

## The Derry Walls Management Group: Implementation Group Meeting

19 March 2021

Venue: via Zoom

Attendees	Apologies
Manus Deery (Chair - HED–Advice & Regulation)	Roisin Doherty (DCSDC- Museums)
Aisling Gallagher (CCI)	Odhran Dunne (Visit Derry)
Maybelline Gormley (HED State Care)	Margaret Edwards (DCSDC – Heritage)
Colin Greer (DfC - NWDO)	Martin Graham (Tourism NI)
Brian Neely (DfI – Roads)	Jonny McNee (DCSDC – Planning)
Edward Montgomery (HIS)	Bronagh Ramsden (HED)
Jim Roddy (CCI)	
Paul Mitchell (HED – minutes)	

The meeting began at 10.40

### 1.0 Introductions

MD, the interim chair, welcomed all to the meeting and apologies were received.

### 2.0 Operational Issues

#### 2.1 Vegetation management

BN reported he had walked the Walls with AG to identify the main patches of moss on the carriageway. To enable the CCI wardens to better treat the moss, AG asked about the availability of budget from either HED or the NWDO to purchase a moss removing machine, costing approximately £100. MG said that for such a modest amount, two quotes should be sufficient.

**Action. JR to contact Karen Doyle in NWDO to see what budget was available and, if required, AG to liaise with Philip O’Neill in HED.**

AG said that the Wardens were dealing well with weeds on the Walls, though with occasional areas that needed attention, for example Royal Bastion.

**Action: MG to arrange key access to Royal Bastion for the Wardens.**

#### 2.2 Conservation Update

MG said that a template for a survey of the gates had been completed by the engineer and a report had been drawn up which she would circulate to the group once it was finished. MG requested that this report be a discussion item on the next meeting.

**Action: MG to circulate report to group**

**Action: PM to add as an agenda item to next meeting.**

MG also reported that there had been some unauthorised work at the Castle Bar but that this had been minor and that the Scheduled Monument Consent team had visited and agreed how to regularise this with the owner. Some minor areas requiring

stonework fixing had separately been identified on the circuit of monument and these will be addressed by the CWT.

MD confirmed that, in his understanding, that there is no tenant yet for the Cathedral School.

On the issue of the drain blockage at the Cathedral school, BN reported that the contactors had been unable to give a definitive report as the CCTV had become submerged in water and therefore could not detect the reasons for the blockage. It was considered likely that the drain had been designed to use the Walls as a sump as there appeared to be no onwards connection. It was agreed that, if true, this was not to the long term benefit of the monument and should be addressed. BN proposed a solution of connecting the gully to a new downpipe on the external face of the monument beside the Cathedral School. MG noted that this would cause damage to the monument but agreed that the alternative of digging down inside the monument would also be very disruptive and would be harder to maintain in the long term. There are also steps indicated in this position in early maps and any remnants could be destroyed. MG said she wanted to have all the facts at her disposal before any irreversible decision was agreed.

**Action: MG to discuss further with BN and take proposals to the DWMG group.**

### 2.3 Lighting

AG said she had completed the lighting and furniture audit of the Walls which she would share with the Group.

**Action: AG to share audit accordingly.**

MD reported on the actions arising from the most recent meeting of the lighting subgroup:

- **Clarification of Dfl responsibility.** AG confirmed that all functional lighting on the monument has now been checked and added to the Dfl digital system. If damaged these will be repaired or replaced.
- **Lights under DfC responsibly.** MD confirmed that the MOU between DfC HED and DCSDC is being revisited with the aim of DCSDC repairing and replacing display lighting as it is damaged. As with other stakeholders supported by the lighting project HED will pay into an annual pot with unused funds rolling into subsequent years. This MOU will initially exclude the areas of significant damage which will need specific solutions.
- **Display Lights on Western Perspective.** MD reported that the damage to the lighting on the Western perspective was not as severe as first thought. The vandalism has only shorted half the circuit and damaged only the 11 lights closest to Butchers Gate. This equates to c.£11k worth of damage and not the £80k initially feared. Council is liaising with the District Policing Partnership who may be willing to support some of the cost of repairs. The issue for DfC is that it is difficult to justify further investment if the risk of further vandalism remains high. DCSDC have looked at the cost of isolating the 11 lights from the rest of the system to allow these to operate. This would cost £40k as it would involve developing two new wiring systems.

- **Display lights in Fountain.** MD offered a view that reinstatement of these lights is less urgent. Street lighting is so close to the monument here that the display lighting has minimal impact.

**Action: Lighting subgroup to address these matters further and MD to share updated lighting MOU between HED and DCSDC with DWMG.**

#### 2.4 Planning update

The meeting noted the planning update provided by JMcN.

#### 2.5. Visitor and tourism update

No update was provided. MD said he would remind Maura Fitzpatrick (DCSDC) to circulate the animated Derry video mentioned in the last minutes

**Action: MD to ask MF to share details of the video.**

AG said that Visit Derry had been permitted to film on the Walls for a promotional video for Derry/Londonderry that would be broadcast on television.

### **3.0 Minutes of previous meeting**

The minutes of the previous meeting were agreed.

### **4.0 Other**

BN reported that starting the following week, DfI would start cleaning the 93 gullies on the Walls and that this would be an annual undertaking. All welcomed this development.

The date of the next meeting is to be decided. There being no other business, the meeting concluded at 11.35