

SCHOOLS FUNDING AND ADMINISTRATION DIVISION

FROM: MARK BROWNE (DR)

DATE: 19 November 2001

cc Mr McAteer
Secretary
Mr Peover
Mr Whyte

PS/MINISTER

NORTH BELFAST: HOLY CROSS

1. I attach, for the Minister's information, details of a package of proposals to be put to the Glenbryn residents as part of a possible solution to the Holy Cross situation.
2. Most of the measures in the package (attached) recommended to FM/DFM by David McNarry, have been developed by officials from within the North Belfast inter-departmental liaison group on which I sit. However some reflect the wishes of the residents, notably the request for security gates (consistently refused by NIO and likely to be so again unless police advice changes radically) and the proposal for a path through St Gabriel's to the Crumlin Road (which is not supported by the parents or the BoG). Others have emerged from discussions between the two communities (eg Community Charter, Ardoyne Forum).
3. I mentioned briefly to the Minister last week the possibility of bus transport for the children forming part of a potential solution. This idea has gained momentum and to facilitate it - and provide potential in the longer term for car and taxi transport to be reinstated - the Department has agreed to fund construction of a turning circle in Holy Cross school (at a cost of around £25,000). We will also fund the Board to meet the recurrent costs of the buses as a temporary measure to facilitate a solution and will keep this under review.
4. The attached note to Mary Bunting (OFM/DFM), who chairs the Inter-departmental Group, sets out the steps the Department and education authorities have taken to date and the proposals in respect of buses.



MARK BROWNE (DR)

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PS/BROWNE M/76443

From: David McNarry
Special Adviser

cc Mrs Flanagan
Mr May
Mr Campbell
Dr Gudgin
Mr Larkin

Date: 16 November 2001

To: PS/First Minister
PS/Deputy First Minister

NORTH BELFAST – HOLY CROSS PARENTS/GLENBYRN RESIDENTS

A potential offer to put to the residents to enable their protest to be suspended immediately upon acceptance.

The offer is time-scaled where possible and where not possible intentions on the issues are indicated for implementation.

Ultimately, the offer should be put to the residents on behalf of OFMDFM jointing with NIO and where appropriate after consultation with the Chief Constable.

Annex 1 - relates to urgent items under the NIO remit and joint remits OFMDFM.

Annex 2 - relates to urgent items under OFMDFM remit.

A public meeting planned for Friday 16 November could be postponed until Saturday 17 November. This would allow officials to use Friday 16 November to firm up with the Residents' Committee and cement an agreement to suspend the protest, subject to the approval of a residents' public meeting on Saturday 17 November.

It would be expedient not to ask the Residents' Committee to fully guarantee the behaviour of all residents. But to underline that, a suspension of the protest will be welcomed on the basis that any agreement relates to the goodwill of the Committee to do all they can to ensure that no protest takes place on Monday. A public statement to this effect by the Residents' Committee would be helpful. (Note: there is always the risk of head-bangers).

The objective is to create a new and positive atmosphere conducive to ending the protest.

David McNarry

DAVID McNARRY

ANNEX 1

| Request | Proposed Action | Start Date | End Date | Comment |
|---|--|--|---|--|
| Introduce temporary calming measures Ardoyne Road/Hesketh Road | Due to commence Friday 16 th November | Friday 16 th November | 2 weeks time | Agreed with Derek Wheeler and residents. NIO remit |
| Introduce dedicated community policing (both areas) 24 hours a day, 7 days a week | Immediate | Immediate | Say, 3 months allowing for monthly review of security situation | Agreed with ACC McQuillan. NIO remit |
| Introduce fixed point policing at area designated for security gate 7 pm – 7 am weekday; round the clock at weekends. | Immediate | Monday 19 th November | Awaiting decision on erection of security gate | Agreed with ACC McQuillan. NIO remit |
| Introduce road chicane on Ardoyne Road | Immediate | Urgent Work in progress by 3 rd December | Quick turnaround contract | NIO remit with DRD |
| Introduce No Stopping zone on Ardoyne Road and One Way traffic system on Hesketh and Wheatfield | Immediate | Urgent Do in conjunction with chicane | Quick turnaround contract | NIO remit with DRD |
| Install CCTV at agreed points | Currently being considered by NIO | Urgent By w/c 26 th November | Permanent until reviewed | NIO remit |

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|--|---|--|--|--|
| Erect security gate Ardoyne Road/Alliance Avenue | Await consultation report from NIO in conjunction with Chief Constable | Report indicated to be ready by Minister for Security for Wednesday 14 th November. May now be according to Police Friday 23 rd November | If agreed, permanent fixture until reviewed | NIO remit |
| Commence peace wall Alliance/Glenbryn | Immediate | Underway | Christmas period | NIO remit |
| Introduce interface security zones Ardoyne Road Alliance Avenue Hesketh Road | Immediate | Proposals underway | As quickly as possible | Involves joint co- operation of community – Roads Service – Police. Includes: Roundabout Re-alignment Fencing Establish neutral security zone Flax Housing to secure corner at Alliance Avenue. NIO and OFMDFM joint remit |
| Ground improvements at Wheatfield and Ballysillan interface | Immediate | 1 months time | 1 month later | Under active discussion |

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| Introduce advice to assist re-employment of residents who have lost jobs through intimidation | Immediate | Monday 26 th November | Depends on ease of re-employment | Crucial for confidence building |
| Construct a path through St Gabriel's to exit on to the Crumlin Road | Immediate | Upon consent of school | As quickly as possible upon consent being given | An issue for joint discussion between: Parents Residents School Governors Elected representatives |
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ANNEX 2

| Measure | Start Date | End Date | Comment |
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| Community challenge for North Belfast – action research project. (Possible foundation for a long-term development and investment plan for the local area) * | Proposal now made | Project complete by March 2002 | Requires support by elected and community representatives. Provides for enhanced community capacity and skills in local areas. Project will take account of PEACE II and URBAN II |
| Implementation of a community charter and other positive joint community developments in the Ardoyne/Upper Ardoyne area. | Requires Joint Forum to be established | | This measure has emerged in the course of discussions at local level |
| Development of a Joint Ardoyne/Upper Ardoyne Forum | As soon as possible | | This measure has emerged in the course of discussions at local level |
| Community transport scheme * | Proposal to be assessed as soon as possible | | Proposal for a community owned scheme to enable pensioners, disabled and other residents to access shopping and services |

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| Baby clinic, possible need for outreach clinic in Upper Ardoyne area | N&W Health Trust surveying * others in the area | | Findings of survey will be addressed quickly by the Trust |
| Counselling and trauma treatment | NIHE/T&EA assessing local * needs | Plan will be prepared to address needs | |
| Housing developments in the area to incorporate safety and environmental considerations | Housing announcements * in the context of the Belfast housing strategy | | NIHE will appoint a consultant to work with local community on these issues |
| Housing developments in the area to take account of developments on financing for home ownership and affordable housing | For consideration * | | To be raised in planned discussions with NIHE |
| Provision of outreach and awareness sessions on employment and training opportunities | Proposal made by T&EA. * being prepared | | |
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* Require consultation with local residents, elected representatives and Ballysillan Community Forum. Ideal projects for discussion within Ardoyne/Upper Ardoyne Forum when it is established.