrc.org.uk) or contact Bebhinn McKinley on 028 9022 7500 or email [bmckinley@nicrc.org.uk](mailto:bmckinley@nicrc.org.uk)

### Consultation Responses

#### ***Community Relations Council have responded recently to the—Department of Regional Development Strategy (RDS)***

CRC highlighted that any serious policy for the region, including the Regional Development Strategy must deliver cohesion, sharing and integration. It is also vital that the new Regional Development Strategy incorporates as a macro spatial planning approach the recognition that residential spaces require:

- 1 High quality facilities which attract people;
- 2 Open and safe design;
- 3 Thought out location and access; and
- 4 Serious ongoing management of sites and facilities, particularly in areas which are contested and require proactive intervention to ensure safety, openness and equality.

Within its response CRC also made the following recommendations:

- A stronger emphasis should be put on addressing division, segregation and legacy issues
- More focus needed on creating opportunities to promote community and good relations
- Stress the importance of creating and developing shared spaces within the new Regional Development Strategy
- Include the recognition of interrelatedness of the Regional Development Strategy and the draft CSI strategy
- Make the link between building a shared society and building economic and social resilience and prosperity
- Include a specific aim on dealing with the legacy of the conflict and promoting better community relations, which also include actions and indicators to monitor progress
- Emphasise the need for regeneration opportunities to be developed in areas most significantly affected by the conflict
- Strengthen SG20 and associated actions.

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## ***Policy Update (contd)***

### ***Department of Justice—Building Safer, Shared and Confident Communities Consultation on a New Community Safety Strategy***

In its response to the Department of Justice, CRC made the point that in order to create a sustainable and just peace, CRC believes that there are four primary tasks which must be addressed over time:

- 1 Grow a sustainable economy
- 2 Build a just society
- 3 Address the legacy of the past
- 4 Embed trust, safety and partnership

and that the new Community Safety Strategy is a vital element within all of these.

CRC advocated that there was a need for the Department of Justice, through the Community Safety Strategy to:

- Ensure a strong commitment to shared communities remains a core element to the new Community Safety Strategy
- Publish robust action plans and timeframes at a regional level which clearly contribute to building shared communities
- Develop indicators which include reduction in threat or perception of threat in interface area, reduction in tensions at interfaces, increased shared spaces
- Take the lead in initiating a process that engages other departments across the Executive to create the conditions and supports a reduction and removal of barriers and interfaces
- Develop a robust hate crime strategy capable of directing, co-ordinating and supporting local actions
- Engage with OFMdfM and partners to develop the Flags protocol, recognising its current weaknesses and developing a strong monitoring role for Councils, including a legal power to monitor
- Continue and enhance the Unite Against Hate awareness raising campaign around reporting of hate crime particularly sectarianism and racism
- Set specific goals in the reporting of hate crime as a whole with reference to sectarianism and racism.
- Ensure that those appointed to the Policing Community Safety Partnerships are representative of the community across both equality and good relations
- Engage with communities in participatory planning based approach to community safety at a local level
- Provide training on community relations and conflict transformation as part of the new Policing and Community Safety Partnerships.

To see these recent submissions please see the [Policy Response Section](#) on our website

## ***Policy Update (contd)***

### **Current consultations**

#### **DARD—Rural White Action Paper**

This consultation document sets out a vision for rural areas and the key policy priorities to which the Executive is committed in respect of rural areas and the actions which individual departments propose to take in order to help ensure the future sustainability of rural areas.

<http://www.dardni.gov.uk/index/consultations/active-consultations/rwpactionplan.htm>

Closing date: 13 June 2011

#### **Social Investment Fund (SIF) - Pre Discussion**

Following Executive agreement on the establishment of an £80 million Social Investment Fund, the pre discussion paper outlines the high level strategic concept, objectives and overall methodology of the Fund.

<http://www.ofmdfmi.gov.uk/central-anti-poverty-unit>

CRC is currently developing its response to the SIF consultation.

### **Community Relations Council—Annual Policy Conference**

#### ***Reconciling the Books: the Economic Case for Sharing***

**26th May 2011, 9am—2 pm Stormont Hotel, Belfast**

Keynote speakers: Mark Magill, Oxford Economics and Ben Collins, Director of the Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors

#### **About the Conference**

*As we enter into a **new mandate** for the Assembly and Executive and at a time of significant fiscal constraints, the need to invest in a sustainable peace has become urgent. This year's annual community relations conference provides the opportunity for a **vital** and grounded **economic** debate around the development of an economy that realizes greater **savings, prosperity** and a **resilient peace** through enhanced sharing and addressing the impact of the conflict.*

*The conference will provide a platform for discussion, analysis and exploration of the economic and societal **challenges** and **opportunities** for communities, business, housing, education, policing and children and young people. It will also ask where we need to invest to achieve our goal of an inclusive, reconciled and cohesive society.*

**To register contact: Grace Hamilton [ghamilton@nicrc.org.uk](mailto:ghamilton@nicrc.org.uk) or 028 9022 7500 by 18 May 2011.**

## Events

### **FOR PEACE – AN INFORMATION AND NETWORKING EVENT HOSTED BY IRISH PEACE CENTRES**

*“Networking is the process by which relationships and contacts between people or organisations are established, nurtured and utilised for mutual benefit.” (Gilchrist, 2006)*

Irish Peace Centres is a consortium of three peace-building organisations located across the island of Ireland: Co-operation Ireland (lead partner); Corrymeela Community; and Glencree Centre for Peace and Reconciliation.

The idea behind the consortium is that we can be more than the sum of our separate parts by working collaboratively across organisations and through the delivery of our projects with community groups and individuals who come from a range of different backgrounds. Over the last two years we have been developing this integrated approach to delivery and can now really see the added value of working as part of the consortium; it has allowed each organisation to develop and share their expertise to strengthen each partner’s own peace and reconciliation impacts.

Irish Peace Centres is hosting “For Peace” - an Information and Networking seminar on 24<sup>th</sup> May at the Crescent Arts Centre, Belfast. This event will engage with colleagues in the public sector. The World Café format of this event will allow participants to find out more about the work of Irish Peace Centres and explore ways of working together and developing a shared vision of an interdependent and fair society.

This seminar is another aspect of our integrated work, where we have the opportunity to facilitate conversations on ground breaking issues of vital importance if we are to address the legacy of the conflict. It is an opportunity to meet, share and collaborate. Irish Peace Centres will provide information on the range of programmes delivered by the consortium within the key areas of its activity (below):

- Developing the consortium
- Interface Reconciliation
- Capturing and Sharing the Learning
- Training
- Sustainable Positive Relations
- Outreach and Engagement
- Faith in Positive Relations

To find out more, visit the website: [www.irishpeacecentres.org](http://www.irishpeacecentres.org).



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***Promoting a peaceful and fair  
society based on  
reconciliation and mutual  
trust***

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[WWW.NICRC.ORG.UK](http://WWW.NICRC.ORG.UK)

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**Events (contd)****The Valedictory Lecture****Burning Earth**

The talk touches on the Troubles and the need to deal with the past, as well as dealing with other contemporary issues.

**Liam Kennedy**

**Professor of Economic & Social History, QUB**

*Friday 10 June 2011 5pm Peter Froggatt Centre, Main Quad, Queen's  
University, Belfast*

# CR Week 2011

## 23–28th May

### DIVISION—NO QUICK FIX

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