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SandyRow
A little part of Belfast



OUR VISION FOR SANDY ROW

SANDY ROW WILL BECOME **THE PLACE IN THE CITY & REGION TO LIVE WORK VISIT & INVEST.**

IN REALISING THIS THERE WILL BE 100% EMPLOYMENT FOR THOSE OF WORKING AGE IN THE COMMUNITY; THE CURRENT HOUSING ESTATE OF 700 HOMES WILL BE PROTECTED AND REJEUVANTED TO 21ST CENTURY LIVING STANDARDS; HOUSING NEED WILL BE MET; THE COMMUNITY WILL BE RESILIENT & SUSTAINABLE; CULTURAL HERITAGE WILL BE RESPECTED, CELEBRATED & VALUED; THERE WILL BE WELL-RESOURCED EDUCATION FACILITIES FOR NURSERY/PRIMARY/POST-PRIMARY CHILDREN & LIFE LONG LEARNING WILL BE THE NORM.

OUTCOMES FOR OUR RESIDENTS – By 2030

1. **A Connected & Engaged Community** - Sandy Row is recognised as a vibrant community hub which is connected economically and culturally to the wider development of the city. It is seen as an area that embraces new initiatives and opportunities. Citizens actively participate in community & civic life and social capital is in abundance.
2. **A Culturally Confident & Safer Community** - Residents state that they are proud of their area; People feel safe to live and work in the area; There is growth in tourism and visitors to the area; Diversity is embraced
3. **A Financially Thriving Community** - Entrepreneurship & self-employment are promoted as the first option for residents; The area encourages inward investment and is business friendly; There are opportunities for employment and support for local people to access jobs; skills development programmes are mindful of emerging opportunities and career opportunities; individuals are supported to thrive financially
4. **A Healthy & Resilient Community** - Residents have access to well-being programmes and services that ensure they are physically, emotionally & spiritually 'well-off'. Sandy Row is recognised a community that supports and promotes the physical and mental well being of its residents as central to everyday life
5. **A Greener & Sustainable Community** - the physical & built environment is conducive to a healthier community through the provision of green spaces; new green technologies are present in households and new developments to ensure that running costs are reduced and environmental impact is low; the residential population is sustained through the provision of affordable mixed tenure homes ensuring housing needs are met into the future;
6. **An Age Friendly Community** - Sandy Row is a community built on equality for all people regardless of age; Opportunities are provided for everyone regardless of age to access basic services and to be involved in community life
7. **A Learning Community** - Education & learning are key priorities locally; Children are supported from birth in relation to their learning outcomes; Key Transition years are supported (nursery to p1/ P7 to Year 8/ Year 10 / Year 11 to 6th Year; College; or employment) Parents are supported to understand and navigate the education system. All abilities are supported to engage in learning & contribute to community life through an emphasis on life long learning

PRIORITIES & ACTIONS taking us to 2020

1. Galvinising the Community Voice

Sandy Row Community Forum will strengthen and consolidate its membership as works to BOND the community together; build BRIDGES with other traditional communities & communities of interest; ensure that Sandy Row is LINKED to city-wide and regional developments

In this Sandy Row Community Forum will be consistently:

A VOICE to represent issues of local concern

Sandy Row Community Forum will provide a voice for local concerns and for people whose views may not always be heard.

An INDEPENDENT and politically neutral organisation

Sandy Row Community Forum will remain independent and politically neutral with a powerful commitment to democratic principles.

A SERVICE developer for local people

Sandy Row Community Forum will work with local voluntary organisations and statutory agencies to inform & shape the delivery of local services

An INITIATOR of projects to meet locally identified needs

Sandy Row Community Forum will initiate new projects and request services that respond to local needs.

A BUILDER of partnerships with other local organisations and groups

Sandy Row Community Forum build partnerships with other local organisations and groups.

A strong LOCAL network of people and organisations

Sandy Row Community Forum will provide a strong local network of people and organisations working together and supporting each other.

A way to ENGAGE local people to become active in their communities

Sandy Row Community Forum will provide ways of engaging people to become active in their communities

ACTION FOR PRIORITY 1

1. Delivery of South West Belfast Neighbourhood Renewal Programme in year 16/17 and beyond
2. Delivery of Belfast City Council Community Capacity Programme 16/17 and beyond
3. Supporting the implementation of Community Planning as a 'fully representative & accountable structure' for the area
4. Participation on the VCSE/NI Assembly Joint Forum, which oversees the Concordat between government departments & the sector

2. Maintaining Commitment to Cultural Heritage

The commitment of Sandy Row Community Forum to cultural heritage has evolved and strengthened in a number of ways:

- We will promote cultural heritage as an essential aspect of building community sustainability in strategic planning for the area and on a city wide basis
- We will contribute to the protection of the historical & natural environmental assets in diverse projects and settings
- We will promote Sandy Row's heritage assets and seek resources to sustain those assets for future generations
- We will promote the links between cultural heritage and tourism

ACTION FOR PRIORITY 2

1. Continued delivery of the REVITALISE Our Heritage Project and implementation of Strategic Plan (2013) recommendations
2. Development of Sandy Row Tours as a profitable community enterprise, which employs local people and provides a tourist product, which is key within the 'Belfast/ NI Story' framework
3. Provision of the retail unit at 96 Sandy Row 'Sandy Row Tours & Souvenirs' which will act as a focal point for community tourism
4. Work with Belfast South Community Resources to secure the future of the 'Gilpins Site' as a community led initiative

3. Community Build; Community Managed Housing Initiative

Sandy Row Community Forum and its members are committed to addressing the identified 'latent demand' in the community for housing. This 'latent demand' is identified as single persons/ couple – no dependents that would like access to affordable housing but will not have their needs met by the current Housing Allocation policy of NI Housing Executive.

ACTION FOR PRIORITY 3

1. Sandy Row Community Forum will develop 2 x 1 bedroom apartments at 96 Sandy Row which will be managed and let by a Community Enterprise Lettings Agency.
2. Sandy Row Community Forum in partnership with Belfast South Community Resources will ensure that all sites within the area have an element of housing that can be 'community managed'
3. Sandy Row Community Forum & Belfast South Community Resources will seek to develop the former P&E Stores site as a 'Community Build; Community Managed' housing initiative

4. Towards a Learning & Enterprising Community

The ambition for this community is that we address the significant levels of educational underachievement; develop clear career pathways from school and achieve 100% employment for those of working age who are able to work.

ACTIONS FOR PRIORITY 4

1. Secure the future of Sandy Row Primary & Post-Primary Homework Support Clubs through mainstream intervention
2. Promote the emerging industries within our community as a viable career opportunity working with local businesses to develop the career pathways
3. Promote a culture of life-long learning and that education is valued
4. Foster a culture of entrepreneurship and work as the only viable option for an individual

5. Participation in Strategic Projects

Over the next 4 years Sandy Row Community Forum will be engaged in 3 key projects with statutory agencies

- Belfast Transport Hub – Sandy Row Community Forum will ensure that members & residents are engaged in the process of the development of this key site; there will be clearly outlined benefits to the local community of Sandy Row as a result including jobs pre & post

development, improvements to streetscape, potential for increased footfall into locality and significant opportunities for community benefit.

- Hope Street Site – Sandy Row Community Forum will be actively engaged with NI Housing Executive in the disposal of this site and its development. In the interim we will be working closely to secure 'meanwhile' use on the site that reflects the ambition of the community as a place 'to live, work, visit & invest'
- Urban Villages – Sandy Row Community Forum & Belfast South Community Resources will continue to work with the Urban Villages Team to ensure that the key issues identified by the community are addressed throughout the programme.
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PROCESS TO ESTABLISH THIS

15 'KITCHEN CABINETS' – MEETINGS WITH RESIDENTS ABOUT THEIR AMBITION FOR THE PLACE AND HOW THEY MIGHT BE PART OF THIS GOING FORWARD

THIS WILL BE REVIEWED EVERY 5 YEARS 2020; 2025 & THEN 2030

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