THE DERRY WALLS
MANAGEMENT GROUP: IMPLEMENTATION GROUP MEETING

WATERLOO PLACE (CCI HQ)

Thursday 26 April 2018 at 11:15 am

Minutes

Present

John O’Keeffe – (DfC HED - State Care)
Manus Deery - (DfC HED – Advice and Regulation)
Stefanie McMullen – (DfC HED – State Care)
Edward Montgomery – (HIS)
Catherine Crawley – (Visit Derry)
Jim Roddy – (CCI)
Adrian Doherty – (Dfl – Roads)
Ian Lamrock – (DCSDC – Environmental Health)
Jennifer O’Donnell – (DCSDC – Tourism)
Jonny McNee - (DCSDC-Planning)
Paul Mitchell – (DfC HED – State Care) (Minutes)

Apologies

Tony Monaghan – DCSDC – Regeneration
Margaret Edwards- DCSDC - Events
Mark Lusby – Friends of Derry Walls
Roisin Doherty – DCSDC-Museums
Bernadette Haughian – Tourism NI
Colin Greer – (DfC NWDO)
Dermot McRandal - (DfC- HED State Care)

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**Item**

**1. Introductions**

Meeting began at 11:15am with JO’K welcoming all to the meeting and highlighting a streamlined agenda.

**2. Management Plan**

MD said that the management plan had been finalised and there was a photoshoot planned for the afternoon Strategy meeting.

**3. Structure / membership of Implementation Group**

JO’K said with the Management Plan complete it was time to take stock as to whether the agendas/structures needed revising.

MD said that the agenda used hitherto matched the conservation plan but that it was too longwinded and that the intention was to simplify but keep the conservation element.

After discussion it was agreed to keep the new agenda for future meetings.

**4. Operational issues**

Regulatory signs with key Health and safety messages

PM to adopt agenda accordingly.
SMcM introduce her paper: ‘Regulatory signage project: Options for possible positioning of the signage’.

JO’K read an email from ML who requested the following be recorded in the minutes:

> “the Friends of the Derry Walls object, in the strongest terms possible, to the content, branding, and location of the suggested H &S signs. HED as the guardians of the scheduled ancient monument have particular responsibility for the presentation of the Derry Walls, including avoiding the proliferation of signage. Rather than add a new layer of information, an appropriate and essential subset of the information proposed could be added to the existing welcome interpretative panels at the main gates, on leaflets, guides and websites about the Derry Walls”.

MD surmised the following: nobody was objecting in principle to signs; could the signs be incorporated into existing signage to minimise clutter; and how do we present the signs?

Discussion ensued around the proposed signs, especially their proposed location; whether they could be affixed to existing interpretive panels; whether a sign was required at every point of access to the Walls; their size (proposed A2 size); perceived clutter - JO’K said that if HED was to permit activities on the walls then that required regulation which required signage and that the incorporation of key health and safety messages was as a means to reduce the proliferation of signs.

JO’K said he would consult further with the H&S advisor and share his advice and share by mid-May with 10 further days for feedback.

**General maintenance of monument**

JR shared the City Centre Initiative Work Plan 2017/18 which outlined the functions of the wardens.

JO’D said DCSDC was developing a heritage pass that could be used to track footfall through city centre.

SMcM said that the Conservation Work Team had dealt with frost damage etc. over the winter and would now be dealing with weeds etc. in spring. JR asked SMcM about training for the wardens to deal with weeds etc. SMcM said she would check asap. JO’K said in the interim he would ask Ciaran McLarnon to deal with vegetation on the walls

**Lighting of walls**

MD reported that the Derry Walls lighting project has not been taken up by...
the DCSDC as envisaged in the 2017/18 financial year. However he was hopeful that a new pending offer would be accepted and the lighting would be installed under architectural supervision.

Cannons

There was no update.

Planning update

JMcN gave an update on planning applications for a house at Fountain Street; bus shelters at Foyle Street; former Presbyterian Church at Great James Street; and a shop at Waterloo Street. JM said he would forward details about the Foyle Street planning application to PM

Visitor and tourism updates

CC said hotel occupancy had gone up 7% in 2017.

JO’D said that whilst the Walls were attracting huge numbers of visitors (approx. 400,000 pa.) only c8,000 were visiting the museums and that work was progressing on a Digital Heritage Pass that could not only attract people to various museum but also be used to count visitor numbers.

JO’D said that DCSDC had received a £50,000 HLF grant for EYCH to develop a Walls Digital Animation project and had launched a tender exercise. An internal council working group was progressing this and had suggested that an interactive app could be animated via QR codes attached to panels.

JO’K said that permission from HED would be required for using the Walls.

5. Actions 6 – 9 months

A meeting of the Implementation and Strategy Group is planned for mid-August.

6. Minutes of previous meeting and matters arising

From the previous minutes the following actions were mentioned:

JR to share council’s designated trading areas (point 2.1).

OD to share Wall/Gate logo (point 2.1).

Walls400 subgroup (point 5.1). MD said that they had had one meeting to
Leaflets (point 5.1). JO’K said that HED was in the process of rebranding its leaflets and asked CC what PDFs Visit Derry had of Derry Walls leaflets.

Archaeological Framework (9.1) between QUB and FODW.

The previous minutes were approved.

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