# Suffolk Lenadoon

## INTERFACE GROUP

## Young People & Interface **Research**

### What Our Views are & What We Think…

# Introduction

This research was conducted by a cross community group of young adults as part of their OCN Level 2 Introduction to Youth Work course. They recruited 34 young people  in total (16 from Suffolk and 18 from Lenadoon) to get their views on interface violence and peace walls . The age of the interviewees ranged from 11 to 21 years old.

The findings of the research will be used to inform SLIG's work and provide information to the community in relation to the views of our young people.

***Students who completed the research:***
**Zoe McKnight** - *Suffolk*
**Janet Borrow** - *Suffolk*
**Morgan Van Dyk** - *Suffolk*
**Donna Maguire** - *Lenadoon*
**Roberts Sands** - *Lenadoon*
**Linda-Marie Hamill** - *Lenadoon*
**Gerard Forestal** - *Lenadoon*

## Survey Introduction

We asked the young people questions relating to interface violence and so-called peace walls.

For those not familiar with the area, Suffolk is a small Unionist enclave community surrounded by the much larger Nationalist community of West Belfast. In Suffolk there are five clear interfaces with numerous 'peace wall' structures, barriers and gates.

The purpose of the research was to ascertain young peoples views on issues connected to the interface; how these issues affect them and how they affect their wider community.

Considering interface violence is often associated with young people, it was important to hear a  young person's perspective on what they believe causes the violence, and get their suggestions on how these may be resolved. The timing of the research was also useful to gauge the impact on the interface, if any, of the recent political instability in relation to the flag fall out and the ongoing disputes over parading.

# Suffolk

# Q&A

# Interface Violence

## 1a. What are the main causes of interface violence?

*Social networking, facebook and twitter*
*Sectarianism*
*Boredom/lack of facilities*
*Property being vandalised*
*Individual disagreements and arguments*
*Gangs*
*Traditional festivals, 12th July and St Patrick's Day*
*Religion*

## 1b. What could be done to stop interface violence?

*"Stop gangs"*
*"More facilities"*
*"Have more things in our estate to keep us off the front off  the road"*
*"Something for us to do and facilities"*
*"Boycott flags"*
*"Things to do for teenagers"*
*"Everyone to stop arguing"*
*"I don't think anything could be done to stop it"*
*"No rioting"*

"Stop themins putting in our windows"

# Interface Violence

## 1c. What are the effects of interface violence on you and your community?

*"Broken windows"*

*"Wrecked cars"*

*"There are no effects on me as I go about my own life"*

*"People getting hurt"*

*"People being intimidated"*

"It affects me as I cross the interface everyday"

# Drop-In Centre

**2a.** If there was an interface community drop-in centre would you use it?

*7  said yes*

*7  said no*

*2 said I don't know*

**2b.** If yes, what would you like to see in it available for young people?

*Games consoles*

*Football pitch*

*Sports facilities*

*Snooker table*

*Tuck shop*

**2c.** Would an interface community drop in centre have an impact on the interface ?

*"Yes there would be less people on the streets"*

*"More trouble would start"*

*"Yes you would get to know new people"*

*"Yes people would make new friends"*

*6 young people said No*

"Yes because it would take kids off the streets and help them make new friends

# Peace Walls

## 3a. What are the peace walls for?

*"To protect the community"*
*"To prevent attacks on estates"*
*"To stop two communities fighting"*
*"To separate us"*

"To Protect us from them"

## 3b. Should there be more or less peace walls?

8 said MORE
*6 said LESS*
*2 said just keep them as they are*

"I would like to see less peace walls as the two communities need to stop fighting with each other and start getting along"

# Peace Walls

**3c.** What would need to happen for peace walls to come down?

*"Less violence"*

*"A miracle"*

*"Suffolk and Lenadoon ones to stop rioting"*

*"More groups and stuff to do between both sides"*

*"People to be friends"*

*"Peace"*

*"No parades commission"*

**3d.** What could be done to change the Peace Walls so the areas around them are more attractive for people living near them?

"Artwork like murals done by young people from both communities"

*"Ponds, parks, forests and scenery"*

*"Street art"*

"For the peace walls to come down there needs to be no bitterness  between the two communities and for each side of the communities to stop fighting with each other"

# Lenadoon

# Q&A

# Interface Violence

**1a.** What are the main causes of interface violence?

*"Tensions between Catholics and Protestants"*
*"Flags"*
*"Riots"*
*"Different religions"*
*"Traditional marches"*
*"Sectarianism within both communities"*
*"Social networking e.g. facebook and twitter"*
*"Police"*

**1b.** What could be done to stop interface violence?

*"Mixed youth clubs and meetings"*
*"Drop in youth club"*
*"Take all flags down"*
*"Marches in own areas"*
*"Bring them together and make them understand the differences"*
*"Residentials for team building"*
*"Days out together"*
*"Summer schemes"*
*"Nothing"*

"When people are in large groups and get over confident"

# Interface Violence

## 1c. What are the effects of interface violence on you and your community?

*"People don't feel safe going into each other's community because people get jumped"*

*"Nothing"*

*"Not being able to walk down your own street without feeling scared"*

*"Riots and roads being closed so I can't get home"*

*"Broken windows, It makes us look like scumbags and it's bad for friends"*

*"Fights, broken windows and cars etc"*

*"More tensions, more sectarianism and people hating each other"*

*"It has no effect on me however it has a negative impact on the community"*

*"I can't go to the shops"*

*"Damage and no peace, it's like a war"*

*"I live on Blacks Road and I walk through Suffolk Estate everyday if there's violence I can't get home"*

"Protestants and Catholics going to groups together e.g. SLIG"

# Drop-In Centre

**2a.** If there was an interface community Drop In centre would you go?

*17  said yes*
*1 said no*

**2b.** If yes what would you like to see in it available for young  people?

*Trips to help team building*

*Games*

*Food*

*Different groups and courses for different age groups*

*Get involved in the community*

*Activities, group work and residential*

> Food, munchies and games, that's all

**2c.** Would an interface community drop in centre have an impact on the interface ?

*"Yes because they could get to know each other"*

*"Yes it would help society move on from the past "*

*"Yes because they would become mates"*

*"Yes as it will strengthen relationships across the interface"*

*"Yes there'd be no violence"*

*"Yes if it works it would change attitudes of young people towards people with different religions and backgrounds"*

*"I don't know"*

*"Yes, because it would decrease violence"*

*"No as people will be closer together giving them more chance to fight together"*

> "Yes because SLIG made Prods and Catholics become friendlier to each other so this would to"

# Peace Walls

## 3a. What are peace walls for?

*"To keep peace between the two communities"*
*"To make peace"*
*"Funny enough to make peace!"*
*To separate two different communities and to help decrease violence"*
*"To stop fighting from each side"*
*"To stop violence"*
*"To separate Protestants from Catholics to make peace"*

## 3b. Should there be more or less peace walls?

*3 young said MORE*
*15  said LESS*

"To make Protestants and Catholics be friendlier to each other"

"Some people feel threatened to walk through Lenadoon  because they are Protestant and people sometimes start fights with them because they're sectarian so it means you can't have many Protestant friends"

# Peace Walls

## 3c. What would need to happen for peace walls to come down?

*"To get on with each other"*

*"Communities to communicate and move on from the past"*

*"Different communities to become mates and not fight"*

*"A mutual agreement for peace between the two communities"*

*"Take them down when every is in bed sleeping!"*

*"To all come together and make peace"*

*"Both communities working together better"*

*"No sectarianism"*

*"No violence"*

*"The two communities would need to make peace"*

## 3d. What could be done to change the Peace Walls so the areas around them are more attractive for people living near them?

*"Artwork on them that local people have done to make them more colourful but should relate to both culture but represent peace"*

*"Graffiti art"*

*"Historical pictures of both  communities"*

*"nothing keep them as they are".*

*"People need to be less bitter and understand that people are all the same"*