

Document Pack

**Democratic Services Section
Chief Executive's Department
Belfast City Council
City Hall
Belfast
BT1 5GS**



19th February, 2015

MEETING OF PARKS AND LEISURE COMMITTEE

Dear Alderman/Councillor,

The above-named Committee will meet in the Lavery Room (Room G05), City Hall on **Tuesday, 24th February, 2015 at 4.30 pm**, for the transaction of the business noted below.

You are requested to attend.

Yours faithfully,

SUZANNE WYLIE

Chief Executive

AGENDA:

1. **Routine Matters**
 - (a) Apologies
 - (b) Minutes
 - (c) Declarations of Interest
2. **Presentation - Harland and Wolff Welders FC**
3. **Review of Pitches Strategy (Pages 3 - 12)**
4. **Partner Agreements Policy and Process (Pages 13 - 26)**
5. **Bereavement Improvement Strategy and Parks Improvement (Pages 27 - 32)**
6. **Anti Social Behaviour - Update (Pages 33 - 44)**
7. **Active Communities (Pages 45 - 50)**
8. **Shelter for the Homeless - Occupation of Council Land (Pages 51 - 70)**
9. **Belfast Zoological Gardens - Research Activities (Pages 71 - 74)**
10. **Pollinator Project (Pages 75 - 76)**

11. **Squirrel and Pine Marten Survey** (Pages 77 - 78)
12. **Brookvale Avenue - Request** (Pages 79 - 88)
13. **River Terrace - Update** (Pages 89 - 92)
14. **City Cemetery - Decorative Arts Project** (Pages 93 - 100)
15. **Anglers' Cabin - Waterworks Park** (Pages 101 - 108)
16. **Meccano Bridge - Proposal from QUB** (Pages 109 - 114)
17. **Grove Playing Fields - Request for Use** (Pages 115 - 120)
18. **'Run, Walk, Jog for Palestine' - Request** (Pages 121 - 122)
19. **FIFA Schools Super Festival - Mallusk** (Pages 123 - 124)
20. **Belfast Mela 2015** (Pages 125 - 128)



Belfast City Council

Report to:	Parks and Leisure Committee
Subject:	Review of Playing Pitches Strategy
Date:	24 February 2015
Reporting Officer:	Andrew Hassard, Director of Parks and Leisure
Contact Officers:	Caroline Wilson, Neighbourhood and Development Manager Claire Sullivan, Policy and Business Dev Unit Manager

1	Relevant Background Information
	<p>Members are reminded that the Council developed a Playing Pitches Strategy for the period 2011-2021 which was agreed in February 2012. The strategy included action plans under 3 key objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Objective 1 – Capital Investment Objective 2 – Management Objective 3 – Sports Development <p>This report is a progress update report on the implementation of the strategy to date and to commence the discussions around the next phase of implementation.</p>

2	Key Issues
2.1	The following outlines the progress that has been made in the achievements of the various actions under the 3 objectives and the multiple sub-objectives. A high level assessment has been made on the progress towards each of these and this is attached as appendix one.
2.2	<p>Objective 1 – Capital Investment</p> <p>This objective is <i>to deliver and, working in partnership, enable a programme of capital development, enhancement and maintenance investments to address the shortfalls identified and protect existing playing pitches.</i></p> <p>It was agreed that the capital investment would include the development of a 3G pitch and associated facilities at 5 sites across the city. These would be hybrid to encourage the shared use of the space and maximise use at the following sites:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cherryvale Playing Fields • Woodvale Playing Fields • Falls Park

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ormeau Park • Cliftonville Playing Fields (GAA pitch only due to site limitations) <p>It was also agreed that the changing facilities would be provided or upgraded at 5 sites across the city:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ballysillan – new facility • Waterworks (Westland) – new facility • Musgrave Park – new facility • Victoria Park – upgrade of existing • Dixon Park – upgrade of existing <p>The design process is well underway with planning applications having been submitted for all of the sites and planning approval has been granted for 9 of the 10 sites. Work has commenced on 3 sites – Dixon, Waterworks and Cliftonville. The tender process is underway in respect of a further 5 sites and work is scheduled to commence on these sites by the end of the summer 2015. Work on the remaining 2 sites will be commenced by the end of 2015 with work being completed by summer 2016, subject to planning.</p> <p>A key element of this strategy is partnership working and to encourage the various sectors across the city to work together. The Council continues to work with its partners including Sports NI, governing bodies, leagues, clubs and the education sector. As part of this work, Ulster GAA are investing £1.1million in the capital investment that is happening at Cherryvale, Woodlands, Cliftonville and Musgrave and a Joint Management Agreement is currently being developed in relation to this investment.</p> <p>As part of the capital investment £750,000 was allocated to a fund for capital enhancements to school playing pitches to allow greater community use. After an application process 6 schools from across the city received funding, ranging from £73,000 to £150,000 for projects including the upgrade of surfaces and the installation of floodlighting. Work is ongoing and will be completed on all projects by the end of this financial year.</p> <p>There is also focus on Council-owned provision and an annual maintenance and refurbishment programme has now been put in place. To date drainage work has taken place at 4 sites in both 2013 and 2014. Further work is planned at 5 sites in the coming year.</p> <p>There has been a continued growth in small sided games at underage level and officers have held discussions with the various governing bodies around provision at this level. To date provision has been through the marking of full sized pitches and the provision of smaller portable goals. The refurbishment programme for 2015 has identified the potential to create a small sided pitch at Wedderburn and where other opportunities are identified these will be taken.</p>
<p>2.3</p>	<p>Objective 2 – Management</p> <p>This objective is <i>to implement and monitor a range of management options with community and statutory partners, so as to maximise people’s participation in team sports activity.</i></p>

	<p>One of the actions under this objective was the review of the existing Facility Management Agreements. This has been progressing with a proposal to move towards Partner Agreements which will bring the management and maintenance in-house and put the focus of clubs onto sports development activities (separate report to be presented to Committee).</p> <p>Work is ongoing around the development of a monitoring and evaluation framework for all pitches, the first stage of this is the development of a monitoring process for those schools who received funding under the £750k fund. This is currently being finalised and will be sent out to the schools in the coming months. We will then look at how we can adapt this framework to allow us to measure usage and participation of our new 3G pitches.</p> <p>As part of a wider review of fees and charges and the implications of LGR on this, we have commenced the process of looking at the current charging arrangements for our pitches and the options of introducing other pricing models such as off peak or a reduced community rate. Once the options have been fully developed they will be brought to the Members for consideration.</p> <p>The development of the pitches strategy was based on a baseline assessment of supply and demand that was undertaken in 2009/10. It was agreed that this would be reviewed two years from the implementation of the strategy. From the review, a number of key issues have emerged for Committee's consideration:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In terms of supply of pitches there have been no significant changes in the number of pitches that are available across the city. However, the ongoing capital investments will impact on this; • There has been a decrease in adult participation across sporting codes. One of the reasons for this is the growth in other physical activities such as cycling in this period, which are attracting people who would have previously played pitch sports. This has been confirmed anecdotally by sporting codes; • There has been a dramatic increase in youth teams across sporting codes. This is a very positive outworking of the sporting codes' focus on their respective youth participation strategies, which will in turn sustain demand in the city in the adult leagues. Specifically, youth participation from 2009-2014 has grown as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – 22 mini soccer teams to 172 small sided games teams – 8 mini Gaelic games teams; this has increased to 128 Go Games teams – 12 mini rugby teams, this has increased to 31 mini rugby teams; • An analysis of supply and demand relating to matches does not take into account requirements for pitches for training and informal use. Grass pitches are generally limited to competitive play, due to the restriction on level of usage, leaving synthetic surfaces to cope with demand for training sessions. This also displaces individuals who choose not to be part of formal clubs and leagues, potentially discouraging more people from being active; and • In the short-term, there may be opportunity to temporarily re-designate/re-mark some adult pitches to become available for short-sided games, to accommodate the immediate demand for youth sports.
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2.4	<p>Objective 3 – Sports development</p> <p>This objective is working in partnership, to develop and deliver a sports development programme to maximise people’s participation in team sports activity. This will include under-represented groups, such as females and those with disabilities.</p> <p>The Department through its Support for Sport programme has supported clubs through large grants to develop Games Development Centres. We also continue to work with the IFA around the development of small sided games through our support for two grassroots soccer development officers who are based in Ballysillan and Avoniel.</p> <p>The Leisure Development Unit through its programmes such as Active Communities and Try it days work with governing bodies and clubs to encourage underrepresented groups such as females and people with disabilities to get involved in pitch sports. They have also organised a series of events to encourage children and young people to get involved in different sports including London 2012 legacy events and the Lord Mayor’s Sport Day 2014.</p> <p>Work has commenced on the development of sports development plan templates which will be used in relation to the new 3G pitches. These will be rolled out on the completion of the capital works.</p> <p>Sports Development Officers are actively engaging with a number of the schools who received funding from the £750k fund to look at ways in which we can work with them to further increase community use of their enhanced facilities.</p>
2.5	<p>Next steps</p> <p>Officers will continue to progress the work relating to the capital investment element to ensure that this is completed by the summer of 2016. As each of the sites is completed sports development plans will be rolled out and usage will be monitored through the framework that is under development.</p> <p>Given the growth of small sided games at underage level it is proposed that a piece of work be undertaken over the coming months to identify full sized pitches that are currently underused and to explore the potential to established small sided games hubs across the city.</p>

3	<p>Resource Implications</p>
	<p>Financial: There are no financial resources associated with this progress report. £15.1m has already been allocated to investment in playing pitches.</p> <p>Human Resources: None</p> <p>Asset and Other Implications: The continued implementation of the strategy will result in changes to the type and number of Council’s playing pitches.</p>

4	<p>Equality and Good Relations Implications</p>
	<p>Members are reminded that the Playing Pitches Strategy was subject to an EQIA and its conclusions were included in the strategy. As part of this process, the Stage 7 monitoring review will shortly be undertaken.</p>

5	Recommendations
	Committee is asked to approve a further report is prepared on small sided games provision in the city and to explore the potential to establish small sided games hubs across the city, for consideration by Committee at a future meeting.

6	Decision Tracking
	There are no decisions associated with this report.

7	Key to abbreviations
	EQIA – Equality Impact Assessment GAA – Gaelic Athletic Association IFA – Irish Football Association

8	Documents attached
	Appendix 1 – Assessment of progress on achieving sub objectives

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Achievement of the sub objectives

Objective 1 – Capital Investment

Sub-objectives	Status	Comment
To invest in additional outdoor leisure facilities, addressing the shortage in the city and increasing their use	G	Currently being delivered as part of the capital investment programme
To invest in improving existing provision to increase use and improve the quality of outdoor leisure provision	G	Currently being delivered as part of the capital investment programme
To invest in the quality of changing facilities at outdoor leisure provision and to increase the provision for women and children	G	Currently being delivered as part of the capital investment programme
To begin discussions with Sport NI to develop partnership arrangements for planning, management and community access	A	Discussions have commenced with Sport NI but these need to be built upon
To work with education partners (schools, higher and further education) to deliver more access to their outdoor leisure facilities, through secured community access agreements and investing in extra facilities such as floodlighting	G	Delivered through the £750k fund which supported capital projects at six schools across the city
To work with sports governing bodies, partners and other interested parties (including sports clubs and the private sector) to explore potential partnerships and to increase access to outdoor leisure facilities	G	This work is ongoing with all governing bodies and Ulster GAA are investing £1m into the capital programme
To promote opportunities for shared space through multi-sport facilities	G	Currently being delivered as part of the capital investment programme
To create a repairs and renewals fund for the refurbishment of playing pitches and a rolling maintenance programme based on regular conditions surveys	G	An ongoing programme has been developed
To start talks with the Planning Service for Northern Ireland	A	Process has commenced and this will gather momentum in the coming months with the transfer of the planning function to Council
To examine the potential to convert underused full sized pitches into junior sized pitches	A	Initial work has taken place around the temporary marking of pitches and given the growth in underage games it is proposed to explore this further

Objective 2 – Management

Sub-objectives	Status	Comment
To complete the review of existing Facility Management Agreements (FMAs)	G	Currently ongoing and anticipated that new arrangements will be in place for the 15/16 season
To develop a monitoring and evaluation framework for all pitches which includes regular consultation with pitch users to gather trend data around satisfaction, quality rating and common pitch issues	A	Work is ongoing to develop a monitoring framework around the £750k fund and this will be rolled out as the new 3G pitches come into use
To undertake a review of the current fees and charges	A	Work has commenced as part of the discussion around LGR and this will be rolled out as the new 3G pitches come into use
To roll out a programme of 'shared space' training to all sports clubs across Belfast, firstly targeting clubs that we fund and use our pitches	A	There has been limited progress on this action to date, however we will continue to work with our partners to implement this action. In particular we will take forward the work relating to the Community Benefit Partnerships that have been established in relation to the stadia developments
To update the supply and demand information gathered in the first two years of the strategy to fit in with the area planning process and any proposed boundary changes for the city and every five years thereafter	G	This was undertaken in late 2013/14 and plans will be put in place to undertake it in 2019/20
To work with transport providers and Department for Regional Development to maximise transport connections between pitches sites including cycle and pedestrian paths	R	There has been limited progress on this to date but with the introduction of an Active Travel Strategy and the public bike hire scheme it is planned to progress this

Objective 3 – Sports Development

Sub-objectives	Status	Comment
To work with Sport NI and community-based partners, including the Active Communities programme, to develop and deliver a sports development programme that will maximise participation in team sports activity particularly amongst those from under-represented groups	G	This has been ongoing through the work of the Leisure Development Unit
To match up the funding provided through Support for Sport for pitch sports to any future priorities identified around pitches such as increased	A	This will be a key element of the enhanced Support for Sport fund in relation to the new Partner Agreements

participation from under-represented groups		
To make sure the leisure development programme is matched up to the Playing Pitches Strategy including the Clubmark programme and annual sports conference	G	This is currently happening and will continue to do so going forward. An example of this is the inclusion of key elements of work in relation to the implementation of the strategy with the annual conference programme
To work with Sport NI and community-based partners, including the Active Communities programme, to deliver increased access to and improved transport connections between outdoor leisure facilities	R	There has been limited progress on this to date but with the introduction of an Active Travel Strategy and the public bike hire scheme it is planned to progress this
To deliver a programme of high-profile events to promote outdoor leisure venues as accessible, safe and welcoming	G	A programme of high profile events have been held including the Lord Mayor's events to open up the grounds of City Hall and Lord Mayor's Sport Day at the Mary Peters Track
To provide programmes at outdoor facilities which improve access for people from those neighbourhoods with poor health levels	A	We have facilitated these types of programmes through our support for clubs through the Support for Sport funding. Further support for these types of programmes will be given through the implementation of the new Partner Agreements
To develop a programme of joint working for small sided (or junior) games around junior association football, with the Irish Football Association based on best practice	A	Work has been ongoing with the IFA around the support of small sided games through our support for two grassroots soccer development officers and we will examine how we can develop this

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Belfast City Council

Report to:	Parks and Leisure Committee
Subject:	Partner Agreements Policy and Process
Date:	24 February 2015
Reporting Officer:	Rose Crozier, Assistant Director of Parks and Leisure
Contact Officer:	Maria McAleer, Policy and Business Development Officer

1.	<p>Relevant Background Information</p> <p>The Committee is reminded that at its meeting in October 2014 it approved the next steps in relation to the consultation on partner agreements as set out in the report to this Committee in August 2014. That public consultation process commenced on the 4 November 2014 and concluded on the 27 January 2015. The process included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An online consultation and downloadable questionnaire on the policy and process. Approximately 51 unique downloads of this questionnaire occurred with a marked increase in viewings of the relevant website around the time of public meetings and during last two weeks of the consultation and seven formal written responses were submitted. • Three public meetings advertised in local press and on the Council's website. Approx 30 club representatives including those from incoming council areas attended these meetings. • Social media posts on both Facebook and messages on Twitter. • Presentation and discussion of the policy and process at the council's equality consultative forum during the public consultation period. <p>Members will also recall that the October 2014 Committee report on Partner Agreements informed members that recommendations would be brought back to this Committee outlining which grass pitches sites should be publically advertised as part of the implementation of the Partner Agreements process.</p>
2	<p>Key Issues</p>

Consultation findings

As outlined, an extensive public consultation process was undertaken and this was independently facilitated. The keys findings from the consultation process and the Council's proposed response to them are outlined in the following table:

Key finding	BCC response
<p>The overall consensus is that the Partner Agreements policy and process are generally welcomed and the correct way to proceed. The general response to the proposed policy objectives, proposed benefits, responsibilities and criteria was well received. There were some caveats expressed re the criteria as outlined in a further point. Only one respondent, who provided a written response, suggested the whole process was completely unnecessary and over complicated.</p>	<p>Council welcomes the feedback received and based on the consensus are not proposing any changes to the draft policy and process as previously agreed by Committee. There one exception to this is a change to the matrix which will be detailed in a further point.</p>
<p>General concerns were expressed that existing users may be disadvantaged or possibly edged out by new entrants. Some existing users felt that perhaps they lacked capacity to complete the applications process and may not have the access to funds which new entrants may have.</p>	<p>We acknowledge these concerns and within the application process we have built in support from the Leisure Development Unit for all applicants, which will include existing FMA holders. There is no requirement for applicants to pay for assistance.</p>
<p>A similar concern was expressed that local knowledge of the clubs and local community needs might not be adequately assessed or given weight in a competitive process. This also relates to the issue of usage and what is realistic in terms of widening participation, without disadvantaging current clubs and members.</p>	<p>We acknowledge this issue and to address this point we are suggesting that the scoring matrix be amended to allow us to recognise where maximum usage is being achieved. We will also identify what the actual maximum usage is for each site to assist us in the assessment process. A copy of the proposed amended matrix is attached as appendix 1.</p>
<p>Some concern was expressed as to how Council will guarantee that the proposed in house system of bookings will be effective flexible</p>	<p>We acknowledge these concerns, however we continuously work to ensure that our pitch booking system is fit for purpose. As part of</p>

and responsive.

this process we engage with our users to get their feedback to allow us to improve the system to meet their needs.

Members should note that all aspects of the Partner Agreements will be subject to **annual monitoring and management reporting** and that an independent evaluation of all arrangements will be undertaken in year five.

It is recommended therefore that based on the findings of the consultation Members should adopt the final policy, a copy of which is attached as appendix 2.

Selection of sites for inclusion in the process

Members will be aware that there is limited funding for the implementation of this policy and it is therefore recommended that a phased approach to the inclusion of sites is adopted. This will allow us to monitor the effectiveness of the policy and to make any necessary changes before it is further rolled out. It also provides us with the opportunity to obtain the additional resources required to roll it out. The following phased approach is suggested:

Phase	Sites to be included	Timescales		
		Site Selection	Advertise	Commence
1	Current FMA sites as outlined below	February 2015	April 2015	September 2015
2	Suitable sites that come in under LGR	Autumn 2015	Spring 2016	September 2016
3	Any other suitable Council owned site	Autumn 2017	Spring 2018	September 2018

In order to identify pitches for inclusion in Phase 1, the following criteria have been applied:

- site is not subject to exclusion under the policy;
- site is fit for purpose and has council owned changing facilities on it.

Members will be aware that there is a range of agreements operate across our facilities. Some of these agreements have not yet expired and therefore cannot be considered for inclusion at this point. Excluding these, the following playing fields have been identified for inclusion in Phase 1:

- Tommy Patton Playing Fields
- Dixon Playing Fields

- Ulidia Playing Fields
- Orangefield Playing Fields
- Loughside Playing Fields
- Shore Road Playing Fields
- Woodlands Playing Fields.

As partner agreements are aimed at grass pitches only, the agreement for the Woodlands site will exclude the 3G pitch. The 3G pitch will come under the Joint Management Agreement as part of the funding agreement for the GAA's £1.1 million investment in the Pitches Strategy.

Next Steps

The proposed next stages in the implementation of this policy are:

Timescale	Action
March 2015	Post consultation workshop (for potential applicants)
April 2015	Public advertisement of expression of interest for Partner Agreements (opening applications to new programme). This will include a further information workshop delivered by officers
June 2015	Applications to close and assessment by officers commence
August 2015	Assessed applications report to be presented to Members for approval and award of Partner Agreements
Sept 2015	Following receipt of signed terms and conditions new Partner Agreements in place at relevant sites

3	Resource Implications
	<p>Financial: This policy will be supported through an enhanced Support for Sport Grant aid fund which will be funded through the existing FMA payments for the 6 selected sites which total £88,921 per annum</p> <p>Human Resources: Ongoing officer time from a range of officers across the department will be dedicated to implementation and ongoing management in the medium to long term. Sport development officers have provided and will provide support to potential applicants and partners throughout the process in the form of applicant workshops in March and April 2015 and other information opportunities.</p> <p>Asset and Other Implications: The new partner agreements will impact on the future management of assets. Legal services will continue to provide advice on this for Committee's consideration.</p>

4	Equality and Good Relations Considerations
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	The policy is being screened in line with the Council’s existing equality screening process and the indications are that it will be screened out with mitigating actions. The mitigating actions are around increasing participation amount underrepresented groups including females, people with disabilities and those from an ethnic minority background.
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5	Recommendations
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	<p>The Committee is asked to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agree the final policy and the amended scoring matrix, based on the consultation findings; and • Agree the proposed phased approach to the advertising of sites for inclusion in the process including the selection of the six sites to be included in phase one.
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6	Decision Tracking
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	A report detailing the outcome of the implementation of phase one of the process will be brought to Committee in August 2015.
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7	Key to Abbreviations
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	<p>FMA - Facilities management agreement EOI – Expression of interest</p>
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8	Documents Attached
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	<p>Appendix 1 – Proposed Scoring matrix Appendix 2 – Final Partner Agreements Policy</p>
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Partner Agreements Assessment and Scoring Matrix- This assessment and scoring matrix is to assist the Council in making decisions on requests that it receives from organisations who wish to enter into a partner agreement with the Council.

Assessment Criteria & Weighting	Description of rating	Score
Participation – type (25)	The applicant demonstrates that they will encourage wider community use and have plans in place to target wider use among at least 4 of the following groups: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Members of different sporting codes • People with a disability • People from an minority ethnic background • Females • Older people • Schools/ youth organisations 	3
	The applicant demonstrates wider community user but has not defined any more than 3 target groups	2
	The applicant demonstrates participation from members of other teams within their sporting code	1
	The applicant does not demonstrate any participation outside their own club members/users and other clubs within their sporting code	0
Participation – increase in usage (15)	Can demonstrate that they have plans in place which show maximum usage of the site	4
	Can demonstrate that they have plans in place which will show a 20% increase in usage	3
	Can demonstrate that they have plans in place which will show a 10% increase in usage	2
	Can demonstrate that they have plans in place which will show a 5% increase in usage	1
	Does not demonstrate any plans in place to increase usage	0
Partnership Working (20)	Applicant will demonstrate that they will undertake a very wide range of partnership working with at least 4 of the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Belfast City Council • their sport's governing body i.e. coach education programmes • a minimum of 2 other teams within their sport • a minimum of 2 other teams in a different sport • a minimum of 2 community and voluntary organisations 	3
	Applicant will demonstrate that they will undertake a wide range of partnership working with at least 3 of the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Belfast City Council • their sport's governing body (1 or 2 if applicable) • a minimum of 1 other team within their sport • a minimum of 1 other team in a different sport • a minimum of 1 community and voluntary organisation 	2
	Applicant will demonstrate that they will undertake a limited range of partnership working with their sport's governing body and other teams within their sport	1
	Applicant will not undertake any partnership working	0
Demonstrate social value (20)	Applicant can demonstrate that have plans in place that demonstrate social value. These plans should target at least 4 of the following categories: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • young people at risk • encourage participation of under represented groups • promote positive cross community relations 	3

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • promote health and wellbeing in socially deprived communities • promote volunteering opportunities • develop skills that will increase employability 	
	<p>Applicant can demonstrate that have plans in place that demonstrate social value. These plans should target at least 3 of the following categories:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • young people at risk • encourage participation of under represented groups • promote positive cross community relations • promote health and wellbeing in socially deprived communities • promote volunteering opportunities • develop skills that will increase employability 	2
	<p>Applicant can demonstrate that have plans in place that demonstrate social value. These plans should target at least 2 of the following categories:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • young people at risk • encourage participation of under represented groups • promote positive cross community relations • promote health and wellbeing in socially deprived communities • promote volunteering opportunities • develop skills that will increase employability 	1
	Has no plans in place that demonstrate social value	0
Level of venue/site management (5)	Applicant will take on key holder and other agreed responsibilities as agreed by council for ensuring both wider community and own club's access to the agreed area of the site	3
	Applicant will take on only key holder responsibilities as agreed by council for ensuring both wider community and own club's access to the agreed area of the site	2
	Applicant will take on key holding and/or other agreed responsibilities only their own club's access to the agreed area of the site	1
	Applicant will take on no key holding or any other responsibilities	0
Strategic fit (5)	Demonstrates high level of fit with Parks & Leisure Departmental objectives, corporate objectives and wider objectives around sport, physical activity and Health and Wellbeing	3
	Demonstrates high level of fit with corporate objectives and wider objectives around sport, physical activity and Health and Wellbeing	2
	Demonstrates high level of fit with wider objectives around sport, physical activity and Health and Wellbeing	1
	Does not demonstrate any of the above	0
Applicant's governance and management structure (10)	Applicant is a well established club, affiliated with a governing body and has achieved Clubmark or their governing body's equivalent award	3
	Applicant is a well established club, affiliated with a governing body and is working towards achieving Clubmark or their governing body's equivalent award	2
	Applicant is a well established club, affiliated with a governing body but has not achieved or is not working towards achieving Clubmark or their governing body's equivalent award	1

	Applicant does not have a robust track record and is not affiliated with a governing body	0
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APPENDIX 2**Parks and Leisure Playing Pitches Agreements Policy****Purpose:**

This policy provides a framework to promote monitor and evaluate the Parks and Leisure department's commitments through partnership working to develop use of its Playing pitch sites.

It provides an outline of how the Department will support mutually beneficial partnership arrangements and balances public access with dedicated use e.g. sporting organisations across all playing pitch sites

The Council seeks to promote an Active Belfast supported by assets which are contemporary and fit for purpose and being used to their full potential.

Policy objectives:

This policy details how the department will promote monitor and evaluate its commitments to mutually beneficial partnership working to develop use of its Playing pitch sites. The specific objectives are to:

1. Provide a departmental framework for working with sporting organisations and clubs and;
2. Develop the management approach for dedicated use by not for profit sporting organisations of sites whilst safeguarding public use;
3. Implement 'agreements for use' through an enhanced Support for Sport grant aid;
4. Develop site based sports development plans;
5. Provide quality dedicated space for competitive sporting play.

Context:

The department currently has three main types of use on playing pitch sites. These are described for the purposes of this policy as:

Diagram 1			
Category of use	Purpose	Management arrangement	Methods of engagement
I. Public use	One off activities or matches.	Booking system and terms and conditions	Telephone contact Written contact User meetings
II. Restricted Public use	Competitive play at <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Amateur, • intermediate or • international level (as appropriate to the type of sport). Often block bookings made	Agreements for Use	Management boards/ fora League/ code meetings Park manager site meetings Telephone contact Written contact
III. 'Private' use controlled by club or applicant	Private activities e.g. by private members clubs	Lease	Written contact Telephone contact

This policy focuses on those Council owned sites where existing and/or future arrangements may result in restrictions being placed on public use and in particular outlines a method for working with sporting organisations and clubs with a view to more appropriately managing the sites falling within Category II on the above table.

Sites which remain open for Public use on a first come, first served, basis will continue to be managed through the agreed booking terms and conditions.

Existing sites which are leased to sporting clubs will continue to be controlled by the club and managed in accordance with the terms of the legal arrangements in place.

Restricted Public use:

For the purpose of this policy 'restricted public use' is defined as any regular play by a sporting organisation booked on an annual basis on a council site. At present it is mainly competitive play which falls into this category and both the definition and the policy will be reviewed regularly to ensure it remains relevant to the patterns of use.

Management of restricted public use:

The arrangements for restricted public use will be managed through a legal agreement entitled 'Agreements for Use'. Agreements for Use operate on a not for profit basis and will be open to any sporting organisation which can meet the eligibility and assessment criteria and where there are sites available to integrate their sports development plan into site management and delivery. Where demand becomes greater than the number of sites available the council may consider joint club/ team partnership arrangements or prioritise allocation according to the assessment scoring received for each proposal.

This policy applies to all grass playing pitches.

Agreements for Use are developed to support the Council's vision of an Active Belfast and to lead its delivery through partnership working. It specifically aims to ensure the Council adhere to its statutory responsibilities of providing public open space and it seeks to utilise the downtime on playing pitch sites through dedicated sports development plans.

The benefits of working with sporting organisations and clubs:

Arrangements with external organisations must deliver a mutual benefit for BCC and the organisation.

In general the Council will provide:

- An enhanced Support for Sport grant scheme to support the delivery of sports development plans according to the scale of the project and the site;
- the maintenance of each site to a quality standard which covers competition level;
- a fit for purpose booking system to manage bookings for all sites;
- opportunities to renew agreements;
- ongoing training and support opportunities through the Council's Club mark scheme for all sports development plans;
- opportunity for regular engagement with sporting organisations/clubs on the development of provision;
- opportunities to accommodate competition play on sites by agreement holders or other teams as organised by the governing body or leagues;
- replace repair and renew the physical fabric of the sites

An external sporting organisation or club entering into an 'agreement for use' will:

- Provide and complete a sports development plan of activities to improve use of the site in downtime;
- Ensure public access is achievable and safeguarded as part of the sports development plan;
- Man the sites including key holding duties for all activities in the sports development plan or competitive play (subject to specific legal arrangements);
- Prepare the pitches for activities e.g. erect goal nets and corner flags etc
- Adhere to the terms and conditions of funding and the standards of operation of the council;
- Regularly meet with council staff provide and attend relevant training to develop the use and site;
- Use the Council's bookings system to reserve the site for all activities and pay the appropriate hire charges to the Council

All agreements should ensure there is no advertising at the site without prior permission of the Council.

Eligibility

A sporting organisation/club or consortium of organisations may apply to enter into an Agreement for Use with the council. Business organisations, Individuals or statutory organisations are not eligible unless they are a partner in a social enterprise consortium. The terms of this will be set out in the relevant 'Agreement for use'.

A sporting organisation can seek an agreement for use where:

- It proposes to provide enhanced use of a council playing pitch
- Proposes to provide appropriate capital investment for a council owned asset

All successful applicants must deliver an active sports development programme to meet the needs agreed in the sports development plan. The plan should include a focus on wider community involvement in activities onsite and ongoing public access;

The tenure of the agreement is for up to 7 years. Exceptions may be appropriate where the scale of proposed capital investment warrants same. This is a matter for further consideration as part of the matrix to be developed around the Scoring Criteria.

The policy is designed to be equitable and transparent when developing partnerships and the Council will monitor the level of public assets and their availability through its annual stock inspections reports and the performance reports associated with each agreement. Public access is paramount for every agreement for use developed.

Exclusions

- This policy does not apply to any asset which operates city wide events or activities or is a regional sporting venue;
- Any 3/4g or proposed 3/4g proposals will be subject to scrutiny from a separate business model outside of this policy.

- The existence of an Agreement for Use must not preclude the Council from either planning to hold events on the site or from acceding to requests from other organisations who may wish to do so;
- It also excludes the City of Belfast Playing fields which should remain in direct council control as the public playing pitch hub.

Assessing applications

Where an application is for the active development of a playing pitch or site this will be assessed as a grant application using a revised Council's Support for Sport grants scheme.

A scoring matrix will be developed around the new assessment criteria and will be applied when considering any requests. If the application is successful the future use of the site will be managed through 'agreements for use' whether at an amateur, intermediate or international level.

An operational procedure will be attached to the policy when the revised grant scheme is completed.

Once an agreement is in place:

- partners will have to provide written monthly updates on use from and delivery of the Active Development plan validated by the site manager;
- Meet the site manager on a monthly basis to discuss ongoing development.
- Attend network meetings as appropriate;
- Complete recommended training provided by the Council or a third party to fulfil obligations;
- The 'Outdoor Leisure Unit will verify and manage all use and active development outcomes as a whole.

Monitoring and Evaluation

- Booking reports provided and analysed on a monthly basis;
- Monthly review meeting on the roll out of the proposal includes the Active Development plan by the relevant manager and the partner/s.
- An annual review of the performance of social partnerships will be provided to Departmental Management Team (DMT) which is a self evaluation by the partner and an independent report from the relevant manager.
- An independent evaluation on all arrangements to be commissioned by year 5;

Renewal

A renewals process should be initiated by the partner before the 6th month of the final year of the partnership arrangement to allow handover if appropriate or smooth running of an existing partnership.



Belfast City Council

Report to:	Parks and Leisure Committee
Subject:	Bereavement Improvement Strategy
Date:	24 February 2015
Reporting Officer:	Rose Crozier, Assistant Director of Parks and Leisure
Contact Officer:	Claire Sullivan, Policy and Business Dev Unit Manager

1	<p>Relevant Background Information</p> <p>Members will be aware that the Council is the Burial Board for Belfast and that we currently manage and operate nine cemeteries across the city and the region's only crematorium. We will also be taking over the management of Knockbreda Cemetery from 1st April.</p> <p>To ensure that we deliver a high quality fit for purpose bereavement service the department has established a Bereavement Services Board which is overseeing a Bereavement Improvement Strategy. The strategy has a number of themes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bereavement Services – Administration • Bereavement Services – Operations and organisational design • Investment and finance • Strategic Crematoria and Cemetery Development <p>The Board has identified a number of priority actions under these themes and these are outlined in this paper.</p>
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2	<p>Key Issues</p> <p>Bereavement Services – Administration</p> <p>Under this theme the Board are looking at the management of our relationship with key stakeholders including funeral directors, the Health Trust and memorial sculptors. A significant element of this theme is our customers and a key action has been a review and rationalization of our forms. One form that we are currently reviewing is 'Authority for Disposal of Cremated Remains'. This form has been updated in relation to our holding over and environmental policy. A key change to our policy is that</p>
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we are proposing that we will only hold cremated remains for a maximum of 4 weeks and if they have not been collected at this point they will be scattered within the Garden of Remembrance. It is proposed that we will consult on this change as part of our public consultation on bereavement issues.

Members will be aware that under our Environmental Policy we recycle metals such as those from orthopaedic implants. This is done through the Institute of Cemetery and Crematorium Management (ICCM) and any monies we receive from this will be donated to bereavement related charities. Approximately £7,000 per annum is currently raised by ICCM in relation to this and it is proposed that this be split equally between several charities. It is proposed that a section is added to the form asking families to nominate a bereavement related charity that they would like the money to be donated to. Twice a year officers will collate this information and the two most nominated charities in that period, will be recommended to Members for selection as the charities to receive the donation. It is proposed that the same charity cannot receive the donation more than once in 2 years. If a charity that has previously received money is one of the 2 nominated we would move to the next charity on the list. It is proposed that we will consult on this proposal as part of our public consultation on bereavement issues.

Bereavement Services – Operations and organisational design

The Council has a responsibility is to ensure that its cemeteries, graveyards and burial grounds are safe places in which to work and for the public to visit. Historically, health and safety concerns in cemeteries have focused on the risks arising from grave digging. However, in recent years there has been increasing attention on the stability of memorials and the risks these present to cemetery staff and visitors.

Work has been ongoing to identify the risks posed by unsafe memorials and it is estimated that a significant number of memorials in our cemeteries pose a potential health and safety risk. A pilot programme was rolled out in City Cemetery and this found that there was a greater issue with the newer headstones and more of these required fixing. During the pilot these unsafe memorials were fixed by Council; however this does have resource implications for the Council particularly in relation to staff costs. Whilst Belfast City Council has overall responsibility for the safety of its cemeteries, including risks from unstable memorials, it does not own the memorials. The owner of the memorial is the Deed Holder (grave owner of Exclusive Right of Burial) or successor in title, and who is the person responsible for maintaining the memorial so as not to present a hazard. However, the current owner may not be identifiable as some records are extremely old and in many cases have not been updated by current relatives/family members.

Memorial Safety Policy

To help us address the issue we have developed a Memorial Safety Policy. This policy includes three sections which will help us address both

the current issues and puts in place processes to minimise the erection of unsafe memorials in the future. The three sections are:

- Section 1 – the process if you are a grave owner and wish to erect a memorial
- Section 2 – the process if you are a memorial sculptor and wish to work in a Belfast City Council cemetery
- Section 3 – our memorial inspection process and how we will deal with unsafe memorials

Memorial Inspection Process

A key element of the policy is the Memorial Inspection Process. Officers have undertaken a process to identify the total number of memorials across all our cemeteries and have planned a five year rolling inspection programme, as recommended by the Health and Safety Executive. If a memorial is found to be unsafe in the first instance it will be staked and banded, an example of this method is attached as appendix 1. A letter will then be sent to the owner of the memorial, with 10 days, informing them that their memorial is unsafe, that a temporary make safe repair has been made and details of the actions that they are required to undertake to make their memorial safe. If after 6 months from finding a memorial unsafe we have received no response to our attempts to contact the grave owner we will take the necessary steps to permanently make the memorial safe which will involve:

- Removing the memorial from its foundation and partially sinking it into the ground at the head of the grave – action for lawn cemeteries. At least 25% of the memorial will be below ground
- Lay the memorial flat on the grave – action for older cemeteries where there is a surround on the grave
- Removal of the memorial – action for a memorial in a older cemetery where it has found to be structurally unsafe

Members should note that the current practice is that if a staff member through their work finds a memorial that poses a health and safety risk, immediate action is taken to minimise the risk and this will continue.

Work is currently ongoing around assessing the business administration needs of the service and the alignment of business support. As this work progresses an update report will be brought to Committee.

Consultation on policy changes

Members will note that we are proposing several policy changes and the next stage in the process is to undertake a period of consultation on these. It is proposed that we will undertake a 12 week period of public consultation during which we will consult on the change in the period for which we hold cremated remains, the proposal for the distribution of money that we receive from recycling metals and the Memorial Safety Policy. As part of the consultation we will meet with representatives of funeral directors and memorial sculptors. A copy of the draft documents will be available on the Council's website, in our cemetery offices and we will advertise it through the Council's communication channels. It is also

	proposed that we hold four information sessions across the city to inform the public of the proposed changes and to get their views.
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3	Resource Implications
	<p><u>Financial</u> There are resource implications relating to the implementation of the memorial inspection process and these are currently being worked up and will be dependent on the final process that is chosen.</p> <p><u>Human Resources</u> There are resource implications relating to the implementation of the memorial inspection process and these are currently being worked up and will be dependent on the final process that is chosen.</p> <p><u>Asset and Other Implications</u> The implementation of the memorial safety inspection programme will have implications for the Council's cemeteries.</p>

4	Equality and Good Relations Implications
	Actions identified as part of this strategy will be screened in line with the Council's policy.

5	Recommendations
	<p>Members are asked to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. provide comment on the proposal to the change in the period for which we hold cremated remains, the proposal for the distribution of money that we receive from recycling metals and the Memorial Safety Policy; and ii. subject to any amendment proposed, agree that a public consultation process is undertaken in relation to these.

6	Decision Tracking
	The findings of the public consultation will be brought back to Committee during the summer.

7	Key to abbreviations
	ICCM - Institute of Cemetery and Crematorium Management

8	Documents attached
	Appendix 1 – Examples of staking and banding

Appendix 1 – Examples of staking and banding







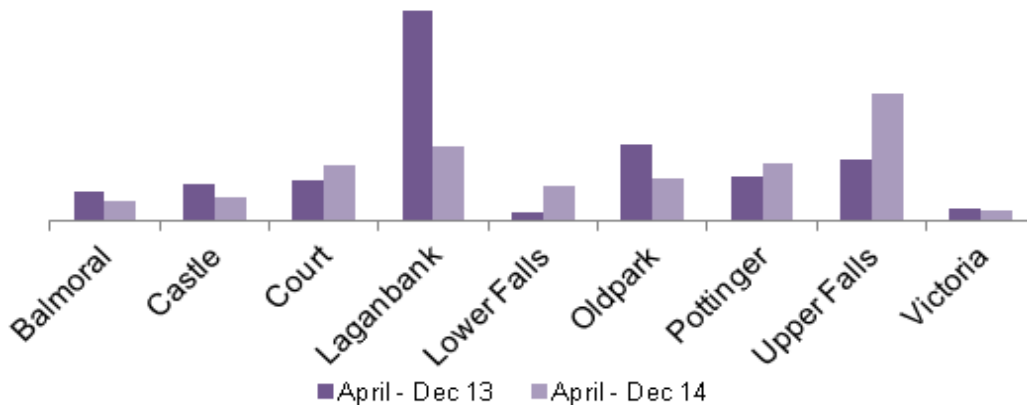
Belfast City Council

Report to:	Parks and Leisure Committee
Subject:	Antisocial Behaviour Programme Update Report
Date:	24 February 2015
Reporting Officer:	Andrew Hassard, Director of Parks and Leisure
Contact Officer:	Pete Murray, Antisocial Behaviour Programme Coordinator

1.	Relevant Background Information
	<p>The purpose of this report is to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide an overview of antisocial behaviour (ASB) incidents across parks and leisure facilities and electoral area; and • Update committee on the activities, interventions and future developments of the ASB programme. <p>Members are reminded that the objectives of the ASB programme are to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • enhance the environment around Parks and Leisure facilities; • develop education initiatives involving creative or supportive interventions to model acceptable behaviour around Parks and Leisure facilities; • define enforcement as a deterrent against infraction of bye-laws or legislation; and • develop sustainable interagency and inter-departmental networks and leading a partnership approach to reducing antisocial behaviour

2.	Key Issues
	<p>ASB trends in Parks throughout Electoral areas</p> <p>The comparative data outlined in Figure 1 below, illustrates a decreasing trend in the total number of ASB incident reports in parks in the city between April and December 2013 in comparison with April to December 2014. There is however an increase in parks within the four electoral areas of Court, Lower Falls, Pottinger and Upper Falls.</p> <p><u>Figure 1</u></p>

**Incidents of ASB in Parks Across Electoral Areas
April-Dec 2013/2014**



The data above is recorded by frontline officers. Spikes in the data are indicative of an increase in ASB. Members should note that in several of the areas that have seen an increase in ASB incidents, parks (Woodvale, Dunville & Orangefield) were closed for redevelopment in 2013, and this can partially explain the increase. Where there are hotspots, there is an increased focus for frontline staff who will record as much detail on ASB incidents as possible. This provides information on what ASB took place, when it happened and where exactly it happened, which allows the department to plan future activities to reduce ASB on Council properties.

Successful interventions to reduce ASB

- Engagement activities are being developed to consult with young people in Court, Oldpark, Pottinger and Upper Falls. This work is informing how we can provide services for young people in partnership with local youth providers and reduce ASB specifically in Parks.
- Community Outreach Managers have been collaborating with local youth providers and supporting community and schools groups through innovative engagement and activity programmes. These programmes bring communities into facilities in parks, allotments and community gardens to create a greater sense of ownership.
- Examples of this practice can be found in the outdoor classroom or youth area (YAA) in Falls Park which has proved to be extremely popular with over 200 school children and young people participating in a diverse programme of outdoor learning activities designed to support the curriculum. This area has been animated with lots of positive activity and has led to a decrease of ASB in the immediate area around the YAA. It is hoped a similar effect will be experienced throughout the park following the proposed developments in the Falls Park Master Plan.
- There has been significant youth engagement connected to the Waterworks Halloween lantern event and in Alexandra Park supporting the ongoing discussions about the future of the interface barrier. This ongoing annual community participation supports greater ownership of the park areas and

contributes to a decrease in ASB.

- Another example of community engagement can be found in the development of regeneration of Knocknagoney. This location was perceived as being neglected and suffering badly from ASB. The Outreach Manager has worked with the local community supporting the construction of a community garden, MUGA and lighting scheme. This park has a diverse programme of activity and is now perceived as a vibrant space and asset to the local community.
- The use of community engagement in City Cemetery has underpinned the development of an art project. The imminent placement of artwork will be driven by community engagement and it is hoped will raise community confidence in tackling long standing issues of ASB.
- Park Wardens continue to ensure parks are clean as they issue fixed penalties in relation to litter and dog fouling offences in parks and on their journeys between parks as part of an ongoing enforcement programme. 35 fixed penalty notices have been issued since April 2014.
- Park Wardens and Community Safety Safer Neighbourhood Officers are engaged in joint patrols to identify where ASB is taking place in Parks after closing time. This work is developing as part of the collaborative Parks and Community Safety action plans based at Woodvale Park, Falls/City Cemetery, Musgrave Park and Orangefield Playing Fields (See below).
- Park Managers, Wardens and Community Safety Officers are working in close partnership with PSNI. This has been evident recently in Orangefield and Cavehill following reports of large groups of youths gathering. The outcomes of this work will be shared with the DPCSP.
- As Members are aware there has recently been a significant investment in programmes that improve leisure facilities in parks. Improvements in soccer pitches, additional pavilions, multi use games areas (MUGAS), and playgrounds, as well as community gardens and allotments bring more users into parks and create more legitimate activity. These facilities are further enhanced by consideration of Crime Prevention through Environmental Design principles (CPTED). This process ensures that improved facilities are designed with robust materials to minimise vandalism and damage from ASB.

Current Citywide activity to tackle ASB

The following citywide developments are currently being implemented:

- Members will be aware of the HES committee paper “Tackling Antisocial Behaviour Internal review” (January 2015). Four parks have been identified as locations requiring focused collaborative working. These are Falls Park/City Cemetery, Woodvale Park, Musgrave Park and Orangefield Park. Workshops have been initiated with frontline staff. The purpose of the workshops was to develop an inter-departmental operational framework for how Council tackles antisocial behaviour, for presentation to Committee in due course.
- Collaborative Parks and Community Safety action plans are being developed to reduce ASB in the neighbourhoods around the four parks. This will be rolled out and regularly reviewed over the next year. The lessons learned will underpin the

	<p>eventual expansion of this work throughout parks and neighbourhoods in North, South, East and West Belfast.</p> <p>Planned Interventions</p> <p>Planned interventions will focus on parks with more than 20 incidents in the last quarter (See Appendix 1 for details of the interventions). The specific types of ASB are analysed and appropriate, cost effective and realistic interventions are planned in response (Appendix 2: ASB in Parks across Electoral Areas). The interventions span across all 4 objectives of the ASB programme.</p> <p>Interventions will often involve improving the security of boundaries and gates or create specific displacement and diversionary activities. Park Wardens will be directed to specific sites to patrol in high visibility joint operations across the City with Community Safety Safer Neighbourhood Officers. Joint operations may extend to working in partnership with PSNI (dependent upon availability), to enforce street drinking legislation.</p>
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3.	Resource Implications
	The development of the programme will be facilitated through the agreed ASB budget 2014-2015 which is approximately £250,000.

4.	Equality Implications
	Much of the ASB programme work spans activities related to reducing interface tensions and bringing young people together to take part in positive programmes and activities. All of the programme work is delivered in line with the council's equality and good relations policies and procedures.

5.	Recommendations
	Members are asked to note the contents of this update report.

6.	Decision Tracking
	Updates on the Safer Neighbourhoods antisocial behaviour programme will be brought by the ASB Coordinator to the Committee three times a year in February, June and October.

7.	Key to Abbreviations
	<p>ASB: Antisocial behaviour</p> <p>BCC: Belfast City Council</p> <p>DPCSP: District Policing and Community Safety Partnership</p> <p>PSNI: Police Service for Northern Ireland</p>

8.	Documents Attached
	Appendix 1: Interventions planned in Parks with more than 20 ASB incidents Appendix 2: ASB in Parks across Electoral Areas, September to December 2014

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Appendix 1

Specific interventions planned (Jan to June 2015) to tackle ASB in Parks with more than 20 ASB incidents between September and December 2014	
Balmoral	
Musgrave	ASB incident reports indicate Criminal Damage and Littering. The Park Manager will request that graffiti is removed and request resources to repair any damage. The City Park Manager will work with Community Safety officers to identify opportunities for joint patrols
Woodlands	ASB incident reports indicate Littering, Rowdy and nuisance behaviour and Criminal damage. The Park Manager will request resources to repair any damage and identify opportunities for Litter enforcement operations. The City Park Manager will work with Community Safety officers to identify opportunities for joint patrols
Castle	
Grove	The majority of ASB reports indicate Criminal Damage from locks being damaged. Park Wardens will continue to replace locks, report damage and monitor.
Court	
Woodvale	The majority of ASB incident reports indicate Criminal damage and Vehicle nuisance. The Park Manager will ensure damage is repaired and the Park is secure. Park Wardens will work with Community Safety officers and PSNI to tackle inappropriate vehicle use.
Laganbank	
Botanic	Although the trend is downward, ASB incident reports indicate an increase in substance misuse. Park Wardens continue to work closely with PSNI to address this. Park Wardens will intervene to address rowdy behaviour and the City Park Manager will work with Community Safety officers to identify opportunities for joint patrols.
Lower Falls	
Dunville	Reports of Rowdy behaviour, Substance misuse and Littering indicate that there are issues with youths engaging in substance misuse and when challenged, verbally abusing staff. Park Wardens will communicate these issues with PSNI and tackle these through future collaborative working.
Oldpark	
Waterworks	ASB incident reports indicate issues of Rowdy/Nuisance behaviour such as drunken behaviour. Park Wardens will report all incidents of drunken behaviour to the PSNI and will work in partnership with Community safety resources to tackle public drinking.
Alexandra	ASB incident reports indicate that Youth engagement led by Local youth providers and supported by the Outreach Manager is reducing Rowdy and Nuisance ASB attributed to young people. Park Wardens will continue to monitor the site and record ASB
Pottinger	
Ormeau	ASB incident reports indicate issues of substance misuse. Park Wardens will report all incidents and work collaboratively with the PSNI. The successful response to this issue has been informed by a series of Safer City training events focused on developing partnership resources to tackle substance misuse in Lagan Bank and Pottinger.
Upper Falls	
Falls Park	ASB incident reports indicate issues of Rowdy/Nuisance behaviour such as groups and gangs gathering, verbal abuse and drunken behaviour. Park Wardens will report all incidents of Rowdy behaviour to the PSNI. The Outreach Manager and Park Manager will continue to engage with community groups to identify appropriate diversionary activities for young people.

Specific interventions planned (Jan to June 2015) to tackle ASB in Parks with more than 20 ASB incidents between September and December 2014	
Upper Falls continued	
City Cemetery	At this site, ASB incident reports indicate issues of Litter, such as broken glass; Rowdy/Nuisance behaviour such as drunken behaviour and Criminal damage such as setting fires. A decorative arts project has been initiated which will engage local communities to participate in actions designed to reduce ASB in the cemetery. The City Park Manager will work with Community Safety officers to identify opportunities for Park Wardens to work with Community Safety officers and PSNI to tackle on site drinking.

Appendix 2: ASB in Parks in Electoral Areas, September to December 2014

	Balmoral		
	<i>Musgrave Park</i>	<i>Woodlands Playing Fields</i>	<i>Balmoral</i>
	<i>Reported Incidents</i>	<i>Reported Incidents</i>	<i>Reported Incidents</i>
Rowdy and/ or Nuisance		7	
Street Drinking			2
Criminal Damage & Vandalism	11	3	
Littering	3	8	3
Trespass	2		1
All other ASB Incidents	3	1	1
Total	19	19	7

	Castle		
	<i>Grove Playing Fields</i>	<i>Cavehill Country Park</i>	<i>Northwood Linear Park</i>
	<i>Reported Incidents</i>	<i>Reported Incidents</i>	<i>Reported Incidents</i>
Rowdy and/ or Nuisance		2	2
Criminal Damage & Vandalism	11		2
Littering		2	
Vehicle Nuisance		3	
Inappropriate Use of Fireworks	3		
Trespass	5	3	
All other ASB Incidents	1		3
Total	20	10	7

Appendix 2: ASB in Parks in Electoral Areas, September to December 2014

	Court		
	<i>Woodvale Park</i>	<i>Alloa Street Playground</i>	<i>Hammer Development Playground</i>
	<i>Reported Incidents</i>	<i>Reported Incidents</i>	<i>Reported Incidents</i>
Rowdy and/ or Nuisance	6	2	1
Street Drinking			1
Criminal Damage & Vandalism	15	2	2
Littering	10		3
Vehicle Nuisance	12		
Trespass		5	
All other ASB Incidents	9	1	
Total	52	10	7

	Laganbank		
	<i>Botanic Gardens</i>	<i>Lagan Meadows</i>	<i>Cherryvale Playing Fields</i>
	<i>Reported Incidents</i>	<i>Reported Incidents</i>	<i>Reported Incidents</i>
Rowdy and/ or Nuisance	11	2	1
Street Drinking			
Criminal Damage & Vandalism	8	1	
Littering		2	
Inappropriate Vehicle Use			2
Trespass			1
Substance Misuse	14		
All other ASB Incidents	8		
Total	41	5	4

Appendix 2: ASB in Parks in Electoral Areas, September to December 2014

	Lower Falls		
	<i>Dunville Park</i>	<i>Springfield Park</i>	<i>Springhill Millennium Park</i>
	<i>Reported Incidents</i>	<i>Reported Incidents</i>	<i>Reported Incidents</i>
Rowdy and/ or Nuisance	38	4	
Street Drinking	5		
Criminal Damage & Vandalism	8	4	4
Littering	8	1	1
Substance Misuse	14		
All other ASB Incidents	12		
Total	85	9	5

	Oldpark			
	<i>Waterworks</i>	<i>Alexandra Park</i>	<i>Ballysillan Playing Fields</i>	<i>Marrowbone*</i>
	<i>Reported Incidents</i>	<i>Reported Incidents</i>	<i>Reported Incidents</i>	
Rowdy and/ or Nuisance	26	8		1
Criminal Damage & Vandalism		6	6	1
Littering		5	2	
Trespass			2	1
Animal Problems	5		2	
Substance Misuse	6			
All other ASB Incidents	8	7	4	1
Total	45	26	16	4

*Marrowbone is included to highlight limitations of incident reporting at this site. ASB reports are gathered by a number of different work teams visiting the surrounding neighbourhood. A further enhancement to the ASB incident recording system is being explored to accurately capture ASB incidents at this site when they are reported by the community.

Appendix 2: ASB in Parks in Electoral Areas, September to December 2014

	Pottinger		
	<i>Ormeau Park</i>	<i>Orangefield Playing Fields</i>	<i>Ozone</i>
	<i>Reported Incidents</i>	<i>Reported Incidents</i>	<i>Reported Incidents</i>
Rowdy and/ or Nuisance		3	1
Criminal Damage & Vandalism	6	4	
Vehicle Nuisance	4	2	
Substance Misuse	10		
Animal Problems			1
All other ASB Incidents	9	3	
Total	29	12	2

	Upper Falls		
	<i>Falls Park</i>	<i>City Cemetery</i>	<i>Half Moon Lake</i>
	<i>Reported Incidents</i>	<i>Reported Incidents</i>	<i>Reported Incidents</i>
Rowdy and/ or Nuisance	47	37	2
Criminal Damage & Vandalism	33	24	
Littering	20	39	4
Trespass		10	
Vehicle Nuisance	8		
All other ASB incidents	20	14	2
Total	128	124	8

	Victoria		
	<i>Alderman Thomas Patton Memorial Park</i>	<i>Victoria Park</i>	<i>Knocknagoney Linear Park</i>
	<i>Reported Incidents</i>	<i>Reported Incidents</i>	<i>Reported Incidents</i>
Rowdy and/ or Nuisance		1	
Criminal Damage & Vandalism	3	3	2
Vehicle Nuisance	2		
Animal Problems	1		
All other ASB Incidents			
Total	6	4	2



Belfast City Council

Report to:	Parks and Leisure Committee
Subject:	Active Communities Programme
Date:	24 February 2015
Reporting Officer:	Andrew Hassard, Director Parks and Leisure
Contact Officer:	Caroline Wilson, Neighbourhood and Development Manager

1.	Relevant Background Information
1.1	<p>Active Communities (AC) is a Sport Northern Ireland (SNI) programme, delivered from April 2010 to March 2015, through 11 council groups/ consortia including BCC.</p> <p>It is recognised that the AC programme has proved to be a valuable coaching and community resource, which has led to high levels of participation in the city including under-represented groups, whilst providing opportunities for partnership working.</p>
1.2	<p>At its last meeting, Committee agreed that it would accept Sport NI's letter of offer for the delivery of the Active Communities programme in 2015/16. It also agreed to support Disability Sport NI's management fee of £7,000. It noted that there were 2 options for the continuation of the programme:</p> <p>Option 1: Continue 'as is' with a reduced management contribution to BCSDN; or</p> <p>Option 2: Manage all coaches in-house, with the exception of those employed through Disability Sport NI.</p> <p>Committee requested that officers concluded these discussions with Belfast Community Sports Development Network (BCSDN), to determine whether it was feasible for them to continue to deliver a sub-contract with the reduced management fee, covering the employment of 18 coaches.</p>

2.	Key Issues
2.1	<p>The Director met with the Board of Directors of BCSDN, to outline the new funding scenario (i.e. £50,000 management fee) and the options available to the Council. The Chairperson of BCSDN, Mr Tom Scott noted the Director's comments and agreed to respond in writing to the Council.</p>
2.2	<p>At the meeting, the Chairperson requested that the Council sought clarification from Sport NI on the potential to allocate any surplus from salaries into management costs; and secondly, to ascertain whether Sport NI would permit income generation through charging for some of the activities.</p> <p>The Director has spoken to Sport NI and they have confirmed that it is not possible for salaries to be allocated to management costs. It is however possible for BCSDN to</p>

	apply charges provided these are not excessive and take account of need.
2.3	<p>Option 1</p> <p>Correspondence has now been received from BCSDN and is attached as an appendix. It proposes that BCSDN continues to deliver the sub-contract, by reducing and re-configuring some of its management costs. In the letter, they commit to reducing the overall management fee required from Belfast City Council/Sport NI from £111,104 to £65,000. They have however also indicated that this would be dependent on DSD continuing to fund BCSDN but this has not yet been confirmed by DSD.</p> <p>BCSDN consider they can partly achieve this by controlling expenditure, utilising a portion of their financial reserves and introducing limited charges for sessions (excluding Neighbourhood Renewal areas and/or vulnerable groups).</p> <p>There remains a shortfall of £15,000 and BCSDN has requested that Council considers increasing its offer from £50,000 to £65,000.</p>
2.4	<p>The key risks with this approach is the limited resources of voluntary/community organisations to absorb the cost of managing and housing coaches, and BCSDN's ability to control expenditure. The Council would need to provide an additional £15,000 to the allocation already made.</p> <p>However, this model will provide better value for money than currently and sustains a devolved local approach to sports development, with minimum disruption to programme delivery.</p>
2.5	<p>Should the Committee recommend the sub-contracting arrangement with BCSDN, it is recommended that the additional requirements are put in place:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quarterly reporting on agreed SMART targets reflecting the KPIs in the letter of offer from Sport NI, to be discussed at performance review meetings • A demonstrated balance of interventions across the city and reports on an area basis to demonstrate local impact. <p>This option will be subject to confirmation by DSD of their portion of funding towards management costs.</p>
2.6	<p>Option 2</p> <p>Alternatively, the Council could opt to bring the delivery of the programme in-house. The revenue budget would need to be directed to additional resource to manage the network of sports coaches – either as part of the Leisure Development Unit or alternatively as a variation to the leisure contract with GLL.</p> <p>Administrative support would be available within current resources at no additional cost.</p>
2.7	<p>There are a number of drawbacks to centralising the Active Communities programme. The Council would need to give 3 months notice to BCSDN, which would require the Council to continue to pay a proportion of the current management fee of approximately £27k+ up until end June 2015. In addition, the existing coaches would transfer to the Council under the Transfer of Undertakings (Protection of Employment) Regulations 2006. If the Council decided at any point in the future to terminate the contracts of the coaches (e.g. if Sport NI ceased the funding), the Council would be liable for the redundancy costs of the coaches.</p> <p>However, this option would standardise the sports development activities programme</p>

	across all areas of the city, in line with community planning expectations. It would improve value for money, with centralised administration and management costs, as well as increase the use of Council facilities in 'down-time'.
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3.	Resource Implications
	<p>Financial: £50,000 revenue funding has currently been provided in the departmental estimates. An additional £15,000 would be diverted from other activities.</p> <p>Human Resources: TUPE implications as outlined in Option 2.</p> <p>Asset and Other Implications: None</p>

4.	Equality Implications
	There are no equality and good relations implications at this stage.

5.	Recommendations
	Committee is asked to consider and agree its preferred option.

6.	Decision Tracking
	Responsible Officer: Neighbourhood and Development Manager

7.	Key to Abbreviations
	<p>AC – Active Communities</p> <p>SNI – Sport Northern Ireland</p> <p>BCSDN – Belfast Community Sports Development Network</p> <p>DSD – Department of Social Development</p>

8.	Documents attached
	Appendix 1 - Correspondence from Mr Tom Scott, Belfast Sports Community Development Network

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**Belfast Community Sport
Development Network Co. Ltd.**

**Charity No: DX 725580
Company No: NI 062326**

9th February 2015

**Andrew Hassard
Director
Belfast City Council
Adelaide Exchange
Belfast
BT2 8DG**

Dear

BCSDN – Active Communities 2015/16

Thank you for taking the time to meet with the Board and with me. I have in consequence set out below the changes we are making the associated cost reductions for 2015/16.

The delivery of AC over the last years has been effective and targets have been consistently met. The management, planning and co-ordination of the programme has been through a matrix of local input allied to central planning and the input of community organisations alongside sports bodies in the day to day delivery of opportunities.

The approach taken has been possible due to the contribution made by the consortium approach in Belfast allowing management fees from Sport NI to be allied to BCC, DSD and public health authorities to be utilised to support the community input. On the face of it that approach gives the appearance of a higher unit cost of management but delivers more in quality and reach of programmes.

The decision to withdraw management costs from the direct funding and place that responsibility on the Council will in the short term lead to a significant reduction in management budget. To offset that reduction BCSDN needs to redesign the management, planning and delivery arrangements. In planning the immediate future the organisation has assumed that the majority of the funding sought from DSD/BRO will continue to be available.

The contribution made to local groups will be amended to reflect both changes to the budget and an amended role. It is proposed that only the cost of housing and servicing outposted coaches will be met. The average cost of such an arrangement, taking account of rent, phone, etc, is £1500. Further rearrangement if needed would require the provision of additional space at BCSDN. As the incoming year is one of change and therefore uncertainty incremental change is the best way forward. The changes will impact on the respective roles of BCSDN and our partners and those changes will be reflected in our operational planning and delivery.

The table below shows the planned oversight budget for 2015/16. It is assumed that programme costs will support direct delivery costs and no surplus will be available from those funds.

**C/o. Office 8, Townsend Enterprise Park, Townsend Street, Belfast BT13 2ES
(T) 028 90 297661 (M) 07739548780 (E) peter@bcstdn.org**

Est. Costs 15/16		Est. Income 15/16	
BCSDN Salaries	£95,000 ⁱ	BCC	£50,000
Running costs	£20,000 ⁱⁱ	DSD ⁱⁱⁱ	£41,000
Out posted coaches costs	£18,000	BH&SCT	£10,500
Totals	£133,000		£101,500

The above shows a shortfall of income of £31,500. Efforts will be made to further control expenditure as it is possible that once DSD budget is settled the full grant award may not be available. The shortfall could be further reduced by c. £5,000 - £10,000 by allowing some limited charging on clearly identified provision outside NR areas or non vulnerable groups. However BCSDN would be prepared to cover part of the deficit which would leave a deficit of £15,000.

The continuation of the Active Communities Programme is yet to be decided and future years may bring a completely changed funding and delivery model. In the interim it would be helpful if BCC could extend the already agreed funding of £50,000 to £65,000, an increase of £15,000 in order to assure the effective delivery of the programme for 2015/16.

Yours sincerely,

Tom Scott
Chairman

ⁱ A full breakdown is available.

ⁱⁱ As above

ⁱⁱⁱ Not yet agreed

Agenda Item 8

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Belfast City Council

Report to:	Parks and Leisure Committee
Subject:	Belfast Zoological Gardens – research activities with universities
Date:	24 February 2015
Reporting Officer:	Rose Crozier, Assistant Director of Parks and Leisure
Contact Officer:	Mark Challis, Zoo Manager

1.	Relevant Background Information
1.1	One of the key roles of a modern zoo is to undertake research activities. In Belfast Zoo, this manifests itself in a range of guises, and is applied to a variety of aspects in the zoo's business.
1.2	The zoo cares for a unique and valuable collection of animals, many of which are endangered in the wild. The biology of these species, even today, is often poorly understood, infrequently studied and, at times, seldom the subject of published data.
1.3	The results of research on captive animals is often also applicable to animals in the wild, and such studies can provide useful as training opportunities for researchers to apply to the study and research of wild animals in their natural environment.
1.4	Further, the zoo's licence to operate, issued by the NIEA, under The Zoos Licensing Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2003, specifically requires the zoo to undertake 'research which benefits the conservation of the species kept', 'training in relevant conservation skills', and 'exchanging of information related to species conservation'.
1.5	In order to ensure compliance with these specific conditions, the zoo has developed a long term and ongoing relationship with QUB's Schools of Biology and Psychology, and other universities including the University of Ulster and has for many years provided access to facilities and animals for relevant and non-invasive research activities.

1.6	We actively encourage and receive many research requests each year, and numerous studies have been undertaken in recent years. Research has been undertaken by undergraduates, and also at Masters and PhD levels from a range of universities.
1.7	Requests for research undergo ethical review at QUB, and are also reviewed in the zoo by keepers, animal managers and the consultant veterinary surgeon to ensure the relevance of the proposed work.
1.8	Much of this work is published, and has been applied at other zoos.

2.	Key Issues
2.1	Under the terms of our zoo licence issued by NIEA, the zoo is required to undertake research activities which will result in conservation and welfare benefits to the animals in the zoo.
2.2	We are in the process of agreeing formal arrangements for engaging with universities.
2.3	Research undertaken in the zoo has had significant positive impacts on Belfast Zoo's, and other zoos, abilities to manage captive animals, and the techniques applied in the zoo's captive setting have also on occasion been replicated in the wild.
2.4	Access to the zoo's animals and facilities for students undertaking appropriate and approved research should be continue to be granted. Members should note that students are not granted access to the animal enclosures or out of hours due to health and safety risks.

3.	Resource Implications
	<p><u>Financial</u></p> <p>There are no financial implications in regard of this work.</p> <p><u>Human Resources</u></p> <p>There are no immediate resource HR implications. Some staff resources are involved with a variety of elements of the research programme, but staff remain committed to this vital component of the zoo's work and are willing to undertake additional duties to support these functions.</p> <p><u>Asset and Other Implications</u></p> <p>There are no other implications identified at this time.</p>

4.	Equality Implications
4.1	There are no equality or good relations implications associated with this report.
5.	Recommendations
5.1	The Committee is asked to approve the zoo's ongoing programme of research and cooperation with animal conservation and welfare studies.

6.	Decision Tracking
6.1	None required.

7.	Key to Abbreviations
	NIEA: Northern Ireland Environment Agency QUB: Queens University of Belfast

8.	Documents Attached
	None

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Belfast City Council

Report to:	Parks and Leisure Committee
Subject:	Buglife Urban Buzz project
Date:	24 February 2015
Reporting Officer:	Rose Crozier, Assistant Director of Parks and Leisure
Contact Officer:	Orla Maguire, Biodiversity Officer

1	Relevant Background Information
	<p>Buglife are developing an Urban Buzz Project which aims to promote insect pollinators in Parks and Open Spaces, transforming mown and unused amenity grass into vibrant areas, colour-rich and buzzing with life. The project will engage communities in discovering wildlife on their doorstep.</p> <p>Insect pollination is essential to food production. “One out of every 3 mouthfuls” is pollinated by insects. In UK this is worth £500m per annum or 13% of UK agricultural revenue.</p> <p>Over half of our bee species have suffered declines over the past 50 years and over 250 UK pollinators are in danger of extinction. Habitat loss is a major driver of pollinator declines and currently in Northern Ireland less than 5% of grasslands are species rich.</p> <p>The project would revitalise areas with more sustainable pollinator friendly perennial planting.</p> <p>The project will involve 10 flagship cities across the UK. Buglife are in the final stages of securing funding for this project and have approached Belfast City Council to become a partner Flagship City.</p>
2	Key Issues
	<p>The project will bring £100,000 of spend to increase the number of pollinator-friendly places within the City, enhancing green networks, providing attractive and engaging spaces for people, and involving local communities in their creation. This will include urban meadows,</p>

	<p>enhanced amenity planting, road verge enhancements, work with local schools and trees for bees.</p> <p>This would be a 3 year project expected to commence in Autumn 2015. The project will include a part time staff resource who will undertake project work and deliver outreach activities to encourage local communities to engage more with their parks and open spaces.</p> <p>BCC would be agreeing to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - permission to carry out project work on BCC land. All works would be developed and agreed in advance with the Council. - maintain any new habitat/enhancements for 5 years (e.g. cut meadows). - work with Buglife promoting Urban Buzz in the City. <p>If successful and Belfast becomes a Flagship City a partnership agreement outlining roles and responsibilities will be developed and brought back to members for approval.</p>
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3	Resource Implications
	<p><u>Financial</u> There is potentially £100,000 of external funding available for this project.</p> <p><u>Human Resources</u> None required at present</p> <p><u>Asset and Other Implications</u> The project will involve the creation of wildflower rich habitats within parks which the Council will be required to maintain for 5 years.</p>
4	Equality and Good Relations Implications
	There are no equality and good relations implications in relation to this project.
5	Recommendations
	It is recommended that approval is given to become a Flagship City and provide a letter of support to Buglife.
6	Decision Tracking
	Biodiversity Officer to implement the recommendation of the Committee.
7	Key to Abbreviations
	None
8	Documents Attached
	None



Belfast City Council

Report to:	Parks and Leisure Committee
Subject:	QUB Pine Marten and Squirrel Survey
Date:	24 February 2015
Reporting Officer:	Rose Crozier, Assistant Director of Parks and Leisure
Contact Officer:	Orla Maguire, Biodiversity Officer

1	Relevant Background Information
	<p>The council has received a request from Queens University Belfast to undertake research into the distribution of squirrels and pine martens on Council sites. This is part of a Northern Ireland wide research programme the aims of which are:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Determine the distribution of the pine marten, red squirrel and grey squirrel in Northern Ireland and the border counties; 2. Determine the population (number of adult individuals) of pine marten in Ireland; 3. Provide information to allow the Northern Ireland Environment Agency and the National Parks and Wildlife Service to meet their requirements for reporting on the status of the pine marten under Article 17 of the European Union's Habitats Directive; 4. Engage communities across Ireland in conserving native mammals; 5. Raise awareness of the issues surrounding two of Ireland's protected mammals.

2	Key Issues
	<p>The research will be conducted in woodland under the supervision of scientists at Queen's University Belfast. Citizen scientists will set up camera traps and feeders in trees for 7 consecutive days and then remove them. These will be placed at a height of 3 to 4m from the ground to encourage use by squirrels.</p> <p>Through this project QUB want to engage the public in the conservation of both red squirrel and pine marten whilst producing information essential</p>

	<p>for the management and protection of these rare mammal species.</p> <p>QUB wish to place cameras in a number of BCC sites. Suggested sites are Barnett's Demesne, Clement Wilson, Sir Thomas and Lady Dixon, Ormeau, Cave Hill, Cregagh Glen, Glenbank and Glencairn Parks. QUB will retain ownership and liability for all equipment.</p> <p>QUB staff have met with Council Officers including Legal Services to discuss the project. A licence agreement will be drawn up for this project and QUB will provide the necessary insurance and indemnity.</p>
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3	Resource Implications
	<p><u>Financial</u> None required.</p> <p><u>Human Resources</u> None required at present</p> <p><u>Asset and Other Implications</u> The project will involve the temporary instalment of cameras in Parks which will be subject to a licence agreement.</p>

4	Equality and Good Relations Implications
	There are no equality and good relations implications in relation to this project.

5	Recommendations
	It is recommended that approval is given to undertake squirrel and pine marten surveys across BCC sites subject to a licence agreement.

6	Decision Tracking
	Biodiversity Officer to implement the recommendation of the Committee.

7	Key to Abbreviations
	QUB – Queens University Belfast

8	Documents Attached
	Not applicable



Belfast City Council

Report to:	Parks and Leisure Committee
Subject:	35 Brookvale Avenue
Date:	24 February 2015
Reporting Officer:	Andrew Hassard, Director of Parks and Leisure
Contact Officer:	Stephen Walker, Departmental Portfolio and Programme Manager

1.	Relevant Background Information
	<p>The purpose of this report is to inform and advise the Committee regarding a request from the current owner of land adjoining 35 Brookvale Avenue to construct residential accommodation on a piece of land which had been previously leased to a prior owner of the property to enhance his garden. By way of background information, a copy of two reports from February 2009 and August 2010 are appended.</p> <p>In February 2009 the Committee received a report which proposed that requests for land for domestic use from private individuals should not be approved unless the land had been declared as surplus to operational requirements. This was approved. However, the report highlighted 3 such requests which were under consideration, at the time. The report sought consent to progress the 3 requests for disposal. One of the requests related to the acquisition of land to the north west of 35 Brookvale Avenue, which adjoins Waterworks Park. The proposed disposal of the land in respect of 35 Brookvale was presented to the Strategic Policy and Resources in August 2010.</p> <p>The report to Strategic Policy & Resources outlined the terms of the agreement as follows.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Area for disposal comprises approximately 429 square metres; • Use of the land will be restricted to open space and to garden use in particular. • Disposal price agreed at £12,200. • Purchasers will erect a boundary fence at their own expense along any of the boundaries which are not currently fenced <p>In addition, the report stated: <i>The owner states it will be used to enlarge the garden surrounding his house. The proposed restriction on use to open space guards against redevelopment of</i></p>

	<i>this portion of the site for housing or other commercial purposes and helps retain a buffer between the park and neighbouring buildings.</i>

2.	Key Issues
	<p>The key issue for the Committee to note is that this land was disposed of on the clear understanding that was to be retained as open space and that it was not intended for housing or any other form of commercial development. The change in ownership is irrelevant.</p> <p>The land concerned was originally created as a buffer area to protect the adjoining house at 35 Brookvale Avenue from anti-social behaviour, the development of a dwelling on this buffer area could result in a future request to the Council to create a further buffer area, thus eroding the space available for public use within the Park.</p> <p>It is important that the Council maintains a position wherein land disposed off as open space to private individuals should remain so regardless of any change in ownership. To convey consent would set a precedent for all future disposals.</p> <p>Should the Council have been advised at the time of the disposal that the intention was to construct residential accommodation it is likely that the request would have been declined.</p>

3.	Resource Implications
	<p><u>Financial Implications</u></p> <p>There are no financial implications at this time.</p> <p><u>Human Resource Implications</u></p> <p>There are no additional human resource implications.</p>

4.	Equality Implications
	Equality considerations have not been assessed at this time.

5.	Recommendations
	The Committee is asked to consider the request and given the previous decision of the Strategic Policy and Resources, Committee is asked not to support the request.

6.	Decision Tracking
	Stephen Walker, Departmental Portfolio and Programme Manager

7.	Key to Abbreviations
	None

8.	Documents Attached
	Appendix A – Report to Parks and Leisure February 2009 Appendix B – Reports to Strategic Policy and Resources August 2010

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Belfast City Council

Report to:	Parks and Leisure Committee
Subject:	Land disposal
Date:	12 February 2009
Reporting Officer:	Andrew Hassard, Director of Parks and Leisure
Contact Officer:	Stephen Walker, Principal Parks and Cemeteries Development Manager

Purpose of Report
The purpose of this report is to seek Council approval to take a more strategic approach to the disposal of open space land through an interim policy on this matter.

Relevant Background Information
<p>The Committee will recall that, at its meeting in December 2008, it received a report regarding this matter. The Committee agreed to defer consideration of an interim policy on the disposal of small pieces of Council Open Space to enable further information to be obtained.</p> <p>The Committee will be aware of the agreed need for a more strategic approach by Parks and Cemeteries emerging from the Parks Improvement Agenda report of September 2008. The aim of this report is to seek to move towards a more strategic approach to land disposal, particularly in relation to small pieces of land.</p> <p>Members will be aware that the Council receives requests to dispose of land for a variety of purposes. In many instances, the disposal will result in benefit to the Council either in financial terms or through improved provision of services to the community and the City, representing in these cases a better use of the asset. However, in other instances, the requests are received from private individuals who wish to improve their own property for their own benefit, such as a larger garden, or a home improvement.</p> <p>The Council currently deals with such requests on an individual basis with little reference to the incremental impact such decisions may have on the City's stock of public open space.</p>

Policy Position

The legislative framework for the disposal and acquisition of land is contained within the Local Government Act (NI) 1972, paragraphs 95-97. The legislation sets out that any disposal shall be at best price, best rent or otherwise the best terms that can reasonably be obtained. It does not set out the criteria within which land may be disposed. This issue is partially addressed through Council Policy.

Furthermore, Standing Orders require all decisions in regard to land and property matters to be considered by the Strategic Policy & Resources Committee in the context of the Council's overall policy and resources position.

The Policy and Resources Committee at its meeting on 20 September 2002 agreed that disposal should only take place when the asset has been designated as surplus to requirements or when a better use for the asset has been identified.

The policy does not set out criteria to be used to define operational requirements. Perhaps as a consequence disposal has tended to be undertaken where it is considered that an alternative use can be made of the asset and the Council is prepared to accept the level of financial return which is agreed with the Council's valuer. This is essentially the way in which land disposals have been dealt with. Finally, when the land has been declared as surplus the asset will be viewed as a Corporate as opposed to a Departmental asset.

A cross departmental Asset Group has been established in line with the objectives of the Corporate Plan to map out an asset strategy that addresses policy, strategy and operational issues relating to land and property for the greater good of the citizen.

The Asset Group will ensure that work will be undertaken to establish an acquisition and disposal policy within the context of a wider Asset Management Strategy. This will review the existing 2002 framework and take into account the Open Spaces Strategy.

The adopted Open Spaces Strategy, Your City Your Space, highlights the importance of open space and the contribution it makes to the quality of life of the City. In relation to health, these claims have received substantial support through recent research which concluded that green spaces cut the 'health gap' between rich and poor and reduce the incidence of fatal diseases. The Strategy however highlights the deficit of open space in Belfast as identified within the Belfast Metropolitan Area Plan and it calls for the preservation of existing open space. Within this context, and at a time when there are calls for additional play areas, playing fields and allotments, it is challenging to identify open space which might be considered surplus.

In the interim, we have something of a policy vacuum resulting in decisions being taken outside of a strategic context and on an individual basis without consideration of the wider implications such as the loss of open space.

Proposal

Officers recognise that there will be occasions when more effective use can be made of the asset, (i.e. land). However, in relation to such requests including those from private individuals seeking land disposal for domestic purposes two questions should be posed, in line with existing policy:

1. is the land surplus to requirements? and/or
2. has a better use for the asset been identified subject to its disposal enhancing the quality and/or quantity of open space elsewhere in the City, especially in areas of greater need and/or enhancing the increased use of open space?

As an interim measure, pending the development and approval of a revised Council Policy on this land acquisition and disposal, it is proposed that the Council does not dispose of public open space land unless it has been declared surplus to requirements. It is proposed that this be implemented with immediate effect subject to the following exceptions.

The Committee is asked to note that there are three outstanding requests from private individuals seeking the disposal of open space land for domestic purposes. The requests relate to properties at: 702 Antrim Road; 67 Schomberg Avenue; and 35 Brookvale Avenue.

In each of the above cases the Council has been requested to dispose of small pieces of land adjacent to each of the properties. In each case the owner of the property wishes to enhance their garden for personal use.

Given that these requests are already in the system it is proposed that the Council permit these disposals to proceed subject to agreement on appropriate terms in line with the requirements of the Local Government (NI) Act 1972 and on condition that there be no development on the land without Council consent in line with similar disposals in the past.

Resource Implications

Financial

There are no significant financial implications at this time, although the Council will benefit from a small capital receipt in relation to each of the proposed disposals outlined above.

Human Resources

There are no additional human resource implications at this time.

Asset and Other Implications

This proposal will support the taking of a more strategic approach to the disposal of Council land.

Recommendations

It is recommended that the Committee:

1. agree to dispose three small parcels of land adjacent to the properties outlined above;
2. agree that the land be disposed on condition that it be retained for use as open space; and
3. agree that the disposal should be within the terms of the Local Government Act (NI) 1972
4. agree that as an interim measure, until an agreed Council policy on land acquisition and disposal has been agreed, all such requests be rejected unless the land has been declared as surplus to operational requirements and / or a better use for the asset has been identified subject to its disposal enhancing the quality and / or quantity of open space elsewhere in the City, especially in areas of greater need and / or enhancing the increased use of open space.

Key to Abbreviations

None.

Documents Attached

None.

**Belfast City Council**

Report to:	Strategic Policy and Resources Committee.
Subject:	Disposal of Land at 35 Brookvale Avenue, Belfast.
Date:	20 August 2010
Reporting Officer:	Gerry Millar, Director of Property and Projects, Ext. 6217.
Contact Officer:	Cathy Reynolds, Estates Manager, Ext. 3493.

Relevant Background Information

At its meeting on 12 February 2009 the Parks and Leisure Committee received a report entitled "Interim Policy on Land Disposal". Among other things the report recommended that the Council should progress with three enquiries already received from members of the public to purchase portions of park at different locations across the city. An extract from the Committee minute is attached as Appendix 1 to this report.

Officers have been in contact with all three prospective purchasers and in respect of the land adjoining 35 Brookvale Avenue, can now report agreement on terms of disposal in accordance with the above mentioned Parks and Leisure Committee decision. Agreed outline terms are:

- i) Area for disposal comprises approximately 429 square metres as outlined with a red line on the attached map (Appendix 2).
- ii) Use of the land will be restricted to open space and to garden use in particular.
- iii) Disposal price agreed at £12,200.
- iv) Purchasers will erect a boundary fence at their own expense along any of the boundaries which are not currently fenced.

Key Issues

- Disposal of land in accordance with Parks and Leisure Committee decision of 12 February 2009.
- Terms of Disposal now agreed with prospective purchaser Mr Frank Gibney.

Resource ImplicationsFinancial

Small capital receipt, no additional revenue or capital costs to Council.

Human Resources

No additional human resources required. Resources in Estates Management Unit and Legal Services Department required to bring the disposal to a conclusion.

Asset and Other Implications

Loss of a small portion of Council land at boundary of the Waterworks. The land is mostly in grass and forms part of a buffer zone between the park and 35 Brookvale Avenue. The owner states it will be used to enlarge the garden surrounding his house. The proposed restriction on use to open space guards against redevelopment of this portion of the site for housing or other commercial purposes and helps retain a buffer between the park and neighbouring buildings.

Recommendations

Disposal of 429 square metres shown outlined red on the attached map (Appendix 2) at the price of £12,200 is recommended on the basis of the terms outlined in this report, to Mr Gibney, subject to a suitable legal agreement to be prepared by the Director of Legal Services

Decision Tracking

Director of Property and Projects to arrange completion of disposal by 31 December 2010.

Key to Abbreviations

None.

Documents Attached

Appendix 1 – Extract from minute of the Parks and Leisure Committee of 12 February 2009.

Appendix 2 – Map showing the land for disposal outlined with red line.



Belfast City Council

Report to:	Parks and Leisure Committee
Subject:	River Terrace update
Date:	24 February 2015
Reporting Officer:	Andrew Hassard, Director of Parks and Leisure
Contact Officers:	Caroline Wilson, Neighbourhood and Development Manager

1	Relevant Background Information
1.1	In December 2013, P&L Committee considered a report on a request from St John Vianney Youth Centre to explore the option of establishing a community garden in River Terrace. At that time, Committee recommended the further investigation of the potential for the development of a community garden in River Terrace with a further report to be brought to Committee in due course. It agreed that part of the £50,000 of capital funds allocated to South Belfast could contribute to the build of a community garden at River Terrace.
1.2	It is also noted that in 2006 a contamination report was carried out on the site which highlighted contaminants are present, in the high risk category. Soil samples were taken from a small section of the site along the railway line, the environmental consultant therefore recommended that additional testing is undertaken which is dispersed evenly across the full extent of the site.
1.3	As the land is owned by the Department of Social Development (DSD), work has been ongoing to provide a licence for the land to Council ownership with the appropriate agreements and insurances in place. There has been some engagement with local communities, although this has been limited due to access to the land and the constraints regarding the growing season.

2	Key Issues
2.1	The formal discussions to grant access to the land are now planned to conclude by the beginning of March. It is now proposed that the immediate actions are undertaken: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Do an immediate clean-up on the site and remove any fly-tipping;

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Determine if any patching/replacement of pathways is needed; and - Insert the site into the East Area maintenance programme to include regular grass-cutting and litter picks.
2.2	<p>It is vital that all stakeholders and interested parties be involved and lead the process to develop a sustainable community space, with the strong sense of local ownership needed for a successful garden.</p> <p>The following steps with local stakeholders/ residents / interested community members to determine the next step in the development of River Terrace as a growing space:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - March 2015 Stakeholders to engage in formalised workshops. These workshops will identify the stakeholder's main priorities for the growing space including the strengths and weaknesses of this space for the community. - March 2015 Work in partnership with the stakeholders to consult with the residents adjacent to the site - April – May 2015 Open invitation to attend a presentation and workshop on community gardens, to include site visits. - May 2015 Working group to be established. Results of previous workshops and consultation to be analysed with group. - June 2015 to February 2016 In collaboration with the working group, a programme of initial community engagement will be developed and may include community clean ups/ environmental and educational workshops/ neighbourhood activity days. How the community decide to utilise the space within these months will influence the design brief for this site. - November 2015 Landscape Planning and Development Unit to develop a design based on the working group aspirations and the communities capacity. - December 2015 – February 2016 construction of community garden to be undertaken by Council contractor, subject to capacity shown by the community to be involved in the construction of the community garden as a form of skills development. - March 2016 – growing activities to commence.
2.3	<p>As noted above, the contamination survey reported that it is a grossly contaminated site and in the high risk category. Further survey work would be required if there is any site disturbance or earth re-modelling recommended and there is no estimate for remediation costs. A cost for this work can be ascertained following a further detailed site investigation. This would like require a funding bid to maximise value for money.</p>

3	Resource Implications
	<p>Financial: An immediate allocation of £20,000 is available for the project.</p> <p>Human Resources: The Community Parks Outreach Manager will work with the community to establish a core group and increase participation in the garden in line with the Growing Communities Strategy.</p> <p>Asset and Other Implications: The transfer of this land will result in the Council gaining an additional asset with associated maintenance implications.</p>

4	Equality and Good Relations Implications
	There are no implications at this stage. However equality and good relations factors will be taken in to account in any activities delivered at the community garden or through the project.

5	Recommendations
	Members are asked to agree the proposed community engagement programme.

6	Decision Tracking
	All actions will be completed by officers from the Community Parks Outreach team and the Landscape Planning and Development Unit.

7	Abbreviations
	None

8	Attachments
	None

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Belfast City Council

Report to:	Parks and Leisure Committee
Subject:	Update on the City Cemetery Decorative Arts Project
Date:	24 February 2015
Reporting Officer:	Rose Crozier, Assistant Director of Parks and Leisure
Contact Officer:	Pete Murray, Antisocial Behaviour Programme Coordinator

1.	Relevant Background Information
	<p>Members will be aware that there has been an ongoing project around a Decorative Arts Project in the City Cemetery. Reports were brought to Committee in August 2012 and October 2014 outlining proposals to develop a decorative art project to celebrate the diversity within the site and address antisocial behaviour issues in the City Cemetery.</p> <p>Following discussion in August 2012 it was agreed that the Committee would contribute a sum of £15,000 towards the project and groups proposing to undertake the work would seek to secure additional funding from other bodies. Should there remain a shortfall; the Committee would be requested to reconsider the matter with a view to meeting any remaining shortfall in funding.</p> <p>Following the update to Committee in October 2014, it was agreed that the scope of the project should be amended so that the focus is not solely on the City Cemetery wall and that the art piece be situated at a suitable location within the City Cemetery and the budget previously allocated for the wall, be used for this art piece. Committee also agreed that the Director in consultation with the Chair and Deputy Chair of the Committee would approve the steering group's selection of an artist; and that officers continue to explore other sources of funding in relation to potential solutions for the anti social behaviour associated with the wall.</p>
2.	Key Issues
	The City Cemetery Decorative Arts Project has followed best practice installing art in the public realm. This process has been developed by the

Arts Council for Northern Ireland (ACNI) and consists of two stages:

- Stage 1 identifies the need for the work through creative consultation with stakeholders and the community, identifies a theme through the consultation report and selects an artist and artwork through a rigorous selection process.
- Stage 2 is the engagement process with community and stakeholders around the installation of the selected artwork.

This development of this project has involved cross community consultation and engagement and this diversity is represented in the Steering Group. The Stage 1 consultation targeted a wide range of individuals and organisations including the relatives of those buried in the cemetery, staff, visitors, local schools, youth groups, history groups, community, political and religious organisations and arts and cultural organisations which were built on in Stage 2. BCC and the artist led the community engagement programme which would increase the sense of ownership, enhancing the area and discouraging ASB.

Since October 2014, Stage 1 of the project development has focused on the rigorous selection of an artist and artwork under the theme of "Life and Time". Following the selection process Forget me Not by Alex Pentek has been chosen as the selected piece. An illustration of the piece is attached as appendix 1. The artist's concept focuses on the form of Forget-me-not flowers, they capture the fragility of life and symbolise remembrance, true love and memories. These two flower sculptures, fabricated from bronze coated stainless steel, will form an archway and entrance to the chosen plot, very close to 'poor ground' where many hundreds of unknown people, from diverse backgrounds, comprised of the elderly to young children and infants, are buried.

In consultation with the Falls Park Master planning group and local elected representatives, the Steering Group selected a site for the artwork situated near the centre of the City Cemetery, location map is attached at appendix 2. The site rests on a level grassed area which was a toilet block beside an old service yard called the Bell Yard. The site is also situated near the Cross of Sacrifice, a WWI monument and the "Poor Grounds". The area is a focal point for frequent antisocial behaviour such as graffiti and damage to gravestones, (around the Jewish burial ground and war graves). The antisocial behaviour also appears in the form of fire setting, broken glass and vandalism on and around the Cross of Sacrifice.

As an extension to the aims of the arts project, BCC officers are currently investigating options to tackle ASB which takes place around the Bell Yard wall. All options will consider how to reduce the impact of ASB and improve the site.

In January 2015 the Council submitted a Stage 2 application to ACNI Re-Imaging Communities fund. The application was successful and ACNI agreed to contribute £50,000 to overall project costs of £64,000.

	<p><u>Next steps</u> The next stage of the process is to develop a project implementation and communication plan. This will be circulated to the local community during this stage of the project. There is a very tight delivery timescale around the project with the artwork to be manufactured and installed and all funding claims returned by 30 June 2015. It is envisaged that the artwork will be unveiled during summer 2015.</p>
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3.	Resource Implications
	<p><u>Financial</u> ACNI agreed to contribute £50,000 to overall project costs of £64,000. BCC will contribute £14,000 towards the project costs as previously agreed by the Parks and Leisure committee in October 2014.</p> <p><u>Human Resource</u> Officers from Parks and Leisure will work with officers from Property and Projects to achieve completion before the end of June 2015</p> <p><u>Asset and Other Implications</u> Legal Services will develop contractual terms to reduce any risk during installation and following handover of the finished piece</p>

4.	Equality Implications
	<p>BCC and the artist has led a community engagement programme. The selected artist has the experience and understanding of the need for community engagement and undertaking cross community workshops during planning and production. Engagement sessions were developed using the participants from stage one consultation workshops.</p>

5.	Recommendations
	<p>Members are asked to note the contents of this update report.</p>

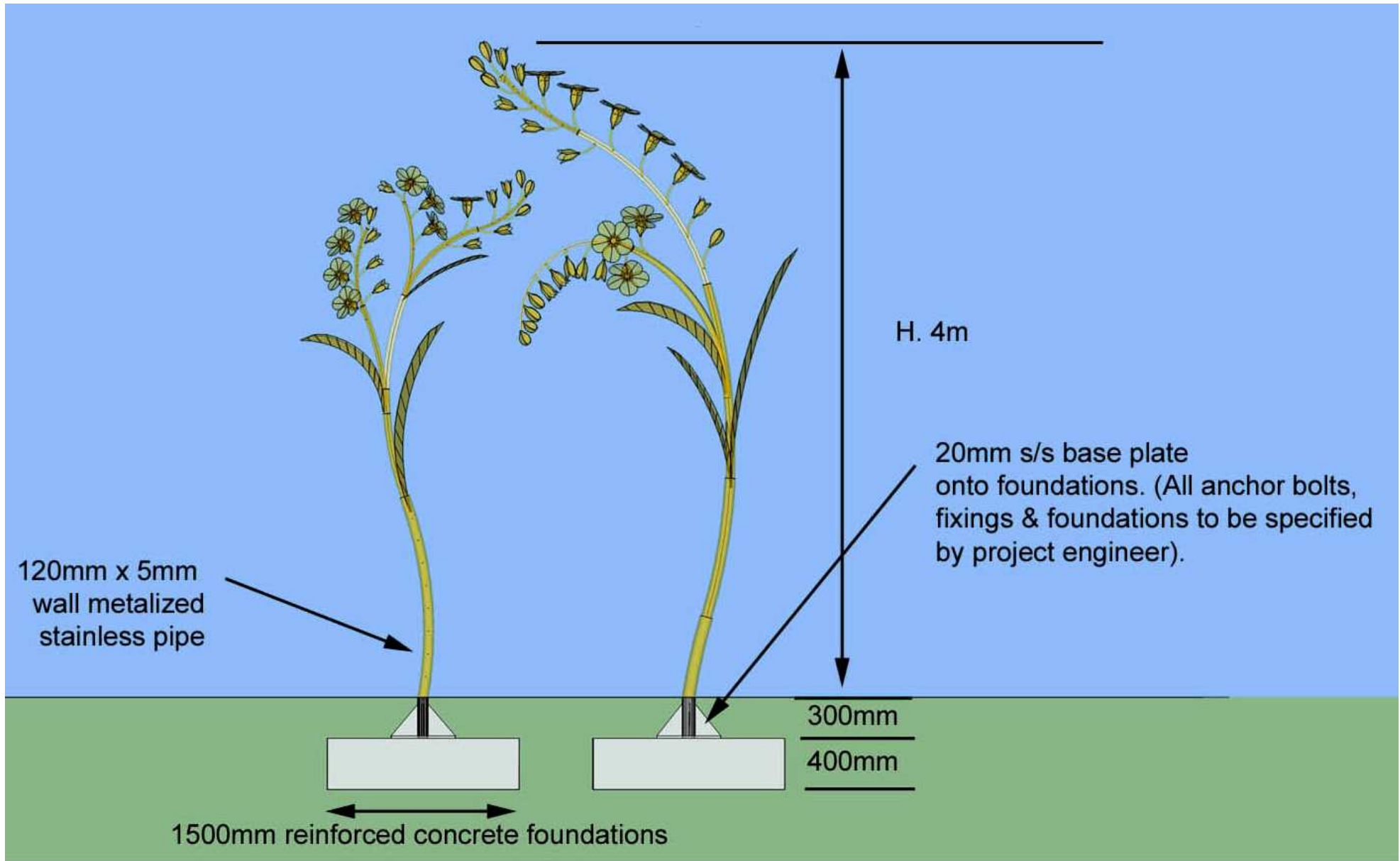
6.	Decision Tracking
	<p>An update report will be presented to the appropriate committee following the completion of this project.</p>

7.	Key to Abbreviations
	<p>ACNI: Arts Council Northern Ireland ASB: Antisocial behaviour BCC: Belfast City Council CCDAP: City Cemetery Decorative Arts Project</p>

8.	Documents Attached
	<p>Appendix 1: Forget me Not by Alex Pentek Appendix 2: Location of Artwork in City Cemetery</p>

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Appendix One: "Forget-Me-Not" by Alex Pentek



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Appendix Two: Location of Artwork in City Cemetery



Welcome to Belfast City Cemetery

Map key

- ➔ Entrances
- 🚻 Toilets
- 1 Cemetery office
- 2 Underground wall
- 3 Mortuary Chapel Tower
- 4 Gallagher Memorial (central steps)
- 5 Fountain
- 6 Fox Lodge
- 7 WW1 Memorial Wall
- 8 Queen's University Plot
- 9 Cross of Sacrifice
- 10 Blitz Memorial
- 11 Baby Public
- 12 Poor ground
- 13 Jewish Cemetery
- 14 Bell Design
- 15 Glenalina

Cemetery office opening hours

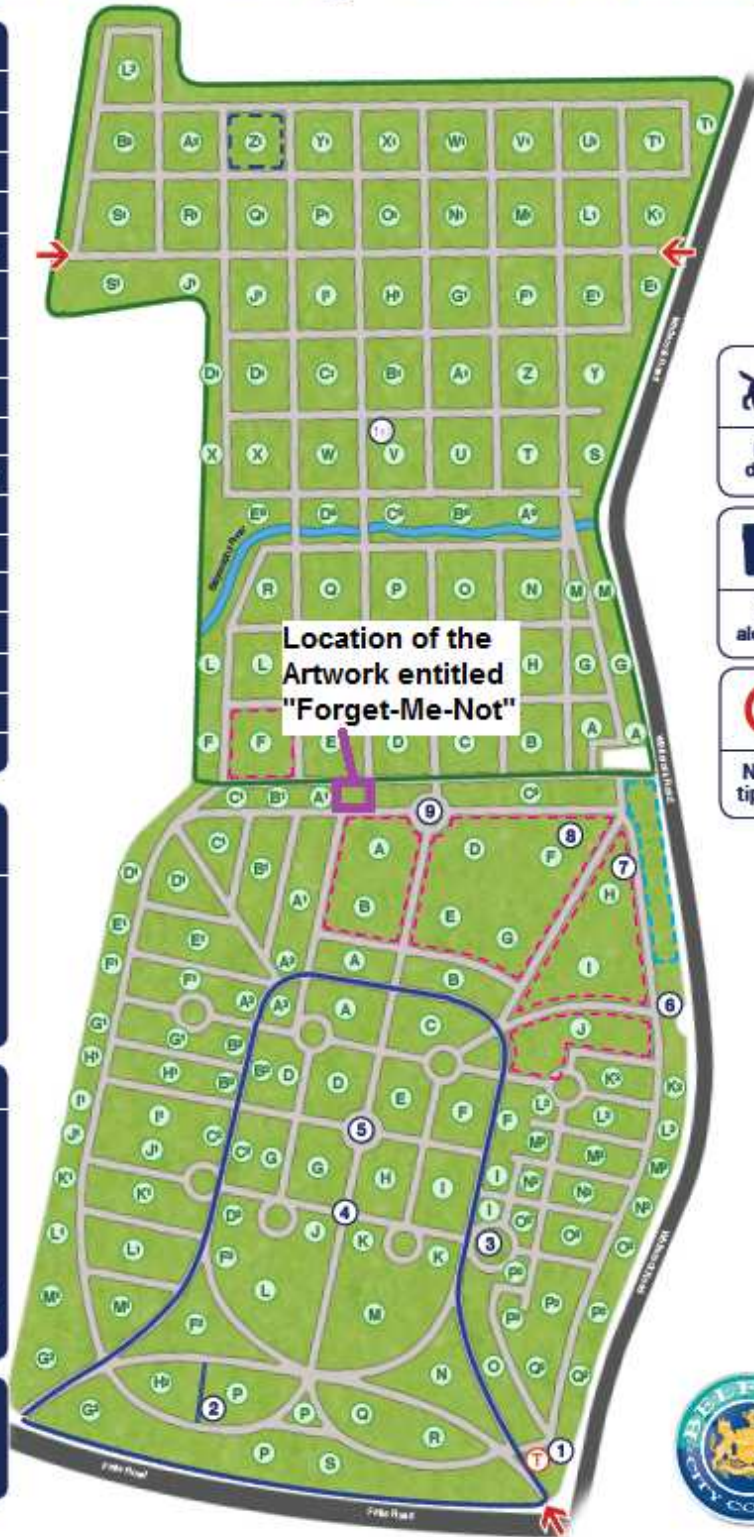
8.30am – 4.30pm
(Monday – Thursday)
8.30am – 4pm (Friday)
8.30am – 12.30pm
(Saturday)

Contact numbers

Tel: 028 9032 3112
(office hours) or
028 9027 0275
(outside office hours)

Report antisocial
behaviour: 028 9050 0515
In an emergency, dial 999

Your co-ordinates are
x330,325.20
y373,001.98



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Belfast City Council

Report to:	Parks and Leisure Committee
Subject:	‘Anglers Cabin’ – Waterworks Park
Date:	24 February 2015
Reporting Officer:	Rose Crozier, Assistant Director of Parks and Leisure
Contact Officer:	Stephen Walker, Departmental Portfolio and Programme Manager

1.	Relevant Background Information
	<p>The Committee is reminded that at its meeting in March 2013 it was informed of proposals to locate a storage container at Waterworks Park adjacent to the top pond. Members will recall that this pond has been populated with fish and is well used by local fishermen. The purpose of the container was to provide a facility for storage of the boat and a shelter from rain.</p> <p>The cost of the container was £30,000 with the funding provided by the Department for Culture Arts and Leisure. A copy of the report from March 2013 is attached as Appendix A. Members are asked to note that the proposal excluded heating, water, power and sewage. There had been conversations at the time with the Fishermen and it had been suggested that there was an opportunity to construct a storage area within the proposal for a pavilion to service the natural turf pitch adjacent to the top pond. However, this suggestion was declined.</p> <p>The Fishermen have now requested:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Council provide power to the facility; and 2. Provides access to the toilet facilities in the changing pavilion. <p>Officers had previously been in discussion with the fishermen regarding the provision of a generator. Health and safety concerns have resulted in this proposal being withdrawn.</p>

2.	Key Issues
	<p>There are several issues for members to consider:</p> <p>a. <u>Provision of electrical supply to the container</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The fishermen's group has referenced the ongoing construction of the pavilion adjacent to the top pond and have asked that the electrical supply be extended to the container. Members are asked to note that the council only has approval from NIE to bring an electrical supply into the pavilion; to connect up to the container would require a separate application to NIE; 2. Council has not consented to the provision of an electrical supply to the container, as previously noted the container was not intended to have service connections; 3. While officers have not fully investigated issues or costs associated with the provision of an electrical supply to the container, this would require upgrading to a substation adding significant cost; 4. There is no provision in estimates for this work to be carried out. <p>b. <u>Access to toilet facilities at the proposed changing pavilion</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Members will be aware that the use of changing pavilions is incorporated into the hire fee for use of facilities such as pitches; 2. There may be a question of equality of access should the Council grant the group sole access; 3. If the facility were to be opened up for wider use there will need to be a full time attendant on duty; 4. There are a number of changing pavilions across many of our sites none of which are opened to the public or indeed teams using our pitches who have not required the changing pavilion; 5. There is currently a portable toilet on site for the use of the fishermen <p>In relation to the request for service provision to the 'Anglers Cabin' the Committee may either a) decline the request; or b) instruct Officers to undertake a scheme which will provide water; power; drainage and sewage disposal for the facility subject to the securing of corporate funding.</p> <p>In relation to the access to the pavilion, the Committee has several options;</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Decline the request; 2. Consent to the request and incorporate responsibility for opening and closing the facility to the Fishermen through a variation to the existing management agreement at no cost to the Council; 3. Defer consideration to enable a discussion with the Good Relations Unit around the potential equality issues around it and the implications city wide;
3.	Resource Implications
	<p><u>Financial Implications</u></p> <p>The financial implications of the proposed works are not known at this time.</p>

	<p><u>Resource Implications</u></p> <p>There are no additional human resource implications at this time other than staff time from within existing resources.</p>
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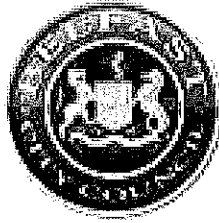
4.	Equality Implications
	There may be equality issues connected with this proposal in relation to access to groups and users other than the fishermen.

5.	Recommendations
	In line with the previous Committee decision it is recommended that the Committee decline both requests.

6.	Decision Tracking
	None

7.	Key to Abbreviations
	None

8.	Documents Attached
	Appendix A – Copy of March 2013 Committee Report



Belfast City Council

Report to:	Parks and Leisure Committee
Subject:	Proposed Container at Waterworks
Date:	14 March 2013
Reporting Officer:	Andrew Hassard, Director of Parks and Leisure
Contact Officer:	Fintan Grant, City Parks Manager (North)

1.	Relevant Background Information
	<p>The Committee will be aware that there is a well established and vibrant fishermen's group operating within the Waterworks Park. This grouping has been in existence for several years and has cross community membership. The group has recently approached Council Officers and some elected members requesting the installation of a container at the site adjacent to the upper pond (see Appendix A). The purpose of this container would be to provide a storage facility for the equipment used by the group and also to provide a dry area. The proposal excludes the inclusion of heating, water, power and sewage.</p> <p>The proposal is for a 12m long container. To keep within the constraints under permitted development the height of the container, which will have a pitched roof, must not exceed 4m. In addition the group has asked that the container be masqued as a log cabin to provide a more sympathetic structure to the surrounding environment and in keeping with a more traditional view of fishing. Appendix B provides an illustration of the structure. Appendix C provides a more technical indicative outline.</p> <p>The estimated cost of this would be in the region of £30,000.</p> <p>The Department of Culture Arts and Leisure has intimated that it may be in a position to provide the necessary funding for this within the current financial year. A proposal has been sent to the Department and is currently under consideration.</p>

2.	Key Issues
	<p>The Committee is asked to consider the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The fishermen's group is well established within the park and this proposal will help sustain the group in the future; 2. There is the possibility that other interest groups in the future may approach the Council for similar accommodation; 3. The container and associated security fencing will increase the maintenance responsibility, it is anticipated that routine maintenance will be minimal; however, vandalism to the fencing and / or the container would have a more significant impact, the value of the container is estimated to be in the region of £15,000 and the fencing £7,000, the other £8,000 is the cost of preparation and installation; 4. The estimated time scale for the project to be delivered in approximately four months to allow for procurement, construction and installation; 5. The Committee is being asked to give consent to the installation of the container and fencing and accept the associated maintenance and public liability responsibility associated with it.
3.	Resource Implications
	<p><u>Financial Implication</u></p> <p>The cost of the container, fencing and installation will be in the region of £30,000 and will be met by the Department of Culture Arts and Leisure. The ongoing maintenance will be absorbed within existing budgets.</p> <p><u>Human Resource Implications</u></p> <p>There are no additional human resource implications</p> <p><u>Asset and other implications</u></p> <p>The installation of the container will help support a well established group within the park,</p>
4.	Equality Implications
	<p>There are no equality implications.</p>

5.	Recommendations
	It is recommended that the Committee consent to the request to provide and locate a container as indicated in Appendices A, B and C on the basis that the cost is met by the Department of Culture Arts and Leisure; and agree to accept the associated maintenance and public liability responsibilities.
6.	Decision Tracking
	An update report will be presented by the City Park Manager (North) to a future meeting of the Committee.
7.	Key to Abbreviations
	None
8.	Documents Attached
	Appendix A – Location map showing proposed location Appendix B – Photograph showing indicative image of the container Appendix C – Detail drawing outlining specification



Belfast City Council

Report to:	Parks and Leisure Committee
Subject	Erection of a temporary Meccano bridge across the River Lagan, Event.
Date:	24 February 2015
Reporting Officer:	Rose Crozier, Assistant Director, Parks and Leisure
Contact Officer:	Ricky Rice, City Parks Manager.

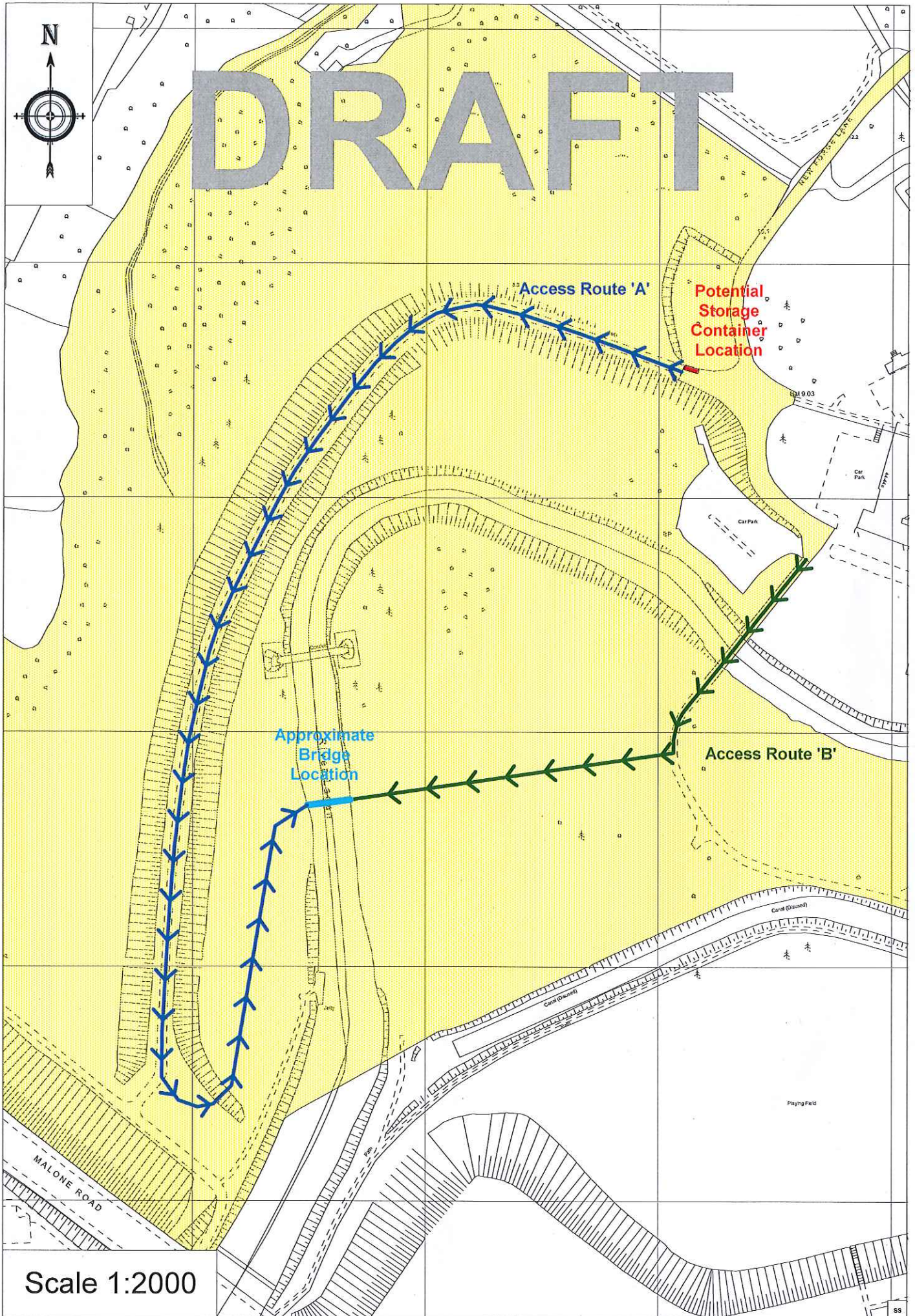
1.	Relevant Background Information
	<p>Belfast City Council Officers have been approached by Staff of Queens University Engineering Faculty requesting Council permission to hold a small event at Clement Wilson Park. The event is based around the construction of a lightweight 'meccano' bridge which will span approximately 24m across a section of the river Lagan in Clement Wilson Park . See appendix A location map.</p> <p>The University has designed and tested a model of the bridge and is satisfied that it can be done. Construction will take place off site and sections of the bridge will be transported to the Park and erected on site, as would a normal bridge, such as for example, the erection of the John Luke Bridge. The University has had to pre-order the 'pieces' in advance and expect to commence construction shortly. Construction will involve bringing in schools to help build the bridge as part of Queens University's outreach programme.</p> <p>The erection of the bridge is scheduled for mid June 2015 and it is expected the event will attract considerable media interest. It is planned the temporary bridge structure will be dismantled within 24 hours of its erection. In all the University expect to be on site for approximately 3-4 days.</p> <p>To facilitate the work the University has requested permission to store a container on site to enable the 8 metre sections of the bridge to be erected quickly on site</p>

2.	Key Issues
	<p>The Committee is asked to note that:</p> <p>There have been discussions between Council Officers from Property & Projects (Estates); the Parks and Leisure Department and Queens on the matter to consider issues around access; biodiversity and location;</p> <p>The university has confirmed that as it is a temporary structure and will be dismantled almost immediately and not for use by the public there is no need for planning permission;</p> <p>The University has been in contact with Rivers Agency seeking permission to erect the bridge across the River Lagan, however permission has not yet been received from Rivers Agency.</p> <p>The university has indicated that it will indemnify the Council in the event of any loss; damage or injury;</p> <p>In with other Events the University will be required to comply with the Council's 24 point event plan;</p> <p>Such an event is unusual and it is likely to attract media attention which will help to profile not just the university but also the City and its assets</p>
3.	<p>Resource Implications</p> <p>Financial. There are no financial implications for Belfast City Council.</p> <p>Human Resources There are no Human Resource implications other than officer time.</p>
4.	Equality Implications
	There are no equality implications.
5.	<p>Recommendations</p> <p>It is recommended Committee grant permission for Queens University to locate a container and erect a temporary bridge across the River Lagan at Clement Wilson Park as part of their engineering educational programme, subject to completion of Belfast City Council's 24 point event plan which will require detail of appropriate insurance, stewardship, bond and all Health and safety aspects of the event.</p>
6.	<p>Decision Tracking</p> <p>Ricky Rice, City Park Manager</p>

7.	Key to Abbreviations
	None

8.	Documents Attached
	Appendix A location map and access route.

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Belfast City Council

Report to:	Parks and Leisure Committee
Subject:	Request for Use of Grove Playing Fields
Date:	24 February 2015
Reporting Officer:	Andrew Hassard, Director of Parks and Leisure
Contact Officer:	Rose Crozier, Assistant Director of Parks and Leisure

1	Relevant Background Information
	<p>An enquiry has been received on behalf of the Ulster Centenary Committee in relation to a parade in Belfast on 9 May 2015.</p> <p>The parade is being held to mark the centenary of the march past Belfast City Hall by 17,000 members of the 36th (Ulster) Division on the 8th May 1915 before they left for training in England and prior to their departure to France.</p> <p>Large numbers are expected to attend the event and it is proposed that one of the assembly points is Grove Playing Fields where the Grand Orange Lodge of Ireland would assemble from 9.00am to 11.00am.</p>

2	Key Issues
	<p>There are no bookings for Grove Playing Fields for 9 May 2015 and as it is at the end of the playing season it is not envisaged that this event will cause any significant disruption and that any demand can be met at other sites.</p> <p>The site is widely used by the local community for walking and dog walking therefore there may be some disruption to local users.</p> <p>The organisers have indicated that they will require use of the toilet blocks within the changing pavilion which will require Parks staff to be on site.</p> <p>The organisers have indicated that they are developing a plan for the event and will liaise with Parks Management and PSNI to ensure that all operational and health and safety requirements are met and in particular traffic management.</p>

3	Resource Implications
	<p><u>Financial</u></p> <p>The organisers have agreed to cover the staffing cost incurred to provide access to</p>

	<p>the changing pavilion.</p> <p><u>Human Resources</u> As above</p> <p><u>Asset and Other Implications</u> Use of the site will be a maximum of 2 hours and the impact on the ground is expected to be minimal. Therefore it is proposed that a reinstatement fee is not required.</p>
4	Equality and Good Relations Considerations
	The Events Policy for Parks and Leisure facilities and venues was previously screened as part of its consideration at Committee. The application of the policy is deemed to have no differential impact on any one group, given the diversity of applicant groups and range of events organised across the Council's properties.
5	Recommendations
	Members are asked to agree to the use of Grove Playing Fields as requested subject to the organisers meeting all health and safety, public liability and operational requirements.
6	Decision Tracking
	Rose Crozier, Assistant Director of Parks and Leisure
7	Abbreviations
8	Documents Attached
	Appendix 1 – letter of request

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**209 Woodstock Road
Belfast
BT6 8PQ**

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am writing to you in relation to a parade we are organising in Belfast on the 9th May 2015 on behalf of the Unionist Centenary Committee.

The parade is being held to mark the centenary of march past of Belfast City Hall by 17,000 members of the 36th (Ulster) Division on the 8th May 1915 before they left for training in England prior to their departure to France.

The parade will assemble and leave from north Belfast and finish in the east of the city.

We expect large numbers to attend. One of the assembly points we have identified is Grove Playing Fields. We would like the Grand Orange Lodge of Ireland to assemble there during the timeframe 09.00 – 11.00.

Is this possible?

All those taking part in the parade are asked to behave in an impeccable manner. Nothing should be done by any participant to besmirch the deeds of our forefathers.

Also alcohol is not welcome.

The parade is organised by the 36th (Ulster) Division Memorial Association on behalf of the Unionist Centenary Committee.

**Stephen Gough
Secretary
07714238963**

secretary@ulsterdivision.com
secretary@unionistcentenaries.com

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Belfast City Council

Report to:	Parks and Leisure Committee
Subject:	Proposed Event – Palestine Aid Sponsored Run
Date:	24 February 2015
Reporting Officer:	Andrew Hassard, Director of Parks and Leisure
Contact Officer:	Brian McKinley, Events Officer

1.	Relevant Background Information
1.1	The Committee is asked to note that the Council received a request on 16 October 2014 from Palestine Aid to host a sponsored Park Run at the Waterworks. The event will have approximately 200 participants. The date proposed for the event is Sunday 29 March 2015, at 11am.

2.	Key Issues
2.1	The event organisers have confirmed that the run will be sponsored but that the sponsorship will be managed online and no money will be collected at the Waterworks.
2.2	Palestine Aid group is a charity recognised by the Inland Revenue and receives Gift Aid. They are in the process of applying to the Charity Commission for charity status.
2.3	The event organiser is required to ensure that there will be no flags or banners in the Waterworks other than those that advertise the event, which will be agreed with the Park Manager.
2.4	The event organisers will be required to complete the agreed event management plan. It will address all relevant issues including health and safety and Public Liability Insurance to the satisfaction of Council officers.

3.	Resource Implications
	<u>Financial</u>
	None.
	<u>Human</u>

	None.
	<u>Asset and Other Implications</u>
	None.

4.	Equality and good relations implications
	The events policy for Parks and Leisure facilities and venues was previously screened as part of its consideration to Committee. The application of the policy is deemed to have no differential impact on any one group, given the diversity of applicant groups and range of events organised across the Council's properties.

5.	Recommendations
	The Committee is asked to approve the Palestine Aid Sponsored Run which will be held at the Waterworks subject to the completion of an appropriate event management plan to the satisfaction of Council officers.

6.	Decision Tracking
	All actions will be completed by Donal Grant-Stevenson, Community Parks Manager and Brian McKinley, Events Officer,

7.	Key to Abbreviations
	None.

8.	Documents Attached
	None.



Belfast City Council

Report to:	Parks and Leisure Committee
Subject:	FIFA Schools Super Festival at Mallusk.
Date:	12 February 2015
Reporting Officer:	Rose Crozier, Assistant Director of Parks & Leisure
Contact Officer:	Paula Irvine, Community Parks Outreach Manager

1.	Relevant Background Information
1.1	Committee are asked to note that the Council received a request on 23 January 2015 from the Irish Football Association (IFA) to host a schools super festival for girls at the city of Belfast Playing fields (Mallusk).
1.2	The event is funded through the FIFA “Live your Goals” programme and it is estimated that the event will attract approximately 1200 girls from 55 schools in Northern Ireland. Age categories range from 11yrs to 15yrs. The proposed date for the event is Wednesday 10 June 2015.
2.	Key Issues
2.1	This will be the second year of running this event at Mallusk. The use of a single venue has made it the biggest ever event for woman and girls football in Northern Ireland. It has enhanced and promoted cross community participation and engagement through the medium of soccer and the sheer size of the location allows the efficient and effective running of this tournament.
2.2	The event organiser has requested in kind support which is in the form of a waiver of the hire charges.
2.3	The teams will also need access to the changing and toilet facilities.
2.4	The organiser has requested that 26 small sided pitches be marked out but this will have no impact on the users as the event is scheduled to take place during the closed season.
2.5	The event organisers will complete the agreed event management plan.

	The plan will address all relevant issues including health and safety to the satisfaction of Council officers.
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3.	Resource Implications
	<p><u>Financial</u> There are financial implications associated with the granting of free use of the pitches and ancillary facilities. It is estimated that the loss of income would be in the region of £806.13; however the pitches are not open for regular soccer bookings at this time so the loss of income is not pertinent.</p> <p><u>Human Resources</u> There will be no additional human resource implications as the pitches can be marked and changing facilities staffed during normal working hours.</p> <p><u>Asset and Other implications</u> Positive use of City of Belfast Playing fields to promote soccer for women and girls.</p>

4.	Equality Implications
	<p>There are no known associated equality considerations associated with this request. The competition aims at girls aged 11 – 15 years old. Approximately 1200 participants will take part from different age groups, ethnic and religious backgrounds.</p>

5.	Recommendations
	<p>Committee are asked to approve:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. That the schools super festival be held at City of Belfast Playing fields subject to the completion of all the appropriate paperwork; and 2. That the event organisers are given free use of the pitches and ancillary facilities.

6.	Decision Tracking
	All actions to be carried out by Paula Irvine, Community Parks Outreach manager and Jackie Turkington, Community Parks Manager.

7.	Key to Abbreviations
	<p>IFA – Irish Football Association FIFA – Federation International Football Association</p>

8.	Documents Attached
	None



Belfast City Council

Report to:	Parks and Leisure Committee
Subject:	Belfast Mela 2015
Date:	24 February 2015
Reporting Officer:	Rose Crozier, Assistant Director of Parks and Leisure
Contact Officer:	Brian McKinley, Events Officer

1.	Relevant Background Information
	<p>The Mela is a multicultural festival that has attracted 20,000 people annually from all communities across Belfast and beyond. The Mela has been successful in raising cultural awareness, encouraging civic identity and promoting a positive image for Belfast. In March 2014, the Committee agreed to support Mela 2014 (Artsekta) up to £20,000, subject to a number of conditions.</p>

2.	Key Issues
	<p>Evaluation of 2014</p> <p>The Council established a successful arrangement with the Belfast Mela in 2013 and 2014. It operates at minimal cost to the public and in 2014 attracted over 230,000 spectators. In their evaluation for 2014, Belfast Mela estimate that the return on Council's investment is approximately a ratio of £8.90 spend per visitor to every £1 Council support. Visitors rated the event programming at 8 out of a possible 10 and an affordable, family-focussed day out.</p> <p>As a condition of the financial support, Belfast Mela was requested to facilitate 3 taster events across the city in advance of the main event. These were facilitated at Falls Park, Knocknagoney and New Lodge with over 5,000 participants attending. Other more in-depth outreach activities were facilitated with about 100 participants from An Droichead, Annadale Haywood Residents</p>

	<p>Association, Glenbyrn Women’s Group and participants recruited through the NIHE East Belfast office.</p> <p>Overall, at the Mela event itself, 93% of participants felt they had learnt something about another culture through the programme and 79% of participants felt that events such as the Mela enhance civic identity and participation.</p> <p>Proposal for 2015</p> <p>The Committee is asked to note that the Council has received a request from the Director of ArtsEkta to use Botanic Gardens for the Belfast Mela on 30th August 2015.</p> <p>It is proposed that Council continues to provide financial support to the event (up to £20,000), given the positive economic impact it has for the city, improved good relations and attractiveness of the Council assets.</p> <p>Similar to 2014, as a condition to funding, it is recommended that ArtsEkta is requested to facilitate community engagement and taster events in other local neighbourhoods, to build the audience from across the city. Specific locations could be identified in conjunction with the Community Parks Outreach team, ensuring a spread across the city, and potentially include re-developed assets such as Victoria Park and newly developed such as Girdwood Park.</p> <p>In relation to facilitating the event itself, the key issues are :</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. In this particular instance the Council has received a request for use for Upper and Lower Botanic Gardens for the Belfast Mela on 30th August 2015 from midday to 6.00pm; 2. The proposed timescale from set up to take down of the event is eight days 25th August to 1st September 2015 inclusive in Botanic Gardens; 3. ArtsEkta has requested permission to collect an entrance fee in the region of £5 per adult; 4. The event shall be subject to the preparation of an event management plan which shall cover all aspects of management including health and safety, access and will comply with the current events policy; 5. A legal agreement will be provided by Legal Services; 6. Consultation by ArtsEkta will be undertaken with other local stakeholders such as Queens University, Lyric Theatre, local residents groups and the Friends of Botanic Gardens.
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3.	Resource Implications
	<u>Financial</u>

	<p>The Bond of Intent shall be waived but the Bond of reinstatement of £1000 shall be provided by ArtsEkta as in previous year's per event. An allocation of £20,000 can be made from within the departmental revenue budgets to support the event.</p> <p><u>Human Resources</u> Community Park Manager to be in attendance for 8 Hours during event.</p> <p><u>Asset and other implications</u> ArtsEkta shall ensure all minimal impact on Council property and will provide a Bond of reinstatement prior to the event.</p>
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4.	Equality Implications
	<p>The Events Policy for Parks and Leisure facilities and venues was previously screened as part of its consideration at Committee. The application of the policy is deemed to have no differential impact on any one group, given the diversity of applicant groups and range of events organised across the Council's properties.</p>

5.	Recommendations
	<p>Committee is asked to grant permission to ArtsEkta to provide the Belfast Mela in Botanic Gardens subject to the development of an Event Management Plan and satisfactory terms being agreed by the Assistant Director of Parks and Leisure and on condition that :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The event organisers resolve all operational issues to the Council's satisfaction; • An appropriate legal agreement, to be prepared by the Assistant Chief Executive and Town Solicitor is completed; • The event organisers meet all statutory requirements including Health and Safety and Licensing; • The organisers be permitted to charge an admission fee in the region of £5 to access the Botanic Gardens for the event; • Permit Closure of Botanic Gardens on the 30th August 2015 to permit admittance by Mela tickets holders only.

6.	Decision Tracking
	<p>All actions to be completed by City Park Manager (East) and Brian McKinley, Events Officer.</p>

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7.	Key to Abbreviations
	None

8.	Documents Attached
	None