



FORUM MEETING: THURSDAY 18TH APRIL 2013 @ 10.30AM

HILTON HOTEL, TEMPLEPATRICK

MINUTES

IN ATTENDANCE

Michael Arlow	Stephen Gault	Jennifer McNern
Alan Brecknell	Eibhlin Glenholmes	Sandra Peake
Mitch Bresland	Peter Heathwood	David Scott
Alex Bunting	Roberta Holmes	Briege Voyle
Lesley Carroll	Fiona Kelly	Jude Whyte
Liz Clarke	John Loughran	
Violet Craig	Errol McDowell	

PRESENT: CVS Staff

Kathryn Stone	Neil Foster
Adrian McNamee	Tina McCann

APOLOGIES

Ann Travers	Geoff Hamilton	Jeff Smith
Alana Burke	Irene Kerrigan	

1. Minutes

The minutes were checked for accuracy and no amendments were made and were verified by Forum members.

2. Matters Arising

Members raised concerns that Forum papers were using a lot of acronyms and abbreviations and would rather they was not used.

AP: Tina to review Forum Papers and remove acronyms and abbreviations.

There was a discussion on the success of the recent *WAVE's Got Talent* event that was held in The Mac on the 12th April. Alex and Peter were thanked for their brilliant performance and it was requested that the Youtube video of the event is forwarded to all Forum members.

AP: Tina to forward Youtube Link to Alex and Peter's performance at WAVE event.

Kathryn informed the group that Elaine Johnston has resigned her place on the Forum due to personal circumstances. The Forum members wish to record their thanks to Elaine for her valuable contribution to the Forum over the past 12 months and wish her every success for the future.

The Forum also sends their best wishes to Ann Travers who has been poorly recently.

3. Recruitment of Forum Members

Kathryn raised the issue of recruitment to replace Forum members and to inform the business case for the Forum post March 2014. Kathryn asked Tina to arrange a meeting between the Forum Manager and members to discuss the matter. The Commission will also discuss the issue with the Steering Committee.

AP: Tina to schedule meeting between Forum members and herself to discuss recruitment

4. Exceptional Forum Meeting on May 20th 2013

Monday May 20th is proposed to the Forum members for an exceptional meeting of the Forum to discuss the single issue of dealing with the past. It is hoped that this meeting will be held in the Armagh/Tyrone area. Tina will forward information on venue when finalised.

AP: Tina to forward information on venue when agreed.

5. Nolan Principles

Kathryn informed the Forum that The Nolan Principles were discussed with the Steering Committee and it was agreed to add these to the User Guide for the Forum. Kathryn suggested that in order to protect the integrity and credibility of the Forum, current Forum members, any new Forum members or future Forum's members

should 'sign up' to these values. It was agreed to draft a version of these principles and circulate to Forum members for consideration.

AP: Tina to forward Nolan Principles to Forum Members for consideration.

6. Emblems and Symbols

Kathryn briefed the Forum on a recent issue related to the wearing of emblems and symbols by the Commissioner and Commission. The Commission are currently reviewing their policy on the wearing of emblems and symbols and Kathryn has recently discussed this matter with the Steering Committee. Kathryn would like to consult and discuss this issue with the Forum in order to inform the policy review.

A discussion was held on guidance issued by the Equality Commission, the importance of the neutrality of the Commissioner and Commission and the disappointment and shock Forum members felt that this issue was raised. It was also noted that the Poppy is for many a universal symbol of remembrance and that this issue is not a reflection on personal opinions on the Poppy. Forum members added that it is important that symbols of remembrance and commemoration should not be used for political gain.

The Forum agreed that they would issue a letter to Kathryn detailing their advice on this matter.

AP: Tina to draft letter reflecting the views of the Forum and circulate to members for approval before issuing to Kathryn.

7. AOB

OFMDFM Committee

Kathryn gave feedback to the Forum on the recent presentation to the OFMDFM Committee by the Commission. During this presentation, the Commission presented updates on the Forum, the Comprehensive Needs Assessment and the Work Programme. The Committee were particularly interested in the Forum and expressed an interest in meeting with the Forum.

There were also discussions regarding the medical assessment of victims for Personal Independence Payment, pensions and proper protection for the seriously injured. The Forum asked Kathryn how many Committee members were in attendance and noted which members were absent.

AP: Tina to forward link to OFMDFM presentation to the Forum members.

FUNDING FOR VICTIMS GROUPS

Members of the Forum expressed concern that the recent decisions on funding to groups by the Victims and Survivors Service will leave gaps in particular areas and

thus risk entrenching views further within the victims' community. There are major concerns over the loss of services for those who need them particularly in South Down and Dungannon / Mid Ulster areas.

It was also raised that £700,000 has been removed from group funding yet the Victims and Survivors Service stated to the OFMDFM Committee that they would not need additional resources.

Kathryn advised that these groups should first exhaust the appeals process within the Victims and Survivors Service and then approach the Commission if they remain concerned.

Northern Vision

Forum members were advised that Northern Vision Production Company are developing four documentaries on dealing with the past and the decade of centenaries and if any Forum members are interested they should contact Northern Vision directly.

AP: Tina to forward brief on Northern Vision to Forum members.

Seminar Series

Adrian gave further information on the Commission's forthcoming seminar on training opportunities.

8. Date and Time of next meeting

There will be a single issue meeting on dealing with the past, venue to be confirmed on Monday 20th May.

Thursday 23rd May is the next scheduled Forum monthly meeting, venue to be confirmed.