

OGN Steering Committee
MINUTES of Meeting
10th December 2015, Oh Yea Music Centre

Present: Colm Burns, Ann Allan, David McBurney, Carol Forster, Jonathan Bell, Andrea Thornbury, Kris Nixon, Felicity Huston

1. Apologies: Aongus O’Keefe, Cliodhna Rae, Wendy Osborne, Anthony Soares

The Chair informed members that Eleanor had unfortunately suffered another broken leg. The Committee supported Colm in wishing Eleanor a full and speedy recovery.

2. Chairman’s Business

Mexico Summit – a major theme of interest at the conference was the emphasis on the sub-national and a pilot programme for sub-national governments, which is expected to be launched soon. A chairman’s perspective on the Summit will be published in the December OGN e-bulletin. Contact was made with several Scottish delegates and a conference call will be arranged once the sub-national pilot programme is launched.

3. Minutes of Previous Meeting

- **Action: Contact Natalie Whelehan**

Given her interest in Children’s budgeting, it was decided that Natalie would be contacted once the citizen’s budget commitment has been included/agreed by DFP.

- **Action: Submit response to Fol Commission**

A comprehensive response was submitted on behalf of NI OGN. Information provided by the Detail was very useful and it was noted that the OGN response received good coverage across the UK network

Proposer: Andrea Thornbury

Seconder: David McBurney

4. Government and Political Engagement

D McBurney outlined the process of engagement that had been undertaken to date. The current state of play is that a draft composite document was agreed with DfP officials and is now being passed to senior officials and the Ministers Office for consideration.

Malcolm Beattie (DFP) has offered NI OGN the opportunity to propose an Innovation Lab topic. The topic should be a problem that is difficult to solve.

J Bell provided an update on political engagement. Four NICVA policy officer events were attended and five follow up meetings were arranged with the five main Parties. Meetings were also requested with both the OFMDFM Assembly Committee and the Finance and Personnel Committee, as well as the Assembly speaker. OGN has been invited to present to the OFMDFM Committee on 6th January and a written briefing has been requested by the F&P Committee. It was felt that those who have undertaken the engagement work to date should attend these meetings but other OGN members were encouraged to attend. OGN

have also arranged a meeting with Gareth McGrath of Parliamentary Services (NIA) regarding the adoption of the Declaration of Parliamentary Openness.

Actions:

- OGN secretariat to prepare presentation for OFMDFM Committee and a written briefing for both Committees
- OGN secretariat to prepare short brief for Party policy officers and attend meetings on 6th January 2016.
- OGN Secretariat to meet with Gareth McGrath
- OGN members to contact J Bell if they wish to attend any meetings at Stormont on 6th January
- Members to propose ideas for DFP Innovation Lab and OGN Secretariat to confirm with Malcolm that OGN is interested.

5. OGN Action Plan Update

J Bell provided update on Action Plan. Key points included:

- *Membership growing steadily, over 180 on forum. Members were asked to propose other networks and circulation lists to target.*
- *Positive dialogue had been undertaken with Kevin Murphy of Voluntary Arts Ireland and Arts and Business. Both had circulated information via their e-news and social media.*
- *Positive discussions had been held with Ruairi McDonald and PBD about the possibility of an open contracting pilot*
- *David McBurney provided an update on the Participatory Budgeting conference attended in Birmingham. A briefing note was prepared by David following the conference and posted to the Forum. As series of speakers/facilitators were identified for a NI PB event.*
- *Meeting held with NILGA regarding local government engagement. We will maintain links with NILGA for any future local government initiatives but it was felt that SOLACE might be a more useful point of contact.*
- *C Burns provided an update on his meeting with NI Civic Society Network.*
- *Q2 e-bulletin will be circulated before Christmas.*

Events update:

- *20 registrations were received for the Parliamentary training session, but only 7 people attended. Despite the low turn-out it was deemed to be a useful and worthwhile session.*
 - *On 7th January OGN/NIEL/Electoral Commission are running a seminar on the rules around campaigning for the 2016 Assembly Election.*
 - *Two event proposals were submitted for Imagine Belfast Festival (OGN Membership event and participatory budgeting event).*
 - *Members were satisfied that the draft agenda for the membership event should be progressed as outlined.*
 - *Three seminars are confirmed for late January/early February. UU was originally the proposed venue, but there is no availability on the dates requested. One seminar will be held at QUB and venues with better parking will be sourced for the other seminars.*
 - *Potential to host EU referendum events in conjunction with NIEL, EU Commission and CDPB.*
 - *Produce December e-bulletin*

Actions:

- **OGN Secretariat to contact Age Sector Platform and Fermanagh Trust about potential synergies and information sharing**
- **Chair to continue dialogue with Civil Society Network**
- **OGN Secretariat to make contact with SOLACE**
- **OGN Secretariat to confirm venue, speakers and catering for all events and commence promotion. Committee members to assist with event promotion**
- **OGN secretariat to produce and circulate OGN e-bulletin**

6. Detail Data

A Thornbury provided an overview of recent activities, including Detail Data stories on the Built Heritage at Risk Register and Invest NI funding. <http://www.nicva.org/article/invest-ni-three-years-of-offers-under-the-microscope>

7. Next Steps

- *Continue engagement with DFP*
- *Liaise with Malcolm Beattie (DFP) and propose an Innovation Lab topic*
- *Meet with party policy officers on 6th January and prepare short brief in advance*
- *Prepare written briefs for Assembly Committees and meet OFM DFM Committee on 6th January*
- *Coordinate, promote and host Rules on Campaigning seminar on 7th January.*
- *Confirm venues for seminar series*
- *Confirm venue, speakers and source catering options for two Imagine events.*
- *Update OGN website content, forum and twitter - ongoing*
- *Post Mexico blog and Dean Blackwood perspective piece (with Disclaimer included)*
- *Contact Fermanagh Trust, Age Sector Platform and SOLACE*
- *Issue call (across multiple networks) for Committee nominations and host election if necessary*
- *Coordinate EU referendum events in Q3*
- *Produce and circulate Q2 e-bulletin*
- *Submit Q2 report to BCT*
- *Edit ToR to include an option for co-opting*
- *Issue Expression of Interest to OGN Committee members*
- *Issue call for nominations for OGN Steering Committee*

8. AOB

- *OGN Committee agreed with proposal for Jonny's Olympic Leave.*
- *OGN Committee agreed to add additional clause to ToR to enable people to be co-opted onto the Committee for specific projects.*
- *OGN Committee agreed with proposed Disclaimer for personal perspective/blogs to be used on all relevant correspondence in future.*
- *Secretariat provided an overview of the OGN election process.*

Actions:

- **Secretariat to issue Expression of Interest to OGN Committee members.**
- **Secretariat to add suitable wording to ToR**
- **Secretariat to include Disclaimer on future blogs/perspective pieces**

- **Secretariat to issue call for nominations and nomination form**

9. Date of Next Meeting

29th January 10-12, venue (TBC)