

Legacy Network Meeting, 23 & 24 November 2021, City Hotel, Derry

Present:

Action for Community Transformation	- William Mitchell
(ABoD) Siege Museum	- Billy Moore, Jim Brownlee
Fáilte Feirste Thiar / James Connolly Centre	- Eimear Hargey
Linen Hall Library	- Samantha McCombe
Monaghan County Museum	- Liam Bradley
National Museum of Ireland	- Brenda Malone
Decorum	- David Crabbe
National Museums NI	- William Blair (apologies Karen Logan)
Healing Through Remembering	- Kate Turner, Kris Brown
Museum of Free Derry	- Adrian Kerr, Maeve McLaughlin

Apologies:

Belfast Exposed Photography
Coiste EPIC Political Tours
Northern Ireland Museums Council
Police Museum
PRONI
Tower Museum

Invited but no response:

Andy Tyrie Interpretive Centre
Libraries NI
Roddy's Museum

Venue:

City Hotel, Derry, hosted by Bloody Sunday Trust's 'Derry Model' programme.

Day One, Session One:

Facilitator: Kate Turner

Introduction to Derry Model and welcome to meeting from MMCL.

Recap of work to date from KT, using updated powerpoint to highlight main developments and agreements to date, inc:

- Origins of the network proposal
- Timeline of meetings so far
- Feedback from previous meetings (inc via Ruth Flood Associates)
- Membership Criteria
- Management structure and meeting management – agreed that three original organisations (NMNI, HTR and MoFD) will manage the network for an initial period of 3 years (current funding); meeting attendance limited to two representatives per organisation.
- Proposed agenda for first in-person meeting

Update followed by ice-breaker session to enable participants to get to know each other as first in-person meeting.

Day One, Session Two:

Feedback from discussion on where we want the network to go, what we want it to do:

Be out of business in a society where our work is no longer necessary.	Each organisation telling its own history.
Organisations working together to help visitors engage with what happened here.	Greater understanding decreases potential of conflict around commemorations.
Not necessarily an agreed narrative.	Creates respect.
Getting communities involved with our work.	There will always be a need to share history and culture here. Passing it on to future generations.
Our work will be more reflective of how people feel.	Legacy of conflict told properly by legitimate voices.
A safe space for viewing and discussions	Told as a way to resolve issues, not hide them.
Open view on partnerships.	Create new narratives that support greater mutual understanding.
Transformation and progression.	Educate and dispel myths.
Shift perceptions about us, and our own perceptions about others.	Promote that this is all part of a wider history – e.g. 17thC Europe, 20thC civil rights movements.
Challenge stereotypes.	Humanise the history.
Share knowledge and resources.	Integrate with the community.
Tourism / community tourism / social enterprise.	Show leadership and take risks.
Environmental and economic sustainability.	

Day One, Session Three

Report on Museums Association resources from AK – what is currently available (as previously circulated) and how it is currently profiled. Report on potential of NLHF application from WB, up to £250k to create a strong web presence as the public face of the network and to promote the collaborative process. Could also look at a different application re tourism potential and social enterprise. Proposed sub groups to work on different themes of the MA funding and new proposals.

Discussion:

- resources need to be used to reflect needs of network
- decision making process on spend and how to include as wide a group as possible
- potential need to ask MA to re-profile the budgets available to the network
- any online exhibition could/should also be physical
- promote the fact that the best people to do this work are those who have been doing it for many years
- a quick outcome would be useful
- may need to change the proposed subgroups to reflect a change in need – suggested that a web/social media subgroup and an events subgroup might be more beneficial
- need to address current political situation and plans to end legacy work
- need to show that we are doing something that others aren't, and/or that we are better placed to do

Day Two, Session One

Facilitator: Martin Snoddon

Hopes for the day:

Optimistic – hope to see a network set up, proof that we work together, leave with a name and a presentable package.	No such thing as a single narrative, so agreement with multiple perspective approach. Would like to see a practical outcome.
First seeds of enthusiasm and collaboration.	Encourage people to visit all our places.
An idea of where we are going. Use of collections to facilitate discussion.	Become more formalised, provide advice and information and closer connections.
A network where we can help each other with sustainability.	Become a network, not just a group discussing a network.
Work together, not compete against each other. Address issues we can't address individually.	Demonstrable forward movement.
Clarity around objectives so we can report back. Advice on best practice.	A plan of activities, confidence in the network.

Recap on Day one, KT:

- Membership process
- Budget
- NLHF application

Terms of understanding now agreed following one amendment. [Replace 'intervene' with engage in fifth bullet point under Aims].

Visible outcome – maybe a group photo shared on social media?

Day Two, Session Two

Split into subgroups – Web & Public Presence (chaired by WB, reporting KT), Events and Exhibitions (chaired by AK, reporting KB)

Reports from subgroups (based on both meetings of each group):

Events & Exhibitions (KB)

3 main components – an actual network project, to promote the network and sharing already developed projects (could be combination of all 3).

Network should enable difficult conversations or collaborations.

Should look at key events, themes, anniversaries etc to provide a focus and target.

50th anniversary of 1972 a key event. HTR Day of Reflection 21 June 2022 a possible target to create an exhibition – Ordinary People in Extraordinary Times? Could use stories and artefacts from all members to curate a joint exhibition.

Should look at working in neutral or shared locations.

Web Presence (KT)

In two phases – first something to get us up and running in public, followed by something deeper, highlighting artefacts etc. Phase 1 will be information and public presence, phase 2 more interactive and engaging, a resource within itself.

Phase 1 would be dealt with by management group, phase 2 would involve wider membership.

Could request re-profiling of MA budget for Phase 1, NLHF application for Phase 2.

Target dates – phase 1 by February 22.

First audience is ourselves, then colleagues and potential members, followed by governments and statutory bodies, funders, media and contributors.

Day Two, Session Two

Discussion on name and announcement of the network.

Name finally agreed as best description that included all parties was '**Conflict & Legacy Interpretive Network**'. Strapline still to be developed.

Also agreed that a tweet would be sent out by Healing Through Remembering, and then shared by others present, which would include a group photograph.

Text: Two days stimulating & productive discussion in the City Hotel developing Conflict & Legacy Interpretive Network.



Action from Meeting (and who to carry out)

Retweet of tweet about meeting – all those with Twitter accounts.

Minutes to be prepared and circulated. – Management Group

Core documents to be amended (one amendment and addition of Membership process) – Management Team

Contact to be made to confirm/identify which organisations wish to become the initiating members of the network – Management Team

Reallocation request of MA budget – MoFD

Investigate NLHF funding potential – Management Team

Follow up meeting to plan Exhibition for 21 June 2021 -all

Follow up meeting to agree Launch, strapline, programme of work, continued interpersonal engagement - all

AK & KT

09/12/21