

4th March 2016

Alice McGlone  
City Centre Development Team  
Chief Executive's Department  
Belfast City Council  
Room 203  
Belfast City Hall  
Belfast  
BT1 5GS

Dear Alice,

**RE: Consultation response from South Belfast Partnership Board on the BCC draft plans for the Linen Quarter**

The South Belfast Partnership Board is a Board which brings together all sectors – community, statutory, political and private – to strengthen and better target the efforts being made by the community, the private sector and the Government to tackle the economic, social and environmental problems which affect the most disadvantaged areas of South Belfast. The South Belfast Partnership Board in consultation with a number of local community groups via existing structures in South Belfast are committed to the delivery of the improvements to city of the Belfast. We believe regular engagement and active community involvement pre, during and post developments are vital. The response enclosed represents the views of:

**South Belfast Partnership Board** – an organisation that actively engages over 136 community, voluntary and community organisations in partnership with public, private and statutory sector to lead the regeneration of South Belfast.

**South Belfast Community Support Group** – a group of 20 democratically elected community practitioners who represent the thematic areas of Health & Wellbeing, Education and Young People, Improving Community Relations, Employment and Economic Development, Physical Renewal and Housing from community and voluntary groups in South Belfast, 8 of whom go forward as community directors onto the South Belfast Partnership Board.

Thank you for your short presentation to the community support group on the drafted Linen Quarter: Public Realm Analysis and Vision. Moving on from this I would like to offer the following comments/ questions which I hope will inform your consultation:

1. How does the document relate to the forthcoming Local Development Plans being prepared by Belfast City Council?
2. How does the Vision relate to the Belfast City Centre: Regeneration and Investment Strategy, Sept 2015 and especially the core principles:
  - increase the employment population
  - increase the residential population
  - manage the retail offer
  - maximise the tourist opportunity
  - create a regional learning and innovation centre
  - create a green walkable and cyclable centre
  - connect to the city around
  - shared space and social impact

**South Belfast Partnership**

23 University Street, Belfast BT7 1FY. Tel: 028 90244070

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3. It is felt the preservation of historic buildings in the area is essential. So many historic buildings in the area have been demolished. Care needs to be taken and conversations held with the Civic Trust.
4. There is a lack of green space in the proposals. We would urge greater attention is paid to the planning of recreational/ green space for the citizens of Belfast to enjoy.
5. How do the citizens of Belfast relate to the proposals?
6. The proposals do not show connections with the surrounding neighbourhoods of Sandy Row, Donegall Pass and the Market. SBPB strongly recommend consideration is given to the connection with these 3 neighbourhoods.
7. The proposals do not incorporate possible opportunities around the car parks and road improvements on the Bankmore link.
8. The needs of cyclists should be incorporated.
9. How is car parking to be managed? Experience from the area indicates many students have cars and neighbourhoods are already used as car parks
10. There is little emphasis on encouraging people to live in the city.

I trust that you will consider the points raised in this letter. I would welcome the opportunity to discuss or expand on any of the points contained in this letter.

Regards,



Briege Arthurs

*Chief Executive  
South Belfast Partnership Board*

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