

North Belfast Housing & Environmental Forum

Terms of Reference:

The North Belfast Housing and Environmental Forum was set up by North Belfast Partnership in October 2000 to facilitate bringing together interested groups throughout the area to develop a cross – community housing and environmental forum.

The Forum performs an important function by keeping its members informed of the progress and implementation of the Northern Ireland Housing Executive's North Belfast Strategy. It also acts as a marketplace for the exchange of concepts and ideas.

Mission:

The North Belfast Housing and Environmental Forum brings communities together to address a range of common and distinct interests.

It facilitates information sharing and exchange between groups interested in housing and environmental issues and assists in the identification and dissemination of best practice.

While contributing to the wider regenerative agenda in North Belfast it will focus in particular on housing, environmental issues and the rebuilding the communities of North Belfast.

Aims and objectives:

- ◆ To create a sustainable network of communities by providing an opportunity to meet and share with others skills and experiences
- ◆ To articulate the views, needs and aspirations of its members to key stakeholders and the wider community of North Belfast
- ◆ To initiate, encourage and enable inter – community discussion, development and action, in doing so to promote greater understanding and to attempt to find mutually agreeable solutions to common problems
- ◆ To lobby and campaign on behalf of its members on local housing and environmental issues
- ◆ To seek to broaden active participation within the Forum by all the communities of North Belfast
- ◆ To assist in the development, review and sharing of best practice around housing and environmental issues

- ◆ To promote partnership working within and between the communities of North Belfast
- ◆ To provide advice and support for practical environmental projects
- ◆ To develop support mechanisms to enable all groups to engage in consultation and decision making at all levels within our community
- ◆ To develop a knowledge and understanding of local housing and environmental issues and problems
- ◆ To act collectively for the common good
- ◆ To nominate four community partners to attend the North Belfast Inter – agency Group, which is designed to share information on Regeneration progress across the various sectors

The North Belfast Housing and Environmental Forum's work is founded on a number of core values:

- ◆ Openness
- ◆ Inclusiveness
- ◆ Respect for diversity
- ◆ Commitment to partnership working
- ◆ Equity

Meeting frequency and location:

Meetings will be held on a monthly basis (or as required) and hosted and chaired by the North Belfast Partnership.

The responsibility of the chairperson is to guide the meeting according to the agenda and time available.

Reporting relationships:

Meeting agendas will be developed in conjunction with the nominated Inter – agency representatives.

Minutes to be distributed and made available to appropriate stakeholders in North Belfast.

Terms of Reference:

The Terms of Reference will be reviewed annually from the date of approval. They may be altered to meet the current needs of the members by agreement of the majority.

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