



INTERNATIONAL FUND FOR IRELAND

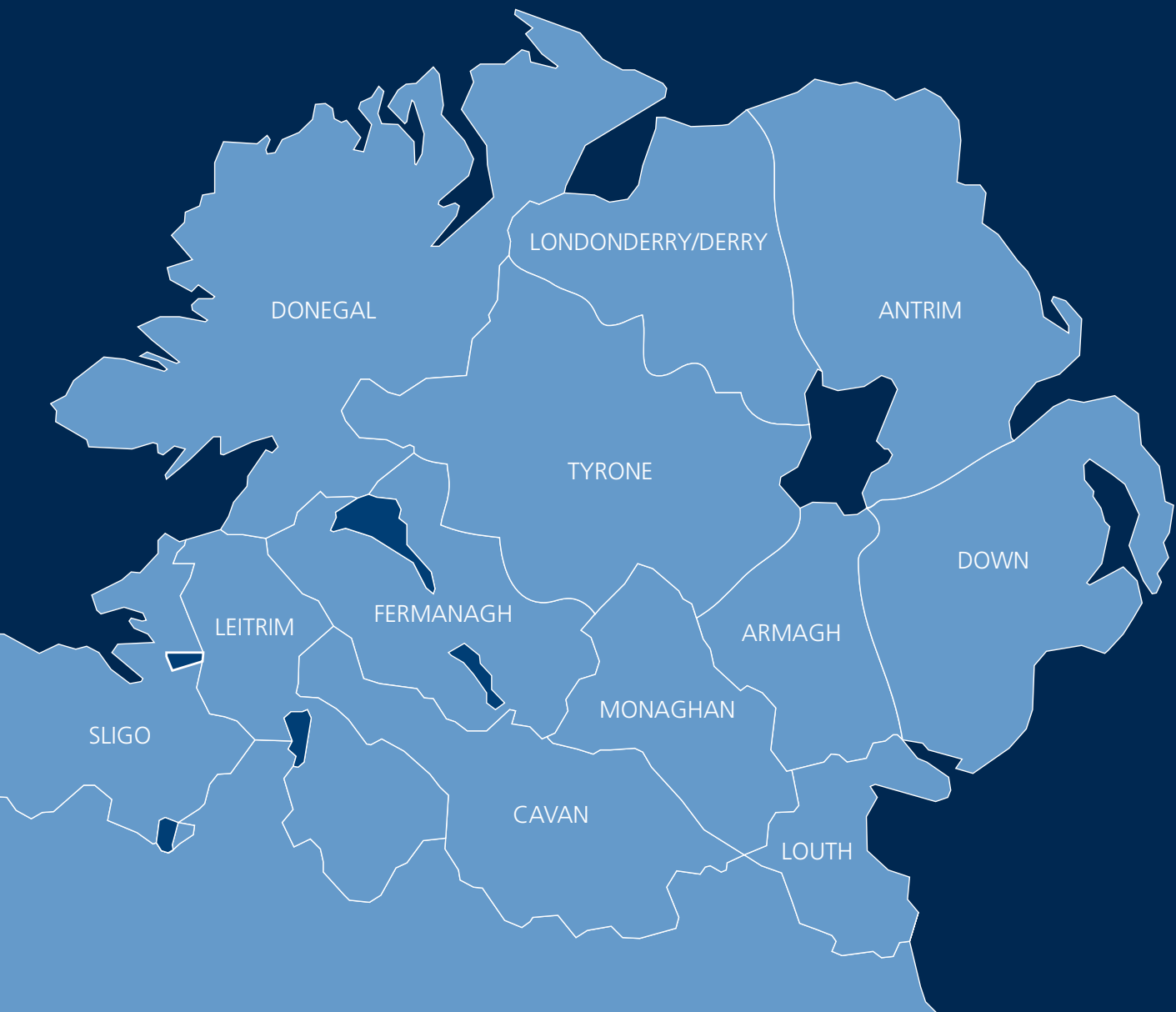


Helping Unionists and Nationalists to learn, work and live together as part of a shared future on the island of Ireland

Annual Report & Accounts 2015

OUR KEY PRIORITIES

Developing and funding initiatives that tackle segregation and promote integration to build a lasting peace in Northern Ireland and the southern border counties of Ireland.





INTERNATIONAL FUND FOR IRELAND

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COVER IMAGE: Coaches Alan Teggart and Joanne Quinn celebrate the Sport Changes Life programme with participants Chantelle Harper (left) and Adam McFarland (right).



Chairman's Foreword

At the time of writing the Foreword to last year's Annual Report, we were waiting with cautious optimism for the Stormont House Agreement to be completed and implemented. However, these past 12 months have brought significant challenges to the political structures and the rate of progress has been frustratingly slow.

Budget cuts, the reform of the welfare system, continued paramilitary activity and other concerns have threatened to collapse Northern Ireland's devolved government. As I write today, a new series of multi-party talks have concluded after months of negotiations. The 'Fresh Start' deal signals movement on a range of complicated issues that the Northern Ireland Assembly has yet to address fully, including how we deal with our past.

During this period of profound political uncertainty, the International Fund for Ireland has intensified its activity and secured impressive results in constituencies that have traditionally opposed the political settlement.

With our support, many communities that are vulnerable to destabilisation and a return to sectarian violence have become more resilient and remained with the Peace

Process. Progress, at a community level, has remained strong.

Our assistance has deliberately challenged and encouraged groups to take new measured risks and bring forward bold ideas that can transform their communities and weaken the grip of paramilitaries. The achievements of this approach are significant and set us apart from other funders.

This year marks the end of our Community Transformation 2012-2015 Strategy. It was specifically designed to harness the Fund's unique independence and acceptance among all communities. There has been significant progress in addressing core conflict related issues including paramilitary influence, internal tensions within communities, sectarianism, issues around cultural identity and expression, engagement with disaffected



MAIN IMAGE:
A participant from Strabane AYE shares his experiences of the Peace Impact Programme.
LEFT: Chairman Dr Adrian Johnston at an event organised by Holywell Trust in Londonderry/Derry.
RIGHT: Community representatives in discussion at an event organised by the Ulidia Training Peace Impact Project.

youth and overcoming the exclusion of women in peace building.

These are very significant steps in the history of Northern Ireland and the southern border counties. As this report reflects, there is a lot we and our donors can be proud of.

Sustaining and building peace is a task that requires constant work. The year under review has been a very active one for the International Fund for Ireland and can be characterised by innovation and sustained momentum. As Chairman, I am fortunate to be able to talk to many people who are personally responding to the challenges of a shared future - many of them from communities which are marginalised and disadvantaged and where the legacy of paramilitary influence is still evident.

The case studies included in this year's Annual Report provide an opportunity for you to hear directly from those involved in our work and find out more about the challenges and rewards at the heart of peace building.

Their stories are brave, compelling and inspiring. I am pleased and grateful to them for sharing their stories with us.

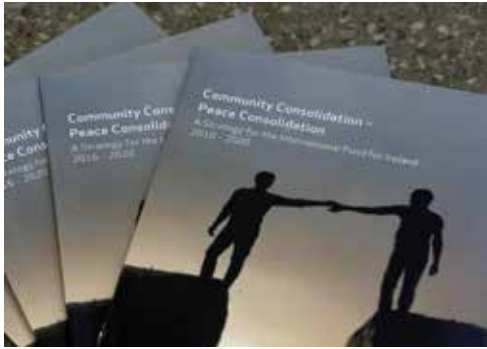
Evaluation has always been important for the Fund. For this reason we commissioned an independent analysis of our Peace Impact and Peace Walls Programmes. The findings are hugely encouraging and affirm the effectiveness of the Fund's interventions and the unique difference that we are making. Importantly, they acknowledge that there is a challenge for political and other bodies to step up with us in order to translate momentum into sustainable long-term change.

The outcomes and continued progress of these programmes has given all of us involved enormous satisfaction. Yet in the course of this work, it has become apparent that further targeted interventions are essential to consolidate and sustain peace. Moreover, there remains an urgent need for an independent organisation that is properly qualified and ready to take risks in partnership with communities.



In September 2016, the Fund will have been in operation for 30 years – a remarkable achievement. These three decades of essential work would not have been possible without our international donors and we remain grateful for their enduring support and encouragement.

Dr Adrian Johnston describes the work of the International Fund for Ireland to Congressman Brendan Boyle during a visit to Londonderry/Derry.



LEFT: The Community Consolidation – Peace Consolidation Strategy will intensify and expand the Fund’s programmes.

In November, with the support and endorsement of the British and Irish governments, we launched an ambitious five-year strategy called ‘Community Consolidation – Peace Consolidation 2016–2020’. It sets out how we will and must intensify and expand our current programmes. It very deliberately brings a renewed focus on dealing with the factors that prevent young people from beginning the journey to peace and those that make them vulnerable to paramilitary influence. I am pleased to share details of the strategy in this report and the document is available in full from our website – www.internationalfundforireland.com.

We recognise that it is difficult for the donor governments to continue to support programmes on the island of Ireland at a time of budgetary austerity. But we also believe that now is not the time to risk walking away. The Board is working closely with the British and Irish governments to secure an appropriate funding structure that will compound the value of secured baseline funding in order to deliver greater impact at community level. Over three decades, the Fund has proven adept at assisting projects obtain other sources of funding.

The Fund has never shied away from sharing the learning of its programmes nor working in partnership with policy makers and funding bodies on both sides of the Irish border and in other international areas emerging from conflict. Our door is open and we will continue to be active in our engagements with all and, in particular, we recognise the potential for our current and forthcoming programmes to help support the implementation of the Fresh Start Agreement.

We have been fortunate this year to have a chance to share our work with representatives from many of our donor countries. Visits from legislators based in the United States, Australia and Canada provided an opportunity to introduce them to recipients of our funding, allowing them to hear first-hand the impact that the Fund has had on individual lives and communities. We have continued to remain in contact with the representatives and, as is the way of these modern times, we have reconnected with many through our social media channels. Their continued interest and support for our work is greatly appreciated.

In September 2016, the Fund will have been in operation for 30 years – a remarkable achievement. These three decades of essential work would not have been possible without our international donors and we remain grateful for their enduring support and encouragement. We are particularly fortunate to have representatives from these countries serving as Observers at our Board Meetings, providing valuable insight and guidance.

In March 2015, Mrs Hilary Singleton, Mr Allen McAdam and Mr Paddy Harte joined the Board. These new colleagues have brought with them experiences and fresh perspectives, which will undoubtedly help the Fund in the coming years.

Finally, on behalf of the Board, I would like to thank the Joint Chairs and Members of the Inter-Governmental Advisory Committee for their guidance and advice, the Secretariat, our Development Officers, Managing Agents and other partners for their on-going efforts to deliver programmes that are making a very real and meaningful difference.



The Board

The Board of the International Fund for Ireland is appointed jointly by the British and Irish governments. Representatives of the United States of America, the European Union, Canada, Australia, and New Zealand attend meetings of the Board.

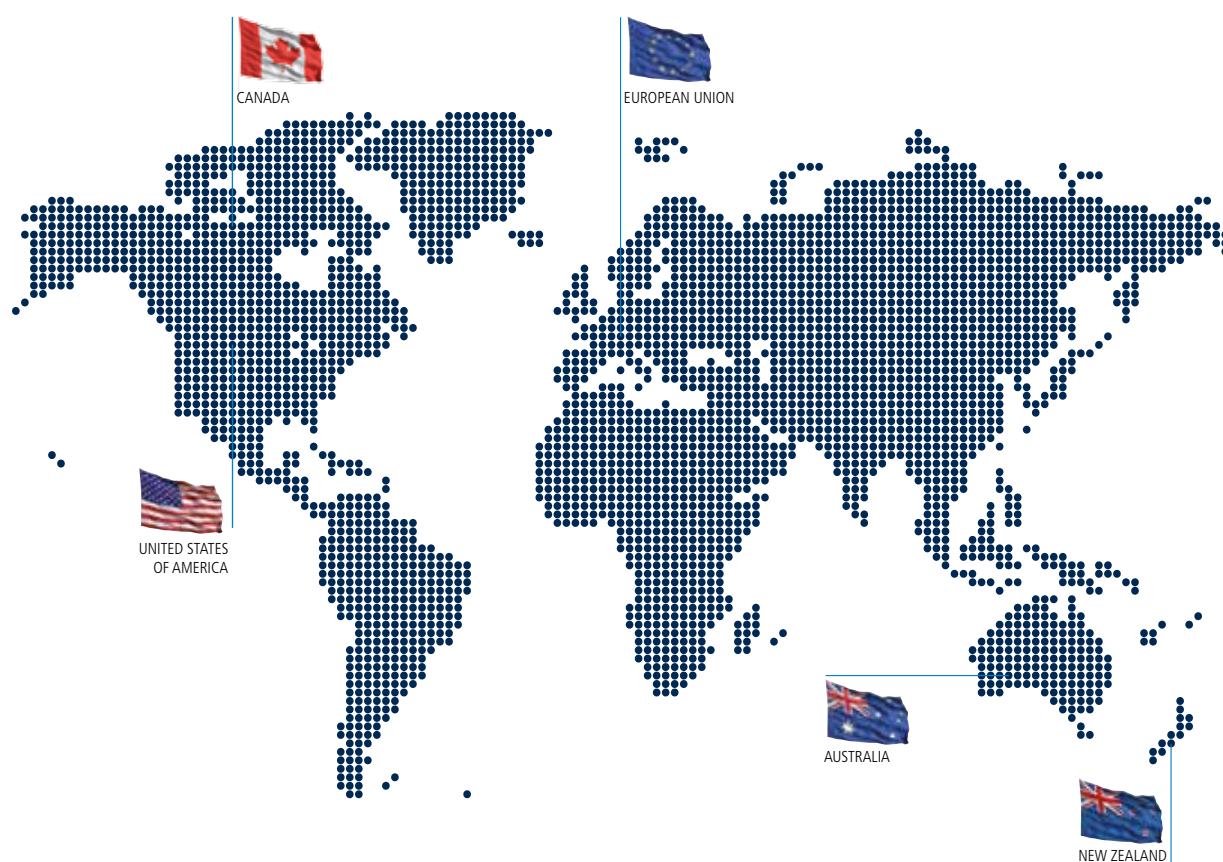


Pictured are (L-R)

Mr Billy Gamble
Ms Dorothy Clarke
Mrs Siobhan Fitzpatrick CBE
Dr Adrian Johnston, Chairman
Mr Allen McAdam
Mrs Hilary Singleton
Mr Paddy Harte.

The United States of America, The European Union and governments of Canada, Australia, and New Zealand were represented this year by: Mr Dan Hynes and Ms Stella O’Leary, United States of America; Ms Tamara Pavlin and Ms Deša Srsen, European Union; Mr Brian Doherty, Canada; Her Excellency Dr Ruth Adler, Australia; and His Excellency Dr Rt Hon Sir Lockwood Smith and Rob Taylor, New Zealand.

The International Fund for Ireland was established as an independent international organisation by the British and Irish governments in 1986. With contributions from the United States of America, the European Union, Canada, Australia, and New Zealand, the total resources committed by the Fund to date amount to £714million/€898million.*



THE OBJECTIVES OF THE FUND ARE:

- to promote economic and social advance; and
- to encourage contact, dialogue and reconciliation between Unionists and Nationalists throughout Ireland.

*THE STERLING/EURO CONVERSION RATE AT 30 SEPTEMBER 2015 IS APPLIED THROUGHOUT THIS REPORT



Introduction

The Board of the Fund is appointed jointly by the British and Irish governments. It is assisted by an Advisory Committee comprising officials appointed by the two governments.

The administration of the Fund is provided by a Secretariat, headed by Joint Directors General, based in Belfast and Dublin.

A range of bodies act as Managing Agents for the Fund. In addition, the Fund has three Development Officers, located across the southern border counties, who act as local contact points and assist prospective applicants to identify and develop proposals. They also monitor the ongoing operation of projects, providing assistance as necessary.

This Report, which covers the period 1 October 2014 to 30 September 2015, is presented by the Board to the Government of the United Kingdom, the Government of Ireland, the Northern Ireland Assembly and the Fund's donors in accordance with Article 12 of the Agreement of 18 September 1986, as amended, by which the International Fund for Ireland was established.

The Fund's Community Transformation Programmes cluster around three key areas: Peace Walls; Peace Impact; Completion

and Sustainability. All programmes are characterised by:

- a clear focus on reconciliation as the over-riding objective;
- a focus on community transformation rather than conflict management;
- an emphasis on engaging with individuals and communities that have not previously, or only partially participated in peace building and community development activities;
- an independent and credible approach with strong international backing;
- a cross-community, cross-border approach
- a willingness to take risks on behalf of local communities;
- early support for community initiatives;
- co-operation with other funders and leverage of funds from other sources;
- a willingness to innovate and to break new ground in support of reconciliation; and
- a responsive approach to donor priorities.

ABOVE: People in the South Tyrone village of Moygashel take part in a special community fun-day organised by the Moygashel Community & Cultural Association (MCCA) Peace Impact Project.



Communities involved in the Peace Walls Programme came together to send a positive message in North Belfast.

Community Transformation 2012-2015

Our Achievements

The International Fund for Ireland's 2012-2015 Community Transformation Strategic Framework placed a focus on community transformation rather than conflict management. Through this process the Fund recognised the need to progress community and statutory agency engagement to a holistic model as it began a series of measures aimed at addressing some of the most significant remaining challenges to lasting peace.

Recent achievements include:



Delivering permanent changes in educational delivery in Northern Ireland that will dissolve separation in schools.



Securing agreements between communities to begin the process of removing physical divisions.



Facilitating the agreement of a Protocol on Parading which has the capacity to be adopted as a code of conduct for all parades in Northern Ireland.



Opening alternative pathways to marginalised young people that are vulnerable to recruitment or attack by paramilitaries.



The growing confidence of local communities to face down extremists intent on promoting exclusion of minority groups following decades of isolation and violence.



Shaping the Northern Ireland Executive's strategy to address interface divisions.



Enabling ground-breaking engagement that has supported individuals and communities, who are still affected by sectarian violence, to take part in peace building activities for the first time.

In the course of this work, it has become apparent that additional resources and further targeted interventions are essential to consolidate and sustain peace.

The support and encouragement from our donors has enabled the Fund to consistently underpin the Peace Process and assist the British and Irish governments in their efforts to deliver a lasting peace on the island of Ireland. The Fund's hard won reputation, flexibility and credibility among all communities make it the only vehicle that can continue work of this nature.



Peace Walls Programme

Peace Walls – physical barriers dividing communities – are one of the most visual remaining symbols of division in Northern Ireland.

There are more than 100 such barriers, mainly in Belfast, stretching over 21 kilometres in total.

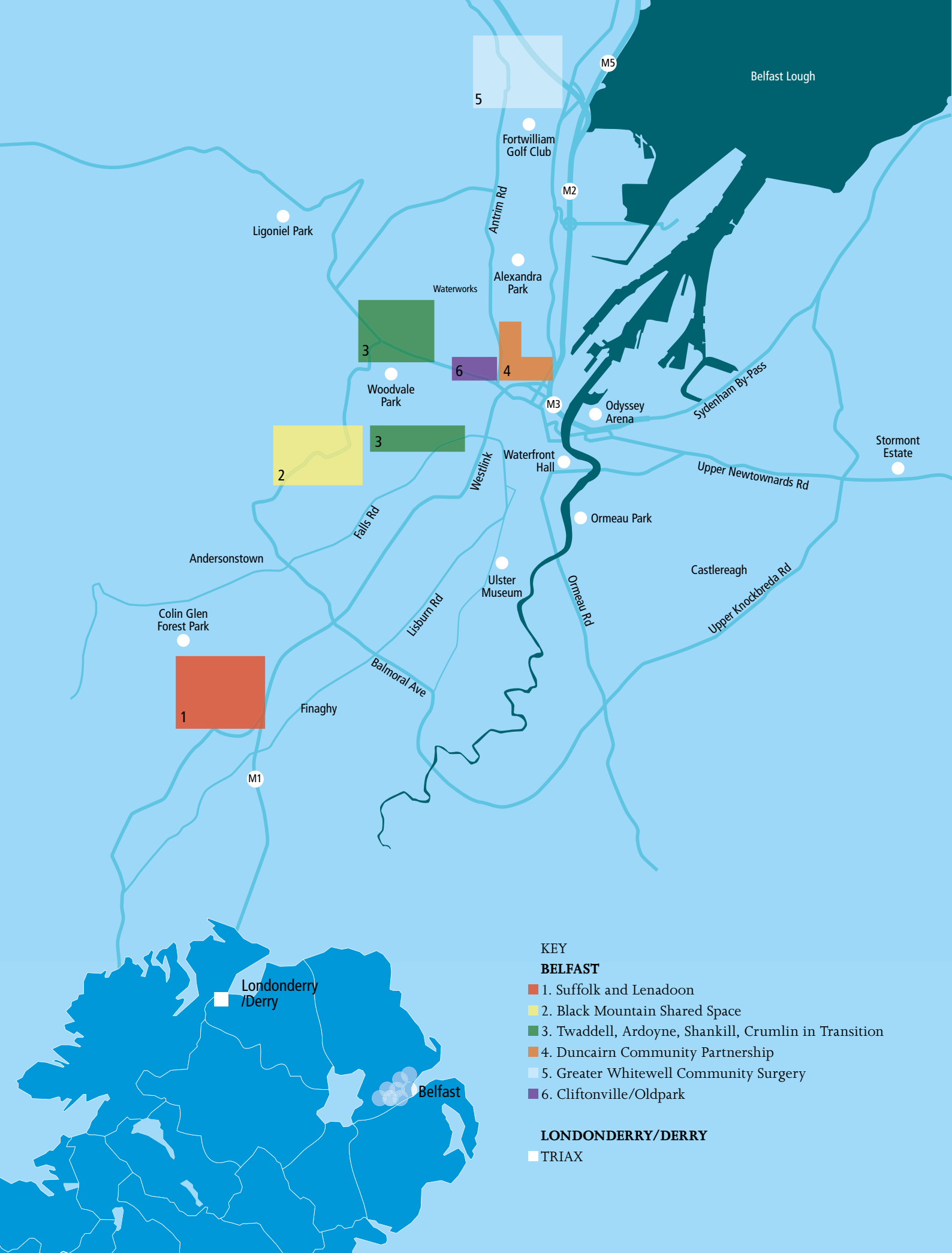


Sunset at an
interface in
West Belfast.

Launched in January 2012, the Peace Walls Programme focuses on helping interface communities to bring about the conditions that can allow for the removal of Peace Walls. It provides a range of confidence and relationship building initiatives within and between interface communities to help residents arrive at a position where they feel it is safe and appropriate to discuss and consider the removal of Peace Walls in their area.

The programme is designed for communities that have expressed their willingness and readiness to begin building the levels of trust required before starting the process of engaging with statutory authorities about removing the barriers.

The programme, which was developed by the Fund following consultation with all the key stakeholders, is designed to be the first stage in a process leading to the physical removal of barriers. This includes assisting interface communities to lever financial and political investment from statutory authorities for any associated infrastructure and community regeneration needs when the barriers are removed.



KEY

BELFAST

- 1. Suffolk and Lenadoon
- 2. Black Mountain Shared Space
- 3. Twaddell, Ardoyne, Shankill, Crumlin in Transition
- 4. Duncairn Community Partnership
- 5. Greater Whitewell Community Surgery
- 6. Cliftonville/Oldpark

LONDONDERRY/DERRY

- TRIAX

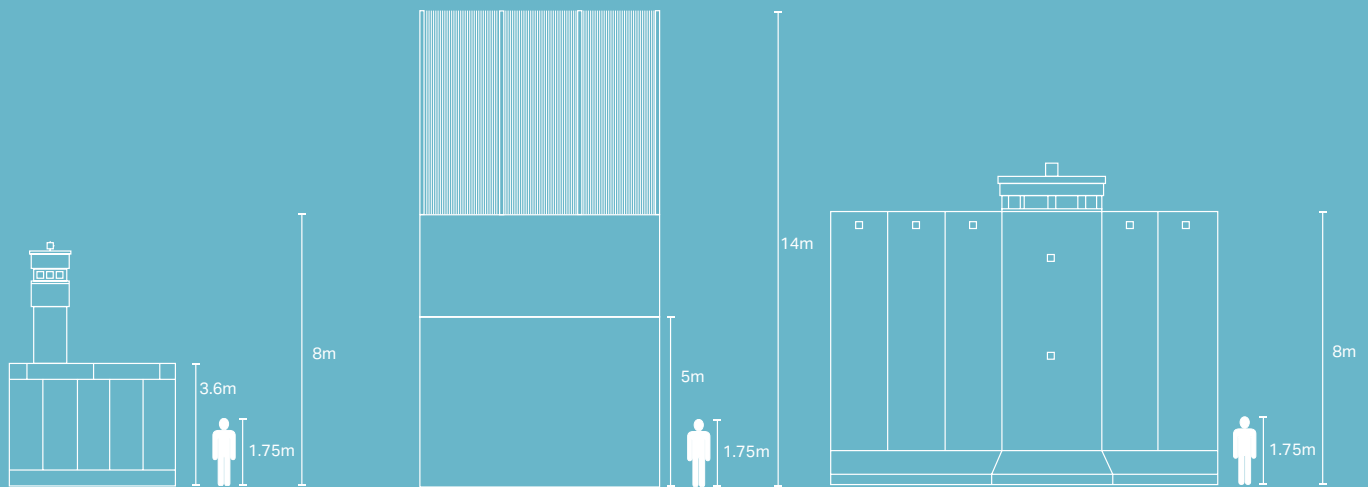


ABOVE: A Peace Wall divides Flax Street in North Belfast.
LEFT: An interface barrier divides communities near the Historic Walls of Londonderry/Derry.

Peace Walls Programme

The Peace Walls Programme is breaking new ground in interface areas and assisting the Northern Ireland Executive to meet wider targets.

Located mostly in Belfast and Londonderry/Derry, Peace Walls – physical barriers that separate communities – stretch for more than 21km, and were originally intended to keep the peace between Unionist and Nationalist communities.



BERLIN WALL

CUPAR WAY, BELFAST

PALESTINE WALL

28

YEARS

47

YEARS

16

YEARS

Different types of barriers

Physical divisions classed as ‘Peace Walls’ are constructed from a range of materials. Some of the older physical divisions have been fortified over the years as they changed from temporary to permanent structures.



Mesh Fence on Moyard Crescent – removed in 2013 with support from the Black Mountain Shared Space Peace Walls Project



Wall topped with a metal fence on Bombay Street



Closed road with pedestrian access



Gate on Springmartin Road – removed in 2013 with support from the Black Mountain Shared Space Peace Walls Project

History of Peace Wall Construction in NI



Life in the shadow of the Peace Walls

Academic research completed over the last 10 years has indicated that:



Nearly 70% of Troubles-related murders took place less than 500 yards from interface barriers and almost 85% of the killings occurred within 1,000 yards.¹



Each of the neighbourhoods with Peace Walls in Belfast, are in the top 10% of the most socially and economically deprived electoral wards in Northern Ireland.²



There is a higher incidence of mental health problems for those living in closest proximity to the walls.³



There is a correlation between the Peace Walls and the local communities ability to access services, low levels of educational attainment and unemployment.⁴

1. Shirlow, P. and Murtagh, B. (2006) Belfast – Segregation, violence and the city
 2. Byrne, J. Gormley Heenan, C. and Robinson, G. (2012) Attitudes to Peace Walls
 3. O’Reilly, D (2011) Give my head peace: psychotropic drug uptake around the ‘peace lines’ in Northern Ireland, Journal of Epidemiology and Community Health, Vol 65, Issue Supplement 2
 4. Hall, M. (2010) Death by Postcode (Island Pamphlets No.94), Newtownabbey: Island Publications

Suffolk and Lenadoon Interface Group (SLIG)

Persuading people living on interfaces of the value of change is no easy task especially in an area such as West Belfast.



The project has secured an alteration to the barrier that runs along the Colin Glen River Path bordering Suffolk, West Belfast. The old uninviting division has been replaced with more attractive and appealing paladin fencing.

Suffolk is a small Protestant enclave community bordering five larger Catholic communities.

While many have hailed the improved atmosphere in Northern Ireland in recent years since the paramilitary ceasefires, Suzanne Lavery of the Suffolk and Lenadoon Interface Group (SLIG) in west Belfast notes: “Within this area I feel people have become more open to change. However the Peace Walls Programme is a slow process due to the community not being ready for the

removal of Peace Walls barriers. Within these communities there is a real fear and genuine concern over homes being left in a vulnerable position. This is a bigger fear now than it was 10 years ago due to the OFMDFM TBUC announcement on barrier removal. We as Peace Walls workers can only move at the speed of the community and when they are ready for the change to happen.”

Indeed when the IFI funded Peace Walls Programme started in the area, SLIG met with considerable resistance. “The residents



LEFT: Local children got involved in efforts to clean up the River Path area as part of the wider transformation. RIGHT: Cross-community activities and study visits, like this one to Londonderry/Derry, have built relationships and confidence in the area.

thought we were here to remove the walls at the government's behest. We had to put a lot of effort into engaging with the local community and addressing their concerns. We stressed that nothing would be done without their consent as this is a community-led project."

As part of this engagement a DVD and exhibition will be produced to show the improvements that could be secured in the area through a shared vision.

Some 10 sites, three of them in the neighbouring Lenadoon area, have been identified as potential areas for improvement. One of the most innovative proposals being considered is the replacement of one set of gates next to a building to allow access to a shared resource for both communities. SLIG works out of a building fronting Stewartstown Road, one of the main thoroughfares through the area, and was itself one of the first successful transformation exercises. New fencing was erected around the building which removed the dark corners where youths used to gather and engage in anti-social behaviour.

The building transformation project allowed SLIG as an organisation to build trust within the community and to gain positive feedback from residents on the possible changes that could happen to future Peace Walls Programme sites. This was critical to the programme as it

allowed the community-led project to start at a point where the community were fully involved in the changes.

There has been progress made in some areas within the estate with new fencing, which blends in better with the environment, and trees and shrubs replacing an old barrier that borders the PWP site at the River Path.

Suzanne praises the flexibility of the IFI funding saying that it can be used for a variety of projects which help build confidence within the target community but which also can have a wider impact. "We found that young people were travelling into the area from outlying areas just to cause trouble. Now we work with youth workers in those areas to try to stem this problem."

As a reflection of this wider approach the Christmas tree lights switch-on in the area saw invites go out not only to residents within Lenadoon and Suffolk but also to neighbouring estates.

Suzanne adds "We want to assure them that they should have an interest in what we are doing and that they can also help create more confidence in the area. We saw up to 400 plus residents attend the Christmas lights switch-on at the Interface on Wednesday 2nd December 2015. It was a great event with a real community feel, which demonstrates the progress the project is making in West Belfast."

TRIAx

W B Yeats, in his poem *The Lake Isle of Innisfree*, wrote about peace dropping slowly. That is a theme which many of those working to create a new society in Northern Ireland can relate to very easily.



A sign on the interface barrier greets visitors to the Fountain area of Londonderry/Derry.

Donna McCloskey of the Londonderry/Derry-based Triax Neighbourhood Partnership Board has spent the past two years getting people on an interface in the city to the point where they have the confidence to agree to remove some of the barriers between them.

The International Fund for Ireland granted the organisation £286,962 in November 2012 for its Working Walls Project. It had identified

six sites around the Peace Wall on the Bishop Street/The Fountain interface, which could be reimaged, softened or restructured.

Donna recalls: “We have taken the approach that we have to build relationships and confidence on both sides of the Peace Wall if we are ever to make progress. Some people will move forward faster than others, but that is only natural.”



The project has arranged a number of cross-community activities that have built relationships and confidence on both sides of the interface.

A recent example came in May 2015 when those attending a residential course were asked if they were in favour of removing four of the gates on the interface. “Some 99% were in agreement, but when we spoke to residents at the Dog Leg - the entrance to The Fountain estate from the city centre - they were against the idea of opening up that entrance. They feel it protects people coming into or leaving that Protestant estate.”

Triax has taken an innovative approach to building up relationships between the communities on either side of the Peace Wall. One initiative was to erect a marquee on the interface where up to 30 people were able to make and sell arts and crafts items.

Donna says: “This is just people getting to know each other and working together. It is not about asking them difficult questions. Those can come later when people have reached the stage where they feel they can give an informed answer about how they see their areas developing.”

A cross-community cross-section of the two communities also went on bus trips together which led to some new friendships being made. “Two men and their wives - a couple from each side of the wall - went on one of the trips to Belfast. While the women went shopping together, the men went for a pint

and a chat. That would never have happened before in their own city”.

Other cross-community events include a Christmas pantomime in the Millennium Forum and a musical in the Memorial Hall in the Fountain area of the city.

So has this confidence building borne fruit? Four gates on the city walls are being removed and 21 panels on the Bishop Street side of the Peace Wall will be painted with images of what the city looked like in days long past.

Triax has also been able to tap into other funding initiatives such as the Urban Villages Project. The Department for Social Development is to upgrade the public realm in the area to the standard already seen in the city centre.

A laneway leading from the Bogside, which in the past was used as a route for young people intent on attacking those living in The Fountain area, is being upgraded. Donna hopes that this will make it a more inviting public space where people of both traditions can meet.

But the talking will still go on. “You have to build relationships before you can ask the difficult questions,” Donna says.

Greater Whitewell Community Surgery

Geraldine O’Kane who works with the Greater Whitewell Community Surgery to the north of Belfast believes that this is an area which has much to commend it. It is the gateway to some of the most important facilities in the Newtownabbey area – the Abbey Centre shopping mall, a backdrop of the glorious Cavehill Park, the Valley Leisure Centre and the popular shoreline of Belfast Lough.



The project is working to reimagine a steel fence, with a pedestrian access gate, that closes off Navarra Place from Serpentine Road in North Belfast.

It is also an area pockmarked by interfaces and Peace Walls and community relations are often at the mercy of inter-communal rioting, parades and political tension.

Geraldine says: “Trying to change minds never mind remove barriers is quite a slow process. We have to try to convince everyone that it is in their best interests to improve the area and make it a place where people want

to buy homes and a place where there are employment prospects.

“Children often ask why there are walls in certain areas. These physical structures reference the mental structures that exist there.”

She admits that if the plan to alter six sites within the area is successfully completed



LEFT: The project has successfully secured alterations to the division on Longlands Road.
RIGHT: Homes in the 'other' community are just visible over top of a wall that runs towards Newtownabbey.

it could have the greatest impact socially, environmentally and, eventually, unite the area.

It is not what she calls “a tick box” exercise, merely crossing off an agreed set of criteria. Instead it involves working closely with the two communities in the area and the plethora of statutory bodies, both at government department level and also within the two local authorities which straddle the area.

Of the six sites, three have now been given priority status, partly because they provide the biggest challenge for the future. These are:

- Serpentine Road/Navarra Place: Progress has been made on this site that includes preliminary re-imaging of the fence, extended gate opening times and a planned community shared park development in Navarra Place supported by Belfast City Council. Agreement on a shared basis remains challenging and work will continue to establish essential good relations that enable positive change in an emerging united community.
- Hazelwood Integrated Primary School/Old Throne: Following sustained resistance for any change to the existing structure; residents have now engaged in talks to consider a normalisation programme for their area, to include a

possible reduction and declassification of the fence.

- Longlands Road/Arthur Bridge: Historically this area has been the scene of intensive and sustained sectarian clashes; currently incidents are more sporadic. Community agreement has been reached for proposed re-imaging of this site that includes transfer of land to extend the gardens; however, DRD (Department for Regional Development) have now introduced conditions that impact hugely on planned changes. Community consultation must be reintroduced and hopefully residents remain willing to engage.

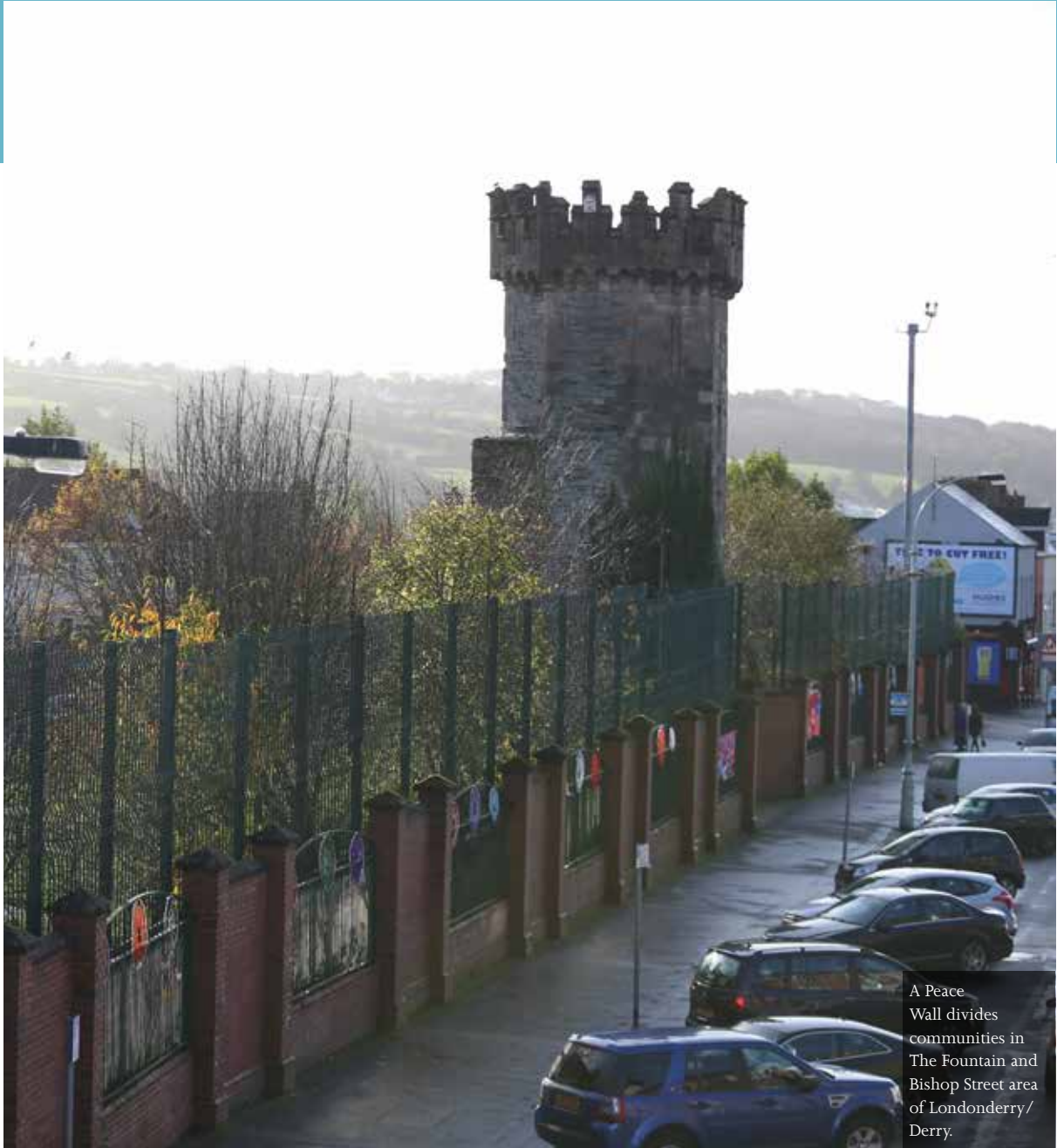
Geraldine says: “We encourage the young people to get conversations going about the walls and any other issues that affect them. We don’t want our children or grandchildren to go through what we went through in the past.”

And she points up one initiative which has already sown seeds among adults in the area. Twelve men - six Unionist and six Nationalist each of whom had never worked with a person from the opposite tradition before - have completed security training and have agreed to steward events taking place in the area. “These are people who would have been at the interfaces during times of tension and who have a certain influence in their areas. That shows progress can be made in some of the most surprising places.”


Peace Walls Programme

During this financial year the Fund has committed additional financial assistance to the following projects:

NAME/ADDRESS	PROJECT DESCRIPTION	NORTH £
BELFAST CITY COUNCIL AREA		
Black Mountain Shared Space Project Springfield Road Belfast Co Antrim	Additional assistance towards the extension of the current project.	42,000
Cliftonville Community Regeneration Forum & Lower Oldpark Community Association Cliftonpark Avenue Belfast Co Antrim	Additional assistance towards the extension of the current project.	30,000
Duncairn Community Partnership Antrim Road Belfast Co Antrim	Additional assistance towards the extension of the current project.	30,000
DERRY CITY & STRABANE DISTRICT COUNCIL AREA		
TRIAX Neighbourhood Partnership Board Iona Business Park Southway Derry Co Londonderry	Additional assistance towards the extension of the current project.	35,000

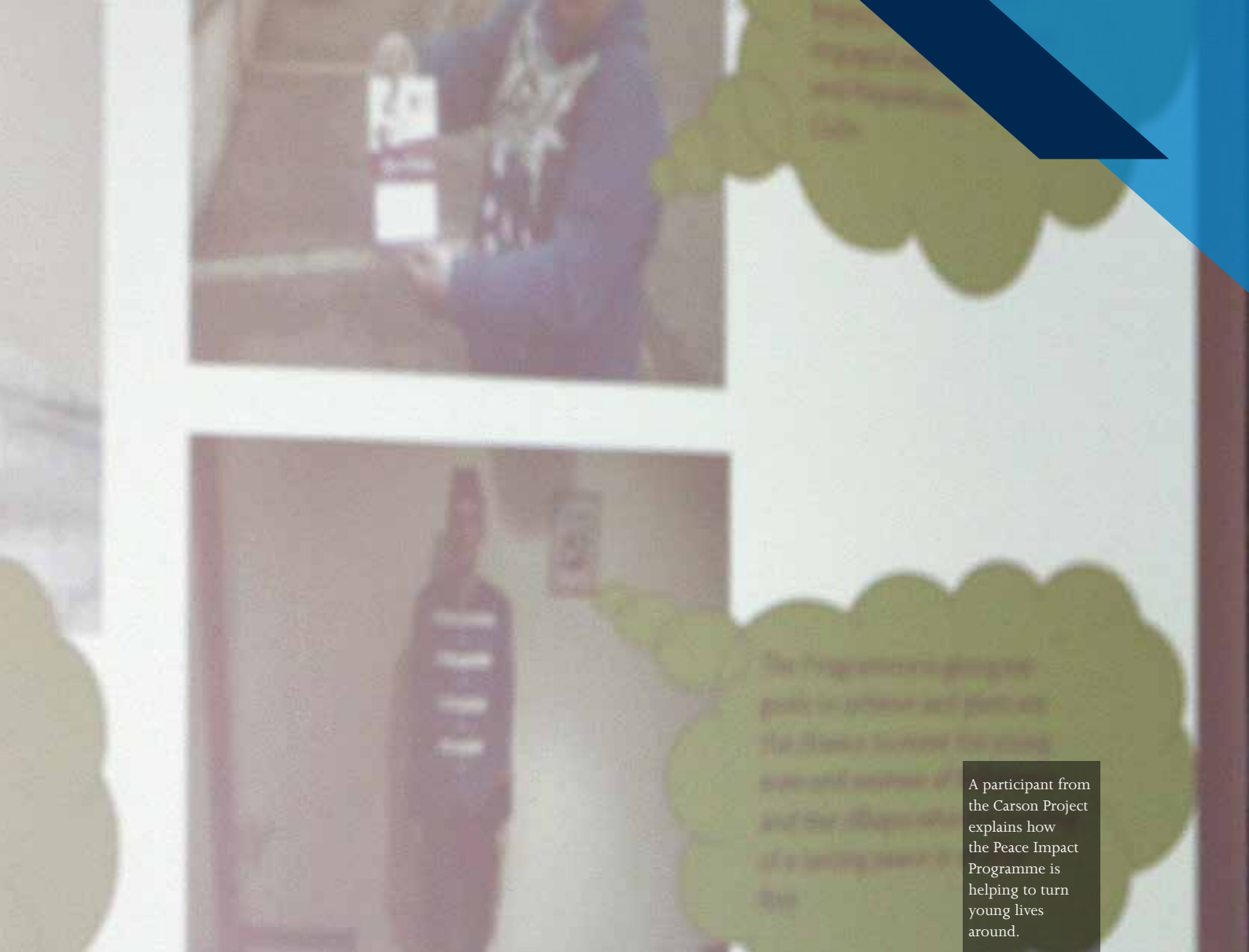


A Peace Wall divides communities in The Fountain and Bishop Street area of Londonderry/Derry.



Peace Impact Programme

The Peace Impact Programme (PIP) is designed to deliver real and positive community transformation through sensitive interventions in communities that have not previously, or have only partially, participated in peace building and reconciliation activities. Such interventions are critical to building a truly integrated, shared and peaceful society.



A participant from the Carson Project explains how the Peace Impact Programme is helping to turn young lives around.

PIP aims to build sustainable peace and prosperity in areas suffering from high levels of economic and social deprivation, where there are low levels of engagement in peace building and where the Peace Process has delivered limited benefits.

The programme places particular emphasis on engaging with disaffected and marginalised young people who are vulnerable to recruitment or attack by those opposed to the Peace Process.



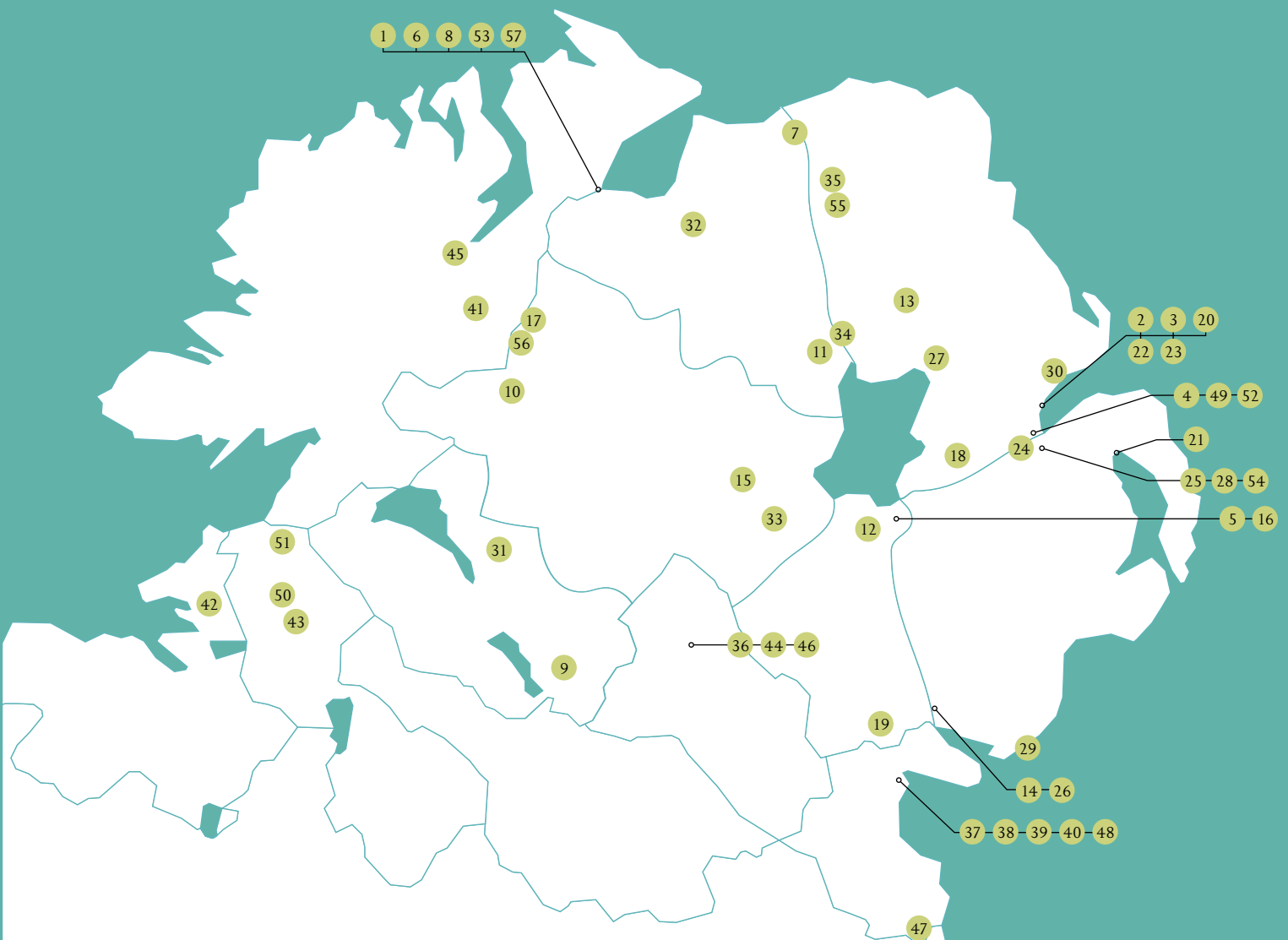
Unheard Voices
Peace Impact
Project members
Julieann Campbell
and Amy Gallagher
read an extract of a
participant's story.

“While this work is still in its infancy, there is solid evidence to suggest that the positive achievements to date are critical to moving the Peace Process forward within these communities. Participants now feel more involved in their own community and also believe that they can make a positive contribution as a result of personal development and training delivered through PIP.”

PEACE IMPACT PROGRAMME FINAL EVALUATION REPORT JUNE 2015

PIP Projects

- | | | | |
|---|---|--|---|
| 1 Time2Choose | 17 Strabane AYE | 31 Fermanagh Sport & Cultural Association | 46 Drum Village Development Association |
| 2 Queen's Park Women's Group | 18 Stoneyford Community Association | 32 Roe Valley Residents Association | 47 Foroige Cable Project |
| 3 Rathfern Community Regeneration Group | 19 Forkhill & District Development Association Ltd. | 33 Moygashel Community & Cultural Association | 48 Cox's Demesne Dundalk Soccer Project |
| 4 Conflict Resolution Services Ireland | 20 Upper Springfield Development Company | 34 Sperrins & Glens Teach Na Failte | 49 Black Mountain Shared Space Project |
| 5 Shankill Parish Caring Association | 21 Ards Development Bureau & Community Network | 35 Ulidian Training | 50 County Leitrim Grand Orange Lodge |
| 6 Unheard Voices | 22 Springboard Opportunities Limited | 36 Teach Na Daoine | 51 Lá Nua |
| 7 Causeway Rural Urban Network | 23 Grace Women's Group, Ardoyne | 37 Muirhevnamor Community Council | 52 Twaddell & Woodvale Residents Association |
| 8 Londonderry Bands Forum | 24 Annadale Haywood Residents Association | 38 Cox's Demesne Youth and Community Project | 53 James Connolly Cultural Youth Group |
| 9 Newtownbutler Together | 25 Charter NI | 39 Failte Abhaile | 54 Community and Youth Together to Springboard Opportunities Ltd. |
| 10 Border Arts | 26 Community Restorative Justice (Newry/Armagh) | 40 Louth Leader Partnership (strengthening families) | 55 Ultoniae Culture and Heritage Society |
| 11 Sperrin Cultural Awareness Association | 27 Inner Estate Partnership, Antrim | 41 Tyrone Derry Donegal Action | 56 Bready & District Ulster Scots Development Association |
| 12 Drumgor Detached Youth Work Project | 28 NIAMH | 42 Sligo Young Enterprises | 57 Londonderry YMCA |
| 13 Leafair Carson Project | 29 Schomberg Society, Killeel | 43 Driving Forward Leitrim Co.Council | |
| 14 Newry Sports Partnership | 30 Sport Changes Life | 44 Clones Fáilte | |
| 15 Galbally Youth & Community Assoc. | | 45 Donegal Youth Service | |



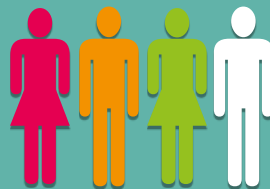
Peace Impact Programme

Launched in 2013, the Peace Impact Programme (PIP) has achieved significant success in a relatively short period, particularly in its engagement with disaffected and marginalised young people who are vulnerable to recruitment or attack by those opposed to the Peace Process.

An independent evaluation of the Peace Impact Programme found that it made a significant and durable contribution towards:



Increased contact, dialogue, sharing and integration among project participants

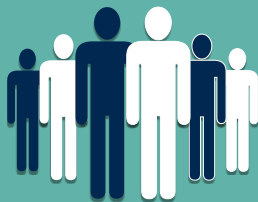


Development of sustainable, exemplar community organisations



Underpinning of the Peace Process

A survey of young people at the PIP Youth Cluster event in March 2015 indicated that the vast majority of PIP Participants:



Now feel more involved in their own community



Are now more positive about the contribution they can make to their own community



Feel the project has been very effective in dealing with internal tension and division

What the Participants said:



The project has made a difference in their community



Feel the community is better able to deal with conflict and division as a result of the project



Had improved relationships with people from different communities/backgrounds.

What the PIP Projects said

A survey of PIP staff and members of its steering groups indicated that:

91%

Felt the projects had promoted dialogue at local level

90%

Agreed that it had made a difference

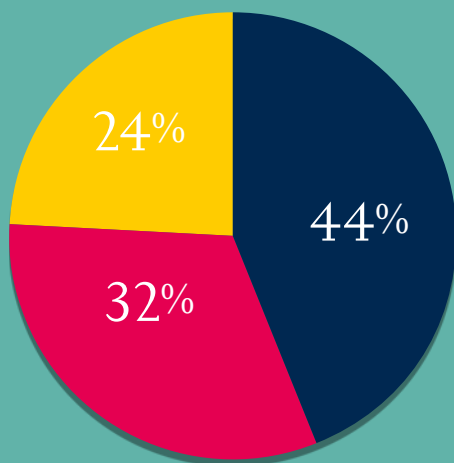
92%

Felt the project had engaged the community in peace building

“The Fund is strategically placed to work collaboratively with policy makers and funding bodies on both sides of the Irish border while retaining its independent role and continuing to take risks to ensure that the Peace Process is genuinely inclusive and reaching into the communities supported under this first phase of PIP.”

Peace Impact Programme Final Evaluation Report (June 2015)

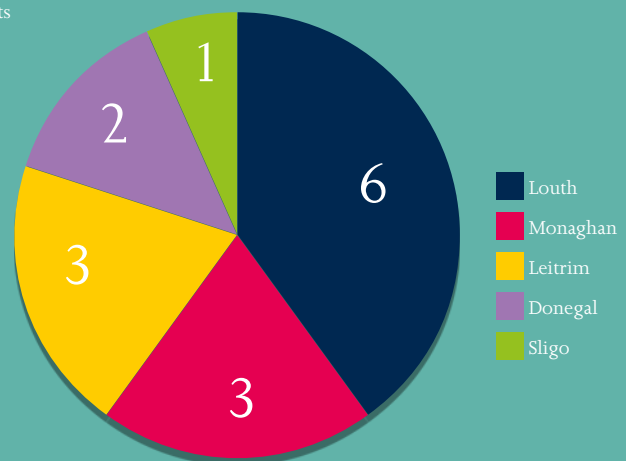
Overview of PIP



Projects in the southern border counties

Projects in Northern Ireland

- Largely Unionist Communities
- Largely Nationalist Communities
- Mixed Projects



Inter Estate Partnership Project

Samuel Chestnutt never dreamt that one day he would be an advocate for the Peace Impact Programme. The 24-year-old admits that when he was growing up on an interface estate in Antrim he spent many nights fighting and rioting.



Young participants take part in discussions at an Inter Estate Project event.

“That was what everyone was doing”, he recalls. “There was a real possibility of getting involved with Loyalist paramilitary groups.”

Various factions of the UDA, LVF and UVF have a significant influence in Antrim’s working class Protestant estates.

Samuel’s life changed when he learned of the Fund supported Inter Estate Partnership (IEP) through the Steeple Defenders Flute Band of which he was a member.

“I thought I would give the Peace Impact Project a go. I had been a joiner but was out

of work because of the downturn in the construction industry. What appealed to me was that the IEP provided training for other jobs.

“I did a course which enabled me to work providing security at events such as concerts or festivals. Already I have been part of the security teams at Electric Picnic, Glastonbury, T in the Park and Aviva Stadium in Dublin.”

Last July Samuel was one of a number of young people from International Fund for Ireland projects on both sides of the border who were chosen to go to Washington DC to address USAID and members of Congress.



LEFT: Participants have had access to a range of practical training courses.
RIGHT: Samuel Chestnutt told his story to Members of the United States Congress in September.

Such was the power of his tale he was selected to be a principal speaker to the Congress members. “Some people had presentations prepared but I just spoke from the heart and told them how life had been. I was a bit nervous but got through it alright.”

Raymond Thompson, the Project Officer for IEP, admits that the paramilitary influence in the estates in the programme – Stiles, Parkhall, Steeples, Ballycraigy and Dublin Road – underscores the need for IEP to identify and support young people in the area.

Raymond also works with a wide range of organisations including marching bands, Orange Lodges, the Apprentice Boys, football teams and church groups. “All of them have large numbers of young people associated with them and they can help tell the young people about the opportunities we offer.”

The project offers a wide range of training opportunities, both accredited and non-accredited including; security, first aid, paediatric first aid, food safety, health and safety, child protection, driving lessons, swimming and Irish Football Association Level 1 coaching.

Four young boys who had been involved with the project set up their own social economy business delivering football coaching into primary schools.

Other initiatives include visits to such iconic sites as the historic Walls of Londonderry/Derry, the Boyne Centre, Glasnevin Cemetery,

the GPO on O’Connell Street in Dublin, Belfast’s former Crumlin Road Gaol and the Somme Centre in Newtownards.

Raymond says: “We work quite closely with the PSNI who tell us that the level of anti-social behaviour has dropped since the programme began. We have very good community policing in the area and they have built up quite a rapport with local young people, even meeting them for a chat and a coffee.”

He praises the Fund’s financial support because it is so flexible, being used in a multitude of ways to address the needs of its target audience and can be added to money drawn from other sources to broaden the range of our training.

“More than 40 young people have gained employment thanks to our training during this year. We work closely with local businesses to see what skill sets they require and then try to provide them so that they have a local pool of young people to choose from. We use two not-for-profit training companies to provide our programmes and that produces a massive saving for us. Essentially we can train two people for the price of one through normal training firms.

“It is important that projects like ours continue to offer a lifeline to those living in areas that still require a lot of work to tackle sensitive issues. We hope that the project will continue to create a positive future for the town.”

Springboard Opportunities Limited

The Nationalist Carrick Hill area in North Belfast and the Unionist Lower Ravenhill area in the East of the city are two flashpoints well used to witnessing sectarian and paramilitary violence, tensions over parades and a high level of anti-social behaviour.



The Community Youth Together Project has built trust within both communities.

Both areas are counted among the most deprived areas in terms of education, skills and training; and extreme factions have sought to manipulate and recruit young people. For many years, fraught tensions and negative influences have made cross-community interaction difficult and limited the potential for peace building to move forward at a local level.

During the past 12 months, however, the Community and Youth Together (CYT) project, funded by the International Fund for Ireland's Peace Impact Programme, has pooled the expertise and experience of three organisations in a unique way to engage with young people in Carrick Hill and Lower Ravenhill.

The partnership, led by Springboard Opportunities Ltd, draws together the Carrick Hill Residents Association in North Belfast and Lagan Village Youth & Community Group in East Belfast to assist young people to realise their potential in terms of both personal development and employability; and to take a role in revitalising their communities.

In a short time, CYT has engaged more than 40 young people, aged 12-17, in single identity and cross-community activities, diversity education, personal and social education and OCNNI qualifications. For some this has represented their first opportunity to gain not only a qualification, but also to engage with people from the other community.



Already, the project has impacted positively on young people's engagement in disputes linked to parades and the reduction of violence at contested parades and interfaces has been attributed to the work with the young people.

Angila Chada, Executive Director of Springboard Opportunities Ltd, the lead partner in the project, said the success of the project has raised the possibility of developing similar initiatives in the four quarters of Belfast, all of which have to some extent, similar interface areas and where it is necessary to break the generational cycle of division.

On personal development the results are equally impressive with 89% saying they now have more contact with people of different religions and 78% agreeing that they have a more positive attitude to people from "the other side". Obtaining qualifications (96%), becoming more confident (89%) and having a better understanding of other cultures and traditions (74%) also rated highly as achievements from the project.

Feedback from the participants backs up the findings with some of the young people saying:

"I have learned that I enjoy working with people from other communities".

"My biggest achievement was learning new skills".

"We live at an interface area, so cross-community is important to our lives and



future as young people. We learn about different religions and communities. That makes us more aware of who we are and what is around us".

While much of the activity took place within each group's home area, as the project progressed the young people were introduced to each other under the theme of working together. They were taken on four residential courses at Greenhill YMCA, a summer camp in Castlewellan, Co Down, Carrowmena activity centre near Limavady and Gannaway training and activity centre at Millisle.

In June, a Final Evaluation Report of the Peace Impact Programme spoke highly of the role that CYT had played in creating new opportunities for people to begin to deal with the legacy of the conflict.

It identified the project's success in "engaging young people as active citizens and in positive community activity and promoting the positive contribution they made to community life and ensuring those engaged with the project had a positive standing and relationship with the young people, the community and statutory agencies"

The second strand of CYT has started to build on early foundations with 21 of the participants now exploring what it takes to become young leaders whilst working towards their OCNNI Level 2 qualification in Peer Mentoring. A third strand of the project commenced in March 2015 and saw 20 community leaders take part in professional development training over a three day residential.

These pictures illustrate how the project has assisted young people to undertake and complete training to enhance employability.

Southern Border Counties PIP

The partition of Ireland and the recent conflict have had, and continue to have, a profound impact on the Protestant communities in Ireland's border counties.



The County Leitrim Orange Order Peace Impact Project published a book, 'Leitrim, A County At War', which used World War I to identify shared heritage and common narratives in the County.

The minority population had to come to terms with a new State in which some did not wish to reside and in which they have not felt fully included or valued. Over several decades, a decline in the Protestant population and sense of vulnerability and isolation reinforced the belief that the community should keep their heads down and keep to themselves. This difficult situation became more entrenched as the sectarian violence of the Troubles fostered an atmosphere of intense suspicion, fear and silence. The closure of cross-border roads

during the Troubles led to further isolation with many cut off from their friends, neighbours and in some cases they would have to take a considerable journey to attend their regular church as the direct route may have been closed.

Engaging Protestants living along the border in the Peace Process remains a challenging but essential task if a genuinely shared society is to be realised. The Peace Impact Programme is making important inroads with many of those who previously saw the



LEFT: Participants from the Tyrone -Derry, Donegal Action (TDDA) Peace Impact Project on a visit to Altnaveigh House in Newry.



RIGHT: A member of Drum Accordion Band playing at the annual picnic which is attended by up to 1,500 people from across the community in Co Monaghan.

Peace Process as irrelevant to them. Albert Allen, Programmes Director for Tyrone – Derry and Donegal Action (TDDA) based in Raphoe, says the Fund support is helping to break decades of self-imposed silence and build an understanding of border Protestant experiences among the majority Roman Catholic community.

“When we designed this project we were conscious that there was a certain amount of ‘silent sectarianism’ in the county. Evidenced not by direct discrimination, but rather that the majority community can sometimes seem oblivious to the needs of the minority. This, together with pressures felt by Protestants in Donegal during upsurges of violence in the North has led to a certain amount of “keeping their heads down”.

“However Protestants in Donegal have in the main, good working relationships with their Roman Catholic neighbours while just across the border in areas of Tyrone and Londonderry/Derry where community tensions during the Troubles were very high, there is still evident community polarisation.”

“Yet, perhaps because of this community polarisation and the awareness that there is

still a major gap to bridge, there appears to be a greater willingness among Protestants in Northern Ireland to get involved in the Peace Process.”

Angela Graham of Drum Development Association agrees. “This is the first time we would have dealt with peace issues,” she says. “It is challenging working with Protestant groups because they are so diverse. It is difficult to reach consensus on issues.”

The project in Drum Village, Co Monaghan is reputed to be the only wholly Protestant village in the Republic. It used Fund support initially to promote activities and events. It provided equipment and some musical instruments for two local marching bands in the Orange tradition, Drum Accordion Band and Mullaghboy Accordion Band from neighbouring Co Cavan and to Drum Village Development Association.

She says, “Previously we had little opportunity to interact with the Roman Catholic community. Not everyone wants to get involved even yet. But there have been successes such as the Picnic, organised by Drum Accordion Band last July, which was run in Drum Village and attracted a crowd of 1,000 to 1,500 people, including Fund Board Members.



Author Quincey Dougan speaks about his book, which was published by the County Leitrim Orange Lodge Peace Impact Project.

The first event of the project, organised by Mullaghboy Accordion Band, was a well attended cross-community barbecue. This event took place in September 2014 and the special guest for the evening was the Minister for the Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht, Heather Humphreys.

For Alan Madill, Deputy Master of Cullies 14C LOL, resistance to cross-community interactions can be traced to misunderstandings of the Orange movement and Protestant culture. Through the County Leitrim Orange Order Peace Impact Project, he has led a number of initiatives aimed at debunking the myths and identifying common ground.

He says: “The idea was sparked because we knew that many people had a poor impression of the Orange Order given the controversy that sometimes surrounds the

organisation in places like Belfast. We all get tarred with the same brush.

“We wanted to make ourselves more widely known in the community. We are a minority within a minority, having only 30 Orangemen in the county and two Orange Halls.

“We also produced a leaflet outlining what the Orange Order stands for and held a number of events in our Orange Hall. We wanted to show people who would never have darkened our doors that there is nothing offensive in the hall.

“I think we have opened the eyes of many as to what we are, and more importantly what we are not. We are not a sectarian, Roman Catholic-hating organisation, but simply a group of people who get together in a fraternal body. We are also a community organisation”.



LEFT: Men from the Tyrone-Derry and Donegal Action PIP project, during a study visit.
BELOW: Dancing classes were organised by Drum Accordion Band as part of the PIP project.



In the last year the project developed and published a book, ‘Leitrim, A County At War’, which details all those who died in the Great War and gives a glimpse of what life was like back at home during that period. It’s an important step towards identifying shared heritage and common narratives.

Despite enduring a significant share of violence related to the Troubles, there is a feeling that the story of Protestant border communities is not recognised or viewed as being important. It is an issue that TDDA sought to address as they hosted a number of workshops on such themes as: Protestants and the Irish Language, leadership, parading, victims and survivors, the role of churches and cultural organisations in peace building and the attitudes of Protestants in Ireland. Ex-combatants and security force members were also participants in the process.

Albert Allen from TDDA adds; “The story telling sessions, where victims and survivors related their experiences during

the Troubles, were very powerful and quite moving. They showed what some people had come through particularly in the North and how terrible the community divisions were.”

He acknowledges that engagement with a community which had learned to keep its head down requires various approaches and the change, both in attitude and behaviour, takes time.

“Overall there was a very good take up of the project with excellent attendance at events - we attracted around twice as many people as we had anticipated. However, the process of peace capacity building overall can be quite slow. We at TDDA have been involved in delivering programmes for eight years in Donegal and we feel we are only really at the point where we have built solid relationships laying the ground work for further development. This is surely not surprising as the work of unravelling hundreds of years of hurt and conflict is not going to happen overnight.”

Peace Impact Programme

During this financial year the Fund has committed financial assistance to the following projects:

NAME/ADDRESS	PROJECT DESCRIPTION	NORTH £
ANTRIM & NEWTOWNABBEY BOROUGH COUNCIL AREA		
Inter Estate Partnership Parkhall Shopping Centre Queen's Road Antrim Co Antrim	The project will engage with "at risk" young people and others who have had limited or no engagement with the peace process across 5 PUL housing estates in the Antrim Town area.	20,140
Queenspark Women's Group Portland Avenue Glengormley Newtownabbey Co Antrim	The group will engage with young people and deliver a range of programmes and activities to reduce anti-social behaviour and sectarian incidents within this area.	22,170
Rathfern Community Regeneration Group Rathfern Social Activity Centre Knockenagh Avenue Newtownabbey Co Antrim	To develop projects which will bring a new cross-community dimension for both young people and the wider adult community through joint history projects and the exploration of social enterprise and sustainability.	75,150
Sport Changes Life Valley Business Park Church Road Newtownabbey Co Antrim	The project will work with the local community to engage young people in the Carrickfergus and Greenisland areas through sport and provide mentoring towards skills development and enhanced employability.	15,000
ARMAGH CITY, BANBRIDGE & CRAIGAVON BOROUGH COUNCIL AREA		
Drumgor Detached Youth Work Project Moyraverty Community Centre Craigavon Co Armagh	To deliver the programme model in two new estates of Drumgor and Drumbeg and to continue to develop the existing project in order to have a network of housing estates working with vulnerable young people.	72,272
Mourneview & Greys Estate – Shankill Parish Caring Association The Jethro Centre Flush Place Lurgan Co Armagh	The project will equip, empower and engage the working class PUL community to benefit from the peace process and work towards engaging with their neighbours, leaving a lasting peace impact on Lurgan.	57,505

BELFAST CITY COUNCIL AREA

<p>Black Mountain Shared Space Project Farset Enterprise Park Springfield Road Belfast Co Antrim</p>	<p>To deliver a 10 month peer apprenticeship project in the Highfield/Springmartin area of West Belfast. To develop the capacity of the area to deliver more targeted youth provision to vulnerable young people caught up in anti-social behaviour.</p>	<p>37,813</p>
<p>Conflict Resolution Services Ireland Falls Road Belfast Co Antrim</p>	<p>To tackle intra-community tensions which exist in the area and to engage young people who are involved in ongoing anti-social activity or violence and who are at risk from armed groups.</p>	<p>28,219</p>
<p>Charter for Northern Ireland Newtownards Road Belfast Co Antrim</p>	<p>The project will target young people and local residents from East Belfast and deliver bespoke training and facilitate workshops around history, culture and contentious issues.</p>	<p>7,823</p>
<p>Grace Women's Development Ltd Ardoyne Community Centre Herbert Street Belfast Co Antrim</p>	<p>To develop better community relations, community development and economic capacity on a cross community basis with women and young people.</p>	<p>14,748</p>
<p>Springboard Opportunities Ltd North Street Belfast Co Antrim</p>	<p>To work in partnership with community groups to deliver projects with both young people and local volunteers around good relations and peace building, enhancing skills and developing pathways to change.</p>	<p>13,257</p>
<p>Twaddell Woodvale Residents Association The Cabin Twaddell Avenue Belfast Co Antrim</p>	<p>This project will deliver an employment programme and capacity building for women, young people and the local community. The project will include conflict transformation, research and action planning.</p>	<p>68,749</p>
<p>Upper Springfield Development Company Springfield Road Belfast Co Antrim</p>	<p>To deliver a peer leadership apprenticeship scheme and outreach support for young people in partnership with 3 local residents groups.</p>	<p>13,649</p>

Peace Impact Programme

CAUSEWAY COAST & GLENS BOROUGH COUNCIL AREA		
Roe Valley Residents Association Keady Way Limavady Co Londonderry	The project will work across all areas of Limavady and deal with issues such as sectarianism while also providing capacity building and skills training to young people, women and families.	26,252
Ulidia Training Main Street Ballymoney Co Antrim	The project will offer traditional skills training and community engagement to help tackle difficult and contentious issues and help alleviate community tensions.	21,700
Ultoniae Cultural & Heritage Society Castlecat Road Derrykeighan Ballymoney Co Antrim	The project involves young people, former combatants and the wider community and offers community engagement, training, education and employability in the greater North Antrim area.	25,500
DERRY CITY & STRABANE DISTRICT COUNCIL AREA		
Border Arts Main Street Castlederg Co Tyrone	The project will examine and address legacy and other issues in Castlederg building better community relations and reducing tensions.	26,831
Bready & District Ulster Scots Development Association Victoria Road Bready Strabane Co Tyrone	The project will engage and train vulnerable young people to become “Cultural Apprentices” and complete a challenging Leadership Programme which will examine difficult issues.	40,880
Creggan Enterprises Ltd Rath Mor Centre Blighs Lane Derry Co Londonderry	A community-wide women’s project entitled “Unheard Voices” which will engage and articulate the voices of those “unheard” groups and individual women and address the legacy of the past 40 years of conflict.	63,750

James Connolly Cultural Youth Group C/O Unit 8B Lenamore Business Park Derry Co Londonderry	To deliver a new 10-month peace building and cultural project that engages with disaffected CNR young people in Derry who feel excluded from the peace process as they are not part of any of the established groups involved.	31,050
Leafair Community Association Skeoge House Leafair Park Derry Co Londonderry	The project will engage disaffected young men / women and the wider community in different parts of County Antrim and Derry to tackle difficult peacebuilding issues.	32,890
Londonderry YMCA Glenshane Road Drumahoe Derry Co Londonderry	The project will enable vulnerable young people from interface areas in Derry to identify new pathways which will reduce their likelihood of engaging or coming to the attention of armed groups, police or being involved in interface or other violence.	21,341
Rosemount Resource Centre Westway Creggan Derry Co Londonderry	To enable a support, development and intervention project for young people and their families in the Derry City area who are in danger of threat from or vulnerable to recruitment by armed groups.	42,002
Sperrins & Glens Teach na Failte Fountain Street Strabane Co Tyrone	The project will engage Republican Socialist groupings, young people and the wider communities with aspects of local and regional peacebuilding.	19,100
St Columb's Park House/Londonderry Bands Forum Limavady Road Derry/Londonderry	A project that will deal with difficult local issues and engage young people from the hardest to reach PUL communities in Londonderry, and those who would not normally engage in community activity.	39,021
Strabane Access Youth Engagement (Strabane AYE) Patrick Street Strabane Co Londonderry	The project works across the town and outlying areas to deal with threats from armed groups to young people, providing opportunities through training and community programmes.	39,820

Peace Impact Programme

MID ULSTER DISTRICT COUNCIL AREA		
Galbally Youth & Community Association Lurglea Road Galbally Dungannon Co Tyrone	The project will target young people vulnerable to recruitment by armed groups or who engage in anti-social behaviour and crime in the local area. The project will develop young leaders and community learning and encourage participation from the PUL community.	12,500
Sperrin Cultural Awareness Association Hazelgrove Tobermore Co Londonderry	The project engages disaffected young people and the wider community in new structures that will build skills, capacity, interest, and opportunities in peacebuilding within the PUL community across counties Londonderry and Antrim.	28,690
ALL AREAS		
Teach Na nDaoine Family Resource Centre Oriel Way Monaghan Co Monaghan	A project involving local engagement and support with non-aligned Republicans in the border areas of Monaghan, Fermanagh and South Armagh plus a cross border project with the PUL community in Armagh City.	26,000
NAME/ADDRESS	PROJECT DESCRIPTION	SOUTH €
CO LEITRIM		
Leitrim Grand Orange Lodge Ardlongher Ballyconnell Co Leitrim	This project will deliver a number of events, workshops and activities on both a single identity and cross-community basis to help give a greater understanding of the Orange Order and allow them to play a more active role in the community.	46,500
CO LOUTH		
Cox's Demesne Youth and Community Dundalk Co Louth	Additional assistance towards the continuation of personal development, support, training and delivery of accredited qualifications to young, at risk, men and women.	33,094

CO SLIGO		
Sligo Young Enterprises Unit B1 Cleveragh Industrial Estate Sligo Co Sligo	A 12-month personal development programme offering 30 at risk young people, the opportunity for advancement through the medium of soccer. The programme will provide accredited training. A cross-border cross-community alliance will be developed with young people in Ballinamallard.	33,445
CO LEITRIM/SOUTH DONEGAL		
Lá Nua Main Street Ballinamore Co Leitrim	Based in Ballinamore, this 9-month programme will offer accredited employment skills training for political ex-prisoners and their families, thus increasing access to employment.	69,500



Community Consolidation

Peace Consolidation Strategy 2016–2020

While great progress has been made in recent years, the Fund recognises there is a lot of work still to be done and it is ideally placed to help resolve some of the most difficult remaining challenges to a sustained peace.



Stella O'Leary, Alternate Observer from the US to the International Fund for Ireland; Charles Flanagan, TD, Irish Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade (centre); and Dr. Adrian Johnston, Chairman of the Fund at the launch of the new 'Community Consolidation – Peace Consolidation' Strategy in Londonderry/Derry.

In November 2015, the International Fund for Ireland launched a new five-year strategy, The Community Consolidation, Peace Consolidation 2016-2020 strategy that aims to intensify critical work and position the Fund uniquely and significantly in new areas that support peace efforts.

The decision to extend and expand existing programmes is a measure of the demand at grassroots level for innovative and flexible support that allows for measured risks. Over the next five years, the Fund will continue to engage with individuals and communities that have had little or no participation in peace building and community reconciliation activities. It will also place a renewed emphasis on addressing the factors that prevent young people from beginning the journey to peace.

During politically uncertain times, the Fund is committing to a difficult but essential scope of work that other funders or government bodies simply cannot undertake. Through this strategy it is concentrating resources towards the areas where it can make the most significant and urgent contribution to stabilise the Peace Process.

Objectives

The Community Consolidation 2016-2020 Strategy aims to assist the British and Irish governments and the Northern Ireland Executive in their efforts to consolidate the Peace Process, by continuing to tackle some of the most significant remaining challenges to a lasting peace, with a particular focus on young people.



To promote reconciliation and integration in interface areas.



To continue to engage communities and individuals, particularly young people, who have only recently or have not yet participated in peace building and community reconciliation activities.



To maintain the longstanding approach of the Fund in promoting economic and social advance in communities suffering from very high levels of economic and social deprivation.



To continue to build strategic alliances with other funders and government to ensure interventions are complementary, sustainable and can shape policies that promote peace and reconciliation.



To extend Fund engagement with other peace builders on the island of Ireland and in other regions emerging from conflict as part of a wider effort to promote conflict resolution.



To review by early 2019 the progress made by the Fund and determine if further work is required to secure peace.

Overview of Programmes

The work of the Fund and its aim of delivering real and positive community consolidation in the period 2016-2020 will cluster around four key focused programmes,





Accounts

Annual Report for the year ended
30 September 2015

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Board Members' Statement

The full annual financial statements, from which this summary financial statement is derived and on which the auditors gave an unqualified opinion, were approved on 25 February 2016.

These summarised financial statements may not contain sufficient information to allow for a full understanding of the financial affairs of the International Fund for Ireland ("Fund") because they do not reflect the performance of the venture capital companies, which are wholly owned subsidiaries of the Fund. For further information the full annual financial statements, the auditors' report on those financial statements and the Board Members' annual report should be consulted; copies of these can be obtained from The International Fund for Ireland at either 28-32 Alfred Street, Belfast BT2 8EN or PO Box 2000, Dublin 2.

Statement of Board Members' responsibilities in respect of the Annual Report and the Financial Statements

The Board members are responsible for preparing the financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the International Fund for Ireland ("the Fund") and of the surplus or deficit of the Fund for that period. In fulfilling that responsibility, they have decided to prepare the financial statements in accordance with accounting standards issued by the Financial Reporting Council applicable in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland.

In preparing those financial statements, the Board Members have:

- selected suitable accounting policies and then applied them consistently;
- made judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- stated whether applicable accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and
- prepared the financial statements on the going concern basis, unless it is inappropriate to presume that the Fund will continue in business.

The Board Members confirm that they have complied with the above requirements in preparing the financial statements.

The Board Members are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the Fund and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with best practice. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the Fund and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

The Board Members are responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the Fund's website. Legislation in the United Kingdom and Ireland governing the preparation and dissemination of financial statements may differ from legislation in other jurisdictions.

By order of the Board



Dr Adrian B Johnston
CHAIRMAN
25 February 2016

Independent Auditors' Report to the Board of the International Fund for Ireland

The accompanying summary financial statements of the International Fund for Ireland ("the Fund"), which comprise the summary balance sheet as at 30 September 2015, the summary income statement, summary statement of total recognised gains and losses and summary cash flow for the year then ended, and related notes, are derived from the audited financial statements of The International Fund for Ireland ("the Fund") for the year ended 30 September 2015. We expressed an unmodified audit opinion on those financial statements in our report dated 25 February 2016. Those financial statements, and the summary financial statements, do not reflect the effects of events that occurred subsequent to the date of our report on those financial statements.

The information presented in the summary financial statements relates solely to the affairs and balances of the Fund; subsidiary undertakings are not consolidated. The full annual financial statements of the Fund comprise consolidated financial statements.

The summary financial statements do not contain all the disclosures required by generally accepted accounting practice in the UK and Republic of Ireland. Reading the summary financial statements, therefore, is not a substitute for reading the audited financial statements of The International Fund for Ireland.

Board Members' responsibility for the Summary Financial Statements

As set out within the Board Members' responsibilities statement on page 1, the Board members are responsible for the preparation of a summary of the audited financial statements on the basis set out on page 6.

Auditor's Responsibility

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on the summary financial statements based on our procedures, which were conducted in accordance with International Standard on Auditing (ISA) 810, "Engagements to Report on Summary Financial Statements."

Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the Board's members those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the Group and the Group's members as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

Opinions and conclusions arising from our audit

In our opinion, the summary financial statements derived from the audited financial statements of The International Fund for Ireland for the year ended 30 September 2015 are consistent, in all material respects, with the full annual financial statements of The International Fund for Ireland, on the basis described in note 1.

John Poole
for and on behalf of
KPMG
Chartered Accountants, Statutory Audit Firm
17-25 College Square East
Belfast
BT1 6DH

25 February 2016

Income and Expenditure Account

for the year ended 30 September 2015

	Notes	Total transactions expressed in £ and Euro €			
		2015 £'000	2014 £'000	2015 €'000	2014 €'000
Income	2	4,529	1,228	6,111	1,572
Expenditure					
Approved projects	7	1,447	(548)	1,952	(702)
Net administrative expenses	3	206	273	278	349
Impairment provision	4	—	—	—	—
		1,653	(275)	2,230	(353)
Excess of income over expenditure		2,876	1,503	3,881	1,925
Movement in the Fund balance					
At 30 September 2014		21,451	19,782	29,999	27,336
Exchange differences on retranslation at 1 October 2014		81	166	812	738
		21,532	19,948	30,811	28,074
Excess of income over expenditure for the year		2,876	1,503	3,881	1,925
At 30 September 2015		24,408	21,451	34,692	29,999

The amounts above relate to the continuing operations of the Fund. There is no difference between the excess of income over expenditure and its historical cost equivalent. Accordingly, no note of historical cost excess of income over expenditure has been prepared.

Statement of total recognised gains and losses for the year ended 30 September 2015

	Total transactions expressed in £ and Euro €			
	2015 £'000	2014 £'000	2015 €'000	2014 €'000
Excess of income over expenditure	2,876	1,503	3,881	1,925
Currency translation difference charged to the Fund balance	81	166	812	738
Total recognised gains and losses relating to the year	2,957	1,669	4,693	2,663

The notes on pages 57 to 62 form part of the summary financial statements.

Balance Sheet

as at 30 September 2015

Total transactions expressed in £ and Euro €

	Notes	2015 £'000	2014 £'000	2015 €'000	2014 €'000
Fixed assets					
Investments	4	11,198	11,198	16,875	16,875
Current assets					
Cash at bank and on deposit	13	15,252	14,329	20,570	18,341
Donor contributions due	5	2,238	2,522	3,018	3,228
Other amounts receivable	6	66	35	89	46
		17,556	16,886	23,677	21,615
Current liabilities					
Approved project expenditure outstanding	7	2,018	4,177	2,723	5,347
Creditors	9	104	112	137	144
		2,122	4,289	2,860	5,491
Net current assets		15,434	12,597	20,817	16,124
Long term liabilities	10	2,224	2,344	3,000	3,000
Net assets		24,408	21,451	34,692	29,999
Fund balance at 30 September 2015		24,408	21,451	34,692	29,999

Cash Flow Statement

for the year ended 30 September 2015

		Total transactions expressed in £ and Euro €			
		2015	2014	2015	2014
		£'000	£'000	€'000	€'000
Notes					
Net cash outflow from operating activities					
		4,760	3,197	6,420	4,093
		(3,578)	(13,541)	(4,824)	(17,333)
		(182)	(252)	(248)	(324)
		48	136	65	175
		1,048	(10,460)	1,413	(13,389)
Net cash inflow from financing activities					
		–	–	–	–
Net cash inflow from investing activities					
		–	–	–	–
		–	1,000	–	1,280
		–	1,000	–	1,280
		1,048	(9,460)	1,413	(12,109)
		1,048	(9,460)	1,413	(12,109)

Notes to the Financial Statements

1 Accounting Policies

The financial reporting framework that has been applied in the preparation of these financial statements consists of the accounting standards issued by the Financial Reporting Council and applicable in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland. These financial statements are prepared on the going concern basis under the historical cost convention. They are prepared in order to present financial information relating to the International Fund for Ireland (“the Fund”) on a non-consolidated basis.

These summarised financial statements may not contain sufficient information to allow for a full understanding of the financial affairs of the Fund because they do not reflect the performance of the Enterprise Equity venture capital companies, which are wholly owned subsidiaries of the Fund. For further information the full annual financial statements, the auditors’ report on those financial statements and the Board Members’ annual report should be consulted; copies of these can be obtained from the Fund at either 28-32 Alfred Street, Belfast BT2 8EN or PO Box 2000, Dublin 2.

The full annual financial statements, from which this summary financial statement is derived and on which the auditors gave an unqualified opinion, were approved on 25 February 2016.

The principal accounting policies are set out below.

Currencies

The Fund’s transactions are effected in the currencies of each part of Ireland. The financial statements are presented in both currencies, each representing an aggregation of all of the transactions for the year in each part of Ireland translated at the respective exchange rates at the year end. Differences arising on the restatement, to the year end exchange rate, of monetary assets and liabilities (e.g. amounts due from funders, amounts due to projects and bank balances) at the start of the financial year are adjusted against the Fund balance, reported in the statement of total recognised gains and losses and accounted through reserves.

Non-monetary assets (e.g. equity or debt investments in subsidiaries) are not subject to retranslation at each year end. However, any foreign exchange gains or losses arising on the disposal of non-monetary assets are recognised in the income and expenditure account in the period that they arise.

Approved projects

The Fund make grants to fund or assist in the funding of projects and to make or enter into arrangements which are designed to meet expenditure that promotes economic and social advance and to encourage contact, dialogue and reconciliation between nationalists and unionists throughout Ireland.

The income and expenditure account reflects the anticipated cost of projects approved in the year (after deduction of projects which did not proceed) and related administration expenditure. The projects approved in the year are considered as a hard commitment, which is defined as the grant sum payable over the life of a project on which we have a written contractual agreement with the applicant. Hard commitments are charged to the income statement in the year that the contracts are signed. Project approvals are shown on the balance sheet as a liability, the balance being reduced as payments to grant recipients are released.

Loans

Funds disbursed to projects by way of loans are reflected in the total of the programme disbursements and are not included in the balance sheet. Any loan repayments received during the year are credited to the income and expenditure account.

1 Accounting Policies (continued)

Interest income

The income and expenditure account includes interest credited to the bank deposit accounts during the year together with interest accrued, but not actually credited, at the year end.

Investments

Fixed asset investments are stated at their purchase cost less any provision for diminution in value, together with interest accrued, but not actually credited, at the year end.

Income recognition

Donor countries allocate funds on the basis of calendar years. The whole amount allocated is recognised in the financial year when it has been contractually allocated by the donor country.

2 Income

	2015 £'000	2014 £'000	2015 €'000	2014 €'000
From donors after exchange rate adjustments				
United States of America (2015: US\$1.25m; 2014: US\$2.1m)	824	1,287	1,111	1,647
ROI (2015: 5m Euro; 2014: nil Euro)	3,707	–	5,000	–
Exchange rate adjustments	(76)	(171)	(100)	(219)
	4,455	1,116	6,011	1,428
Interest receivable	74	112	100	144
	4,529	1,228	6,111	1,572

The exchange losses arise from the translation of US\$ and Euro denominated donor contributions. The exchange translation losses consist of £4k/€5k of realised losses and £72k/€95k of unrealised losses (2014: £46k/€59k of realised losses £125k/€160k of unrealised losses). The extent to which any unrealised gain or loss is realised will depend on exchange rate movements up to the date of receipt of contributions due.

3 Net Administration Expenses

	2015 £'000	2014 £'000	2015 €'000	2014 €'000
Board members' fees	91	90	123	114
Board meetings	18	25	24	33
Consultancy and other fees	127	186	172	238
Auditors' remuneration – Audit	30	26	40	34
Travelling and subsistence	48	52	65	66
Postage, stationery, telephone and office	17	16	23	20
Promotional and advertising expenses	86	93	116	119
Miscellaneous	39	25	52	32
	456	513	615	656
Less: Contributions receivable from the Governments of the UK and Ireland in respect of certain of the above expenses	(250)	(240)	(337)	(307)
	206	273	278	349

4 Fixed Asset Investments

	Unlisted investment	
	£'000	€'000
Cost		
At 1 October 2014	12,124	18,378
Foreign exchange re-translation	–	–
At 1 October 2014 re-translated	13,124	19,658
Additions	–	–
Disposals	–	–
At 30 September 2015	12,124	18,378
Provision		
At 1 October 2014	926	1,503
Charge in year	–	–
At 30 September 2015	926	1,503
Net book value		
At 30 September 2015	11,198	16,875
At 30 September 2014	11,198	16,875

5 Donor Contributions Due

	2015	2014	2015	2014
	£'000	£'000	€'000	€'000
United States of America				
- 2014 (US\$0.3m)	–	178	–	228
- 2015 (US\$0.02m)	14	–	18	–
European Union				
- 2010 (€3m)	2,224	2,344	3,000	3,000
	2,238	2,522	3,018	3,228

6 Other Amounts Receivable

	2015	2014	2015	2014
	£'000	£'000	€'000	€'000
Government contributions	32	26	43	33
Bank interest receivable	34	9	46	13
	66	35	89	46

7 Approved Project Expenditure Outstanding

The totals of the Fund's project disbursements in the year ended 30 September 2015 and the movements in approved projects outstanding are as follows:

	2015 £'000	2014 £'000	2015 €'000	2014 €'000
Approved project expenditure outstanding at 30 September 2014	4,177	18,616	5,347	22,212
Foreign exchange re-translation	(28)	(350)	248	1,169
Approved project expenditure outstanding at 30 September 2014	4,149	18,266	5,595	23,381
Project approvals in the year	1,447	(548)	1,952	(702)
Project disbursements in the year	(3,578)	(13,541)	(4,824)	(17,332)
Approved project expenditure outstanding at 30 September 2015	2,018	4,177	2,723	5,347

8 Cumulative Approved Projects and Disbursements to Date

Cumulatively, the totals of the Fund's approved projects and project disbursements to date are summarised:

	2015 £'000	2014 £'000	2015 €'000	2014 €'000
Total approved projects to date	713,693	712,274	898,156	895,956
Less contributions to investment companies	(27,142)	(27,142)	(40,023)	(40,023)
Total disbursements to projects and administration costs to date	686,551	685,132	858,133	855,933
Total disbursements to projects and administration costs to date	(684,533)	(680,955)	(855,410)	(850,586)
Approved project expenditure outstanding at 30 September 2015	2,018	4,177	2,723	5,347

To date the Fund has approved total payments in respect of specific projects and administration costs to a total of £714/€898m (2014: £712m/€896m) after deduction of approved projects which did not proceed.

The approved project expenditure outstanding at 30 September 2015 reported in the balance sheet represents the unspent balance of the projects approved for which a claim for payment of grant has yet to be received.

9 Creditors

	2015 £'000	2014 £'000	2015 €'000	2014 €'000
Accruals	76	83	99	106
Deferred income	28	29	38	38
	104	112	137	144

10 Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year

	2015 £'000	2014 £'000	2015 €'000	2014 €'000
Loan – IFI Financial Investments Limited	2,224	2,344	3,000	3,000
	2,224	2,344	3,000	3,000

The loan from IFI Financial Investments Limited will be repayable when the £2.2m/€3m retention held by the European Union donor is received (note 5), which is expected to be 2016. The loan carries no interest

11 Loans

The aggregate of euro denominated loans made by the Fund and outstanding at 30 September 2014 amounted to €165k (2014: €165k). The equivalent sterling value as translated at the relevant year end rate amounted to £122k (2014: £129k).

12 Net Cash Flow from Operating Activities

	2015 £'000	2014 £'000	2015 €'000	2014 €'000
Excess of income over expenditure	2,876	1,503	3,881	1,925
Impairment provision	–	–	–	–
(Increase)/decrease in donor contributions due	284	2,161	210	2,359
(Decrease)/increase in approved project expenditure outstanding	(2,159)	(14,439)	(2,624)	(16,865)
Decrease/(increase) in other amounts receivable	(31)	43	(43)	47
Increase/(decrease) in creditors and accrued expenses	(8)	4	(7)	14
	962	(10,728)	1,417	(12,520)
Exchange difference in opening balance	86	268	(4)	(869)
Net cash outflow from operating activities	1,048	(10,460)	1,413	(13,389)

13 Analysis of Changes in Cash

	2015	2014	2015	2014
	£'000	£'000	€'000	€'000
Balance at 1 October 2014	14,329	24,061	18,341	28,709
Retranslation to current year exchange rates	(125)	(272)	816	1,741
Balance at 1 October, retranslated to current year exchange rates	14,204	23,789	19,157	30,450
Net cash inflow/(outflow)	1,048	(9,460)	1,413	(12,109)
Balance at 30 September 2015	15,252	14,329	20,570	18,341

Analysis of Programme Disbursements for the Year and of Approved Projects Outstanding at 30 September 2015 (unaudited)

	Approved projects outstanding at 30 Sept 2014	Retranslated at 30 Sept 2015	Approved projects outstanding at 30 Sept 2014 (retranslated)	Project approvals and admin costs	Project and admin disbursements	Approved projects outstanding at 30 Sept 2015
Expressed in £'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Building Foundations						
CBESR	92	1	93	–	9	84
AMBIT	82	(2)	80	(8)	72	–
Building Bridges						
Community bridges	–	–	–	(32)	–	(32)
Building Integration						
Sharing education	238	–	238	(2)	236	–
Integrating communities	–	–	–	–	(8)	8
Leaving a Legacy Projects						
Projects	9	1	10	–	10	–
Peace Projects						
Peace walls	1,230	(2)	1,228	131	829	530
Peace impact	2,526	(26)	2,500	1,331	2,430	1,401
Special project	–	–	–	27	–	27
	4,177	(28)	4,149	1,447	3,578	2,018

Analysis of Programme Disbursements for the Year and of Approved Projects Outstanding at 30 September 2015 (unaudited) (continued)

	Approved projects outstanding at 30 Sept 2014	Retranslated at 30 Sept 2015	Approved projects outstanding at 30 Sept 2014 (retranslated)	Project approvals and admin costs	Project and admin disbursements	Approved projects outstanding at 30 Sept 2015
Expressed in €'000	€'000	€'000	€'000	€'000	€'000	€'000
Building Foundations						
CBESR	118	7	125	–	12	113
AMBIT	105	3	108	(11)	97	–
Building Bridges						
Community bridges	–	–	–	(43)	–	(43)
Building Integration						
Sharing education	305	16	321	(3)	318	–
Integrating communities	–	–	–	–	(11)	11
Leaving a Legacy						
Projects	12	1	13	–	13	–
Peace Projects						
Peace walls	1,573	83	1,656	1,795	3,277	174
Peace impact	3,234	138	3,372	177	1,118	2,431
Special Project	–	–	–	37	–	37
	5,347	248	5,595	1,952	4,824	2,723





We remain grateful to our international donors for their support and encouragement. With contributions from the United States of America, the European Union, Canada, Australia, and New Zealand, the total resources committed by the Fund to date amount to £714million/€898million.

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