



## **Belfast City Council response to Andersonstown Neighbourhood Renewal Partnership's Action plan (2007)**

### **The council's input**

A number of discreet actions in the plan identify Belfast City Council as either a lead or supporting partner in their delivery. As part of their consultation process the NR Partnership have now asked the council to make an official response to the actions.

Detailed below are each of the **council-related actions** and a combined council response (established after discussions with the council's departments).

A map of the area's boundaries is attached at the end of this document.

## Strategic Theme: Environment

<b>Issue:</b>	<b>Appearance of area.</b>
Desired outcome:	Andersonstown to be a cleaner and more attractive place to live.
(1) Action sought:	Arrange walkabouts with BCC cleansing team to assess the current situation. This includes the timing, frequency and coverage issues of current cleaning provision.
Resource implications:	BCC cleansing team Other cleaning provision in area
Lead:	BCC
Support:	Environment Subgroup

### Council response:

On 29th July 2008 staff within our Cleansing Section attended a meeting of the NRP Environmental sub-group. During the meeting a number of key issues were discussed including the timing, frequency and coverage of current cleaning provision.

Cleansing staff highlighted that the unit has a strong cleansing team that perform a number of duties in the NR area, these include:

- Solo Sweepers- manually sweeping streets, roads and opens spaces
- Mechanical Sweepers-performing larger scale more robust cleansing of an area
- FIDO-Dog Foul Removal Machine
- Community Education and Awareness team

The council's new dog foul removal machine is in operation and will be deployed in West Belfast throughout September. Due to the success of this machine the council is currently considering the possibility of investing in one machine for the North, South, East and West of the city.

During the meeting our Cleansing Team also mentioned that every street in Belfast should receive a sweep at least once a week; the frequency of this exercise is determined by area managers. If this duty is not being performed the public can contact our cleansing call centre on 02890 27 0230 or email [streetcleansing@belfastcity.gov.uk](mailto:streetcleansing@belfastcity.gov.uk) and reports will be dealt with effectively. Under the Cleansing Section on the council website there is also a useful search tool allowing the public to access street cleaning timetables. The public can type in the name of a street and a cleaning schedule will be displayed. Again, if it is felt that this schedule is not being fully performed the call centre can be contacted.

The councils Cleansing Enforcement Officers have enforcement powers and can impose penalties of £50 for litter offences up to £2,500 for more serious litter offences. Officers can also prosecute offenders under the Litter (Northern Ireland) Order 1994.

In relation to the frequency and coverage of current cleaning provision, at the subgroup meeting it was requested that the council carryout a deep clean of the NR area on a monthly basis. There are a number of implications that would hinder the council's ability to fulfil this request. Most notably, resources both financial and human limit the possibility of achieving this action.

It was also agreed at the meeting that Staff within cleansing would be willing to liaise with the partnership to organise a walkabout of the NR area to look at cleansing issues. This can be arranged with the partnership.

**Issue: Appearance of area**

Desired outcome: Housing need, planning issues and piecemeal development

(2) Action sought: Gather Information on local housing need. Develop relationships with developers, private landlords, estate agents working in the area- in order to be in a strong position to influence and challenge potential developments.

Develop strategic relationships with planners (link with WBPB who are appointing a planning officer). Seek to make planners (and planning decisions) more accountable to the local community.

Use information and relationships to negotiate for optimal housing development and tenure mix.

Feed into and support lobbying efforts both locally and regionally (e.g. changing planning legislation).

**Resource Implications:**

Lead: NIHE  
Planning Service  
Elected Representatives

Support: Environmental subgroup  
WBPB  
BCC

**Council Response:**

The council, as part of the BMAP process, has advocated the development of a local plan policy to support the provision of social /affordable housing across the city as an element of a more sustainable approach to the development of communities.

The council's Parks and Cemeteries Section feel that all future developments should take account of the need for mixed land usage. The council would be willing to work with the partnership to look at planning issues and to determine how future developments could cater more effectively for the wider needs of the local community.

In relation to housing, within our Public Health and Housing Section the council acts as a regulatory body monitoring standards of privately rented homes. We can pro-actively seek out unfit homes for private rental. Council staff can then engage with the Rent Control officers within DSD to ensure that private rented accommodation is fit for purpose. This efficient referral system ensures an effective process of sharing information. The partnership may wish to avail of this service.

Staff within our Public Health and Housing Section would be keen to engage with the partnership in relation to housing. As part of our 'Home Safety Check' scheme we offer a range of programmes tailored specifically to the needs of different groups. 'Home Safety Check' schemes have been developed for Travellers, young mothers and those recovering from a range of illnesses including strokes and heart attacks. As part of this scheme, our Public Health and Housing Section offer a Train the Trainers programme. Working with a range of agencies including SureStart; staff within the different organisations are trained up to deliver the 'Home Safety Check' scheme. This allows the training to be cascaded enabling a greater number of people to benefit from the programme. Under housing issues, the partnership may wish to take advantage of the opportunities available through the 'Home Safety Check' programme.

**Issue: Appearance of area**

Desired outcome: Andersonstown to be a cleaner and more attractive place to live.

(3) Action sought: Identify issues where greater joined up working is required (e.g. BCC, NIHE, roads etc.)

Resource implications:

Lead: BCC  
NIHE

Support: Roads Service

**Council response:**

The council is keen to work with NIHE, DSD and other agencies to identify areas for greater joined up working. The council's SNAP (Strategic Neighbourhood Action Programme) Unit are currently developing the tools, procedures and policies to enable the council to adapt services to meet local need, reshaping the council's approach to neighbourhood working. As part of the move to improve service delivery at a local level 2 Neighbourhood Development officers have been employed. The officers will be responsible co-ordinating the council's response to Neighbourhood Renewal and will work towards helping to adapt council services to local area working. The officers will seek to ensure greater joined up working within council and also externally with a range of different agencies.

The council are committed to providing a better quality of service delivery at a local level and the key to this will be greater joined up working.

The council's commitment to this action is further reinforced with the representation of council staff on almost all Neighbourhood Renewal Partnerships. The presence of council staff has ensured greater co-ordination and effective information sharing.

The council officer on Andersonstown Neighbourhood Renewal Partnership also chairs the partnerships Environmental subgroup and will work with the group to address these issues.

In relation to graffiti removal, as the council have limited authority, our Cleansing Unit are currently exploring a multi-agency approach to the issue. Working with NIO, NIHE and DRD, the council will be involved in a more co-ordinated approach to graffiti removal.

**Issue: Appearance of area**

Desired outcome: Andersonstown to be a cleaner and more attractive place to live.

(4) Action sought: BCC's litter programme's community education team to run awareness sessions in schools and youth clubs.

Resource implications: Community education team into schools and youth clubs

Lead: BCC graffiti clearance team.

Support: Youth groups  
Schools

**Council response:**

Our Cleansing Services Community Awareness team have contacted a number of local schools in the Neighbourhood Renewal area offering outreach educational workshops. To date schools have not availed of the service but the unit would be willing to work with the partnership to identify schools and youth clubs that would like to participate in our educational programme. Workshops could be delivered in schools and youth clubs upon request.

Our Cleansing Services Community Awareness Team offers interactive anti-litter talks, activities, workshops and resources to primary and secondary schools, summer schemes and after school groups throughout Belfast. Our talks and activities can be tailored to suit a school's environmental curriculum and are targeted to different age groups and abilities. We can integrate environmental education and cleanup exercises with the wider community such as community cleanups. We can look at ways to address cleansing issues in the area and can provide on-going assistance and materials for successful community cleanups.

**Issue: Appearance of area.**

Desired outcome: Andersonstown to be a cleaner and more attractive place to live.

(5) Action sought: BCC's litter programme's community education team to assist/encourage schools, youth clubs and community organisations to run regular clean ups events in their area. These events should be promoted in the local area.

Resource implications: Schools to timetable the cleaning events

Lead: BCC

Support: Youth groups  
Schools  
Community organisations

**Council response:**

Our Community Education and Awareness Team within the council's Cleansing unit would be happy to work with the partnership to organise a series of community clean-up events. The team encourage communities to actively engage in communities cleanups. A Community Cleanup guide has been developed and can be downloaded from the council website under our Cleansing Section. The team can provide a range of materials such as bins and brushes needed for successful community cleanup events.

We also offer community groups, schools, organisations and business the opportunity to apply for the Brighter Belfast Environmental Awards every 2 years. These awards are designed to reward the citizens of Belfast for their input into the cleaning and greening of our environment and waste management of our city.

<b>Issue:</b>	<b>Appearance of area.</b>
Desired outcome:	Andersonstown to be a cleaner and more attractive place to live.
(6) Action sought:	Litter Prevention Campaign, ensure shop keepers/takeaways are providing necessary bins
Resource implications:	Leaflets/communication
Lead:	BCC
Support:	Local shops and takeaways

**Council response:**

Our Cleansing Unit work closely with businesses throughout the city in an effort to ensure that the surrounding areas outside their establishments are kept litter free. Council staff visit fast food businesses and help them to come up with ways of reducing litter near their business. Simple things like providing a bin outside or asking customers if they really need their food wrapped all add up to making a difference to the amount of rubbish on the street. Staff also encourage business owners to put up anti-litter posters near the shop front door as a reminder to dispose of rubbish properly.

Our Cleansing Services Enforcement Team can be made available to contact fast food outlets and monitor their environmental impacts in the area promoting our 'Hit the Spot' campaign. This is an anti-litter campaign aimed at reducing the amount of litter left outside fast food outlets across the city. We are encouraging local businesses to sign up to our campaign and take responsibility for the litter generated by their premises / customers in a number of ways, from litter-picking around their premises to displaying anti-litter posters.

Both our Community Awareness Team and Enforcement Team are available to attend meetings with local businesses and residents. We would also invite these residents and businesses to our quarterly Cleansing Forums for West Belfast.

Staff within Cleansing would be happy to work with the partnership to identify local businesses within the NR area that may require advice and support from our Anti-litter Team.

Our Waste Management unit are currently reviewing the role of the Community Education Team to determine if there is a requirement for the team to begin to target businesses. It may be possible that an educational workshop will be developed specifically for businesses to educate businesses on how they can manage their waste more effectively. Within the unit, one of our student placements has been tasked with researching the attitudes of businesses to waste management and recycling and looking at the resources that may be needed to change attitudes. The results of this research could be made available to the partnership when completed. The results of the research will also influence future waste management schemes.

The council is currently financially supporting the employment of an Economic Development worker based within the West Belfast Partnership Board. This officer is working closely with the Traders Forum to help deliver the forums action plan. Cleansing and litter issues are addressed in the action plan. The partnership may wish to link with the officer to ensure a more co-ordinated approach to addressing litter and waste management issues with local businesses.

**Issue: Appearance of area.**

Desired outcome: Andersonstown to be a cleaner and more attractive place to live.

(7) Action sought: Campaign of awareness to reduce dog fouling – bins placed in appropriate locations in the area and fines to be enforced.

Resource implications: £ for signage / bin

Lead: BCC

Support:

**Council response:**

Our Cleansing Services unit have invested in a new Dog Foul Removal Machine (FIDO) designed to help tackle the on-going issue of dog fouling. At different periods throughout the year, the machine will be deployed in West Belfast including the Andersonstown area and will be used to remove dog foul more effectively.

The council would not encourage the installation of separate dog fouling bins. The Litter bins currently in service throughout the city are multi purpose and can be used for depositing dog fouling. Our Dog Warden Service have highlighted that bins specifically used for dog foul only, contain toxic waste that must be treated separately. It is therefore not cost effective to install separate dog foul bins. When disposed off properly with everyday waste, dog foul only accounts for a small percentage of that waste and does not need to be treated as toxic waste.

In the past, the council have piloted the use of dog bins which proved to be unsuccessful. The council would advocate that there is no need for separate dog bins. The key to tackling dog fouling is responsible dog ownership. Owners should take appropriate measures to remove dog foul and then dispose of it in a litter bin or in their household bin.

Our Dog Warden service can enforce legislation around dog fouling however the unit have limited authority and the co-operation of the public is crucial in helping to tackle the problem. Our Dog Warden Service can erect signage at the request of communities but again, the enforcement of bye-laws will largely be dictated by the level of community engagement. The unit is also available to deliver educational workshops around responsible dog ownership. Workshops can be delivered in local schools, youth and community groups.

Ideally the council would like to run a wide city wide media campaign to raise awareness about the dangers of dog fouling. This may be a possibility in the future.

**Issue: Appearance of area.**

Desired outcome: Andersonstown to be a cleaner and more attractive place to live.

(8) Action sought: Subgroup to work with BCC/NIHE / others to clarify responsibility for removal of graffiti.

Resource implications: xxx

Lead: BCC / NIHE

Support: Roads Service / Private property owners

**Council response:**

The council would be happy to work with the NRP and other agencies to clarify responsibility for graffiti removal. We recognise that graffiti is a problem in the NR area and very often graffiti is going up as fast as it is being removed. The council have limited responsibility and would support the partnership with efforts to establish a multi-agency approach to graffiti removal.

Fly-posting is also a huge issue in the NR area. The council have no enforcement powers in relation to fly-posting. Enforcement of this nature lies with the planning service; again a multi-agency approach may help to address fly posting issues.

The council would also encourage the partnership to engage with the West Belfast Cleansing Forum. Meetings are held at Blackstaff Recycling Centre at Kennedy Way. The forum provides a platform for local people to raise issues that need to be addressed in their community. It also ensures a more co-ordinated, informed and localised approach to addressing cleansing and waste management issues. The next forum meeting for West Belfast will be held on 3<sup>rd</sup> December at 2pm.

The council would highlight that engagement of local people in the forums is critical. Details of forum meetings can be found on the council website under our Cleansing Section. If the NRP would like monthly reminders of forum meetings our Neighbourhood Development officers would be happy to assist with this request.

<b>Issue:</b>	<b>Appearance of area.</b>
Desired outcome:	Andersonstown to be a cleaner and more attractive place to live.
(9) Action sought:	Subgroup to meet with BCC graffiti clearance team (team for 6 month blitz for arterial routes in West Belfast)
Resource implications:	BCC funding for blitz team
Lead:	BCC
Support:	NIE, Virgin Media Environment Subgroup

**Council response:**

The above action is currently being delivered. As part of our 'Renewing the Routes' programme in partnership with our Cleansing Team, Andersonstown has benefited from a high-impact graffiti removal programme. The pilot scheme began in June 2008 and will last 6 months. The area covers the arterial routes stretching from Divis Street to Andersonstown and includes the lower Springfield Road.

Our Cleansing Team carryout an intensive cleanse of the area on a daily basis offering a more concentrated and rigorous service. The team have adopted a zero tolerance approach to graffiti and fly posting on both public and privately owned property. A disclaimer or public indemnity form is required from owners of defaced properties prior to work being carried out.

Several hotspots have been identified along the arterial routes. These areas have been pinpointed for targeted action.

Feedback to date has been very positive.

<b>Issue:</b>	<b>Appearance of area.</b>
Desired outcome:	Andersonstown to be a cleaner and more attractive place to live.
(10) Action sought:	Targeted awareness campaign to ensure that all stakeholders (including private property owners e.g. NIE, Virgin Media) are aware of their responsibility re graffiti removal.
	Consideration of graffiti removal social economy project
	Profile the importance of appearance by encouraging participation in Best Kept Streets Competition

Resource implications:

Lead: BCC

Support: Environmental / economic development sub groups

**Council response:**

The council would fully support a campaign designed to increase awareness among stakeholders of their responsibilities in relation to graffiti removal. The council will continue to work with the partnership to attempt to tackle graffiti and the associated problems and would be willing to engage with other agencies to develop a more co-ordinated approach to graffiti removal.

Our Economic Development Unit manage a number of programmes that could offer support and advice to those wanting to set-up a social economy project. At present the council would be unable to offer financial assistance for a Social Economy business but the programmes detailed below would assist in the development of a social economy project:

- **Outreach service**- provides ideas generation and starting a business sessions at locations throughout the city alongside a business advice service.
- The **Belfast Entrepreneurs Network** (BEN) is a networking and discussion forum for small businesses located in Belfast and facilitated by Belfast City Council. It offers networking events and practical workshops to foster market opportunities and aid small business development. BEN was established in 2007 and has grown to a membership exceeding 350 members, with up to 80 business people attending the networking events.
- Neighbourhood Economic Development programme

Staff within our Economic Development Unit would be available to meet with the partnership to discuss this action further.

The council would further support the partnership in their efforts to promote the 'Best Kept Streets' competition. Our Cleansing Team would be available to offer advice and support to communities wishing to take part in the competition. The team could offer brushes and bins etc that may be useful resources for helping to maintain the cleanliness of a street. As mentioned previously, there is also a community clean-up guide available to download on the council website.

The partnership may also wish to consider promoting and engaging the local community in our 'Brighter Belfast Environmental Awards'. The awards recognise Belfast-based individuals, groups, schools, organisations and businesses who are working to improve their local environment. If the partnership know of local environmental projects that have taken place between September 2006 and September 2008, they can enter the awards.

The Brighter Belfast Environmental Awards are divided into seven categories:

- Clean and Green Award
- Reduce, Reuse, Recycle Award
- Schools Environmental Award
- Business and Community Partnership Award
- Nature Conservation Award
- Judges' Special Award
- Belfast in Bloom Award

For more information on the awards log onto the council website under our Cleansing Section.

**Issue: Improve appearance of key routes.**

Desired outcome:	Improved key routes to generate a better perception of the Andersonstown area.
(11) Action sought:	<p>Identification of key areas within the arterial routes (A'town Road, Glen Road, Shaws Road) that need aesthetic improvement e.g.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Andersonstown Road (Leisure Centre, Busy Bee, Northern Bank)</li> <li>- Casement Park Wall</li> <li>- Kennedy Way roundabout</li> <li>- Shops at Shaws Road</li> <li>- Shops opposite St Teresa's</li> <li>- Monagh Roundabout</li> <li>- St Merrill private housing backing onto Kennedy Way</li> </ul> <p>Meet with Arterial Routes team and WBPB environment sub-group</p>
Resource implications:	£ to invest in improvements
Lead:	BCC
Support:	<p>DSD WBPB ANP GAA Private Developers</p>

**Council response:**

As part of our 'Renewing the Routes' programme the Andersonstown Road as an Arterial Route will benefit from a number of improvements. Under our 'Renewing the Routes' programme an estimated 60 commercial properties will be eligible for exterior enhancement work. This work should be completed by early 2009. There will also be a number of aesthetic enhancements carried out on the local environment, these will include:

- A 6 month zero tolerance graffiti removal project
- Improvements scheme at Kennedy Way gateway site to include public art, lighting, landscaping and signage
- Encourage relevant agencies to invest in upgrading the exterior façade at Casement Park
- Upgrading of car park at Andersonstown Leisure Centre

Our Renewing the Routes officer presented the plans for the work detailed above at the Environmental subgroup meeting held on 29<sup>th</sup> July. The proposed developments will help to improve the physical landscape and generate a better perception of the Andersonstown area.

**Issue: Recycling.**

Desired outcome:	High awareness and education.
(12) Action sought:	BCC waste / re-cycling programme's community education team to run awareness sessions in schools, youth clubs and community organisations.
Resource implications:	Community education team time Recycling facilities in schools and youth centres
Lead:	BCC
Support:	Schools, youth clubs, community organisations

**Council response:**

Our Waste Management Unit would be happy to work with the partnership to deliver on the above action. The unit manage a number of community education programmes that can be tailored to the needs of schools, youth or community groups. Programmes include:

### **Reduce, Reuse and Recycle talk**

The talk covers general information about why we should recycle, recycling rates in Belfast and current recycling schemes in operation in Belfast.

### **Reduce, Reuse and Recycle quiz**

This quiz uses Qwizdom remote voting equipment and is a fun and interactive way of learning about our Reduce, Reuse and Recycle message.

These sessions usually last between 30 and 45 minutes.

### **Trips to our recycling centres**

Visits to our recycling centres at Blackstaff Way, Palmerston Road, Alexandra Park and Ormeau show how our waste is managed and give information about where our materials go to be reprocessed or recycled.

The sessions usually last between 30 and 45 minutes.

*All groups must arrange their own transport to the recycling centres.*

### **Trips to Cottonmount landfill site**

The landfill site at Dargan Crescent was, until recently, the destination for all of our non-recyclable waste.

Now that this landfill site is full all the rubbish from our black bins is taken to Cottonmount landfill site, at Mallusk. Trips to Cottonmount allow young people to trace where the contents of their black bins go and provide information about the disadvantages of using landfill sites.

*All groups must arrange their own transport to landfill sites.*

### **Craft sessions with recycled or reused materials**

These sessions are aimed at primary school age children. Various recycled crafts can be created, including cards, hats, pencil holders and pompoms. These sessions usually last between 40 and 60 minutes.

Our education team within Waste Management would be happy to arrange a programme of activities once interested groups have been identified.

<b>Issue:</b>	<b>Alleygating.</b>
Desired outcome:	Safe and secure alley ways.
(13) Action sought:	Assess level of demand for alleygating, and implement scheme.
Resource implications:	Local community funding for the gates. BCC to insure and maintain alleygating.
Lead:	BCC/NIHE
Support:	Community Safety Forum to lead on this Environment Sub-group to feed in / monitor
<b>Council response:</b>	At present there is

Our Community Safety Unit manage the council's 'Alley gates' pilot project and have produced a manual that outlines the process required for installing alleygates. The Team are available to discuss this with the Partnership.

The 'Alleygates' pilot project was funded by the N.I Office and each project took approximately 6-9months from consultation to actual installation of the alleygates. The council are currently carrying out an evaluation of the pilot project. The findings of which will be presented to Council in November 2008.

Following a response from Council and depending on the availability of future funding, Belfast Community Safety Partnership will look at drafting criteria which will guide any future extension of the scheme. Belfast Community Safety Partnership will be issuing an update from elected members in early 2009. Information regarding the extension of the 'Alleygates' scheme will be made available on the council website.

Staff within our Community Safety Unit will continue to offer advice and support to communities wanting to install alleygates. If communities can successfully raise the finances needed to install alleygates, the council will undertake maintenance and insurance responsibilities providing the alleygates meet council specification. Specification guidelines can be found in the Alleygates manual.

## Strategic Theme: Economic Development

<b>Issue:</b>	<b>Links with employers</b>
Desired Outcome:	Determine need (skills, training, employment)
(14)Action Sought:	<p>Seek to get an employer onto subgroup/ANP.          Develop of employer database-use information already held (e.g. WB Employers Forum, WBPB, BCC)          Develop better links with employer organisations in the area. Use relationships to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Understand Skills Gap</li> <li>-Determine what training programmes to promote</li> <li>-Offer support to employers</li> <li>-Identify sectors with economic growth potential (e.g. culture, arts and tourism)</li> </ul>
Resource Implications:	Time to collate and update database
Lead:	Invest NI/DEL
Support:	<p>Employer Forum          Enterprise Council          WBPB          ANP/Sub group</p>

### Council response:

The council is involved with the Workforce Development Forum and is currently undertaking research on employability and the skills required for future employment.

The Collaborate Programme forges links between businesses and graduates from the Belfast Metropolitan College who provide their expertise to small business in a particular area of need e.g. marketing etc.

The council would be eager to work with the partnership to identify the developmental needs of SME's located within the NRA and to ensure the business community are aware of programmes of support provided by the council to address issues of business development.

Our Economic Development Unit are also delivering an economic initiative specifically for the independent retail sector. 'Retail Therapy-Helping Belfast Independents Thrive' is a support programme offering specialist mentoring to help analyse and improve all aspects of day-to-day operations. The programme is currently open and is now fully subscribed. Information on participating businesses could be made available to the partnership. Due to the success of the programme, it is likely to re-open in the future and the partnership will be made aware of this.

Our Economic Development Unit have carried a range of research projects including a skills forecast, sectoral research and research looking at entrepreneurship. This information could be made available to the partnership.

The unit also offer a range of business support programmes, examples of programmes being rolled out as part of our Enterprise Plan include:

The **outreach service** provides ideas generation and starting a business sessions at locations throughout the city alongside a business advice service. This service runs alongside the business advice service 'Points of Presence' which operates from the BCC Advice Centre.

The **Student Business Bootcamp** programme is aimed at students attending Belfast Metropolitan College with an aim to encourage more young people into entrepreneurship. The programme consists of outreach, impact days, business development workshops, business role models, mentoring and a residential.

The **Pre-enterprise Programme** is currently out for quotation with anticipated roll-out of the programme from October 2008. The programme will comprise of pre-enterprise ideas generation development, motivation and mentoring sessions, 'seeing is believing' experiences, business role models and networking.

The **Belfast Entrepreneurs Network (BEN)** is a networking and discussion forum for small businesses located in Belfast and facilitated by Belfast City Council. It offers networking events and practical workshops to foster market opportunities and aid small business development. BEN was established in 2007 and has grown to a membership exceeding 350 members, with up to 80 business people attending the networking events.

**Young Enterprise Northern Ireland (YENI)** has had a close association with Belfast City Council since 2003 providing practical business programmes in primary and post-primary schools, with an emphasis on targeting schools in disadvantaged areas. Since 2003 Council has provided support for over 25,000 young people to participate in the Primary Programme.

Other programmes include:

Sales Growth programme, Franchise Your Business programme, Strategy in Business programme, Neighbourhood Economic Development programme, Business Improvements through Environmental Solutions programme, Management Skills for Environmental Industries programme, Creative Connections programme

The council would be eager to work with the partnership to co-ordinate and communicate business development activities.

Our Economic Development Unit also contributes to the citywide Employability group and participates in the Employment Services Board in West Belfast. We also work closely with the Belfast's Employers Forum which has a particular interest in this issue. We would be keen to work with the Partnership on this action.

<b>Issue:</b>	<b>Links with local people in the community</b>
Desired outcome:	Need to focus on hard to reach (e.g. longer term economic inactive). Community Awareness of training and job opportunities and benefit uptake
(15) Action sought:	Run open days at community venues throughout Andersonstown-publicising benefits, training and employment opportunities. DEL to have a stall. Use Neighbourhood Renewal newsletter to publicise events and provide information.
Resource Implications:	Cost of running event BRO funding secured for Newsletter
Lead:	DEL
Support:	Economic Development sub-group JACS Training Providers

**Council response:**

Our Economic Development Unit are currently involved in the development and delivery of an initiative designed to create sustainable employment opportunities for those that have been long term unemployed. The HARTE project funded by DEL and the council is an employability scheme that local businesses could get involved in. Research identified high employment gaps in the hospitality and retail industry. Problems identified included high turnover rates and a lack of skilled workforce. As a result the HARTE initiative will focus on creating employment pathways in retail and hospitality.

Working in partnership with key agencies including Job Assist centres and Higher Education establishments, programme participants will be identified. The project is targeted at those that have been long term unemployed. Participants will then be given the opportunity to complete formally recognised qualifications that will be specific to retail and hospitality. Once qualified suitable employment will then be secured for all participants.

The partnership could make local businesses aware of this scheme. Local businesses may wish to offer employment to participants on the project to help fill their specific employment gaps.

The council's Leisure and Community facilities may be available to host open days. In the past a similar event was held in Beechmount Leisure Centre.

Our Economic Development Unit would support such an event and would be willing to actively participate by providing information for packs and attending the event to offer advice and support to participants.

**Issue:** **Employability Culture within schools.**

Desired outcome: Greater percentage of school leavers gaining employment.

(16) Action sought: Promoting links with schools.

1 Mentoring/role models from local people in business, social enterprise and community work.

2 Mentoring for careers teachers from BITC, positive local role models promoted where possible.

3 Use BITC to provide numeracy, literacy and ICT (essential skills) programmes within schools. Use of local people in programmes where possible

Lead: DE/DEL

Support: Schools  
Business in the Community (BITC)  
Parents  
Workwest  
Young Enterprise

**Council response:**

As mentioned previously our Economic Development Unit are involved in initiatives designed specifically for children and young people. The intended aim is to encourage children and young people into further education and to promote entrepreneurship through the provision of practical skills and advice.

The **Student Business Bootcamp** programme is aimed at students attending Belfast Metropolitan College with an aim to encourage more young people into entrepreneurship. The programme consists of outreach, impact days, business development workshops, business role models, mentoring and a residential.

**Young Enterprise Northern Ireland (YENI)** has had a close association with Belfast City Council since 2003 providing practical business programmes in primary and post-primary schools, with an emphasis on targeting schools in disadvantaged areas. Since 2003 Council has provided support for over 25,000 young people to participate in the Primary Programme.

For young people that have an interest in the creative sector, our Creative Industries Officer is committed to promoting and developing creative industries throughout Belfast. Focusing on 3 areas, Business Development, Capability and Infrastructure, our

Economic Development Unit manage a number of key projects supporting the growth of the sector. Projects include:

- Dare to be Digital
- South By South West Music
- Great Minds Think Alike- Creative Entrepreneurs Club
- Creative Connections Programme

Further information on any of the above projects can be found on the council website or by contacting our Creative Industries Officer.

Our Creative Industries Officer is available to offer support and guidance on a wide range of issues from Business Development, Skills Development to Business Incubation. Our Creative Industries Officer would also be available to deliver workshops, possibly offer sub group representation upholding observer status only and can advise on potential funding opportunities.

The council have been instrumental in lobbying for a 3year funding programme in support of the Creative Industries. The proposed grant scheme which has been announced under the Creativity Fund by DCAL and DETI will witness a 3 year investment in the Creative Industries Sector. The partnership may wish to submit a bid to help support delivery of the above actions.

**Issues: Self employment culture promoted.**

Desired outcome: Increased self-employment.  
Increasing number of business start-ups

(17) Action sought: Promotion of self-employment and entrepreneurial culture in schools and community groups.  
Delivery of enterprise training and use of local role models.

Resource implications: £ for enterprise training.  
Role models time.

Lead: DETI/Invest NI

Support: Workwest  
Local community organisations  
Schools

**Council Response:**

As detailed previously our Economic Development Unit are involved in several initiatives that support and promote self employment.

In terms of promoting self-employment and business start up the Economic Development Unit have created the Enterprise Plan to encourage entrepreneurship and provide the support for business start up. This plan includes a wide range of programmes including community enterprise outreach workshops, business advice service, Young Enterprise Primary Programme in schools in disadvantaged areas, Student Business Bootcamp, Pre-enterprise Programme, Belfast Entrepreneurs Network and events including the European Day of the Entrepreneur.

Other programmes include:

Sales Growth programme, Franchise Your Business programme, Pre-enterprise programme, Strategy in Business programme, Neighbourhood Economic Development programme, Business Improvements through Environmental Solutions programme, Management Skills for Environmental Industries programme, Creative Connections programme

The council would be eager to work with the partnership to co-ordinate and communicate business development activities.

The council is currently developing a business needs survey to identify the developmental needs of businesses throughout Belfast.

<b>Issue:</b>	<b>Build on social economy potential.</b>
Desired outcome:	Social economy initiatives providing employment and development opportunities.
(18) Action sought:	Identify social economy opportunities (e.g. potential graffiti removal company, community transport, early years' provision, culture, arts and tourism opportunities) and seek to develop these.
	Workwest to highlight future opportunities for funding support so that local businesses / people can be prepared
	Workwest Social Economy village – incubator / growth units available for social economy enterprises
	Access BITC business mentors to assist with development of opportunities.
Resource implications:	Business mentor time
Lead:	DETI / Invest NI
Support:	Workwest BCC BITC ANP

**Council response:**

Our Economic Development Unit can offer advice and support to the NRP in relation to the above action. The unit have carried a range of research projects including a skills forecast, sectoral research and research looking at entrepreneurship. This information could be made available to the partnership.

The unit also offer a range of business support programmes that are detailed in previous sections.

<b>Issue:</b>	<b>Development of key routes and sites.</b>
Desired outcome:	Improved local economic infrastructure.
(19) Action sought:	Support and feed into processes developing key sites. Feed into the Enterprise Council's feasibility study of the potential for a Commercial hub on a range of sites.
Resource implications:	
Lead:	DSD / BRO
Support:	Enterprise Council ANP WBPB

**Council response:**

As mentioned previously, our Economic Development Unit have carried out a number of research projects. The research information gathered could be considered within the feasibility study and may help to influence the outcome of the study.

The council would fully support any projects that aim to improve economic infrastructure. As part of our 'Renewing the Routes' programme there will be a number of commercial improvements carried out in the Neighbourhood Renewal area. These actions will be performed in an effort to improve the physical appearance of the local environment and to make the area more appealing to investors and potential consumers.

Under our 'Renewing the Routes' programme an estimated 60 commercial properties will be eligible for exterior enhancement work. This work should be completed by early 2009. There will also be a number of aesthetic enhancements carried out on the local environment, these will include:

- A 6 month zero tolerance graffiti removal project
- Improvements scheme at Kennedy Way gateway site to include public art, lighting, landscaping and signage
- Upgrading of exterior façade at Casement Park

The above developments will help to enhance the physical landscape and strengthen the areas position as a commercial hub.

<b>Issue:</b>	<b>Development of key routes and sites.</b>
Desired outcome:	Improved local economic infrastructure.
(20) Action sought:	Improvement of arterial routes to create enhanced commercial environment
Resource implications:	£ for environmental improvements
Lead:	BCC
Support:	BRO WBPB ANP (Environment sub-group to lead on this. Economic dev. sub-group to support / feed into process)

**Council response:**

As detailed above the council have committed to completing a number of improvements on the Andersonstown Road that will help to enhance the commercial environment of this arterial route.

As part of the 'Renewing the Routes' programme, the Andersonstown Road will benefit from commercial improvements including shop frontage enhancements, the installation of public art pieces, improved signage and graffiti removal.

Our Renewing the Routes officer presented the plans for the work detailed above at the Environmental subgroup meeting held on 29<sup>th</sup> July.

## Strategic Theme: Community Safety

Issue:	Fear of crime and anti-social behaviour coupled with limited focal point for community to voice issues and generate collective action
Desired outcome:	Awareness of and support for Upper Falls Community Safety Forum (CSF) Residents feel safer inside and outside their home and there is a reduction in crime related incidents.
(21) Action sought:	Support development and awareness of Community Safety Forum and programme of community safety initiatives  Community Safety Forum developing Federation of Residents Groups  Community Safety Awareness Day.
Resource implications:	£ for event
Lead:	PSNI / NIHE / BCC
Support:	CRJ / SNP PBNI Social Services Housing Associations Community organisations

### Council response:

The council operates a number of community safety initiatives including a successful 'Safer Neighbourhoods Anti-social Behaviour' Pilot Programme. The Safer Neighbourhoods ASB Pilot initially operates in nine council owned parks. Many of the reporting mechanisms that have been implemented as part of the pilot programme are operational within all parks and leisure facilities. The public can report incidences of concern to either site managers or by emailing our Safer Neighbourhoods ASB Programme Co-ordinator directly, via the website. Our ASB Programme Co-ordinator has close links with the police and community safety teams and represents the council on the city wide Anti-social Behaviour Forum.

All reported incidences of anti-social behaviour are recorded and brought to the Anti-social Behaviour Forum where appropriate action is taken. The forum enables the sharing of information between relevant agencies and encourages a more co-ordinated approach to tackling crime and anti-social behaviour. More information on how to access the forum can be got by contacting our Safer Neighbourhoods Anti-social Behaviour programme co-ordinator.

As part of the Safer Neighbourhoods ASB Pilot project action plans have been drafted for all nine areas. These action plans have been developed in consultation with the public and address a number of key issues in relation anti-social behaviour. Plans are specific to a particular area. As a result of the high level of community involvement, there is increased ownership of the plans. It may be possible to replicate this model of community engagement within the Andersonstown area.

The Falls Park (which falls just outside the Neighbourhood Renewal area) is currently included in the 'Safer Neighbourhood' parks pilot project. An action plan has been drafted for the park. The plan focuses on five main areas:

- education and awareness
- diversionary activities and programmes
- environment
- application of park bye-laws
- enforcement

The Falls Park action plan can be downloaded from the council website under our 'Safer Neighbourhood' pilot programme.

Our Community Safety Co-ordinator for West Belfast would be available to work with the partnership to help deliver on the above action. Our Co-ordinator would be available to offer advice and support and would be willing to participate in a Community Safety Awareness day.

The council may also be able to facilitate delivery of the event in either Andersonstown Leisure Centre or in one of our Community Centres.

In the near future our Community Safety Unit will be recruiting 4 new Anti-social Officers. When in post the officers may be available to assist the partnership with delivery of the above actions.

The Belfast Community Safety Partnership has developed an 'Introduction to Community Safety' course with Belfast Metropolitan College. It has been proposed that 15 places be allocated across the 15 Neighbourhood Renewal Partnerships in the Greater Belfast area. Although there may be potential for additional places if there is demand. The partnership may wish to avail of a place on this training course to equip a member of the partnership board or a local representative with the skills and knowledge needed to effectively manage a Community Safety Forum and deliver community safety initiatives.

The partnership might want to consider the possibility of setting up local Neighbourhood Watch Schemes. This may accompany the process of developing a Federation of Residents groups. Neighbourhood Watch Schemes could provide current residents groups with extra resources and capacity needed to actively address community safety issues in their communities. Within our Community Safety Unit our Neighbourhood Watch Development Officer would be available to assist the partnership with this action.

The council in conjunction with Belfast District Policing Partnership and the Police Service have committed to providing a 'Safe Seniors' pack to anyone over 65 in Belfast. The packs contain an introductory letter, a bogus caller card, a personal attack alarm, a 'message in a bottle' container for storing medical details safely and a leaflet on personal and home safety. In addition to this, Belfast Community Safety Partnership which is led by Belfast City Council provides information sessions to groups of older people about community safety, crime prevention and safety in their home. The partnership may want to consider requesting 'Safe Seniors' packs and possibly incorporating the information sessions for older people as part of a Community Safety Awareness day.

<b>Issue:</b>	<b>Limited understanding / knowledge of who to contact depending on scenario.</b>
Desired outcome:	Awareness of what agencies / organisations to contact and how to contact them. Understanding of what a typical response should be.
(22) Action sought:	Provide sample scenarios and who to contact and how to contact them (PSNI, NIHE, Social Services etc.)
Resource implications:	Collation of information  Materials for communicating / publicising information
Lead:	PSNI  NIHE  BCC

Support: CRJ / SNP  
Housing Associations  
Social Services  
Community Organisations

**Council response:**

In relation to Community Safety our Community Safety Co-ordinators and our 'Safer Neighbourhoods' Anti-social Behaviour pilot project co-ordinator offer the public a direct point to contact to council services. All our co-ordinators can be contacted directly either by calling the council directly or by emailing the officers via the council website at [www.communitysafety@belfastcity.gov.uk](mailto:www.communitysafety@belfastcity.gov.uk). Our officers can also provide a sign posting service for the partnership.

Information on all our Community Safety initiatives can be found on the council website under our Community Safety Section. Our Community Safety Unit also manage a small grants programme offering grants of up to £1000. The partnership may wish to consider submitting an application to this programme.

Belfast Community Safety Partnership, led by the council, has produced a series of crime prevention leaflets that would be useful resources for the partnership. Each leaflet gives advice on keeping safe at home or when out and about and provides a list of useful contact names and numbers for agencies involved in crime prevention. The leaflets can be downloaded from the council website or from the Belfast Community Safety Partnership website.

The partnership may also wish to contact the Belfast Community Safety Partnership and request copies of a booklet that has been developed as a sign posting resource for the public. The booklet highlights the relevant agencies that can help to address community safety issues in West Belfast. The booklet was compiled over a year ago and contains a host of useful numbers and contact details for agencies working throughout the Greater West Belfast area.

The council in conjunction with Belfast District Policing Partnership and the Police Service have committed to providing a 'Safe Seniors' pack to anyone over 65 in Belfast. The packs contain an introductory letter, a bogus caller card, a personal attack alarm, a 'message in a bottle' container for storing medical details safely and a leaflet on personal and home safety. In addition to this, Belfast Community Safety Partnership which is led by Belfast City Council provides information sessions to groups of older people about community safety, crime prevention and safety in their home.

The council has established an officers group that works internally to ensure a co-ordinated and integrated approach to providing council services that meet the needs of older people. Our officers group report directly to the All Party Reference Group on Older People and to the Chief Officers Management Team within council on a monthly basis.

The officers group have developed and agreed a prioritised action plan that will feed into departmental and service business planning across the Council (reviewed annually). The partnership will be updated with regards to the work of this group.

**Issue:** **High levels of alcohol abuse (e.g. underage drinking, on-street drinking).**

Desired outcome: A programme of initiatives tackling alcohol abuse.

(23) Action sought: BCC are developing a Vintners Forum for Upper Falls Area

BCC Get Home Safe initiative is running training to educate staff and managers of vintners

Develop understanding of legislation regarding alcohol (e.g. licensing, outdoor drinking)

Use legislation where necessary – suspend licence / on-the-spot fine. One example will send out strong message.

Identify timing of vintner's licences. Highlight to vintners their responsibilities if licence is to be renewed.

High visibility campaigns – BCC into off-licences at certain weekends.

Stay abreast of other initiatives e.g. tracing off-licence bottles and bags

Resource implications: Approach Diageo – willing to fund initiatives that deal with abuse of alcohol

Time to build understanding of legislation

PSNI / BCC resources re enforcement of legislation and campaigns

Lead: BCC / PSNI

Support: -Vintners

-CRJ

-SNP

-CSF

#### **Council response:**

Our Community Safety Unit manages a number of initiatives designed to tackle underage drinking and on-street drinking. The council actively promote and encourage off-licences to sign up to and exercise a code of practice designed to tackle underage drinking. The code of practice outlines the legal and civic responsibilities of off-licence owners and employees and encourages off-licences to request a valid form of I.D from persons who are not known to be over 18 or who do not look over 18yrs. The code of practice also reinforces the possibility of a £5000 fine or imprisonment for those breaking the law with regards to selling alcohol to underage people.

Our Safer Neighbourhoods Anti-social Behaviour Co-ordinator in conjunction with our Community Safety Team and the police perform a weekly high Visibility Crackdown project. Targeting known hot spot areas during vulnerable times in the evenings, the visible presence of council staff and police ensures a co-ordinated approach to tackling anti-social behaviour including underage drinking and on-street drinking. During visits, the team distribute important information leaflets to off-licence owners and employees and to the public warning them not to buy alcohol for anyone under 18. The team also visit local parks during high visibility walkabouts.

In partnership with a host of other agencies the council have launched the 'Get Home Safe Scheme' designed to tackle alcohol-related violence, attempting to make our city safer. The campaign is mainly directed at 18-25yr olds. Large posters are displayed on billboards, bus shelters, on buses and washrooms in pubs and clubs throughout the city aiming to get our safety message to reach as many people as possible. More

information on this initiative can be found on the council website under our Community Safety Section.

Within the Community Safety Unit, our Roaming Wardens carry out high visibility foot patrols helping to create a safer city. Their duties include:

- Helping with low-level anti-social behaviour including street drinking.
- Working with local community and voluntary groups to give feedback on environmental issues, such as litter, fly-tipping and dog fouling.
- Providing a targeted response to certain areas.

When deployed in an area, the wardens are on patrol Thursday-Sunday from 6pm-12midnight for a 3 month period.

Due to limited resources the wardens can only be deployed in two areas at a time. Our Community Safety Unit use internal records as well as information from the police, NIHE and community groups to determine areas of need. For further information about the scheme, log onto the council website under the Community Safety section.

The wardens are not currently active in the Andersonstown area. The wardens are currently operational in the Beechmount area of West Belfast and will remain there until the end of November. It may be possible to request a 12wk visit from the Roaming Wardens service in the future.

Our Community Safety Co-ordinators have also established 4 thematic working groups in relation to community safety. The groups are made up of a number of representatives from a range of key agencies. The 4 thematic groups are:

- Reducing Alcohol Fuelled Violent Crime
- Tackling Hate Crime
- Helping Belfast Feel Safer
- Tackling Anti-social Behaviour

Each thematic group will develop an action plan for each of the respective areas. These action plans will shape and influence the work of the council over the next 3 years and will enable a more holistic approach to tackling community safety issues including underage drinking and on-street drinking.

The council will also be recruiting 4 new Anti-Social Behaviour Officers to work as part of the council's Community Safety team. Once in post the officers may be available to help the partnership deliver on the above actions.

In conjunction with Parks Outreach Officers and Education Officers, our 'Safer Neighbourhood' Anti-Social Behaviour Co-ordinator has delivered a number of workshops in local schools. This programme is currently being developed and the partnership may wish to avail of these workshops in the future.

<b>Issue:</b>	<b>Lack of real understanding of scale of Community Safety issues.</b>
Desired outcome:	Knowledge and understanding that will help prevent and address issues.
(24) Action sought:	Develop quarterly monitoring mechanism – PSNI, NIHE, Housing Associations and BCC.
Resource implications:	Time to get monitoring mechanisms up and running
Lead:	PSNI, NIHE, BCC
Support:	CRJ to co-ordinate

Housing Associations

CSF

**Council response:**

Our Community Safety Co-ordinator for West Belfast would be available to offer the partnership advice and support with delivery of the above action.

Additionally, our new Neighbourhood Development Officers will also be available to assist with the above action. The remit of our Neighbourhood Development Officers includes co-ordinating the council's response to Neighbourhood Renewal action plans and developing effective monitoring and evaluation mechanisms. The monitoring and evaluation of action plans will be shared with the relevant partnership boards.

Our Neighbourhood Development Officers are based within the SNAP team. The SNAP team (Strategic Neighbourhood Action Programme) was set up to help us adapt our services to local area working. This small team are developing the tools, procedures and policies that we will need to work at smaller, well-defined, geographical levels across Belfast.

<b>Issue:</b>	<b>There needs to be a holistic approach (lobby for this as necessary)</b>
Desired outcome:	Reduction in levels of anti-social activity. More youth activity. Diversionary activity.
(25) Action sought:	Work with Youth sub group to influence timing of youth provision/leisure centre provision (consider getting youth representation on CSF). Identify and implement environmental projects for young people in parks/public spaces. Lobby to support and increase youth service in the area-including the detached youth work programme to integrate young people into organised activities. Work with health, youth and education sub-groups to ensure drug and alcohol education is provided. Support diversionary activity provided through arts and culture (e.g. Andersonstown Music School) Consider youth representation on CSF
Resource implications:	Time to build ongoing relationships with youth providers.
Lead:	
Support:	CRJ Youth, Education and Health subgroups

**Council response:**

Our Community Safety Co-ordinators have established 4 thematic working groups in relation to community safety. The groups are made of a number of representatives from a range of key agencies. One of the groups will look specifically at Anti-social Behaviour.

Each thematic group will develop an action plan for each of the respective areas. These actions plans will shape and influence the work of the council over the next 3 years and will enable a more holistic approach to tackling community safety issues.

Through the Community Safety Co-ordinators and our Neighbourhood Development Officers the NRP can raise concerns about anti-social behaviour which can then be brought to the attention of the thematic groups and where possible, will in turn be fed in to the new Community Safety Plan.

Our Neighbourhood Development Officers currently sit on all community safety thematic groups and will feed in community safety issues from all Neighbourhood Renewal Plans.

The Community Safety Partnership notes the development of a West Belfast Community Confidence Forum. There may be opportunities to address some of the above actions using this forum.

The council can also offer assistance to this community-led action through our Community Safety Team and the Belfast Community Safety Partnership Small Grants Scheme. Our Community Safety Coordinator for North and West Belfast and other relevant officers can give advice if required.

The council will also be recruiting 4 new Anti-Social Behaviour Officers to work as part of the council's Community Safety team. Once in post the officers may be available to help the partnership deliver on the above actions.

As mentioned previously our Parks Outreach Officers and Education Officers, our 'Safer Neighbourhood' Anti-Social Behaviour Co-ordinator has delivered a number of workshops in local schools. This programme is currently being developed and the partnership may wish to avail of these workshops in the future.

Our Community Services section is developing a new Strategy for Children and Young People which we would be keen to explore with the Partnership.

Our Community Services section can play an important operational role in this regard with staff active in the local area. Our Community and Leisure Centres are also an important physical resource for local communities. The council provides support for youth activities managed both by the council – such as our summer schemes - and our youth provision partners working in this area.

In particular, the Co-ordinator of services to Children and Young People based within the Community Services Unit, and the council-supported Youth Forum would be important resources in delivering this action.

Over the coming months our Leisure Services Section will act as an Intermediary Funding Body on behalf of the Sports Council for Northern Ireland, distributing grants under the 'Active Communities' programme. This funding scheme will be open to local sports clubs and communities to work in partnership with the Council to train up local sports and physical activity leaders that will in turn be used to deliver sport and physical activity opportunities to all sections of the community. The 'Active Communities' programme will open from September 2008-Jan 2009.

<b>Issue:</b>	<b>Physical environment can exacerbate community safety concerns.</b>
Desired outcome:	Environment alteration, to make it physically more secure and less intimidating.
(26) Action sought:	Identify potential sites for alley gating
Resource implications:	£ to implement
Lead:	BCC / NIHE
Support:	Environment Sub-Group, SNP / CRJ / CSF

**Council response:**

Our Community Safety Unit manage the council's 'Alley gates' pilot project and have produced a manual that outlines the process required for installing alleygates. The team are available to discuss this with the Partnership.

The 'Alleygates' pilot project was funded by the N.I Office and each project took approximately 6-9months from consultation to actual installation of the alleygates. The council are currently carrying out an evaluation of the pilot project. The findings of which will be presented to council in November 2008.

Following a response from council and depending on the availability of future funding, Belfast Community Safety Partnership will look at drafting criteria which will guide any future extension of the scheme. Belfast Community Safety Partnership will be issuing an update from elected members in early 2009. Information regarding the extension of the 'Alleygates' scheme will be made available on the council website.

Staff within our Community Safety Unit will continue to offer advice and support to communities wanting to install alleygates. If communities can successfully raise the finances needed to install alleygates, the council will undertake maintenance and insurance responsibilities providing the alleygates meet council specification. Specification guidelines can be found in the Alleygates manual.

## Strategic Theme: Health

<b>Issue:</b>	<b>Low levels of health and healthy living awareness.</b>
Desired outcome:	A fully informed local population choosing a healthier lifestyle. Programme to be community led and owned. Programme should target all elements of the local community (young to old, men and women) Programme should include targeting at hard to reach (e.g. go to pubs and clubs to engage men)
(27) Action sought:	Develop a Health Promotion programme e.g. <i>"A Healthier Andersonstown"</i> . Should include: -health checks/health information events (targeted e.g. men only, women only), nutrition (COOK IT programmes), CALM (Combining Anxiety and Lifestyle Management). Work with Environment subgroup to identify opportunities to assist healthier lifestyles (e.g. areas for walking, jogging, cycling). Consider potential for local service delivery options (Social Economy potential).
Resource implications:	£ for development programmes and associated programme delivery
Lead:	BHSCT / HPA
Support:	Community groups and venues  BCC Leisure Centres

### Council response:

Our Leisure Services Unit would be keen to engage in a Health Promotion programme. Andersonstown Leisure Centre has hosted health information days in the past and would be willing to facilitate future events.

Previously Andersonstown Leisure Centre was used as a meeting venue for the local walking group. Leisure Centre staff would be willing to work with the environmental subgroup to accommodate similar projects that would assist local people to adopt a healthier lifestyle.

The Leisure Centre currently runs some classes for older people and is looking at running an active club day for older people. Any further information on this proposed initiative will be made available to the partnership.

The Leisure Centre also offer a range of exercise classes for both men and women and specific sport and exercise activities for young people including a soccer school.

Our Leisure Services Unit also run a Healthwise scheme together with the Eastern Health and Social Services Board (EHSSB). Andersonstown Leisure Centre currently participates in this initiative. The project encourages people with specific health conditions to take up physical activity.

It is suitable for those with a range of health related conditions. Individuals can take part in the Healthwise scheme at any of our leisure centres. A doctor or healthcare practitioner can refer people for a free 12 week programme if they suffer from any of the conditions listed on our website. Our health and fitness staff can develop a keep-fit programme to suit the needs of individuals and will also monitor any improvements in participants health.

Our Leisure Services section is currently developing a programme that will result in the establishment of several multi-skills clubs. These clubs will be based in local facilities throughout the city and it is likely that the Greater Andersonstown area will benefit from this initiative.

As part of the project, coaches will be recruited from the local community and trained as multi-skills coaches. They will then be responsible for delivering multi-skills coaching sessions to local children and young people aged between 6-12yrs. Multi-skills clubs will be run during afterschool hours and will provide children and young people with the opportunity to develop a range of basic sporting skills in a variety of sports. Taster sessions will be offered to children and young people as a means of promoting the new clubs.

Our Leisure Services section is completing the 2<sup>nd</sup> stage of a large lottery application under the Live and Learn programme. If successful the funding secured will be used to deliver a city wide training and development initiative, whereby local people will be recruited and trained as sport and physical activity coaches. The new coaches will then be deployed in their local community and will be available to deliver a range of local health and fitness programmes. The coaches will be community based. It is hoped that through engagement in the project, participants will pursue a career in health and fitness.

In an effort to improve physical activity opportunities in the Andersonstown area the council plan to convert the pitch at the back of the Leisure Centre into a car park and MUGA (Multi Use Games Area pitch. The benefits of this proposed investment will enable increased usage of the facility and will ease the congestion often caused by the overflow of traffic caused by users attempting to park in and around the Leisure Centre.

Information boards within the Leisure Centre could also be used to post important leaflets and flyers helping to advertise health promotion programmes.

The council have also established an Older People's Officer group. This cross departmental grouping was set up to develop a coordinated and integrated approach to providing council services that meet the needs of older people. The group report directly to the All Party Reference Group on Older People and to our Chief Officers Management Team on a monthly basis.

The Officer group have developed a prioritised action plan that will feed into departmental and service business planning across the Council (to be reviewed annually). The action plan outlines the council commitments to service provision and will detail key actions that will lead to an improved quality of life for older people. Once the plan has been agreed by council, it could be made available to the council.

<b>Issue:</b>	<b>Drug and alcohol abuse.</b>
Desired outcome:	The prevention / reduction of drug and alcohol abuse.
(28) Action sought:	Support and link into drug and alcohol abuse actions undertaken by youth, and community safety sub-groups. Link into wider efforts working with pharmacists to help minimise misuse of prescription medication. Consider potential West Belfast wide relaunch of training manual aimed at addressing this.
Resource implications:	£ for programmes (see action plans of youth and community-safety sub-groups)
Lead:	BHSCT / EDACT  BCC  PSNI
Support:	Youth and community safety sub-groups  Schools and youth groups

## Health Promotion Agency – Young People and Drink Coalition

Council response:

As mentioned previously our Community Safety Unit deliver a range of initiatives intended to help address the issues associated with drug and alcohol abuse. These initiatives include:

- Our 'Get Home Safe Scheme' Publicity Campaign
- Roaming Wardens Scheme
- 'Safer Neighbourhoods' Anti-social Behaviour Pilot
- Neighbourhood Watch Scheme
- Safety for Seniors scheme
- High Visibility Crack Down Programme
- The Off-licence Code of Conduct Initiative
- Thematic Working Groups for Anti-social Behaviour and Tackling Alcohol Fuelled Related Crime

As part of the Belfast Community Safety Partnership 'Get Home Safe' campaign our Community Safety Unit, the Eastern Drugs and Alcohol Co-ordination Team (EDACT) and the three local drug and alcohol forums, which cover the Belfast Council district, have identified a need to tackle (primary) parental and (secondary) underage drinking within the Belfast locality.

It is envisioned that a marketing and publicity campaign with accompanying signposting service will be put in place with the aim of getting parents to think about how their drinking affects their children's views and ultimately their children's use of alcohol. As part of this, workshops/training sessions may be delivered to parents in an effort to raise awareness of their responsibilities as a role model and also to offer a support system for those parents dealing with underage drinking. The partnership may wish to avail of the services that may be offered through this campaign. Again, the council will keep the partnership informed of any developments that take place.

The partnership might also want to consider making an application to our Community Safety small grants scheme to help implement the above action.

In an effort to encourage young people to be more responsible, as mentioned previously, our 'Safer Neighbourhoods' Anti-social Behaviour Co-ordinator is developing a workshop that can be delivered to children and young people in local schools and community groups. The partnership may wish identify interested groups or schools that would like to avail of this workshop.

**Issue: There is a significant population of older people in the Andersonstown area. Inactivity, isolation and loneliness can effect physical and mental health.**

Desired outcome:	Older people are able to participate fully in a range of activities within the communities and beyond.
(29) Action sought:	Support and link into wider efforts ensuring they benefit older people within the A'Town area. In particular: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- outreach programme (using volunteers) designed to reach out to the local elderly community.</li> <li>- befriending programmes (using volunteers) targeted at most isolated older people</li> <li>- Develop a calendar of events and activities aimed at or open to older people (including existing events e.g. trips, dances, daytime,/evening classes).</li> <li>-Provision of the 'Good Morning' programme</li> </ul>
Lead:	BHSCT
Support:	Community Organisations Belfast Healthy Cities WB Senior Citizens Forum

**Council response:**

In general the council has made a specific commitment to responding to the needs of older people and have a series of facilities and schemes including Safety of Seniors events. We have an Older Persons Officer Group which was set up to ensure our services are suitably adapted to meet the specific needs of older people.

The council operates a free 'Home Safety Check' scheme which is available to all those over 65yrs, those with caring responsibilities for vulnerable adults and families with children under 5yrs. The scheme could compliment the services offered by the 'Good Neighbour' project. As part of the 'Home Safety Check' there is an opportunity to avail of essential equipment free of charge. The 'Home Safety Check' and the equipment scheme aim to reduce accidents in the home through practical advice and support.

The council can offer assistance to this community-led action through our Community Safety Team and the Belfast Community Safety Partnership Small Grants Scheme. Our Community Safety Coordinator for North and West Belfast and other relevant officers can give advice if required.

In partnership with the Belfast Good Morning Projects the Community Safety Partnership are developing a good practice publication, lobbying group, and business plan with a view to developing a strategic, sustainable Good Morning Service in Belfast. The needs of neighbourhoods shall be considered within the context of this work.

As part of the development of the 'Good Neighbourhood Scheme', again, the partnership may wish to consider the establishment of Neighbourhood Watch schemes. Our Neighbourhood Watch Development Officer would be available to assist the partnership with this action.

Our Older People's Officer group recently held a very successful senior citizens convention. The event included a range of presentations and questions and answer sessions with a panel made up of Junior Ministers and representatives from a host of agencies. The convention sought to inform older people about programmes, events and initiatives etc that they can access to help improve their quality of life. Due to the success of the convention, it will now become an annual event. The partnership can be made aware of the details of this yearly convention.

Our Leisure Services Unit have made an effort to make sport and physical activity more accessible to older people. As part of our Boost Card system, individuals 60yrs and over can gain free access to all Leisure Centre activities up to 11am daily. This service can be availed of by completing a Boost card application form.

The Andersonstown Leisure Centre currently runs some classes for older people and is looking at running an active club day for older people. Any further information on this proposed initiative will be made available to the partnership.

Council staff would be available to offer further advice and support in relation to the above actions.

## Strategic Theme: Youth

### Issue: **Develop a Youth Forum**

Desired outcome: Young People are directly involved in the action plan process.

(30) Action sought: Development of Youth Forum for the area.  
Forum membership should include two young people from each youth provider (Tullymore, The Link, St. Teresa's, St. Michael's, St. Agnes and West Belfast Area Project).  
Run a developmental residential to build capacity of the youth forum. Residential should build relationships and clarify aims and objectives.

Resource implications: Funding for capacity building residential

Lead: BELB

Support: Youth Providers  
ANP

### Council response:

Our Community Services section is developing a new Strategy for Children and Young People which we would be keen to explore with the Partnership.

The council-supported Youth Forum would be an important resource in delivering this action. Our Youth Forum plays a key role in ensuring that council services are adapted to meet the needs of young people. The Youth Forum acting in an advisory capacity influence council policy. The group is representative of the whole of the city with new members elected yearly. The group is well informed and could offer their skills and knowledge to the partnership to help establish a similar forum for the Andersonstown NR area. The group could continue to offer support to the A'Town forum once in operation.

### Issue: **Timing of provision is currently too limited.**

Desired outcome: Youth provision that is readily accessible.

(31) Action sought: Scoping exercise should identify and map service gaps – including times (weekends, evenings and summer) and groups (e.g. disability)  
Assess logistics and cost of running youth services for extended hours e.g. youth centres at weekends, leisure centre open later at weekend, summer holidays, and access to school facilities.

Resource implications: £ for scoping exercise  
£ cost of extending current services and £cost of accessing facilities (especially schools)

Lead: DE / BELB

Support: BCC  
Local schools  
Youth centres  
ANP

### Council response:

Our Leisure Services Unit would be keen to work with the partnership in helping to make facilities more accessible for young people. It must be recognised that extending Leisure Centre opening hours in the evenings and weekends would require additional staff and resources. The requested action may not be practical for the council at present, however our Leisure Services unit are currently carrying out a review of all leisure services and this will include reviewing opening hours. Depending on the outcome of the review there may be a possibility that this action could be accommodated in the future.

In the past Andersonstown Leisure Centre had extended opening hours but had to reduce these as demand was not evident. The Leisure Centre runs a number of programmes for young people including a soccer school.

Olympia and Whiterock Leisure Centre boast a 3G state of the art outdoor pitch allowing both venues to host the Midnight Soccer programme. Midnight Soccer is delivered by an external agency with the council offering the use of facilities out of hours. The programme is delivered at weekends at different periods throughout the year. The partnership may want to consider making local community groups aware of the programme. Groups could nominate teams to take part in the Midnight Soccer at the Whiterock Leisure Centre.

In relation to accessibility, as a result of feedback from the local community Andersonstown Leisure Centre now operates extended early morning opening hours.

**Issue:** **Negative image and perception of young people.**

Desired Outcome: Create a more positive perception of young people in A'Town

(32) Action sought: Promotion of good news stories and celebratory events.  
Run celebratory events for the positive aspects of the youth population, celebrating achievement (e.g. volunteer programme, Irish Traditional Youth Orchestra).

Resource implications: Production of articles.  
Cost of running events

Lead: BELB

Support: Youth Providers  
West Belfast Area Project  
ANP  
Community Safety Forum  
Culture Arts and Tourism subgroup  
Media-e.g. A'Town News

**Council Response:**

The council would fully support and encourage a programme designed to address the negative image of young people in the NR area. The council recognise that the majority of young people contribute positively to their local community.

Many people and organisations in Belfast are involved in making Belfast a safer place. A lot of these are young people who often give up much of their time to become involved in community safety schemes.

Our Community Safety Unit in partnership with the Thomas Devlin Trust and the Belfast Youth Providers have created the Young People's Awards. The aim of our award scheme is to give recognition to young people for their outstanding work with community safety issues.

This programme operates across Belfast. Winners from last years Community Safety West Belfast Gold Award category were nominated from the Greater Andersonstown Safer Neighbourhood Project. The partnership should ensure continued involvement in the scheme.

The council's Leisure and Community Centres could be made available to host celebratory events.

## Strategic Theme: Culture, Arts and Tourism

<b>Issue:</b>	<b>Uncertainty as to level of culture arts and tourism in area at present.</b>
Desired outcome:	A baseline to use in identifying strengths and weaknesses opportunities and threats. Monitor progress against baseline
(33) Action sought:	Map the current activity within the A'town area, noting organisations that feature CAT directly and indirectly. Production of findings (e.g. using a map or leaflet) to communicate to community stakeholders. Undertake SWOT analysis to assess where gaps exist and where improvements can be made. Identify what makes A'town distinctive with regard to CAT and use this in the marketing material (both in and outside the area)
Resource implications:	Co-ordination of mapping process by Sub-Group. Use of the Directory of Community Organisations  £for design and production of leaflet
Lead:	DCAL / Arts Council DETI / NITB
Support:	BCC CAT Sub-Group Local CAT organisations – include library ANP and Sub-group

### Council response:

The council is a keen advocate of the role of culture and the arts in contributing to neighbourhood regeneration and to wider city development. Its culture and arts team have a number of grant funding opportunities for local groups

The team have guided the creation of a new Integrated Cultural Strategy for the city – a strategy that recognises the contribution that culture can play to the local economy.

The council actively supports the Belfast Arts Marketing group. Our Culture and Arts Unit would encourage the partnership to become a member of the group in order to benefit from their marketing expertise and services. The unit also operationally support the citywide Festivals Forum. The forum is a proactive collective of festival organisers and agencies that are working together to build on the existing strengths of our festivals. Again the council would encourage the partnership to link with the Festivals Forum when conducting research as the agency may have some useful information that the partnership could access.

Our Culture and Arts unit are keen to work with the partnership and are willing to offer advice and support to help the partnership carryout their research

<b>Issue:</b>	<b>Lack of cultural awareness among local residents.</b>
Desired outcome:	Increase awareness that Andersonstown people have of their own culture and the culture of others.
(34) Action sought:	Programme to improve knowledge, interest and awareness of local culture: - open sessions to generate ideas - Use of map /leaflet to promote CAT features of A'town - Increased promotion and media coverage of CAT activities via local press, radio stations. promotion and internet Promotion of GAA as a community activity and as a tourism feature.

Resource implications: Publicity and communication materials.  
Commitment from GAA to the scheme

Lead: DCAL / Arts Councils

Support: BCC  
Sub-group,  
Local CAT organisations  
GAA  
Fáilte Feirste Thiar

#### **Council response:**

The council is a keen advocate of the role of culture and the arts in contributing to neighbourhood regeneration and to wider city development. Its culture and arts team have a number of grant funding opportunities for local groups.

The Rolling Programme, which is currently open, is a funding scheme that supports innovation in Arts and Heritage. The programme offers small grants under £3,000 for arts or heritage organisations to develop activities, particularly those of a one-off, pilot or developmental nature.

The council's Leisure Services Unit operates a small grant scheme-Support for Sport which is open to all local sporting bodies. Grants can be used for a range of development and support activities. Leisure Services deliver a yearly road show throughout Belfast designed to inform communities about the grant scheme and how to access Support for Sport. The partnership may wish to work with local GAA clubs to develop a community based program that could be eligible for grant aid under the Support for Sport programme.

Our Leisure Services section also manage a larger grant scheme. Open to all local sports clubs, successful applicants can receive up to £5,000 to run new initiatives. Information on how to access this funding is available at the yearly road shows, which take place throughout the city. Information is also available on the council website. Again, the partnership might want to consider working with local GAA clubs on a bigger community project that could possibly receive funding under the larger grant programme.

The council would be willing to offer council owned facilities to host open sessions to help improve knowledge, interest and awareness of local culture.

#### **Issue: Cultural heritage and diversity programme.**

Desired outcome: Programme of cultural diversity encompassing:  
- Irish language;  
-Local Gaeltacht;  
-Music (traditional and contemporary);  
-Traveller Community;  
-existing ethnic minorities; and  
-'new neighbours' (e.g. recent economic migrant arrivals)

(35) Action sought: A programme of co-ordinated community cultural and multi-cultural events organised per annum

Outreach facilitated from cultural groups to various communities (e.g. ethnic minorities, young people)  
Programme of mutual cultural events to introduce the local community (including minority groups e.g. ethnic minorities, people with disabilities) to indigenous culture in all its forms

Resource implications: £ for cultural events

Lead: DCAL / Arts Council

Support: BCC

## Community Relations Council

**Council response:**

The council is a keen advocate of the role of culture and the arts in contributing to neighbourhood regeneration and to wider city development. Its culture and arts team have a number of grant funding opportunities for local groups.

Our Culture and Arts Units-Rolling programme, which is currently open, is a funding scheme that supports innovation in Arts and Heritage. The programme offers small grants under £3,000 for arts or heritage organisations to develop activities, particularly those of a one-off, pilot or developmental nature.

Our Culture and Arts Unit also recommend that the partnership avail of the services and programmes offered by 'Wheel Works', a web gallery designed to showcase the creative work of young people throughout Northern Ireland. 'Wheel Works' offers a range of programmes and exhibitions that explore culture and ethnicity. The programmes may be of interest to children and young people within the Neighbourhood Renewal area. 'WheelWorks' may be able to provide the partnership with advice and guidance on how to deliver on the above actions.

Through our Good Relations Unit, the Council is involved in several initiatives and programmes in support of good relations in the area. The officers are available to explore joint action with the partnership. They support the work of local groups and are available to engage in developing good practice in this area.

Our Good Relations Unit manage the Good Relations funding scheme that the partnership may wish submit an application to. The fund is for community relations and cultural diversity projects. It is open to community groups and other organisations involved in reconciliation and cultural diversity. The aim of the fund is to promote good relations between people of different religious and political beliefs and different racial groups. It is hoped that funding allocated can be used to support the important work happening in the community which is building better relations and contributing to a more stable and tolerant city.

Our Good Relations Unit have been awarded £6.3 million under priority 1.1 of the EU Peace III Programme. This programme supports peace and reconciliation and will run from 2008 to 2010. Under the Peace III programme the council will administer a small grants programme. The amount of money available for small grants is £850,000 which is fifteen percent of the total allocation of Peace III funds through the Peace III Programme.

The partnership may wish to take advantage of the different funding programmes that will be available under Peace III. For further information on the Peace III programme log onto the council website and browse our Good Relations section.

**Issue:****Tourism infra-structure is very limited.**

## Desired outcome:

Infrastructure in place to attract tourists and give them the option of staying and supporting the local economy.  
Tourism (and arts and culture) has potential to be a significant income generator

## (36) Action sought:

Programme of activity to assist development of tourism infrastructure:  
-promote training programme for tour guides  
-promote welcome hosts initiative  
-maximise links with WB Festival  
-identify potential sites for new tourist accommodation  
-encourage programme of traditional entertainment in the area

-link into projects with cultural tourism potential in the wider West Belfast area (e.g Duchas – an oral and digital archive of the experience of the conflict in West Belfast).

Resource implications: £ for promoting and supporting the programme development

Lead: BCC / DETI / NITB

Support: CAT Sub-Group / Economic Development Sub-Group  
WB Festival  
Coiste  
Work West  
Fáilte Feirste Thiar

#### **Council response:**

Our Tourism Development Unit has worked to grow the tourism product of the city particularly in relation to cultural tourism in which local neighbourhoods have a significant role to play. The unit would be keen to work with partnership in exploring this potential.

The unit works alongside the Belfast Visitor and Convention Bureau and the Belfast Welcome Centre to promote activity in culture, arts and heritage (using such channels as the Belfast 'What About?' guide and [www.gotobelfast.com](http://www.gotobelfast.com) and are available to offer advice.

The council also currently supports Failte Feirste Thiar in the delivery of tourism initiatives in the area. One of the new activities identified within our Parks and Leisure Departmental Plan is the development of City Cemetery tours which could link to this programme.

The council recognises the growing importance of tourism to both the citywide economy and that of the city's individual neighbourhoods. There are related employment opportunities but it is crucial that the needs of the industry are matched by the skills of the potential workforce.

For example, we recently attracted ESF funding to support access to employment in the hospitality and retail sectors (HARTE project) and would be keen to work with the partnership to ensure that people from the area have the opportunity to take part in the initiative.

#### **Issue: Public art**

Desired outcome: Community involvement in production of high quality public art.

(37) Action sought: Identify locations for public art projects. E.g Barracks, Oasis Project  
Incorporate work already done in the area of public art strategy, to generate community involvement.

Explore potential for commemoration of local people through public art

Resource implications: £ for production of public art  
Art organisations to provide opportunities for community involvement, e.g. classes, incentives  
Site for location

Lead: DCAL / Arts Council

Support: BCC  
WBPB

#### **Council response:**

The council fully supports Public Art campaigns. As part of our Renewing the Routes initiative Andersonstown will benefit from an improvement scheme at Kennedy Way gateway site. This will include public art, lighting, landscaping and signage. The installation of public art pieces is likely to take place in consultation with the local community.