

**North Belfast Interface Network
Company limited by guarantee**

**Directors' report
for the year ended 31 March 2024**

NBIN have three have three key strategic aims which are:

To minimise the potential for violent conflict and support positive intervention in North Belfast

To build and maintain positive working relationships within and between communities

To play an active role in creating positive physical transformation of interface communities in North Belfast

2023-2024

This year 2023 marks the 25th anniversary of the Good Friday Agreement and it also mark an important phase in the development of the North Belfast Interface Networks (NBIN) future strategic objectives. As NBIN enters its 21st year of serving the community it has undertaken a review of its role in delivering positive change throughout Upper North Belfast. Although NBINs primary strategic objectives remain the same;

- To minimise the potential for violent conflict and support positive intervention in North Belfast
 - To build and maintain positive working relationships within and between communities
 - To play an active role in creating positive physical transformation of interface communities in North Belfast
- the amount of effort that is required in the pursuance of each objective has changed considerably. Over the past year we have witnessed a steady decline in the number of interface incidents that NBIN and its Twaddell Ardoyne Shankill Communities in Transition (TASCIT) partners have had to respond to.

Throughout the summer months there were no reported incidents of any significance in relation to cross interface conflict and even though NBIN NBIN and its partners continue to maintain an intervention capacity; primarily in relation to arranged fights and problems associated with transient youth, this is much reduced in relation to historical levels of conflict previously witnessed in the Ardoyne, Woodvale and Twaddell areas.

Whereas levels of conflict has decreased NBINs work with TASCIT, its community partners, in increasing engagement between local residents in its catchment area continues to grow. . During the 2023- 2024 period the Promoting Positive Change programme has engaged over 1000 residents in Level 1 activity by delivering its second Meet the Neighbours event and a Cross Community Christmas Fun day with over 500 residents participating in each event. 120 residents have also taken part in Level 2 engagement workshops and craft classes, and a further 60 residents completed tranche 12,13 and 14 of the Level 3, Challenging Conversations, 9 week course. This brings the number of residents who have participated in Challenging Conversations to 280 and for tranche 13 and 14 all participants were recruited through word of mouth from other residents who have completed the course. This year the First and Deputy First Junior Ministers alongside the Belfast Lord Mayor presented the Certificate of Completion Certificates to those participants who completed the course this year. Twenty residents 10PUL and 10CNR also participated in a 4 week programme What Lies Ahead that sought to engage residents on the subject of constitutional change and included site visits to Newtownhamilton and Dail Eireann.

In September coming we will also celebrate the 10 anniversary of NBINs role as the lead partner in the Twaddell Ardoyne Shankill Communities in Transition (TASCIT) partnership. The TASCIT partnership set out to create the conditions that would enable residents to begin the process of residential de-segregation by transforming interface structures, removing segregation walls and opening gates that have closed for over 30 yrs.

Since 2013 TASCIT have supported residents on the Crumlin Rd with the removal of the first Northern Ireland Housing Executive wall to come down in 40 yrs. This year we have witnessed the removal of two barriers in Flax Street that have kept the road closed for over 30 years and later in the year the Colombia Street pedestrian gate which has also been closed for over 30 years will open.

**North Belfast Interface Network
Company limited by guarantee**

**Directors' report
for the year ended 31 March 2024**

In relation to the TASCIT Peace Barriers Programme, of which NBIN is the lead partner, the NBIN coordinator continues to be responsible for overseeing and implementation of all activities related to its strategic plan. This year a further 3 of the barriers identified in that strategic plan, Colombia St Ardoyne Rd and Velsheda Way have been brought to completion. This leaves only one barrier for which no community consent for change has yet been achieved.

Finally applications have been submitted by the NBIN coordinator to the Northern Ireland Community Relations Council and the International Fund for Ireland for continued support for both NBIN and TASCIT for 2024/ 2026.

Achievements and performance

As outlined above, the company believes it achieved its goals of promoting good community relations throughout the North Belfast interface area.

Reserve Policy

In order to carry out our work it is necessary to hold financial resources in reserve. The trustees have agreed a policy that requires financial i.e. unrestricted reserves to be maintained at a level sufficient to sustain 3 months' core activity during a period of unforeseen difficulty.

To operate as a successful community organisation, we require financial reserves for the following purposes:


- Strategic- acquiring and replacing assets to benefit the community
- Accountability - complying with legal and statutory obligations e.g. redundancy payments
- Operational - to cover running costs not included in grant income, sustaining staff in gap funding periods etc.

Financial review

The results are set out in full in the financial statements. The directors have obtained funding for the near future.

This report was approved by the Board on 29 November 2024 and signed on its behalf by

**M Maguire
Director**


Manus Maguire (Dec 11, 2024 11:40 GMT)

