

**Springfield  
Inter-Community  
Development  
Project**

*Annual  
General  
Report*

*March 1999*

# Springfield Inter-Community Development Project

*Committee and advisors (at 31 August 1998)*

Jim McCorry	Louis West
Jackie Redpath	Pat Morgan
Eileen Howell	Rita Moore
May Blood MBE	Anne Vallely
Cathy Lundy	Fra McCann
Tommy Holland	Martin McIlwee
Eddie Kinner	PHEME BROWN

*Secretary*

May Blood MBE

*Project Director*

W Hutchinson

*Administrator*

Frances Dunseith

*Registered Office*

117 Mayo Street, Belfast BT13 2AZ

*Registered Auditor*

JL Grant & Co, 663 Crumlin Road, Belfast BT14 7GD

*Bankers*

Ulster Bank Ltd, York Street Belfast

*Consultant*

Joe Camplisson

*Springfield Inter-Community Development Project is funded by the Community Relations Council under the EU Peace and Reconciliation Fund, Proteus and by the Community Bridges Programme of the IFI.*

Community Relations Council

International Fund for Ireland  
Community Bridges Programme



*SICDP wish to thank the management and staff of Farset Youth & Community Development Project for all their assistance and encouragement, as well as providing them with a base over the years.*

## Director's report – Billy Hutchinson

1998 was a unique year in Northern Ireland politics. I still find it quite inconceivable that nine months ago we didn't have the Good Friday Agreement, and that the Referendum and elections to the Assembly hadn't happened. A year ago these were all notional aspirations in a very tenuous process, and yet now we have the Agreement, the Referendum produced a 72% 'Yes' vote, and I am writing this as an elected Assembly member for North Belfast and an ex-Director of SICDP.

We always need to keep in mind that the current political process is in its infancy and we have many challenges ahead. There are no guarantees in this life and in the context of Northern Ireland very little of what we know has moved along a smooth and inevitable path. That being said much has changed. Both for myself and SICDP this has been a period of transition and I would like to take this opportunity to reflect on where we have been and where we are going.

I don't think that even I believed that our early hopes for the project and the process we were embarking on would take us as far as we have come. These hopes were to create a space where we could develop a project which would legitimise community politics and translate them into the wider political arena. We have striven to create opportunities which would allow people, political or otherwise, to come together to express views from very different cultures and political backgrounds and to listen to the views of others who were directly opposed to those.

Certainly, on a personal level, I was exposed to many views and equally felt myself heard by many people who I would otherwise not have been able to reach. My professional relationship and subsequent friendship with Pat McGeown stands out for me as one of the opportunities I would not have wanted to miss. Pat and I were from very different backgrounds but in some ways had similar experiences.

For many people, the idea that adversaries from different political perspectives could work together towards a common

agenda and agreed objectives would be unthinkable. In SICDP this was the norm as opposed to the unusual.

Inter-community development work is not easy, it involves taking risks. What that means is that at one time or another everyone will be in disagreement with some aspect of what you are doing. The Management Committee's decision to support me to make my own political contribution to Northern Ireland has been one of many risks taken by them and is one that in the early days was met with much disapproval as well as significant support. I know now that this decision has been vindicated. For this I owe a debt of gratitude for the ir vision.

We did create that space and we did take that risk – sometimes to the detriment of what would be conventional methods of working. It was necessary at times to sacrifice working to agreed objectives whenever the cost would have been negative to the overall strategic objectives of the project. However, the overall result worked, relationships were developed across the sectarian divide, which influenced the attitude of others beyond the project.

I am convinced that the transformation of conflict to non-violence through any peace process is dependant on what happens on the ground. This process cannot be sustained at a high political level alone. That is why projects like SICDP are so important to the peace process.

I mentioned earlier about transitions, and my own is evident. It is with great pleasure that I now see the transition of SICDP. I have been impressed with the commitment of many community activists in the area who have supported and contributed to the necessary changes in the project since my departure. I am also indebted to the colleagues who have brought the Project through this transition in my absence and worked to bring it to a new and challenging place. I am excited by the possibilities and opportunities which exist to build on the many years of work and risk-taking by many people from across our 'community divide'.



*Billy Hutchinson addressing the SICDP one-day workshop held in Farsset on 2 December 1998.*



## Looking to the future – Tommy Gorman

SICDP was conceived and born at a time when violence throughout the country was at an alarming level. Existing 'community relations' strategies and projects had little or no effect upon the overall situation. Those individuals who discussed among themselves what could be done, and who in the end are responsible for all that came afterwards, deserve all of our thanks.

Conflict Resolution through Community Development was unknown at the time. Today it would still have its detractors but it is my contention that it is the key which will eventually lead our communities into a deeper understanding of each and towards a lasting and just peace.

During the early days of SICDP the workers were fighting

an uphill battle. There was pressure from all sides. Thankfully we came through it and now can look to a better future where there is a better understanding.

The path ahead can lead in two directions depending on the commitment of those involved. If, like in the past, apathy sets in amongst the committee or people do not devote time to the project, then we could end up in a cul-de-sac. I don't believe this will happen. I get the distinct impression from the latest planning meetings that we have a committed and representative team of people who will not allow the project to go off the planned route. I am especially encouraged by the number of young people involved and I am very optimistic about the road ahead.

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## Recollections – Frances Dunseith

I went to work at SICDP in June 1992; this was the start of six very happy years. I was employed on a part-time basis at first and then went into full-time employment with the project. When I joined I did not realise how naive I was about the whole political and community situation. I found it eye-opening and soul-searching. Over my six years of involvement with community groups I became aware of the difficulties, barriers, hurdles – whatever you want to call them – that people had to overcome. Many of the community groups were made up of voluntary workers and the dedication shown by them should be applauded. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all those community groups, workers and associates for making my time at SICDP such an experience.

When I started with SICDP my qualifications were adequate for office work, but thanks to the encouragement I got from Billy and from fellow workers, I went on to be a more experienced and qualified person. I achieved my NVQ 2 in Business Administration and went to do courses in Community Development, Community Relations, Community Leadership, 'O'-level Accountancy, First Aid, Conflict Mediation, and finally, the *piece de resistance*, I learned to drive!

I met a diverse group of people during my employment, from a Russian monk to a Westminster MP. My involvement with the monk was to escort him around some of the community groups in the Greater Shankill area; Billy was up to his eyes with other tasks and asked me to do the honours. When I met him he put me in mind of Archbishop Makarios, with his pot belly and very long beard, although he also wore a Russian fur hat. He spoke very little English so had an interpreter with him.

That day was an experience I shall never forget. On the other hand, my MP – Edwina Currie – was a very different kettle of fish, and that was an experience I would rather forget.

There were high points and low points during my time at SICDP. One of the high points was when a group of potential funders from England came over to meet the staff and management committee. At that particular time the political scene here was hotting up, with the hope of some sort of All-Party Talks. Of course, there were certain politicians who would not sit down with certain other politicians and each day on the radio and TV and in the newspapers these were the headlines people were seeing. The group of funders from England were amazed when we informed them that our management committee consisted of community groups from both sides of the 'divide' and with all sorts of political aspirations. We had ex-Loyalist prisoners with ex-republican prisoners, we had Sinn Féin with Progressive Unionists, we had Protestant and Catholic – we were a veritable melting pot.

Another high, of course, had to be the ceasefires from both warring factions. Hope at last for our people! During this time the atmosphere on the ground was changing in so many different ways. I experienced feelings that I find hard to describe: many people were full of hope, but the mistrust and hatred which existed was still paramount, and trying to understand these feelings was hard for both communities. All I can say is that hopefully one day understanding will come from each community about the other community.

There were some low points during my time, such as the breaking down of the IRA Ceasefire in February '96. The



night that Canary Wharf went up was a night that I and many like me did not want to see. When the news broke I immediately thought of my children and the hopes that I had had that they were going to see normality in Northern Ireland and that the fear that we had lived with for 25 years was finally gone from our lives. I cried while watching the news. Our nightmare was back, but thank God – or whoever you believe in – the ‘nightmare’ for now is ‘on hold’. The lowest point for me, however, was the Shankill bombing. I felt it so personally: I knew some of the people murdered – three of the victims were from the housing estate where I lived and I know their extended family members personally. It was a very hard time for my community. The sense of loss was so great. I had shed many a tear during my life, but I don’t think (apart from the death of my Mum) I have cried so much and felt so devastated. The shroud of death that hung over my community that week was so heavy that many people thought it was the end of any hope of peace. I have to admit that revenge hung in the air very heavily as well. It took a lot of courage and determination for my community to come to terms with what had happened. I pray that no community, no matter who they are, will have to

live through those dark and sorrowful days again.

Leaving SICDP was a sad time for me, although I was looking forward to working with Billy, but I knew I was leaving a part of my life behind. I had made loads of good friends during my time with Springfield, I felt part of a family. Billy, Tommy and Irene were not only my work associates, but I hope also my personal friends. During my last year a new member was added to our workforce, Tommy O’Reilly. Tommy came on board as Community Leadership Co-ordinator and immediately made an impact with his sense of humour (and you don’t want to know what that was like!). Although I had only been working with Tommy for that year I enjoyed it very much and I hope that an association with him and SICDP will be kept up.

Before ending my little piece, I would like to mention two other people who I had the pleasure of working with: Joe Camplisson and Jim McCorry. Joe bent my ear on many an occasion – all very interesting, mind you – while Jim encouraged me and helped me gain confidence in myself.

To all associated with SICDP – I enjoyed my time with you and wish you all the very best for the future.



*From left to right: Tommy Gorman, Frances Dunseith, Billy Hutchinson, Irene Murphy, Tommy O’Reilly.*



**Springfield Inter-Community Development Project**  
**Management Committee's Report for the year ended 31 August 1998**

The Management Committee presents their report and the audited financial statements for the year ended 31 August 1998.

**Principal Activities**

The principal activities of the organisation are the facilitation and development of inter-community and community projects.

**Review of the business**

The results for the year are in line with projections and are satisfactory.

The initial 3 year funding period has reached its conclusion and interim funding for a period of 9 months has been secured to allow confirmation of the new operational plan and funding arrangements.

**Statement of Committee Members' Responsibilities**

Organisation law requires the Management Committee to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the organisation and of the profit and loss of the organisation for that period. In preparing those financial statements, the Management Committee is required to:

1. select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
2. make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent; and
3. prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the organisation will continue in business.

The Management Committee is responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the organisation and to enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies (Northern Ireland) Order 1986. It is also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the organisation and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

**Changes in fixed assets**

The movements in fixed assets during the year are set out in note 5 in the financial statements

**Auditor**

J L Grant & Co. has been appointed as auditor.

**By order of the board**

**Secretary**

18th January 1999

**Auditor's Report**

*To the committee of Springfield Inter-Community Development Project*

We have audited the financial statements [opposite] which have been prepared on the basis of accounting policies [as] set out [opposite].

**Respective responsibilities of management committee members and auditors**

As described on page 2, the Management Committee is responsible for the preparation of financial statements. It is our responsibility to form an independent opinion, based on our audit, on those statements and to report our opinion to you.

**Basis of opinion**

We conducted our audit in accordance with Auditing Standards issued by the Auditing Practices Board. An audit includes examination, on a test basis of evidence relevant to the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. It also includes an assessment of the significant estimates and judgements made by the committee in the preparation of the financial statements, and of whether the accounting policies are appropriate to the organisation's circumstances, consistently applied and adequately disclosed.

We planned and performed our audit so as to obtain all the information and explanations we considered necessary in order to provide us with sufficient evidence to give reasonable assurance that the financial statements are free from material misstatement, whether caused by fraud or other irregularity or error. In forming our opinion we also evaluated the overall adequacy of the presentation of the information in the financial statements.

**Opinion**

In our opinion the accounts give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the organisation at 31 August 1998 and of its Income & Expenditure Account for the year then ended, and have been properly prepared.

**JL Grant & Co**

**Certified Accountants 5th September 1998**

**Springfield Inter-Communi**  
**Income & Expenditure Account fo**

Income  
Less Operating EXPenses  
Surplus for the financial year

**Springfield Inter-Communi**  
**Balance Sheet as**

**Fixed Assets**  
**Current Assets**  
Bank  
**Creditors due less than 1 year**  
**Net Current Assets**  
**Total Net Assets**  
  
**Accumulated Fund**  
**Deferred Grants**

The financial statements were app  
18th January 1999 and were signe

Secretary

**Springfield Inter-Communi**  
**Income & Expenditure Account fo**

**INCOME**

CRC Core  
CRC P&R  
Miscellaneous Income  
Proteus

**EXPENDITURE**

Accountancy  
Bank Fees  
Establishment Costs  
Group Work  
Insurance  
Petty Cash  
Postage, Printing & Stationery  
Programme Development  
Publications  
Refund from CLP  
Salaries & NIC  
Staff mileage & operating costs  
Telephone  
Training

Community Development Project  
for the year ended 31st August 1998

1998	1997
111843	102107
114688	98750
<u>-2845</u>	<u>3357</u>

Community Development Project  
for 31 August 1998

1998	1997
2551	3690
22658	18998
<u>7253</u>	<u>9590</u>
15405	9408
<u>17956</u>	<u>13098</u>
4256	7101
13700	5997
<u>17956</u>	<u>13098</u>

approved by the committee on  
its behalf by:

Project Director

Community Development Project  
for the year ended 31st August 1998

40000
41874
1447
<u>28522</u>
<b>111843</b>

600
173
404
1159
467
260
1572
2234
5000
1205
88835
10820
1191
861

114779

Springfield Inter-Community Development Project

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 August 1998

1. Principal Accounting policies

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with applicable Accounting Standards. A summary of the more important accounting policies, which have been applied consistently, is set out below.

**Basis of accounting** The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the historical cost convention.

**Tangible fixed assets** The cost of fixed assets is their purchase cost, together with any incidental expenses of acquisition. Depreciation is calculated so as to write off the cost, or valuation of tangible assets less their estimated residual values, on a straight-line basis over the expected useful economic lives of the assets concerned. The principal annual rates used for this purpose are: Office Equipment 25%; Computer Equipment 25%

**Income** Income mainly comprises amounts received in respect of grants from CRC; a small grant is being administered for Proteus.

**Taxation** No taxation charge arises, as the organisation is charity, however this will be tested with the Inland Revenue in the current year.

2. Income

Grants Received CRC Core	40000
CRC P&R	41874
Miscellaneous Income	1447
Proteus	<u>28522</u>
<b>Revenue for year ended 31 August 1998</b>	<b>111843</b>

3. Operating Expenses

Accountancy	600	600
Bank Fees	173	175
Depreciation	1139	1230
Establishment Costs	404	2002
Group Work	1159	1595
Insurance	467	475
Petty Cash	260	0
Postage, Printing & Stationery	1572	703
Programme Development	2234	4462
Publications	5000	0
Refund from CLP	1205	0
Salaries & NIC	88835	79182
Staff mileage & operating costs	10820	5762
Telephone	1191	1312
Training	861	2482
Less Capital Grants Release	<u>-1230</u>	<u>-1230</u>
	<u>114688</u>	<u>98750</u>

4. Employee Information The average number of persons employed during the year was 4.

5a Tangible Fixed Assets

	Office Equip	Office Refurb	Computer Equip	Total
Net Book Value b/f	479	2500	711	3690
Additions in year	0	0	0	0
Less Depreciation	120	625	395	1139
NBV at 31 August 1998	<u>359</u>	<u>1875</u>	<u>317</u>	<u>2551</u>

5b Grants

	£
Capital Grants B/Fwd	5997
Apportioned this year	0
Less Grants Released	1230
Balance C/Fwd	<u>4767</u>

6 Creditors due within one year

Accruals	600
Other Creditors	3350
PAYE & NIC	<u>3303</u>
	<b>7253</b>

7 Grants Accrued and Prepaid

CRC Core accrued Dec-96	10000
CRC Core prepaid Sept-97	-3333
CRC P&R, accrued Aug-97	<u>3365</u>
	10032
Received in year	10032
CRC Core prepaid Sept-98	-3333
<b>Balance C/F</b>	<b>-3333</b>
Proteus grant Prepaid salary grant B/F	12369
Released to P&L in year	<u>-12369</u>
Prepaid Proteus Sept-Dec 98	5600
	<b>5600</b>



## *User Group Report: Whiterock/Westrock Residents Association*

Since its inception the Whiterock/Westrock Residents Association has become a dynamic and vital part of community development in the Whiterock/Westrock area. Like any other organisation, in its initial stages the group had a few teething problems.

The first initial links between the group and SICDP was through Tommy Gorman, SICDP's Development Worker on the Nationalist side, and based in the Frank Cahill Resource Centre. The group was introduced to the Community Leadership Programme, where two members of the lead committee enrolled in the programme under Tommy O'Reilly as co-ordinator. One committee member in particular, Danny Rock, had had no formal education since leaving school over 40 years before.

The knowledge and skills they obtained were visible. These attributes were patterned out and it was decided that another deputation from the group should also enrol.

The group decided to pursue an idea about a direct site in the City Cemetery in Belfast and through SICDP developed links with Farset and its manager Jackie Hewitt. The group

has since acquired the site from Belfast City Council and intend to set up a cross-community interpretative centre, thanks to the invaluable assistance they received from SICDP.

At present the remainder of the committee members are taking part in the Community Leadership Programme Level 2. The group were selected to go on a residential, at Sea Connell, which was very successful. They also engaged in a team-building exercise, which proved a great success.

### *Our overall perception of SICDP?*

The Whiterock/Westrock Residents Association knew what it wanted to develop, was able to draw out plans and develop them within a pro-active approach to community development. The group received lots of encouragement and persuasion from SICDP and this will undoubtedly have a lasting effect upon the community development process in the Whiterock/Westrock area.

*Deirdre Crawford*

*Whiterock/Westrock Residents Association*



*The site for the cross-community interpretative centre*



# The Community Leadership Programme – Tommy O'Reilly

In the last year the Community Leadership Programme continued to provide local training for community groups. Inter-community courses were run in Farsset Enterprise Park and single identity courses were run in both Loyalist and Nationalist areas. The Community Leadership Programme received enthusiastic support and endorsement from everyone it came into contact with. Over 150 people took part in the three courses offered.

## *(a) Improving your skills*

This allowed participants to look at their lives in terms of their own personal skills. Community workers went through training in communication, assertiveness and listening skills.

## *(b) Managing your organisation*

This course took community workers through the essentials of running a community group. The content of this course was to look at the legal status of groups, how to organise an effective management committee, fund-raising and the public image of the group.

## *(c) Advanced leadership skills*

This course offered participants a more detailed look at

leadership within communities. It placed emphasis on all learning being related to the organisation the participant was involved with.

The contact people made on the courses was as valuable as the learning itself. An example of this networking was the contact between the Whiterock/Westrock Residents Group and Friends of the City Cemetery. This resulted in an exciting new project. The derelict gate-lodge in the City Cemetery has been given to the Whiterock/Westrock group by Belfast City Council and a feasibility study is underway. The plans include a drop-in centre for the local community and an interpretative centre which will offer information and space to friends, relatives and visitors to the cemetery.

The CLP courses provided meaningful opportunity for community groups and individuals to improve themselves. Sadly, at the time of going to print Proteus refused to renew funding for the programme, which affected eight other community training partnership organisations and resulted in several redundancies. It is hoped that the Community Leadership Programme will be up and running again before the end of 1999.



*At the end of another successful course!*

