

Stand Up To Racism!

Support our ethnic minority residents



● Cliftonville anti-racism campaign pages 2-3



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Stand Up To Racism campaign...



Cliftonville Stands Up To Racism

CLIFTONVILLE Community Regeneration Forum (CCRF) has set up a Stand Up To Racism campaign in the Cliftonville as a response to the attacks on ethnic minority residents in Belfast during the summer.

The first step was to organise a public meeting of residents. This was well attended by local people and ethnic minority residents who live in and around the Cliftonville area.

This meeting agreed to set up the campaign. It also agreed to focus on creating a public statement to welcome new residents to the Cliftonville area. This is to highlight that the Cliftonville is an open and welcoming place with a strong sense of community and pride.

As a result, posters were put up in local shops and on lampposts along Cliftonville, Oldpark and Antrim Roads, serving as a

visual response to the disorder arranged over the summer.

Another event that is being worked on is a 'Meet the Neighbour' event for all people from the area to come together to celebrate, respect and understand different cultures, enjoy different foods, music and dances.

Join the Stand Up To Racism campaign

Call/Text/WhatsApp

07808 640894

Stop racist attacks



The house on Manor Street attacked by racists

A HOUSE on Manor Street was attacked by racists on Wednesday 13th November.

A brick was thrown through the front bay window. A young mother and her baby were sitting in a seat in the bay window and narrowly escaped serious injury. The police were called and are following up the attack. We need to stop racist attacks.

"Thank You" to the Cliftonville and Antrim Road shopkeepers

LOCAL shop owners have been enthusiastic in supporting the campaign Stand Up To Racism.

Shop owners and workers on the Cliftonville, Antrim Road and Oldpark Road needed little encouragement to support

the campaign and place posters on their shop doors and windows to get the message out.

One shop manager said: "We normally don't allow posters to be erected in our shop — but in this case we will". Thanks again!

Stand Up To Racism campaign...

Women learn English language skills



Women participants in the English language class

WOMEN from ethnic minority communities living in the Cliftonville area are learning to speak English.

The women asked for support for English language skills. They are members of the Northern

Ireland Muslim Cultural Association (NIMCA).

During our Stand up to Racism meetings it was said that women wanted to know how they could learn English.

Many Muslim women have no English and rely on their husband or their

children to help them communicate in Belfast.

This means that women can not take part in many ordinary activities unless they have someone to speak for them.

Simple tasks such as going to buy food, attending the children's schools,

doctor or dentist or meeting friends always required support.

Due to problems shared by many women they found that the lack of affordable childcare as well as lack of places on training has stopped them from taking part in community events.

Many are fleeing war, hunger and poverty

Many of the women are newcomers fleeing war, hunger and poverty.

Working with the NI Muslim Cultural Association local community groups including Cliftonville Community Forum and Cliftonville Community Centre were able to set up the English language class with the support of funding from Belfast City Council.

“Rebuilding the confidence of minority ethnic communities”

NISAR Hassan Rana is the chairperson of the Northern Ireland Muslim Cultural Association (NIMCA).

Nisar and the Muslim Cultural Association works with community groups in North Belfast to support their community to access much needed services.

Nisar Hassan Rama is a long term resident of North Belfast having lived here for more than 20 years.

He is well known figure in the retail sector in North Belfast and works in a local

supermarket.

Nisar said: “As we all know that recent unrest in summer was a shocking situation for minorities.

“We believe that it was a tiny group and does not reflect the true face of local community”.

Nisar went on to say: “The lovely face of the community appears when thousands of men, women, children and different associations, from different walks of life come out and stand up in favour of minority communities

against racism.

“The support and valuable contribution of Cliftonville Community Regeneration Forum (CCRF) and Cliftonville Community Centre has rebuilt the confidence of minority ethnic communities. This work has a great impact on our communities”.

Nisar ended by saying: “We acknowledge their efforts and support and appreciate the true love of our local residents and community”.



Nisar Hassan Rama

Girdwood Youth Space...

Interface project a success

THIS Summer we held a successful interface programme with young people aged 11+.

The purpose of this programme was to keep local young people away from the interface, while making positive relationships and engaging in good relations work.

We recruited 15 young people from Cliftonville, Lower Oldpark and Lower Shankill and engaged in six weeks of trips.

Together we went to Clip 'n' Climb, Cityside Movie House, Ultimate Challenges

at Airtastic Lisburn, Laser tag, bowling and Dundonald Ice Bowl.

The programme went down really well with the young people involved.

It kept them away from the interface on a Friday evening and has led to the possibility of further development work.

Several of these young people have signed up to our TBUC programme – (Together Building a United Community). This is The Executive Office's (TEO) main good relations programme in the North.



Young people enjoying the Interface programme



Young people who participated in the Interface programme

A new generation of youth workers



Young people proudly displaying their certificates

A HUGE well done to our young leaders on achieving their Level 2 in Youth Work Studies.

Massive congratulations to our eight participants who gained their Level 2 certificate after weeks of hard work and maximum effort.

Pictured left (from left to right) are Hollie Currie, Katie Curley, Corey Duffy, Megan-Louise

Dunlop, Madison Hale and Aleya Ozdemir.

These six amazing young people along with two others (not pictured) Brogan O'Dwyer and Robbie will go on to have a profound impact as the next generation of young leaders with their new set of skills and knowledge.

Thanks to Ardoyne Youth Enterprises for the facilitation of this training.

Girdwood Youth Space...

Good relations and Youth adventures

OUR good relations programme aimed at 14-16 year olds was kicked off on the 17th October.

This year we are working with young people from Lower Oldpark and Cliftonville and Marrowbone Youth Club.

These groups are always a great opportunity for us to hone in to the great – good relations work we already do to promote inclusion for young people from different religious and ethnic backgrounds.

We had a range of activities for the young people.

During our overnight stay young people got to know each other. We drew up a group agreement to establish what the group expect from each other and then the incredible staff at East Coast got our activities underway.

We kicked off with some canoeing. Everyone managed to stay dry, right up until the end when two of the girls – Darcy and Jessica decided to take a dip! Two headers.

The next activity was a night line walk. Working on our communication skills, we set out in the darkness AND blindfolded to lead one another safely through a forest trail.

The following day, we headed for breakfast and off to do some games, archery and climbing wall.

Leader – Demi says she is sorted for next year's Halloween costume, after finding her inner Robin Hood and Summer was like



Young people all paddling in the same direction



Relaxing after the hard work

Spider-man scaling every, single side of the climbing wall.

We had a brilliant time getting to know each-other, Jack for example REALLY loves toast - I know having had to make 2 loaves full over 1 day! Charlotte is prepared for absolutely everything, thanks to her scouts background. Alan loves a good sleep walk and

Aaliyah can't climb walls in crocs.

Most importantly, we learnt that we aren't that different after all, certainly unique but not miles apart.

We will look forward to watching this group develop over the next few weeks as we discover more about each individual while having a million laughs along the way.



Girdwood Youth Space.....

6 weeks jam-packed fun!

Shared Summer Programme

THIS year's summer programme was another huge success for local young people across Cliftonville, Lower Oldpark and the Lower Shankill areas.

Our 2024 Summer programme ran from July 8th to August 15th Monday through Thursday. 40 young people were registered on the programme and attended.

Over 6 weeks young people enjoyed arts & crafts, games on both the pitch and in the Girdwood Youth Space with lots of jewellery making! Refreshments and a BBQ where provided every day.

We also organised trips once a week for the young people and we also made use of our local parks and fun days.

Some of our offsite activities this year included, the Inflata Park at Airtastic, bowling at Hollywood bowls, running wild in Indiana Land and a beautiful day at Hollywood Sea Park.

We had 6 weeks jam-packed with fun! Have a look at just some of the pictures we took this Summer.



Girdwood Youth Space.....

What a Craic-in' Summer!



COMMENTS

"A big Thank You to all the staff for having Portia. She had a fabulous time and looking forward to September" – Danielle (Lower Oldpark).

"Thank you all very much. Oliver is going to miss it xx" – Jill (Shankill).

"Thank you's so much. Kids loved it all" – Bridien (Kinnaird).

"Thank you so much. Macie had a great summer" – Leanne (Shankill).

"Thank you so much – the girls really enjoyed it!" – Louise (Cliftonville).

EVERY TUES 6-9PM
JUNIOR DROP IN
GIRDWOOD YOUTH SPACE

FREE OF CHARGE

GAMES PLAYSTATION ARTS & CRAFTS MEDIA SUITE	AGE 7-P7	COME HANG OUT SOCIALISE SNACKS & REFRESHMENTS
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@NORTHTALKSTOOPROJECT

EVERY FRI 6-9PM
SENIOR DROP IN
GIRDWOOD YOUTH SPACE

FREE OF CHARGE

GAMES PLAYSTATION POOL MEDIA SUITE	YEAR 8 ↑	COME HANG OUT SOCIALISE SNACKS & REFRESHMENTS
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@NORTHTALKSTOOPROJECT

Halloween Pumpkin Patch 2024....



Families enjoying the Pumpkin Patch and some amazing costumes



Sunshine and spooks

THANK you to everyone who attended the Cliftonville Community Forum Halloween event in October.

It was held on our Cliftonpark Avenue site on a beautiful Saturday afternoon.

More than 300 parents, friends and children attended.

Children were able to pick a pumpkin, get their face painted, play with friends and get some treats before they headed home.



Youth Outreach Learning Opportunities...



Niamh Meehan with her daughter Holly Rose and Mum Alice

“It’s really built my confidence”

A YOUNG woman from North Belfast has shared how a youth development programme has transformed her life.

Niamh Meehan, 23, joined the Youth Outreach Learning Opportunities (YOLO) programme at Cliftonville Community Regeneration Forum (CCRF) in January.

Since then, she has gained confidence, made lifelong friends, and earned various qualifications.

Niamh said: “Before this programme, I wasn’t doing anything to help myself.

“I have a three-year-old, and now that she’s in nursery, I wanted to start working on myself. I would definitely encourage anyone to get involved,” she commented.

Niamh said: “Since getting involved, it’s really built my confidence. I’ve made a lot of new friends for life, and I’ve developed many skills as well. This month, we’re starting OCN Level 2 Youth Work qualification and then I want to move on to OCN Level 3 and work in youth centres.

Now, Niamh is aspiring to become a youth worker to

help other young people achieve their potential.

Youth Outreach Learning Opportunities (YOLO) is designed to support young

people living in North Belfast. It aims to help build confidence, develop new skills, and gain qualifications that can

enrich their future.

The programme offers a variety of activities and training sessions. Why not sign up?

STARTING JANUARY 2025

**AGED 16-25
LIVE IN NORTH BELFAST
NOT IN
EDUCATION EMPLOYMENT OR TRAINING**

- Personal Development
- Employability/Career session
- Good Relations
- Qualifications
- 1:1 support
- Team Days Out
- Food & Transport provided
- Incentives & Personal Training Budget*

CONTACT FIONA ON 07770 015717

***CRITERIA & CONDITIONS APPLY**



**International
Fund for
Ireland**

**rural
ACTION** MAKING
IT HAPPEN



Let Youth Lead...

Young people leading the way

THE Let Youth Lead project has had a busy few months working with young people around the Cliftonville area.

Let Youth Lead is a Cliftonville Community Forum youth project and works to engage young people in their community and support their development.

Below is a list of the projects Let Youth Lead has been involved in since the summer.

Weekly Drop-in Sessions at Girdwood:

We host two open drop-in sessions every week at Girdwood Community Hub, inviting young people to join us. These sessions provide an inclusive space for everyone to connect, learn, and grow.

Youth Committee Meetings:

We hold weekly youth committee meetings where young people can share their views and shape community initiatives.

It's a fantastic space for young voices to make a difference. We welcome anyone who wants to help build a brighter future for Cliftonville.

Halloween Mid-Term Programme:

During Halloween we ran a three-day programme in partnership with Belfast City Council, Tamhi, and New Lodge Arts.

It was a fantastic success, featuring activities like arts and crafts, football, and drama, which brought together young people from



Halloween-themed Arts and Crafts project at Girdwood



Movie night (above) and fancy dress parties (right) are a regular hit.

across the community.

Detached Youth Work:

Our detached youth work team is out twice a week providing detached youth work around the Cliftonville area, every Friday and Saturday night between 7pm and 10pm.

Look out for our team in their blue or navy hoodies—we'd love for you to come and say hello. We're here to support the community, and our young leaders are eager to engage and make a difference.

Let Youth Lead Christmas

celebration:

Our youth committee is busy planning an exciting Christmas event, which we promise will be bigger and better than ever!

Stay tuned for details—we're excited to spread some festive cheer!

Let Youth Lead...



Senior members celebrating another successful cross-community programme with Con

New Let Youth Lead Youth Worker



CONCHOBAR Hayes is the new Youth Development Worker for the Let Youth Lead project.

Conchobar recently joined the Cliftonville Community Regeneration Forum. Conchobar said: "I'm thrilled to be part of this vibrant community and to work alongside all of you to create positive opportunities for our young people."

"My goal is to support and strengthen the Let Youth Lead (LYL) programme, and I'm eager to build on the great work already in place while bringing fresh ideas to further enrich our community."

I look forward to meeting many of you in person, whether at Girdwood or out and about in Cliftonville!

Good luck Conchobar.

Young people achieving



(Top) Group discussion on a cross-community residential (Bottom) Group discussions tackling the big issues facing our community.



Thank you

A BIG thank you to Belfast City Council for their continued support.

We're looking forward to another exciting season of

community building, togetherness, and empowering our next generation of young people in the area.

Imagine Peace Barriers Project...

Tackling anti-social behaviour together

Residents from Lower Oldpark and lower Cliftonville have come together to tackle anti-social behaviour and sectarianism at the interface on Cliftonpark Avenue.

Anti-social behaviour and sectarian incidents have been going up and down at the interface over the past few years.

During Halloween week the residents held a stall each night of the week for two hours.

On Thursday 10th October 2024 residents from the two communities meet in the Girdwood Community Hub to discuss a way forward.

The meeting was well attended and based on the feedback we received we set up a hotline for residents to report interface incidents.

We are also arranging a meeting with the PSNI and Belfast City Council to discuss further steps.

Peace Barriers

Residents Forum

WE are in the process of establishing a Peace Barriers Residents Forum.

This forum will focus on addressing the unique challenges faced by those living near peace barriers, providing a safe space for dialogue, learning, and exploring practical solutions.

Looking ahead, we have more ASB consultations planned in the coming months and would love to hear from you.



During Halloween — a time when ASB typically spikes — our Women's and Men's groups organised a stall on the interface. From 7:30 pm to 9:30 pm each evening, we offered free tea, coffee, and treats to residents and young people. This initiative increased footfall in the area, and we are happy to report that there were no ASB incidents this year!

Report anti-social behaviour and sectarian incidents

If you witness anti-social behaviour (ASB) or sectarian attacks at the interface, please contact our team by phone or text at:

07415 090 230

Call PSNI at 101 or report anonymously online:

<https://reporting.psni.police.uk/report/asb>.

If someone is in immediate danger or you need urgent assistance, please call 999 right away.

101

999

Get Involved!

WOULD you like to be part of the peace walls/peace barriers project?

Interested in attending consultations, or joining our 'Meet the Neighbour'

events?

Keep an eye out for our flyers in your letterbox and follow us on social media for updates.

Thank you to everyone who has supported the Imagine Peace Barriers

Project over the years.

Together, we can continue to build stronger, safer, and more connected communities.

Follow us on Facebook: Imagine Peace Barriers Project.

Imagine Peace Barriers Project.....

Cross community fun day in John Hewitt Park

A CROSS community fun day was held on Cliftonpark Avenue in August 2024.

The fun day was a joint event organised by Lower Oldpark Community Association and Cliftonville Community Forum. The fun day took place in John Hewitt Park.

The event was a huge success, with families from both sides enjoying the event together.

During the event, we conducted surveys to gauge the state of community relations.

The feedback showed significant improvements, though concerns around anti-social behaviour (ASB) at the interface remain.



Children enjoying the cross community fun day

Building Relationships and Changing Attitudes

Imagine Peace Barriers Project

The Imagine Peace Barriers Project is a partnership of Cliftonville Community Forum and Lower Oldpark Community Association.

We have set up a joint project called the Imagine Peace Barriers Project and we are funded by the International Fund for Ireland.



AT the heart of the Imagine Peace Barriers Project's work is three key areas:

- 1. Community Consultations:** We listen to residents' concerns and ideas.
- 2. Relationship Building:** We bring people together through shared activities and conversations.
- 3. Creating Attitudinal Change:** We focus on changing mindsets to pave the way for lasting peace.

Over the years, we have launched several initiatives to bring our communities closer. One of our exciting projects is the Imagine



Women looking to improve the area

Shared Space project.

This ambitious plan envisions a cross-community social enterprise with a soft play area, a café, and multi-

purpose rooms. We are now working on a business plan and developing concept designs, which will soon be shared with the community for feedback.

Imagine Peace Barriers Project...

Interface residents work together

THE Imagine Peace Barriers Project has established a cross-community Women's Group and a Men's Group.

These groups meet weekly and participate in activities such as consultations, training sessions, trips, and residential planning events.

The focus is on building trust, improving relationships, and encouraging leadership within our communities.

In December, we are launching monthly 'Meet

the Neighbour' events. These gatherings are a relaxed way for residents from both communities to come together over a cup of tea and some food.

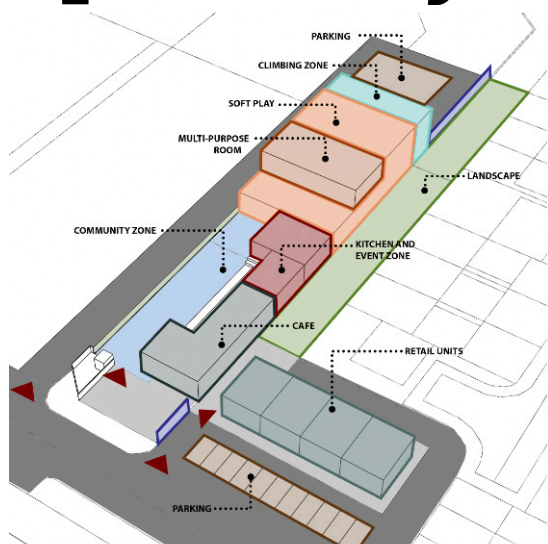
We'll be hosting events at different times—morning, evening, and weekends—to ensure everyone has a chance to join in.

This year, the Imagine Peace Barriers Project is proud to celebrate 11 years of work dedicated to building bridges and fostering positive change in our communities.



The young and not so young enjoying the bouncy castle at the peace barriers fun day

Imagine Shared Space Project



Draft plans for the Imagine Shared Space project

THE Imagine Shared Space Project aims to bring people in Lower Oldpark and Lower Cliftonville closer together.

This ambitious plan envisions a cross-community enterprise with a soft play area, sensory

rooms, a café, a climbing wall and multi-purpose rooms.

We are now working on a business plan and developing concept designs, which will soon be shared with the community for feedback.

Local children's poem for peace

Rioting is wrong and not nice.
Just because we are different sides
doesn't mean we can't get on.
Just because we are different sides
doesn't mean we don't need to get
to know each other.
Just because we are from different sides
doesn't mean you have to be
disrespectful to one another.
Please stop fighting.
Una 8yrs + Sadie 9yrs

Local history...

Where did Cliftonville come from?



36 Cliftonville Road, Belfast

THE history of 36 Cliftonville Road and its inhabitants reflects the development of the North Belfast area we now know as Cliftonville.

This row of terraced and semi-detached villas represented the area's first suburban development.

Quaker family

The architect, Thomas Jackson, hailed from a Quaker family in Waterford and was renowned as Belfast's leading architect

of his time.

Thomas Jackson trained in the Clifton area of Bristol which inspired the name 'Cliftonville'.

Numbers 34-36 were among the earliest structures built in the 1830s and are the only survivors of an original development of about six buildings.

When constructed, 36 Cliftonville Road was on the outskirts of Belfast, surrounded by a predominantly rural landscape.

The Townland Valuation of 1837 lists William

Herdman of Langtry, shipowners and general merchants who brought the first steamship into Belfast, as the occupier of number 36.

By 1858, the Cave Hill tramway had made the area more accessible, and the row was captioned 'Cliftonville'.

In the 1901 census, Thomas Watts, a corn merchant, lived there with his family and staff. The house had eleven rooms and was designated first class.

Industrial nature

By 1911, Archibald Chapman Husband, a linen thread mill manager from Renfrewshire, in Scotland resided there with his large family. His profession reflected North Belfast's growing industrial nature. Unusually, no live-in servants were employed at the house.

During World War II, from 1941 until the end of the war, it served as an ARP (Air Raid Precautions) post.

The house was inhabited until at least the late 1980s and became the headquarters for Dunlewey Addiction Services in 1993. Unfortunately, it suffered severe fire damage in 2003 and has remained derelict ever since.

Domestic Abuse Helplines

- Domestic and Sexual Abuse Helpline
☎ 0808 802 1414
- Women's Aid Belfast
☎ 02890 666049
- Victim Support NI
☎ 02890 243133
- The Rowan Sexual Assault Centre
☎ 0800 389 4424
- Mens Advisory Project (MAP)
☎ 028 9024 1929
- Police/PSNI
☎ 999 or 101

Report Anti-Social Activity

YOU can report anti-social behaviour at anytime to any of the to any of the following:

- **Belfast City Council**
☎ 02890 270469
 - **Housing Executive**
☎ 0344 892 0900
 - **Community Restorative Justice**
☎ 02890 753043
 - **Police Service of NI**
☎ 02890 650222
- Let Cliftonville Community Regeneration Forum also know at:
☎ 02890 749147.

Report it, sort it.

CCRF website

Cliftonville Community Regeneration Forum's website is: www.ccrf.org.uk

Useful Numbers

Belfast City Council

Pest Control

☎ 028 9027 0431

Anti-Social Behaviour

☎ 028 9027 0469

Bulky Items

☎ 028 9027 0230

Alley gate Keys

☎ 028 9027 0428

Noise Control Hotline

☎ 028 9037 3006

Graffiti Removal

☎ 028 9027 0230

Recycling

☎ 0800 0328100

Refuse Collections

☎ 028 9027 0230

Pest Control & Dog Warden

☎ 028 9027 0431

Housing Executive

☎ 0344 892 0900

Housing Associations

Apex Housing Association

☎ 028 7130 4800

Choice Housing Association

☎ 0300 111 2211

Housing Associations

Clanmil

☎ 028 9087 6000

Newington Housing

☎ 028 9074 4055

NB Housing

☎ 028 9059 2110

Radius

☎ 0330123 0888

Police

☎ 028 9065 0222

Mental Health

Samaritans

☎ 0330 0945717

PIPS

☎ 028 9080 5850

Lighthouse

☎ 028 9075 5070

TAHMI

☎ 028 9074 7437

Childline

☎ 0800 1111 (Free)

Community Organisations

Cliftonville Community Regeneration Forum

☎ 028 9074 9147

Community Organisations

Cancer Lifeline

☎ 028 9035 1999

Cliftonville Community Centre

☎ 028 9074 9332

Community Restorative Justice (Ireland)

☎ 02890 301521

Food Bank/ The People's Kitchen

☎ 07783 376664

North Belfast Senior Citizen's Forum

☎ 028 90755 894

Survivors of Trauma

☎ 028 9074 9944

North Belfast Advice Partnership

☎ 028 9039 1225

North Belfast Community Food bank

☎ 07741 380991

Political Representatives

John Finucane MP

Sinn Féin
☎ 028 9050 0890

Political Representatives

MLAs

Phillip Brett MLA

DUP
☎ 028 9002 7277

Carál Ní Chuilín MLA

Sinn Féin
☎ 028 9521 5649

Brian Kingston MLA

DUP
☎ 07795 233313

Gerry Kelly MLA

Sinn Féin
☎ 028 9521 9295

Nuala McAllister MLA

Alliance Party
☎ 028 9515 0100

Councillors

Cllr Nichola Bradley

Sinn Féin
☎ 07741 380991

Cllr Tomás O'Neill

Sinn Féin
☎ 07826 511619

Cllr JJ Magee

Sinn Féin
☎ 07711 762578

Cllr Paul McCusker

Independent
☎ 07467 339637

Cllr Ryan Murphy

Sinn Féin
☎ 07554 222395

Cllr Jordan Doran

DUP
☎ 07342 706781

☎ **02890 749147**



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Join Cliftonville Men's Shed & Community Garden

☎ **07815 311783**

Cut out these numbers and keep them for when you need it

