

# Public Document Pack

**Committee and Members' Services Section**  
**3<sup>rd</sup> Floor, Adelaide Exchange**  
**24-26 Adelaide Street**  
**Belfast BT2 8GD**



4<sup>th</sup> April, 2008

## **MEETING OF PARKS AND LEISURE COMMITTEE**

Dear Councillor

The above-named Committee will meet in the Council Chamber, 3rd Floor, Adelaide Exchange on Thursday, 10th April, 2008 at 4.30 pm, for the transaction of the business noted below.

You are requested to attend.

Yours faithfully

PETER McNANEY

Chief Executive

### **AGENDA:**

1. Routine Matters

(a) Apologies

(b) Minutes

2. North Belfast Play Forum

In pursuance of the Committee's decision of 13<sup>th</sup> March, to receive a presentation from representatives of the North Belfast Play Forum in relation to a request for financial assistance

3. North Belfast Play Forum - Request for Financial Assistance (Pages 1 - 4)

4. Belfast Multi-Purpose Stadium (Pages 5 - 6)

5. Strategic Plan for Leisure Services (Pages 7 - 8)

6. Grove Wellbeing Centre Update (Pages 9 - 12)

7. Franchise Catering at Leisure Centres (Pages 13 - 14)

8. Templemore Users' Trust (Pages 15 - 16)
9. Physical Activity and Sports Development Strategy (Pages 17 - 20)
10. Belfast Taste and Music Fest 2009 (Pages 21 - 22)
11. City of Belfast Golf Course - Golf Ball Encroachment (Pages 23 - 34)
12. Mountain Biking at Cave Hill (Pages 35 - 42)
13. Musgrave Park Watermain (Pages 43 - 46)
14. A2 Sydenham Road Widening (Pages 47 - 48)
15. Right of Way at Stranmillis Road (Pages 49 - 50)
16. Support for Sport (Pages 51 - 55)
17. Anti-Social Behaviour Pilot Update (Pages 56 - 65)
18. Media Report (Pages 66 - 69)

**Belfast City Council**

<b>Report to:</b>	Parks and Leisure Committee
<b>Subject:</b>	Request for Financial Assistance – North Belfast Play Forum
<b>Date:</b>	10 April 2008
<b>Reporting Officer:</b>	Andrew Hassard, Director of Parks and Leisure
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	Phil Kelly, Leisure Services Manager

**Relevant Background Information**

At the Parks and Leisure Committee meeting of 13 March 2008, Members received a report relating to an application for funding from the North Belfast Play Forum. A copy of this report is attached for Members information.

**Key Issues**

At the Parks and Leisure Committee meeting of 13 March 2008, Members requested that representatives of the North Belfast Play Form be invited to make a presentation to the Parks and Leisure Committee, within which they may outline their case in support of their funding application.

Members are therefore asked to receive a presentation by representatives of the North Belfast Play Forum.

**Resource Implications**Financial

Funding of £63,673 has been requested, over a 3 year period. Funding for one year has been allocated in the 2008 – 2009 revenue budgets to support this post, pending Member approval.

<b>Recommendations</b>
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It is recommended that Members:

1. Consider offering funding for the year 2008/09 and advise the North Belfast Play Forum that this will conclude the Council's funding commitment in relation to this post.
2. That a policy be developed in relation to guiding consideration of funding applications for posts within community managed facilities.

<b>Key to Abbreviations</b>
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None

<b>Documents Attached</b>
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Appendix 1: Report to Parks & Leisure Committee, 13 March 2008



**Belfast City Council**

<b>Report to:</b>	Parks and Leisure Committee
<b>Subject:</b>	Request for Financial Assistance – North Belfast Play Forum
<b>Date:</b>	13 March 2008
<b>Reporting Officer:</b>	Andrew Hassard, Director of Parks and Leisure
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	Phil Kelly, Leisure Services Manager

**Relevant Background Information**

Belfast City Council has a management agreement with the North Belfast Play Forum (NBPF), which organises a range of activities on the multi-sports facility at the Waterworks.

The Client (Community and Leisure) Services Sub-Committee of 5 August 2003 approved a request from the North Belfast Play Forum for a grant of £15,000 to assist with salary costs of a Facility Co-ordinator post. This finance has continued annually and allowed the Forum to establish its programme over the last five years.

The attached letter and proposal submitted by the NBPF summarises the services provided. The NBPF has indicated that, whilst it has been very successful in obtaining funding for some posts, it does not have the core funding required to sustain their position of Facility Co-ordinator.

**Key Issues**

The Waterworks project has considerable positive impacts over and above Sports Development, with a number of the Forum initiatives relating to Community Safety and Good Relations.

Whilst the Client (Community and Leisure Services) Sub-committee supported this organisation in 2003 and in subsequent years, there is no decision making framework in place for Leisure Services to guide decisions on the provision of funding for posts in community managed facilities. Leisure Services does not provide financial support for other posts in community managed facilities.

**Resource Implications**

Financial

Funding of £63,673 has been requested, over a 3 year period. Funding for one year has been allocated in the 2008 – 2009 revenue budgets to support this post, pending Member approval.

**Recommendations**

That Committee consider funding offering funding for the year 2008/09 and that the North Belfast Play Forum is advised that this will conclude the Council's funding commitment in relation to this post.

**Key to Abbreviations**

NBPF – North Belfast Play Forum.

**Documents Attached**

Appendix 1: Letter and proposal from North Belfast Play Forum.



## Belfast City Council

<b>Report to:</b>	Parks and Leisure Committee
<b>Subject:</b>	Update Report – A Multi-Sports Stadium for Belfast
<b>Date:</b>	10 April 2008
<b>Reporting Officers:</b>	Director of Parks & Leisure, Andrew Hassard – Ext 3400
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	Director of Parks & Leisure, Andrew Hassard – Ext 3400

### Purpose of the Report

The purpose of this report is to;-

- (i) update the Committee with regard to the status of the Business Plan which Drivers Jonas have been commissioned to prepare for the Council;
- (ii) to seek Committee approval for a Special Meeting to which all Members of Council will be invited to receive the Consultants report give consideration to the next steps .

### Relevant Background Information

At a Special meeting of the Council held in the City Hall on Thursday, 17th May 2007 the Council met to discuss its position in relation to the siting of the National Stadium, which had been the subject of a requisition signed by Members.

At that meeting it was resolved to call upon the Northern Ireland Assembly to abolish plans set in place by Direct Rule Ministers to locate a National Stadium at the Maze site and to give due and proper consideration to other options before coming to a final decision. It was felt that this was necessary due to the lack of transparency in the process to date, including the failure to produce a comprehensive business plan for the Maze site and the summary dismissal of alternative locations in Belfast without full and proper consideration.

The Council further requested at that meeting that the following be undertaken / noted;-

- officers to prepare detailed reports, including an assessment of necessary resources, on each of the possible sites in Council ownership and other alternative sites;
- agreement to work with potential private developers in drawing up a comprehensive business plan;
- that the Council seek a meeting with appropriate Ministers to present Belfast's case

At a later meeting of this Committee on 9<sup>th</sup> August 2007 independent research carried out by the University of Ulster into the optimum location for a multi-sports stadium was

presented. Members will be aware that the report published by the University of Ulster on 20 June found overwhelming evidence to support in-town sites as the most advantageous location for multi-purpose sports stadia and found only limited support for an out-of-town location.

At this meeting the Committee agreed to seek a meeting with the relevant Assembly Ministers and the Strategic Investment Board to ascertain why alternative Belfast sites had been ruled out as possible locations for a National Stadium.

### **Key Issues**

At the meeting of this Committee on 13th September 2007, it was proposed that Drivers Jonas, who had already carried out significant work for the Council with regard to the Belfast stadium proposals, be further tasked to prepare a business case which would consider the following:

- who and what the stadium would be for;
- the size and nature of the stadium needed to meet demand;
- the resources required and the funding options for the construction and operation of the stadium;
- the business mix that would be needed to make it work operationally;
- site specific considerations.

In addition it was proposed that the business case should also look at the benefits accruing to Belfast from the Maze development if it were to proceed and also identify any necessary infrastructure improvements that would be needed to maximise the benefits to Belfast of the Maze proposal.

Drivers Jonas are finalising their report on the Business Plan for a Multi-Sports Stadium. A number of meetings have taken place to discuss the draft report and it is expected that a final version will be received in the next week.

### **Resource Implications**

#### Financial

The cost of the business plan was agreed at £140,000 at the September Committee meeting. This was not originally allocated in the revenue budgets but agreement was reached with the Director of Corporate Services to make the necessary funds available from Corporate reserves.

#### Asset and Other Implications

None at this stage.

### **Recommendations**

The Committee is asked to note the update and to agree that a Special Meeting to which all Members of Council are invited can be arranged to receive the report on the Business Plan from Drivers Jonas consultants.



**Belfast City Council**

<b>Report to:</b>	Parks and Leisure Committee
<b>Subject:</b>	Proposal for Development of a Leisure Strategy
<b>Date:</b>	10 April 2008
<b>Reporting Officer:</b>	Andrew Hassard, Director of Parks and Leisure
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	Phil Kelly, Leisure Services Manager

**Relevant Background Information**

In 2003/04 the Council approved a suite of decisions referred to as the Strategic Review of Council Owned Indoor Leisure Facilities. As the title suggests, this review was largely restricted to a review of current and planned leisure centre facilities.

**Key Issues**

Members will be aware that there is now a need to develop a strategy for leisure which is outcome focussed, takes into account other provision in the City, reflects best practice and allows for future decisions on Council provisions for Leisure.

Since the 2003/04 review a number of key actions have taken place, not least of which has been the formation of the new Parks and Leisure Department.

Some Leisure Centres have closed or transferred to community management and some new facilities have been constructed. In addition a number of other key actions have been implemented including the following examples:

- Opening Hours have been reviewed to include early morning opening
- All fitness suites have been refurbished and new equipment purchased
- A substantial Building Upgrade Programme has been completed
- Admission charging has been radically reviewed and the new Boost leisure card introduced
- The activity programme available at leisure centres has been reviewed and upgraded to offer many more classes and activities
- Sports Development opportunities have been substantially increased
- Access to external funding opportunities has also improved

In light of this and to ensure that leisure services continues to improve, it is proposed to develop a leisure strategy over the coming year.

In developing strategic options it will be necessary to explore areas such as:

- what leisure outcomes are required;
- what is the current and future need;
- what existing or proposed leisure services are there in the City;
- synergy opportunities with Parks, other Council services and partner organisations;
- the optimum use of required resources;
- how services may be improved;
- how services may best be delivered; and
- how services may be developed in future.

Such a comprehensive review will require substantial consultation and benchmarking of best practice. It is envisaged that Members will have a leading role at all stages in development of leisure strategy.

In terms of a potential timeframe for the project, the following is offered as an initial guide for Members:

- May – July...consultants appointed
- Project initiated in August 2008
- Interim report to Members in December 2008
- Final report to Members March 2009

### **Resource Implications**

#### Financial

It is envisaged that a comprehensive review of leisure services would cost in the region of £80,000. This expenditure is available from within approved Parks & Leisure revenue budgets. Tenders will be evaluated on the basis of:

- methodology;
- overall cost;
- experience of the team of similar projects;
- ability to meet timescales; and
- environmental impact/management.

#### Human Resources

Officer time associated with a strategic review of Leisure Services will be met from within existing resources.

### **Recommendations**

It is recommended that Members approve:

1. The development of a comprehensive strategy for leisure;
2. The appointment of consultancy support for the project through the tender process in line with the criteria set out above.

**Belfast City Council**

<b>Report to:</b>	Parks and Leisure Committee
<b>Subject:</b>	Grove Wellbeing Centre – Project Update
<b>Date:</b>	10 April 2007
<b>Reporting Officer:</b>	Andrew Hassard, Director of Parks and Leisure
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	Katrina Morgan-Talbot, Leisure Operations Manager

**Relevant Background Information**

Construction began at Grove Wellbeing Centre on 29 August 2005 and in line with a projected 24 month build programme, the original completion date was identified as 29 August 2007. At the Community and Leisure Services Sub Committee of 3 April 2007, Members were advised that the target completion date for construction of the project was 12 November 2007 however, due to the necessity to incorporate landscape works within the project to the value of £1,064,400 associated with funding received from Belfast Regeneration Office, the construction completion date had to be adjusted and the earliest completion date was projected as 4 February 2008.

The building was actually handed over from the contractor to the Council on Friday 21 March and Members were advised at the Parks and Leisure meeting on 11 October 2007 that a period of approximately 2 months would be required to enable the commissioning of plant, service testing, staff training and familiarisation, before the new facility becomes available for public use and fully operational.

At the Parks and Leisure Committee on 14 February 2008 Members agreed to refer to the Council at its meeting on 3 March the question of the closure of the Grove Leisure Centre. The Committee also agreed that, in the event of the closure of the Centre, there should be a seamless transfer of operations from the Grove Leisure Centre to other Council facilities and agreed to the allocation of the necessary resources and to the restriction of the use of the Grove Leisure Centre during that period to clubs only.

At the monthly meeting of Belfast City Council on Monday 3 March 2008, the decision was taken to close the Grove Leisure Centre and examine uses for the site which would maximise benefits to the area.

At the monthly meeting of Belfast City Council on Tuesday 1 April, the decision was taken to keep the fitness suite at Grove open to the public. Officers will update Committee on 10 April on the arrangements that have been made.

**Key Issues**

Key issues during the next 2 months;

- 1) In order to achieve the objective of a seamless transfer for clubs it is necessary to provide adequate staffing levels at the existing site until the new facility opens. Designations affected by this decision include, receptionists, leisure attendants, swim teachers, cleaners and staff involved in duty management and all affected designations have the opportunity to work at both sites. Staff will remain onsite in the Grove Leisure Centre on a rotating basis and will ensure the safety of the clubs and groups as well as assisting with the closing down of the old centre.
- 2) This 2 month pre-opening is necessary to complete all the work on the snagging list and for the delivery and installation of equipment and also to facilitate training, both BCC site specific training and joint training with the BHSC & BELB as well as operations testing prior to opening.
- 3) The process to recruit the additional staff for the centre, as approved by Members at the Parks & Leisure Committee on 13 March 2008 is currently underway and it is anticipated that these posts will be filled prior to the centre opening.
- 4) Ten pin bowling alley – two tenders have been received for installation of bowling equipment and advice is currently being sought from the Procurement Section as a result of the poor standard of response. It is anticipated that the bowling alley will now not open at the same time as all of the other leisure facilities.
- 5) Following the decision by Members at the Parks and Leisure Committee on 13 March 2008 regarding franchise catering for Leisure Centres, the new quotation documents for the Grove Well Being Centre will be issued by Friday 4 April 2008. It is still hoped that the successful caterer will be in place either before the centre opens in May or shortly afterwards.
- 6) To assist with the smooth opening of the centre, and due to the technologically advanced nature of much of the plant, it is the intention to hold 'field trials'. Invited groups will be asked to use facilities so that staff can test the systems in a realistic situation. The invitations will also be useful in promoting the Centre amongst potential users prior to opening.

A full programme of tests, covering a six-day period, from Monday 19 - Saturday 24 May, and requiring groups representing a wide range of ability-levels, age-groups and special interests, is being produced at present by officers, and it is proposed that, since these tests are necessary for the effective operation of the centre, no charges be levied. It is further proposed that the first group to be given the opportunity to use the Centre during this period be the Elected Members and the suggested date is Monday 19 May.

- 7) The delay in the handover of the building to the Council has impacted upon the proposed timing of an official opening ceremony to mark the occasion. It is proposed that the centre will have 'soft opening' before the

end of May and options will be presented to Members for consideration. Officers would welcome any suggestions regarding the 'soft opening' or for the official opening which is now proposed to take place in late September or early October 2008

**Resource Implications**

Financial

The cost of the official opening will depend on the decisions made, particularly in terms of the Official opening. All costs would be met from approved budgets.

Human Resources

There are no additional resources required to implement the recommendations of this report.

**Recommendations**

Members are asked to note the contents of this report and to:

- a. Consider the nature and format of the 'soft opening'.
- b. Approve the pre-opening field trials as outlined in the report.

**Key to Abbreviations**

None.

**Documents Attached**

None.

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**Belfast City Council**

<b>Report to:</b>	Parks and Leisure Committee
<b>Subject:</b>	Franchise Catering at Leisure Centres
<b>Date:</b>	10 April 2008
<b>Reporting Officer:</b>	Andrew Hassard, Director of Parks and Leisure
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	Phil Kelly, Leisure Services Manager

**Relevant Background Information**

At their meeting on 13 March 2008, Members of the Parks and Leisure Committee considered recommendations relating to the procurement of franchise catering services at the Council's Leisure Centres.

At this meeting Members requested that legal opinion be sought regarding the cessation of a current procurement exercise which was designed to offer franchise catering on a service wide basis.

**Key Issues**

Legal opinion has now been received referring to clause 18 in the advertised procurement terms which states that 'the Council reserves the right not to award a contract to any tenderer under this process'.

The legal opinion received therefore has advised that the Council may stop the current procurement process.

It is therefore proposed to cease the current procurement process and that all leisure centre franchise catering contracts should be let on a site by site basis as and when contracts become available or are about to expire.

**Resource Implications**Financial

The letting of franchised catering contracts at leisure centres will represent an income to the Council, the extent of which is dependant upon proposals received.

<b>Recommendations</b>
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It is recommended that the procurement process is not progressed further and that all leisure centre franchise catering contracts be let on a site by site basis as and when contracts become available or are about to expire.
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<b>Key to Abbreviations</b>
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None.
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<b>Documents Attached</b>
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None.
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**Belfast City Council**

<b>Report to:</b>	Parks and Leisure Committee
<b>Subject:</b>	Templemore Users Trust – Renewal of Facility Management Agreement and Request to Make a Presentation to Parks and Leisure Committee
<b>Date:</b>	10 April 2008
<b>Reporting Officer:</b>	Andrew Hassard, Director of Parks and Leisure
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	Phil Kelly, Leisure Services Manager

**Relevant Background Information**

In May 2006, the Council's Community and Leisure Services Sub Committee received a presentation from representatives of the Templemore Users Trust. Within the presentation, the Trust updated elected Members on the potential restoration project proposed for Templemore Avenue Baths.

At this time Members agreed in principle to support the Templemore Avenue Baths Conservation Plan and noted that a further report, detailing the costs which the Council might incur from supporting the plan, would be submitted to the Sub Committee at a future meeting.

The Templemore Users Trust currently hold a 25 year lease in relation to the property, which is due to expire in 2019.

A facility management arrangement was also agreed between the Council and the Templemore Users Trust in 2003 within which the Council offers an annual Revenue and Maintenance Grant and also meets utility and insurance costs. This arrangement requires consideration for renewal in April 2008.

It should be noted that, apart from the lease, no written facility management has been developed in relation to ongoing grant support.

**Key Issues**

The existing five year financial support arrangement between the Council and the Templemore Users Trust expires on 31 March 2008. Should Members approve

extension of this arrangement, is proposed that current arrangements are extended to cover the period 2008/09 and that a formal facility management contract be drawn up between the Council and the Templemore Users Trust in order that elected Members may consider a longer term arrangement within this context.

In terms of the proposed progression of the Templemore Avenue Baths Conservation Plan, representatives of the Templemore Users Trust have requested permission to make a presentation to a future meeting of the Parks and Leisure Committee in order that Members may be updated in relation to the project.

**Resource Implications**

Financial

Current financial assistance allowed for within the 2008/09 revenue budget in relation to the facility management of the Templemore Avenue Baths is as follows:

Revenue & Maintenance Grant	£67,000
Buildings Insurance	£5,600
Utility Costs	£60,000
Total	£132,600

**Recommendations**

It is recommended that Members approve that current financial support arrangements are extended to cover the period 2008/09 and that a formal facility management contract be drawn up between the Council and the Templemore Users Trust.

**Key to Abbreviations**

None.

**Documents Attached**

None.

**Belfast City Council**

<b>Report to:</b>	Parks and Leisure Committee
<b>Subject:</b>	Physical Activity and Sports Development Strategy for the City of Belfast – Partnership Development Manager
<b>Date:</b>	10 April 2008
<b>Reporting Officer:</b>	Andrew Hassard, Director of Parks and Leisure
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	Phil Kelly, Leisure Services Manager

**Relevant Background Information**

Sport Belfast is a partnership organisation established in 1999 with the key objective of promoting sport and physical activity within the city of Belfast. A number of key partner organisations make up this group including Belfast City Council, SportNI, Queens University Belfast, Belfast Education and Library Board, Belfast Community Sports Development Network, Coaching NI and WISPA.

Over the past number of years the partnership has been building the development of a citywide Physical Activity & Sports Development Strategy for the City and in 2006 Members of the Belfast City Council offered its support to the principles contained within the strategy.

The strategy encourages a close working relationship between all of the partner organisations towards the common goals of promotion of physical activity and development of sport. The partnership will ensure that this is achieved in a planned a coordinated way within available resources, targeted for optimum benefit to the citizens of Belfast.

Over this past year, the various Sport Belfast partner organisations have been working together to develop actions plans under the seven key initiatives contained within the strategy and these initiatives are:

1. Targeting schools and 3<sup>rd</sup> level institutions for promotion of physical activity and sports development
2. Building sustainable club and community sports development
3. Raising the profile of sport and physical activity in the City
4. Promotion of health and physical activity
5. Developing coaches and volunteers
6. Supporting leisure centres in working with communities to develop physical activity and sports development programmes
7. Developing pathways to improved performance

The aims of the strategy are obviously very closely aligned to those of the Council in promoting the health and wellbeing of the citizens of the city and the strategy also reflects wider compliance with for example the draft Northern Ireland Strategy for the Development of Sport and Physical Recreation.

The Strategy has also supported our bid to the Big Lottery's 'Live & Learn' fund which potentially could result in an award of £1m to the Council for the promotion of physical activity within local communities. The Council has been successful at stage one of this bidding process and our stage two application will be submitted by September 2008.

### **Key Issues**

A key role within the Physical Activity and Sports Development Strategy is the building and promotion of partnership arrangements essential to ensure delivery of the strategy's objectives. In order to meet the strategy's commitments in this area it will be necessary to establish a 3 year fixed term post to enable the required partnership development to be attained.

For a number of years, up to 2007, the Council has offered funding amounting to £15,000 per annum to Sport Belfast in support of a Projects Officer post, with the post holder being accommodated within the Leisure Services section at the Cecil Ward Building. As part of a restructuring of Sport Belfast and to enable delivery of the Strategy it is proposed to replace this Project Officer post with a 3 year fixed term Partnership Development Manager post and again it is proposed that this post holder be accommodated within Leisure Services.

In terms of funding for the proposed Partnership Development Manager post, SportNI have offered substantial additional funding for the post; however have also asked that, as the Council is the lead organisation within the strategy project, the post be line managed through Belfast City Council. The Council would also be required to make a financial contribution as in previous years to fund this post. This will be in the amount of £20,000. Council Officers would recommend support for this proposal as such an arrangement would also afford opportunities for development of wider partnership arrangements between the Parks & Leisure Department and other organisations in the promotion of sports and physical activity.

### **Resource Implications**

#### Financial

It is envisaged that salary, administration and minimum programme costs associated with this post will be in the region of £40,000 per annum.

Our partners within Sport Belfast and SportNI are committed to supporting the post to the value of £20,000 per annum for the duration of the 3 year fixed term, pending approval by elected Members of equivalent funding from the Council.

The required supporting funding from the Council can be made available from within existing budgets.

Human Resources

It is proposed that this fixed term post be placed within the Leisure Development Unit of Leisure Services.

**Recommendations**

It is recommended that Members approve the appointment of a Partnership Development Manager for a fixed term period of 3 years, pending availability of match funding from SportNI/Sport Belfast of £20,000 per annum.

**Key to Abbreviations**

None.

**Documents Attached**

None.

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### Belfast City Council

<b>Report to:</b>	Parks and Leisure Committee
<b>Subject:</b>	Belfast Taste and Music Fest 2009
<b>Date:</b>	10 April 2008
<b>Reporting Officer:</b>	Andrew Hassard, Director of Parks and Leisure
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	Reg Maxwell, Parks Area Manager

#### Relevant Background Information

The first 'Taste Fest' event took place in the Botanic Gardens in 1991. The concept was based on the Chicago Taste Fest and was organised by Connie Cunningham. This successful event ran for nine years and was a leader in new style events in Belfast.

#### Key Issues

A request has been made by Connie Cunningham Associates to put on a Belfast Taste & Music Fest in Botanic Gardens on 7 -10 August 2009. This is a new style food and music festival using the best of Northern Ireland food with a Chicago twist in presentation and style. The Mayor of Chicago will fly over 20 chefs who will daily prepare and present Chicago style menus using local produce. The timing of the event will be before the Tall Ships event. A further element of this festival will be the promotion of tours from Chicago to visit Belfast Taste & Music Fest and Northern Ireland visitor attractions finishing at the Tall Ships before returning to the USA. There is the potential for a partnership between the Botanic Gardens and the Chicago Botanic Gardens which has a membership of 50,000. The objective would be to develop a major event in the city and to increase tourism and to build a long term relationship with a major USA city.

This event is a different style to that of the Garden Gourmet event.

#### Resource Implications

##### Financial

The project will be financed by the promoter and the payment of a fee to the Council will be negotiated based on the time spent on site.

Human Resources

The impact on the site for staff will be no more than for other events.

Asset Implications

Restoration of the site will be the responsibility of the event organiser.

**Recommendations**

That the Committee agree to allow the Belfast Taste & Music Fest to take place in Botanic Gardens in 2009 subject to the conditions of use of the site and all legal agreements are made.

**Key to Abbreviations**

None.

**Documents Attached**

None.





### Belfast City Council

<b>Report to:</b>	Parks and Leisure Committee
<b>Subject:</b>	Issue of golf balls landing on residential properties around City of Belfast Golf Course, Mallusk.
<b>Date:</b>	10 April 2008
<b>Reporting Officer:</b>	Fiona Holdsworth, Principal Parks Officer.
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	Ricky Rice, Area Manager, North Belfast.

#### Relevant Background Information

City of Belfast Golf Course, Mallusk was built in 1984. It is a nine hole golf course. There is a facility management agreement with City of Belfast Golf Club to manage the golf course partly involving grounds maintenance activities but mainly relating to receptionist and cashier responsibilities.

In 1984 there was relatively little residential or commercial property surrounding the course. Over the last 23 years there has been an increasing build up of residential and commercial property around the golf course. Subsequently there have been occasions when golf balls have damaged property or cars in the surrounding properties.

A process has been in place for some time that requires an Officer, when informed of alleged damage, to investigate the alleged damage. If agreement is reached that it was the result of damage from a golf ball then remedial payment for damage caused is paid to the claimant. No precise records are currently available concerning how many claims have been made and settled, however from the information which is available approximately 10 claims for damage have been received in the last 5 years resulting in a total cost of £4,000.

#### Key Issues

A new housing development at Rogan Manor, adjacent to number 1 golf hole, (see attached map) has been in existence for approximately one year. Residents of this development have requested action be taken to avoid golf balls landing in their back garden and subsequent risk of harm to themselves and their children. We have also been contacted by other residents concerning golf hole number two and it is considered that remedial works can be made to reduce the likelihood of golf balls causing damage without serious expenditure.

There are a number of options, both short term and long term, to reduce the risk of golf balls landing in residential houses in Rogan Manor. The options are based on consultation with Health and Safety Officers, residents from Rogan Wood and officers from the City of Belfast Golf Club.

#### Option One

Install 150 metre x 12 metre high fence adjacent to fence line with Rogan Manor. The cost will be approximately £98,000 and will require planning permission to erect the fence. This is dependent on Northern Ireland Electricity Service re routing the electric pylons or diverting them underground. Detailed specification and plans were sent to N.I.E.S in November 2007. Confirmation has been received from N.I.E.S on 10 March 2008 informing us it will cost £30,000 to relocate the cables underground. They have expressed a requirement for a six month lead in period before work could commence.

It is our understanding option 1 is the preferred option of the residents but this can only be confirmed upon a successful planning application for the fence line whereby all residents affected will have an option to object to the fence line being erected.

This option would also require consideration within the capital programme process.

**Total cost of this work will be approximately £130,000**

#### Option Two

Relocate the tee box (see attached map) and relocate the golf green (see attached map). Add additional tree planting and additional bunkers to left hand side of green to encourage golfers to veer to the right away from houses.

It is considered this option may not reassure the residents on a long term basis because they may not consider the risk of golf balls landing in their gardens has been sufficiently reduced without the additional security of a 12 metre ball stop fence. In addition this will require the number 1 golf hole to be closed for at least three months and therefore a reduction in play. Committee is reminded the golf course has been playing on the basis of 8 hole golf course for the last two years due to the realignment of water service pipeline. However, it should be noted if planning permission is sought and subsequently refused for the option of the fence (option 1) then this Option 2 may be the only option available.

**Total cost of this work will be approximately £35,000.**

#### Option Three

Install 12 metre high fence and relocate tee box and golf green plus additional bunkers and tree planting. This is a combination of option one and two and it is not the preferred option.

**Total cost for this work will be approximately £165,000.**

As stated option 1 and 3 will require planning permission to erect the fence line. If decision to proceed with erection of fence line is given there is a waiting period for planning permission plus installation time.

Short term option

Reduce the length of the hole for non members by approximately 60 metres by moving the tee box to the far left of the hole and erect a ball stop fence at the tee box. Add additional tree planting and bunkers to the left hand side of the fairway to encourage golfers to hit towards the right, away from the houses (see attached map).

This will reduce the risk of golf balls landing in the houses of Rogan Wood. This reduction of 60 metres to the green will reduce the chance of golf balls 'hooking' to the left towards the houses. By erecting a 4 metre x 3 metre high ball stop fence immediately adjacent to new tee box this will reduce the chance of 'hooking' towards the houses.

**Total cost of short term option will be £5,000**

Future for City of Belfast Golf Course

Members should note that plans have been submitted to the Council by the Golf Club for a replacement Club House. If this were to proceed the Club would require a long lease to be agreed by the Council. This now requires the Council to assess the longer term relationship with the City of Belfast Golf Club. A report will be brought forward in due course.

**Resource Implications**

Financial

There is no revenue budget for option number one, two or three.  
There is sufficient revenue budget for the short term solution.

Human Resources

There are no serious implications for staff resources concerning this issue.

**Recommendations**

It is recommended that Members grant authority to:

- proceed with the short term solution as outlined above and agree to a feasibility study to be completed into option 1 within the context of the consideration of the future options for the City of Belfast Golf Course.

**Key to Abbreviations**

None.

**Documents Attached**

Photographs of the golf course, including proposed fence line and Rogan Wood.

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Rogan Wood  
Residential  
Development

Proposed location of 12m high ballstop fence

City of Belfast  
Golf Course





**Belfast City Council**

<b>Report to:</b>	Parks and Leisure Committee
<b>Subject:</b>	Mountain Biking at Cave Hill Country Park
<b>Date:</b>	10 April 2008
<b>Reporting Officer:</b>	Andrew Hassard, Director of Parks and Leisure
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	Brendan Toland, Park Estates Manager Fintan Grant, Park Manager Horticulture Anne Reid, Countryside Officer

**Relevant Background Information**

In September 2002 a report was taken to the Parks and Amenities Sub-Committee regarding a Strategic review of Off-Road Cycling In Northern Ireland, copy of minutes attached. At this time the Sub-Committee agreed in principle to the possible development of a dedicated mountain biking facility on Cave Hill and its future management arrangements. Since 2002 a range of different funding sources have been explored and a subsequent report was taken to Special Community & Recreation (Parks and Cemeteries) in January 2006 seeking approval to submit an application to the Sports Lottery Fund and to continue discussions with the various stakeholders.

Following approval from the Parks and Amenities Sub-Committee to investigate funding from the Sports Lottery for a purpose built down-hill mountain biking facility at Cave Hill, officers consulted with Belfast Activity Centre, Countryside Activities Network (CAAN) and local residents through the Cave Hill Conservation Group. There was an overriding feeling, particularly from the Cave Hill residents, that such a facility would attract large numbers of specialised down-hill mountain bikers from a wide area to Cave Hill, as it would be the only facility of its kind in the east of the province. This could lead to over use of the hill and present a danger and nuisance to other users, for example walkers. After discussion it was felt that such a facility would not be popular among residents and walkers on the hill, and was not appropriate for this site. The original proposals are therefore not being pursued.

**Key Issues**

Mountain Biking is an ever increasing sport within the Belfast area. Currently there are no off road facilities available to enable users to pursue this activity, this has lead to the creation of unauthorized trails. These unauthorized trails

have been built on a number of Council sites, namely Cave Hill Country Park, Barnett Demesne and Mary Peters. These trails are currently being removed by Council officers but are quickly being rebuilt; these trails are not sanctioned and are potentially very dangerous.

Talks with some local mountain bikers have taken place, with Officers explaining that they are currently repairing some paths within Cave Hill Country Park and Officers fear that if mountain biking on the site is not managed correctly then the damage caused to these new paths could be substantial.

To try to remove mountain biking from Cave Hill Country Park would be a very costly exercise in terms of man hours and possibly with little success given the nature of the sport.

Officers are requesting permission to continue talks with the local mountain biking representatives and other interested parties to try to accommodate the sport within the Country Park and to explore avenues of funding available. The benefits of such being that we are pro-actively pursuing an outdoor activity, which has huge health benefits to Belfast rate payers, seeking to reduce existing user conflict and making the Country Park a positive visitor attraction. If we do not tackle this problem then the unsanctioned trails will continue to be built in an unregulated manner, leaving huge health and safety implications for the Council, the complaints will continue from members of the public and the damage to other areas of woodland within the Country park could be substantial.

#### **Resource Implications**

##### Financial

Other than staff time there are no specific costs relevant to this matter.

##### Human Resources

These talks are being carried out by Anne Reid, Fintan Grant, and Brendan Toland.

##### Asset and Other Implications

None.

#### **Recommendations**

It is recommended that Officers be given permission to continue talks with the local mountain biking representatives and to try to accommodate their sport in a manageable way within Cave Hill Country Park, exploring sources of funding, reporting back to the Committee any detailed proposals.

#### **Documents Attached**

- Appendix 1: Minutes of Client Services (Parks and Amenities) Sub Committee 10 Sept 2002
- Appendix 2: Minutes of Special Community and Recreation (Parks and Cemeteries) Sub Committee 13 Jan 2006

## Client Services Committee

Tuesday, 10th September, 2002

### MEETING OF CLIENT SERVICES (PARKS AND AMENITIES) SUB-COMMITTEE

Members present: Councillor McClenaghan (Deputy Chairman)  
(in the Chair);  
The High Sheriff (Councillor W. Browne); and  
Councillors D. Browne, Convery, Crozier, Ekin,  
Hartley, McCann, Rodgers, O'Reilly and  
E. Smyth.

In attendance: Mr. M. Elder, Director of Client Services;  
Mr. M. Parkinson, Head of Parks and Amenities;  
Mr. J. Goodall, Committee Administrator; and  
Mr. B. Flynn, Committee Administrator.

#### Apology

An apology for inability to attend was reported by the Chairman (Councillor Crooks).

#### Countryside Access and Activities Network – A Strategic Review of Off-Road Cycling in Northern Ireland

The Committee considered a report which had been prepared by the Head of Parks and Amenities in relation to the recommendations contained within the above-mentioned document. A copy of the report is set out hereunder:

#### “Purpose of Report

To appraise the Sub-Committee of the recommendations of the document ‘CAAN – A Strategic Review of Off Road Cycling in Northern Ireland’ and agree in principle to the establishment of mountain biking facilities at the Cavehill Country Park.

#### Background

At present opportunities from the public to participate in ‘off-road’ cycling within Northern Ireland are limited. A lack of dedicated routes and facilities is compounded by limited available information on where the public can take part in ‘off-road’ cycling. Against this background, an estimated 50,000 new mountain bikes are sold per year in Northern Ireland.

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Client Services (Parks and Amenities) Sub-Committee,  
Tuesday, 10th September, 2002

In recognition of the lack of facilities and the considerable economic impact generated by the development of 'off road' cycling facilities elsewhere, the Countryside Access and Activities Network (CAAN) undertook a strategic review of 'off road' cycling in Northern Ireland.

The document addresses the current position of 'off-road' cycling in Northern Ireland, provides a review of the current and potential markets, identifies case studies of sites and marketing approaches in Northern Ireland and elsewhere and makes proposals for the way forward in developing further 'off-road' facilities.

The report adopts the following statement as the vision for 'off-road' cycling in Northern Ireland:

'Attractive rural areas in which both visitors and local people can actively enjoy and explore networks of routes on cycles, away from roads, and where there are specialist facilities for those who participate in more adventurous 'off-road' cycling.'

To help achieve this vision the report recommends the development of a series of 'off-road' routes. These include fifteen family cycling routes, seven cross country single-track mountain biking routes and four managed venues for downhill mountain biking.

The Cavehill Country Park has been recommended as one of the four proposed venues for managed downhill mountain biking. This proposal is set against an increasing level of unofficial use of the park by mountain bikers where a number of unofficial routes have been created in the park. The pattern of use is of concern for a number of reasons; (i) mountain bikes can exacerbate erosion of the existing path network, particularly in vulnerable areas, which receive a high level of use. (ii) potential conflict and safety issues between mountain bikers and other park users.

The further development of unofficial routes, if allowed to continue will fragment and damage fragile habitat in the park.

### Proposal

This proposal seeks to establish a partnership between the City Council, CAAN and the local mountain biking community, which will help manage mountain biking on Cavehill. CAAN has submitted funding applications to several potential funders including the Peace and Reconciliation Fund. If the bid is successful, construction costs for the route will be paid from the



project development fund at no cost of the Council. It is anticipated that a suitable route can be agreed with Council staff in order to avoid or minimise disruption to other park users by mountain bikers. A specialist consultant will be appointed to develop the route in conjunction with local mountain bikers. They will in turn undertake to manage the route, in consultation with Council staff, ensuring users have adequate liability cover, protective clothing and adhere to an agreed Code of Conduct, including policing of mountain biking in other areas of the park. The project will also develop promotional materials and a Code of Conduct for Mountain Bikers.

#### **Environmental Implications**

The project should encourage the use of bicycles which is a very sustainable form of transport.

#### **Recommendation**

It is recommended that the Sub-Committee agrees in principle to the possible development of dedicated mountain biking facilities on Cavehill and their future management arrangements. A report outlining funding and detailed proposals will be submitted to a future meeting.”

The Sub-Committee adopted the recommendation.

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## Community and Recreation Committee

Friday, 13th January, 2006

### SPECIAL MEETING OF COMMUNITY AND RECREATION (PARKS AND CEMETERIES SERVICES) SUB-COMMITTEE

Members present: Councillor Humphrey (Deputy Chairman) (in the Chair); and Councillors Attwood, Austin, Hartley, Kirkpatrick, Long, McCausland, McClenaghan and Stalford.

In attendance: Mr. M. Elder, Director of Community and Recreation; Mr. M. Parkinson, Head of Parks and Cemeteries Services; Mr. M. McBride, Business Support Manager; and Miss L. Hillick, Committee Administrator.

#### **Apologies**

Apologies for inability to attend were reported from the Chairman (Councillor Rodgers) and Councillor O'Reilly.

#### **Biking Facility at Cavehill Country Park**

The Head of Parks and Cemeteries Services reminded the Sub-Committee that the former Parks and Amenities Sub-Committee, at its meeting on 10th September, 2002, had agreed in principle to establish a mountain biking facility at the Cavehill Country Park. He reported that, initially, the Cavehill Country Park had been considered as one of four venues throughout Northern Ireland where such facilities could be built in order to manage high levels of unofficial mountain biking activities. However, due to the fact that the Forest Service had offered the use of a number of larger sites with less recreational pressure but of more strategic benefit to participants, the initiative had been delayed. He pointed out that, due to problems associated with costings and the completion of the economic appraisals, the proposed large-scale projects had not proceeded beyond the planning stage.

**C**                    **Special Community and Recreation (Parks and Cemeteries)**  
**563**                    **Sub-Committee, Friday, 13th January, 2006**

The Sub-Committee was informed that the Countryside Access and Activities Network was now seeking to develop mountain bike facilities at smaller sites in order to cater for local demand, with the Cavehill Country Park having been identified as a potential location. Discussions had taken place between Council officers and the Network and it was the view of both parties that a downhill mountain biking facility might attract funding from the Sports Lottery Fund. The Fund could cover up to 85% of project costs, with the Environment and Heritage Service funding some of the remaining costs. A prerequisite of the scheme was that local communities and user groups were to be consulted and involved in the development of the project.

The Head of Parks and Cemeteries Services recommended, in order to enable the project to proceed, that the Sub-Committee grant authority for an initial application for funding to be submitted to the Sports Lottery Fund and that discussions take place with various stakeholders, including local interest groups.

The Sub-Committee granted the authority sought and noted that a report in relation to the progress achieved would be submitted for its consideration in due course. In addition, the Sub-Committee agreed that maps of the site be included within future reports.

**Belfast City Council**

<b>Report to:</b>	Parks and Leisure Committee
<b>Subject:</b>	New Watermain at Musgrave Park
<b>Date:</b>	10 April 2008
<b>Reporting Officer:</b>	Andrew Hassard, Director of Parks and Leisure
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	Stephen Walker, Principal Parks and Cemeteries Services Manager Ken Anderson, Estates Management Unit

**Relevant Background Information**

The Committee is asked to note that by a Grant of Easement dated 8 December 1962 the former Belfast Corporation granted the former Northern Ireland Hospitals Authority a right to install, maintain and if necessary replace a watermain at Musgrave Park. Appendix 1 to this report shows the location of the 1962 Easement (coloured red).

The water main installed in 1962 is now in a poor condition and the Belfast Health and Social Care Trust wish to replace the existing pipe at a new location within the Council's land at Musgrave Park. As the route of the new main does fall outside the scope of the 1962 Grant of Easement the new main requires the drawing up of a new legal agreement.

Following discussions with the Trust the following terms have been agreed:

- i) The original Grant of Easement will be surrendered and in consideration of the grant of a new Easement the Trust will pay to the Council a sum of £2,500 and be responsible for the Council's reasonable legal fees and surveyors expenses.
- ii) The new Easement will grant the Trust a working width of 6 meters (i.e. 3 metres each side of the pipe) along the route of the new pipe (route shown coloured blue on Appendix 1).
- iii) The Trust will maintain the new installation and minimise disruption to the Park during such maintenance and will fully reinstate any disruption to the Council's lands as a result of maintenance activities.
- iv) The Trust may be required to re-locate the watermain at their own expense on request from the Council.

**Key Issues**

The Committee is asked to note the following main points:

- The Belfast Health & Social Care Trust proposes to lay a new watermain across Council owned land at Musgrave Park. This replaces an existing watermain (shown coloured red on Appendix 1) in the Park which was installed under the terms of a Grant of Easement dated 8 December 1962.
- The Trust has agreed to surrender the 1962 Easement in return for a new Easement along the route marked blue on Appendix 1. The new route falls outside the lands contained in the Facility Management Agreement between the Council and St Brigid's GAC.
- The main terms associated with the proposed new Grant of Easement are set out in the body of this report. These terms are similar to those previously agreed by the Parks and Cemeteries Services Sub-Committee (meeting 3 May 2007) in relation to a nearby watermain previously installed by the Trust.

**Resource Implications**

Financial

The Grant of the new Easement would provide a small capital sum to the Council and cover the Council's legal and surveyors fees in connection with the drawing up of the new legal agreement.

Human Resources

No additional human resources required.

Asset and Other Implications

The new Easement will have no greater impact upon the Council's property assets than the arrangements contained in the 1962 Grant of Easement.

**Recommendations**

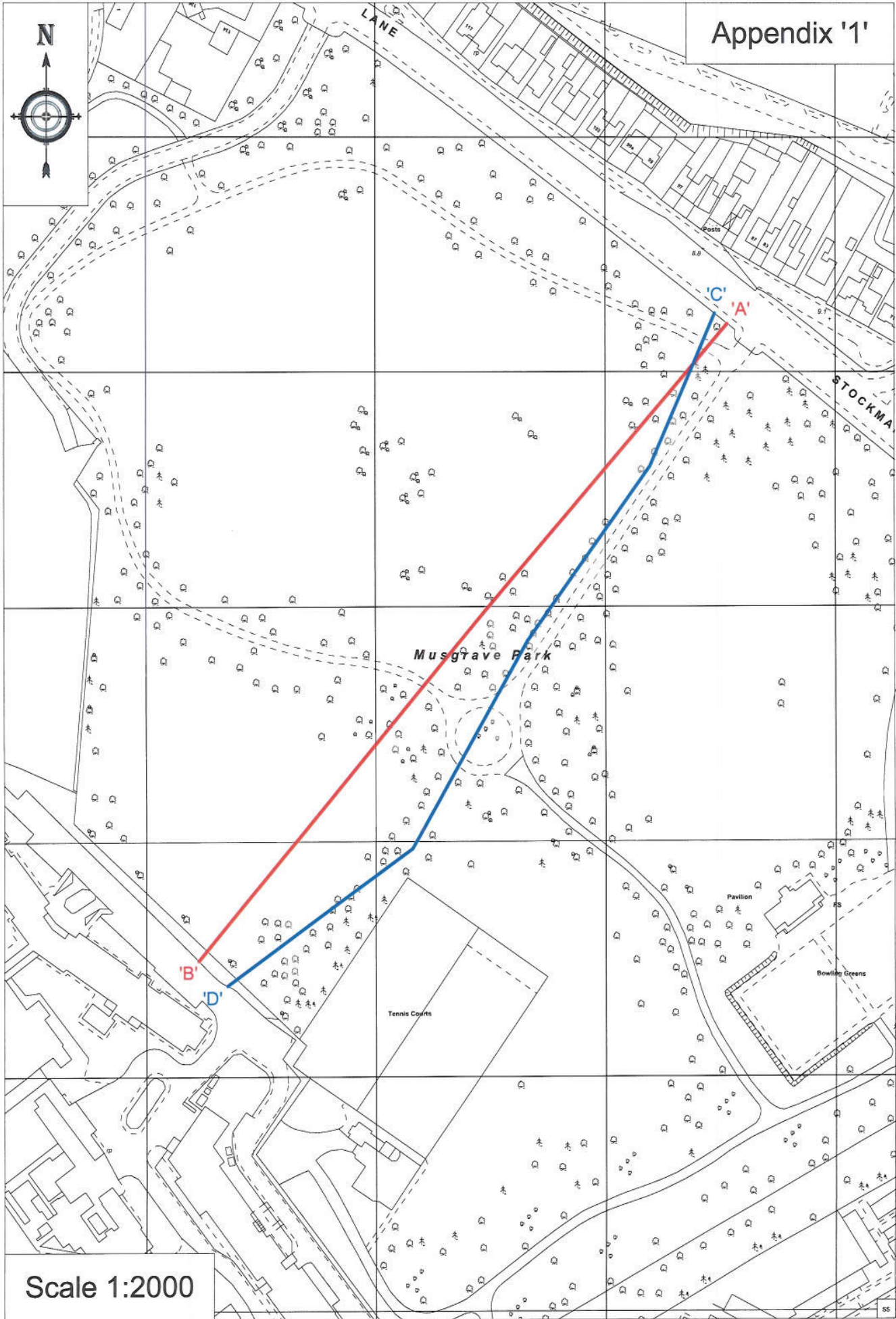
Committee is recommended to approve the surrender of a Grant of Easement dated 8 December 1962 to the Northern Ireland Hospitals Authority and grant of a new six metre wide Easement to the Belfast Health and Social Care Trust along the route shown coloured blue on Appendix 1 to this report.

**Key to Abbreviations**

The Trust – Belfast Health and Social Care Trust

**Documents Attached**

Appendix 1 – Map showing route of Easement contained in Grant of Easement dated 8 December 1962 (coloured red) and route of proposed 6 metre wide Easement to the Belfast Health & Social Care Trust (coloured blue).









### Belfast City Council

<b>Report to:</b>	Parks and Leisure Committee
<b>Subject:</b>	A2 Sydenham Road Widening Scheme
<b>Date:</b>	10 April 2008
<b>Reporting Officer:</b>	Andrew Hassard, Director of Parks and Leisure
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	Stephen Walker, Principal Parks and Cemeteries Development Manager

#### Relevant Background Information

The Committee will recall that during discussions regarding the development of the Connswater Community Greenway, the Director of Improvement highlighted the need to consider a number of other ongoing issues. These issues included the development of Titanic Quarter; the proposed Connsbank interchange and the A2 Sydenham Road Widening scheme. It was stated that Members should establish positions on these issues and direct Officers in their discussions with the relevant statutory and private sector organisations.

#### Key Issues

Officers have been in contact with Roads Service regarding the A2 widening scheme. Roads Service has agreed to make a presentation to the Committee to outline the scheme and its potential implications for the Council.

The Roads Service intend to meet the local community about the A2 widening in late May. It is therefore proposed that a briefing for Committee be organised in advance of the community consultation. Members may want to extend an invitation to the briefing to all members of Council.

#### Resource Implications

##### Financial

There are no financial implications at this time.

##### Human Resources

There are no human resource implications at this time.

Asset and Other Implications

This will provide members with an opportunity to receive at first details of the scheme and the opportunity to seek appropriate clarification from Road Service. It will further enable Members to take informed decisions on this and other related matters.

**Recommendations**

It is recommended that Committee agree to receive a presentation from the Road Service in relation to the A2 Sydenham Road Widening Scheme at a special meeting in May. It is recommended that all Members of Council be invited to attend this presentation.



### Belfast City Council

<b>Report to:</b>	Parks and Leisure Committee
<b>Subject:</b>	Right of Way Stranmillis Road and Hillside Drive
<b>Date:</b>	10 April 2008
<b>Reporting Officer:</b>	Andrew Hassard, Director of Parks and Leisure
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	Stephen Walker, Principal Parks and Cemeteries Development Manager Anne Reid, Countryside Officer Colin Campbell, Legal Services

#### Relevant Background Information

Under the Article 3 of the Access to the Countryside Order (NI) 1983 all Local Councils have a duty to

*...assert, protect and keep open and free from obstruction or encroachment any public right of way.*

In September 2007 the Council was contacted by the Crown Solicitor's Office regarding a laneway running between Stranmillis Road and Richmond Park. This laneway has fallen to the Crown, as 'ownerless goods', and it is the Crown's intention to dispose of this land as it is not required for any other Crown purposes. The Crown Solicitor's Office has contacted the Council regarding the laneway prior to sale to ascertain whether or not a public right of way existed over it.

#### Key Issues

The Committee is asked to note that:

Investigations with Department of Regional Development, Roads Service has confirmed that the laneway is not an adopted surface and therefore falls under the remit of the Access to the Countryside Legislation.

The laneway has all the legal attributes of a public right of way, i.e. it is a clearly well defined path which links two public places, evidence suggests it has been in place for some time and it is regularly used by members of the public.

**Resource Implications**

Financial

There are no specific costs relevant to this matter.

Human Resources

This case has been researched by council staff from Parks and Legal Services.

Asset and Other Implications

None.

**Recommendations**

The Committee is asked to assert the laneway from Stranmillis Road (beside no 342) to between nos 22 & 24 Hillside Drive as a public right of way under the Access to the Countryside (NI) Order 1983.

**Belfast City Council**

<b>Report to:</b>	Parks and Leisure Committee
<b>Subject:</b>	Support for Sport Development Grants
<b>Date:</b>	10 April 2008
<b>Reporting Officer:</b>	Andrew Hassard, Director of Parks and Leisure
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	Claire Moraghan, Sports Development Officer

**Relevant Background Information**

To recommend appropriate levels of support for bids received through the Support for Sport scheme.

Members will be aware that delegated authority was given to the Director of Parks and Leisure for development applications requesting up to £1,000.

The Small Development applications (delegated authority) are listed in Appendix 1.

Detailed applications are held in the Parks and Leisure Department and can be forwarded to Members on request.

A copy of each application will be available at Committee.

**Key Issues**

The Director and relevant officers met on Wednesday 2nd April 08 to discuss development applications under delegated authority.

Members will note that the development fund is over allocated by £13,041 for 2007/08. However as part of the financial management of this funding we have contacted all groups with unclaimed funding in 06/07 to agree their final draw down. As a result of this process we have a surplus from 06/07's allocation and we would like to use this to fund the over allocation in this financial year. Any further surplus identified would be brought back to committee for approval to use in the same way.

<b>Resource Implications</b>
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<u>Financial</u>
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The table below indicates the amounts allocated from the 2007/2008 budget.
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<b>Area</b>	<b>Total available</b>	<b>Allocated to date</b>	<b>Proposed allocation for April</b>	<b>Remaining</b>
Development	£120,000	£133,041	£4,276	£-13,041

<b>Recommendations</b>
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- |  |
|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• That Members note the content of this report with regard to Support for Sport Development Applications</li> </ul> |
|--|

<b>Documents Attached</b>
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<b>Table of Recommendations</b>
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Appendix 1: Development Applications Table 25 February -24 March 2008.
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## Appendix A

### Support for Sport Development Applications Received Between 25<sup>th</sup> February – 24<sup>th</sup> March 2008

ID	Club / Organisation	Activity Details	Running Costs	Amount Requested	Recommendation & Reason	Amount Awarded
D-131-08	Falls Bowling Club	Kick Start Taster sessions for juniors 11years+ Sessions include coaching, drugs awareness, Mentoring & Etiquette	£560	£420	<b>Support</b> Provision of support up to a maximum of £420 Representing not more than 75% of all eligible costs	£420
D-132-08	Belfast Kronk Boxing	Sport Festival/Dev Event Boxing Club from Newcastle Upon Tyne for 11-18 years boys & girls	£2050	£1,000	<b>Support</b> Provision of support up to a maximum of £467 Representing not more than 75% of all eligible costs. Club already received £532 this financial year	£467
D-133-08	Bredagh GAC Football	Equipment Grant for new U8 boys football section.	£250	£250	<b>Support</b> Provision of support up to a maximum of £250. Representing not more than 75% of all eligible costs	£250
D-134-08	Bredagh GAC	Coach training course for football coaches. Targeting 25 coaches to be mentored.	£1440	£1,000	<b>Support</b> Provision of support up to a maximum of £1000 Representing not more than 75% of all eligible costs	£1,000
D-135-08	Cregagh Cricket Club	Kick Start Grant + Equipment Grant	£1,280	£960 + £250 Equipment	<b>Support</b> Provision of support up to a maximum of £369 + £250 equipment grant. Representing not more than 75% of all eligible costs Club already received £631 this financial year	£369 + £250 equipment

## Appendix A

D-136-08	Onward Cultural Engagement Committee	Community Based coaching programme at Duncairn Community Centre for soccer & Hockey	£360	£960 + £250 Equipment	<b>Support (Hold)</b> Provision of support up to a maximum of £270 + £250 equipment grant. Representing not more than 75% of all eligible costs <b>Group must demonstrate separate bank account for activity group and submit constitution prior to offer</b>	£270 + £250 Equipment
D-137-08	Gleann ABC	Sport Festival/Dev Event Boxing Tournament hosting Newcastle Team of 17 with 12 bouts including girls exhibition bout.	£1,450	£1,000	<b>Support</b> Provision of support up to a maximum of £1,000 Representing not more than 75% of all eligible costs	£1,000
D-138-08	North Belfast Play Forum	Kick-Start Grant 25+ Football League	£1,120	£1,000	<b>Do Not Support</b> League has already taken place	-
<b>Total Amount Allocated This Month</b>			<b>Total Amount Allocated To Date</b>			
£4,276			£98,041			



**Appendix A**

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**Belfast City Council**

<b>Report to:</b>	Parks and Leisure Committee
<b>Subject:</b>	Safer Neighbourhood Antisocial Behaviour Pilot
<b>Date:</b>	10 April 2008
<b>Reporting Officer:</b>	Andrew Hassard, Director of Parks and Leisure
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	Laura Hamill, Antisocial Behaviour Co-ordinator

**Relevant Background Information**

The Antisocial Behaviour Pilot originated from the Safer City Group to provide a co-ordinated, One Council approach originally in 8 agreed areas towards tackling antisocial behaviour. In January 2008 Committee took the decision to add Castle Park to the Pilot as a result of concerns raised by residents from the Downhill Park West Residents Association.

The aim of the Pilot is to reduce the levels of antisocial behaviour, improve the public's perception of antisocial behaviour and increase the feeling of safety when using Council facilities.

Action plans for the 9 Pilot areas (*Appendix 1 lists the 9 pilot areas*) are underway and are being developed in full consultation with communities and agencies, linking into any other strategies or action plans for each area.

Local area meetings have been held within each of the pilot areas involving representatives from community/voluntary groups, statutory agencies and Elected Members to discuss the antisocial behaviour problems and to identify resources required and to decide upon what action needs to be taken. The information gathered at the meetings and in partnership with other Statutory and Voluntary Bodies has been drafted up into Action Plans.

The following themes have been used to develop the action plans:

- education and awareness;
- application of the bye-laws;
- environment;
- diversionary activities/programmes; and
- enforcement

## Key Issues

Since the launch of the pilot in April 2007 a number of measures have been implemented to assist with achieving a full picture of the situation and key concerns for each of the Pilot areas.

Consultants completed a comprehensive 'Mapping Exercise'.

The final report outlined:-

- recommended themes to include in the action plans to ensure all aspects of life and social factors are taken into consideration;
- hotspot and peak times for antisocial behaviour;
- existing provision within each of the areas so that we could determine whether diversionary activities were being offered at the times the most antisocial behaviour occurs for each area and gaps could easily be identified; and
- key groups and organisations within each area so as to allow us to explore opportunities for partnership working by developing joint ASB action plans

The findings from the final report were presented to communities to assist in the development of the area specific action plans.

### Environmental

A Design Out Crime Report was conducted by the PSNI Crime Prevention Team. Since the addition of the Castle Park to the Pilot a Design Out Crime Audit has also been completed for this area.

The following recommendations from the Design Out Crime Report were implemented immediately to encourage community 'buy in' to the action plans.

- graffiti - remove any that appears by 11am in the morning.
- new signage erected outlining the bye-laws
- cut back of vegetation and the pruning of trees ensures a clear panoramic view for Park users, hence, increasing the feeling of safety.

The other recommendations have now been considered by communities during the consultation process and those actions agreed upon are in the process of being carried out. Many have already been completed.

### Application of the bye-laws/enforcement

ASB Statistics (*see appendix 2*) – a new ASB recording system has been piloted in the Parks & Leisure Department since April 07. Since this time the system has been further developed in partnership with the Council's Workplace Health Unit and ISB. Standard forms have now been developed to capture the vandalism figures and associated costs for each.

The Incident Reporting forms have also been adapted for use by police when reporting incidents regarding BCC Parks and Leisure facilities. The forms are submitted to the ASB Coordinator for appropriate action.

Due to the benefits to the Council as a whole the system was rolled out across

all Parks and Leisure facilities so that detailed antisocial behaviour statistics for each facility are now being captured. This will allow BCC to identify issues, trends quickly and allocate resources effectively.

In July 07 as part of the ASB Pilot, a new system was set up within Parks to generate warning letters, that is, when information regarding individual offenders is submitted from Council staff, police, community etc. After investigation a warning letter is sent out clearly outlining the offence, the bye-law and possibility of further action being taken if there is a repeat occurrence. The warning letter has been drafted in accordance with antisocial behaviour order (ASBO) guidelines so that in the event of further action, prosecution or application for an antisocial behaviour order a clear trail of good quality evidence is available. A spreadsheet of offenders that come to our attention is being up-dated regularly so that we may pick up any repeat offences that will in turn require further action. This ASB spreadsheet and spreadsheets kept by the ASBO Officers within the PSNI are now being shared to inform each agency of the names, contact details and offences of individuals known by each Agency.

Monthly meetings are held in each area between the Antisocial Behaviour Co-ordinator, Police Liaison Sergeant to BCC, Parks/Leisure Managers and PSNI to discuss current issues, implement urgent actions, follow up incidents and to forward plan preventative rather than reactionary activities for each area. Due to the benefits of this contact other sections within BCC have requested access to the area meetings.

High Visibility Exercises aimed at addressing under age drinking have been ongoing throughout the past year and will continue across Belfast targeting Off-Licenses, Parks/Leisure Facilities within the antisocial behaviour Pilot and other Hotspots outside the Pilot that require urgent attention. These are carried out in partnership with PSNI, BCC Antisocial Behaviour Pilot, Community Safety's Get Home Safe Project, Regulatory Services, Parks Rangers Service and Communities.

As a result of the antisocial behaviour Pilot strong relationships are being built up between Police and BCC staff as well as with other key agencies in each of the pilot areas. Mainstreaming of many of the initiatives found to be beneficial are being carried out. The Park Rangers and the Police now carry out regular joint foot patrols in the pilot areas as well as targeting Parks or Leisure facilities that are causing particular concern.

In relation to getting our own operational staff more involved in helping us to address ASB activity a training programme was developed for the Parks Rangers Service to assist them with carrying out their duties and increase motivation. This involved report writing, personal safety, conflict resolution and techniques for approaching young people. The training was carried out in partnership with PSNI, BELB, Mediation NI and the Community Safety Roaming Wardens Scheme. Feedback from this training was so positive that another round was carried out. Refresher courses will be planned to continue the development of the Parks Ranger Service.

Further training in partnership with Community Services will be offered in the coming months to staff within Parks and Leisure covering the Code of Behaviour and Child Protection.

Discussions are also ongoing currently in regard to providing necessary equipment and a change in uniform to portray an air of authority within Parks Rangers Service and assist them to carry out their duties effectively.

We continue to use the avenue of Antisocial Behaviour Forums regarding enforcement. This allows us to build up a full picture on individuals who have become known to the Police, NIHE or BCC so that the appropriate action can be decided upon and the lead agency agreed on.

#### Education/awareness

As part of the Pilot's Communication Strategy, the Antisocial Behaviour Co-ordinator continues to provide updates to the newspapers and radio. She responds to enquiries from media on specific issues by outlining the actions being taken to combat issues while emphasising the Council's priority for increasing the feeling of safety among the people of Belfast when using or living near BCC Parks and Leisure facilities as part of the Safer City Agenda.

A statement of key messages for the Pilot was drawn up and made available to members to assist in responding to media enquiries about the work of the Pilot.

The ASB Pilot site outlines the aims and objectives of the Pilot. This also includes an e-mail address for the public to contact the Council regarding antisocial behaviour in Parks/Leisure facilities. From this there are also links to the Community Safety site.

As a result of problems with antisocial behaviour in Parks from school pupils the ASB Coordinator has given talks at school assembly regarding the consequences of antisocial behaviour on Belfast City Council property while emphasising also the opportunities for promoting positive behaviour and choices available to young people with regards to taking a new direction in their lives. As a result of this discussions are ongoing regarding support from the ASB Coordinator within the Citizenship Curriculum as well as the introduction of early intervention methods to promote and support positive behaviour in individuals through, for example, Acceptable Behaviour Contracts or volunteering.

#### Diversionsary Activities/Programmes

The antisocial behaviour pilot has been providing assistance to groups within the pilot areas who wish to develop and implement activities/programmes targeting the problem of antisocial behaviour in the area. Many of the ongoing diversionsary programmes have also been captured through out 'Mapping Exercise' and our aim is to tap into what is currently being provided.

#### Partnership Action Plans

The Draft Partnership Action Plans have now been presented to all pilot areas except the Castle Park area, which due to the area's late addition to the Pilot is still during the consultation stage of the process.

The Plans have been received positively with recognition that a lot of work has been done within the past year and visible changes have been made. Communities are very keen that the relationship building, the area up-dates, monitoring and review of the plans remains ongoing to ensure that targets are being met and that identified actions remain appropriate to the current issues.

We continue to work with residents, Friends Groups, other community/voluntary groups and other agencies within each area in order to ensure that this carried out.

Evaluation

Even though the Pilot is over 2 years, it was agreed that an evaluation would be carried out at the end of the first year to ensure that we continue to identify key issues and target resources effectively. The specification for this evaluation is currently being drafted. This will take place within the next coming months and the final report will be brought to Committee on its completion.

Youth provision

Following the decision of Committee at last month's meeting regarding funding to support youth provision in the City, work has started on the necessary research and a report will be brought to Committee at the earliest opportunity.

**Resource Implications**

There are no new resource implications at this time

**Recommendations**

Members are requested to note the contents of this report.

**Key to Abbreviations**

ASB – Antisocial Behaviour  
ASBO – Antisocial Behaviour Order  
PSNI – Police Service Northern Ireland

**Documents Attached**

Appendix 1 – List of 9 Pilot areas  
Appendix 2 – Antisocial Behaviour Incident Reporting Figures

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**Appendix 1**

**List of Pilot Area**

- Avoniel Park & Leisure Centre
- Ballysillan Park & Leisure Centre
- Dunville Park / Clonard and Falls Leisure Centre
- Orangefield Park/Dixon Playing Fields
- Ormeau Park / Cherryvale/Belfast Indoor Tennis Arena
- Waterworks
- Whiterock Leisure Centre / Falls Park / City Cemetery
- Woodvale Park
- Castle Park



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	Assault to public	Burglary	Disturbance	Graffiti	Misuse of vehicles	Mugging or robbery	Other	Property Damage (internal)	Property Damage (external)	Suspicious Activity	Theft	Unauthorised use of Council	Vehicle Crime	Youths causing annoyance	Underage Drinking	Other incident MOP/EMP	Totals Incidents	Totals WRV	Abuse	ASB	Physical violence	Threats
Avoniel Park & LC																						
Ballysillan Park & LC							1		2			2	5	1			11					
Belfast Castle & Grounds								2		1				2			5					
Cherryvale Play- Fields									1								1					
City Cemetery									1	1	1					1	4					
Dunville Park																						
Falls Park & LC												1				1	2					
Orangefield Park				3					2			1					6					
Ormeau Park			1						1		2			1	2		7					
Waterworks Park					1				1								2					
Whiterock LC								1				1					2					
Woodvale Park					2		1	2				9	6	1			21					
<b>Totals</b>			1	3	3		2	5	8	2	3	12	13	5	2	2	61	0				

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**Belfast City Council**

<b>Report to:</b>	Parks and Leisure Committee
<b>Subject:</b>	Media coverage for December 2007- March 2008
<b>Date:</b>	10 April 2008
<b>Reporting Officer:</b>	Andrew Hassard, Director of Parks and Leisure
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	Anne Donegan, Media Relations Officer, Corporate Communications

**Relevant Background Information**

Members agreed that a quarterly report on media coverage would be brought to Committee to keep members up to date on current issues

**Key Issues**

A report on media coverage for the period December 2007 – March 2008 has been circulated.

**Resource Implications**

Financial  
None.

Human Resources  
None.

Asset and Other Implications  
None.

**Recommendations**

Members are asked to note the report.

**Documents Attached**

Appendix 1: Council generated media coverage Dec07 – Mar08

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## **APPENDIX 1**

### **Council generated media coverage December 2007 – March 2008**

From December 2007 – March 2008 15 press releases were issued in relation to the work of the department.

Cavehill and its £70,000 facelift has received very positive coverage both in January and in March, with stories appearing on BBC, where it was covered by tv, radio and website. There was also coverage in the Irish News, Newsletter, Belfast Telegraph as well as the weeklies.

Anti-social behaviour continues to be a popular topic for the press and the council's work to tackle it has been receiving an excellent profile in the media with coverage of both the initial ASB meetings in the local communities and the launch of the draft action plans. Radio Ulster's Good Morning Ulster and Nolan programme have covered the work of the project.

The launch of the Belfast Physical Strategy and Sports Awards received some coverage in the local press and there will be ongoing releases issued as the awards dinner on 14 April approaches.

We are continuing to build on coverage, photographic and editorial, for the NI Primary Schools Cross Country Championship with the Belfast Final approaching in April.

Among other media issues relating to the department was the cemetery row with Castlereagh Council opposing a proposed Belfast cemetery in its council area and the City of Belfast golf club posing a risk to residents in Newtownabbey whose gardens are bombarded with golf balls.

Corporate Communications ensured a council spokesman gave a reaction outlining our position in both these cases. They also corrected a story which had unfairly accused parks staff of damaging graves and ensured a statement correcting the position was carried the following week.

#### **Statistics**

From December 2007 to the middle of March 2008 the Media Relations Office dealt with more than 400 press enquiries 55 of which were directly related to the work of the Department. This represents around 16 per cent of the total number of enquiries dealt with by the Media Relations team for the same period.

Around 60% of the enquiries were answered within the hour and close to 90% were answered within one working day.

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