

Document Pack

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



4th November, 2011

MEETING OF PARKS AND LEISURE COMMITTEE

Dear Alderman/Councillor,

The above-named Committee will meet in the Lavery Room (Room G05), City Hall on **Thursday, 10th November, 2011 at 4.30 p.m.**, 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. Centenary Events (Pages 1 - 6)
3. Request from Ballynaveigh Orange Hall Management Committee (Pages 7 - 14)
4. Request from Joint Unionist Centenary Committee (Pages 15 - 24)
5. 2011/2012 Departmental Plan Update (Pages 25 - 30)
6. Use of Departmental Underspend (Pages 31 - 34)
7. Sport NI - Capital Community Funding (Pages 35 - 38)
8. Proposal from Michael Davitt's GAC (Pages 39 - 46)
9. Presentation re: Refurbishment of Mary Peters Track (Pages 47 - 48)

10. Outdoor Fitness Equipment Proposal (Pages 49 - 52)
11. Consultation on High Hedges (Pages 53 - 58)
12. Alexandra Park - Request for Presentation (Pages 59 - 62)
13. Reservoirs - Supervision and New Legislation (Pages 63 - 66)
14. Institute of Cemetery and Crematorium Management - Annual General Meeting
(Pages 67 - 70)
15. Closure Report re: 'People in Parks' Initiative (Pages 71 - 108)
16. Support for Sport Development Grants (Pages 109 - 116)



Belfast City Council

Report to:	Parks and Leisure Committee.
Subject:	Centenary Events
Date:	10 November 2011
Reporting Officer:	Andrew Hassard, Director of Parks and Leisure.
Contact Officer:	Emer Boyle, Policy and Business Development Manager

1.	Relevant Background Information
1.1	The purpose of this report is to clarify for the Committee the number of different requests which have been received from different organisations for a range of dates and venues for centenary and anniversary events over the next year.
1.2	To date, the department has received three different requests: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) a floral display in Ormeau Park from Ballynafeigh Orange Lodge for Spring/Summer 2012 to mark their 125th anniversary; (ii) an event on Saturday 19 May 2012 in Ormeau Park from the Unionist Centenaries Committee (UCC); and (iii) an event at either Strangford Avenue playing fields, Barnetts Demesne or Ormeau Park on 29 September 2012 from the Grand Orange Lodge of Ireland (attached at Appendix 1).

2.	Key Issues
2.1	The first two requests on the above list were referred to and considered by the Council's Historic Centenaries Working Group – and reports are presented to this meeting of the Committee on these matters.
2.2	The third request is scheduled for discussion at the next meeting of the Historic Centenaries Working Group on 14 November when representatives from the Grand Orange Lodge of Ireland will be in attendance.
2.3	After the Historic Centenaries Working Group meeting on 14 November a further report will be brought back to the December Parks and Leisure Committee with the Group's recommendation.
2.4	Officers in the department are working closely with the Good Relations Manager to progress the management of these requests.

3.	Resource Implications
3.1	<u>Financial</u> There are no additional financial implications to outline in relation to this update report.
3.2	<u>Human Resources</u> There are no human resource implications at this time.
3.3	<u>Asset and Other Implications</u> None.

4.	Equality and Good Relations Considerations
4.1	The Council is committed to the promotion of good relations in the city, including the celebration of cultural diversity. All of these requests will be considered by the Council's Historic Centenaries Working Group in line with the agreed principles which the council has signed-up to, through the Strategic Policy & Resources Committee.

5.	Recommendations
5.1	The Committee is asked to note this update.

6.	Decision Tracking
	None.

7.	Key to Abbreviations
	None.

8.	Documents Attached
	Appendix 1 : 1 st request from Grand Orange Lodge of Ireland Appendix 2 : revised request from Grand Orange Lodge of Ireland



Grand Orange Lodge of Ireland

"SCHOMBERG HOUSE", 368 CREGAGH ROAD, BELFAST, BT6 9EY • TELEPHONE: 028 9070 1122 FAX: 028 9040 3700
E-mail: Info@grandorangelodge.co.uk • Website: www.grandorangelodge.co.uk

DH/EH

10 October 2011

Mr Andrew Hassard
Director
Parks & Leisure Committee
Belfast City Council
Adelaide Exchange
24-26 Adelaide Street
BELFAST BT2 8GD

Dear Mr Hassard

I am writing to you on behalf of the Grand Orange Lodge of Ireland to ascertain if we could book Strangford Playing Fields for a Covenant Parade to be held on the 29 September 2012. This event will mark the anniversary of this historic event and we trust that our application will be acceptable.

Hoping to hear from you as soon as possible in this regard.

Yours sincerely

Dr David Hume M.B.E.
DIRECTOR OF SERVICES

Parks & Leisure
Department
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Grand Orange Lodge of Ireland

"SCHOMBERG HOUSE", 368 CREGAGH ROAD, BELFAST, BT6 9EY • TELEPHONE: 028 9070 1122 FAX: 028 9040 3700
E-mail: info@grandorangelodge.co.uk • Website: www.grandorangelodge.co.uk

DH/EH

19 October 2011

Mr Andrew Hassard
Director
Parks & Leisure Committee
Belfast City Council
Adelaide Exchange
24-26 Adelaide Street
BELFAST BT2 8GD

PARKS & LEISURE DEPARTMENT		
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Dear Mr Hassard

Further to our recent letter, I would be interested in an option for provision for Barnetts Park for the 29 September Parade. Perhaps you could bring this to the attention of the Committee when they are making their decision so that the options of Barnetts Park, Strangford Playing Fields, and Ormeau Park can be considered and we can be advised accordingly.

Thanking you in anticipation.

Yours sincerely

Dr David Hume M.B.E.
DIRECTOR OF SERVICES



Belfast City Council

Report to:	Parks and Leisure Committee
Subject:	Request from Ballynafeigh Orange Hall Management Committee
Date:	10 November 2011
Reporting Officer:	Andrew Hassard, Director of Parks and Leisure
Contact Officer:	Emer Boyle, Policy and Business Development Manager

1.	Relevant Background Information
1.1	The Parks and Leisure Committee, at its meeting in September 2011, considered a request from the Ballynafeigh Orange Hall Management Committee for a floral display in Ormeau Park (overlooking the Ormeau Road) during the summer of 2012 to mark the 125 th anniversary of the Ballynafeigh Orange Hall and Reading Room (request attached at Appendix 1).
1.2	At this meeting it was agreed that the request should be referred to the Council's Historic Centenaries Working Group.
1.3	The Orange Hall is the second oldest public building in Ballynafeigh and the Hall secretary has informed the council of the importance of this anniversary for their members and the community in Ballynafeigh who support the Orange Hall.
1.4	Some initial consultation was carried out in the spring of 2011 by Parks staff in conjunction with the council's Equality and Diversity Officer, who spoke to local community groups and local councillors for the area, gauging their informal views on both the equality and good relations impacts of the proposal; a mix of views was expressed from groups above and below the Ormeau Bridge.
1.5	Ballynafeigh Community Development Association assisted in this by requesting the views of their partner organisations in their Inter-Dependence Project in Ballynafeigh.
1.6	Ballynafeigh prides itself as being a diverse community and identifies itself as a "shared neighbourhood", unusual in Belfast. Ballynafeigh Community Development Association is supported in this by both the Housing Executive and the council.

2.	Key Issues
2.1	The Historic Centenaries Working Group met on Monday 17 October and considered this request amongst a number of others. The group received a report which outlined the background to the request and the fact that community consultation was ongoing, through the Ballynafeigh Community Development Association.
2.2	The location of the flowerbed for which the display has been requested overlooks the Ormeau Road from an elevated position within the park (approximate size = 24ft wide x 12ft high). Photos of the flower bed from a range of perspectives are attached at Appendix 2.
2.3	The Parks and Leisure Department does not have a formal policy on how it manages requests for floral displays for centenaries or other occasions although it has planted up floral displays in the past. This particular flowerbed was used previously to mark the centenary of the 'Girl Guides' organisation in 2010 (see Appendix 2)
2.4	The Good Relations Unit has advised that the department should develop such a policy and the Historic Centenaries Working Group were made aware of this at their meeting on 17 October when this item was considered.
2.5	A policy on the management of requests for floral displays is currently under development and it is anticipated that a draft will be ready to bring before this Committee early in the new year. To ensure that the status of the Parks as high quality shared facilities, enjoyed by all is preserved, any proposed floral display of this nature should have local agreement, should be non-offensive in design (i.e. no flags, no paramilitary emblems, no references to illegal organisations etc.) and should be in line with existing council policies.
2.6	The Historic Centenaries Working Group agreed to recommend to the Parks and Leisure Committee that: <i>"...approval to this request be granted, subject to an appropriate policy being developed that opens up this opportunity to all bona fide groups celebrating centenaries..."</i>

3.	Resource Implications
3.1	<p><u>Financial</u> There are no additional financial implications surrounding this proposal. It is normal practice that this flowerbed is planted out bi-annually with seasonal bedding plants as part of the planned maintenance programme and this is allocated from the Ormeau Park revenue budget.</p> <p>The design of the proposed floral display does not impact on the normal amount of bedding plants required to fill this flowerbed. No specialist plants or materials are required to complete this display.</p>
3.2	<p><u>Human Resources</u> There are no human resource implications. The design of the proposed floral display does not impact on the normal amount of labour (man hours) required to plant this flowerbed.</p>

3.3	<p><u>Asset and Other Implications</u> None.</p>
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4.	Equality and Good Relations Considerations
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4.1	<p>The council is committed to the promotion of good relations in the city including the celebration of cultural diversity. The local Ballynafeigh Orange Lodge is an active member in the wider Ballynafeigh community network. A simple floral display of this type would represent an official acknowledgement of the role of the local Orange Hall in the community over the past 125 years.</p>
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5.	Recommendations
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5.1	<p>The Committee is asked to approve the recommendation of the Historic Centenaries Working Group and therein the request from Ballynafeigh Orange Hall Management Committee that this request be granted, subject to an appropriate policy being developed that opens up this opportunity to other bona fide groups celebrating centenaries.</p>
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6.	Decision Tracking
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	<p>Stephen Stockman, City Park Manager, Principal Parks and Cemeteries Services Manager to complete actions by Summer 2012.</p>
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7.	Key to Abbreviations
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	<p>None.</p>
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8.	Documents Attached
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	<p>Appendix 1: Letter from Ballynafeigh Orange Hall Appendix 2: Photos of location of flower bed for proposed display</p>
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Ballynafeigh Orange Hall & Reading Room

Management Committee

Est. 1825

113 Ormeau Road



17 Dee Street
Belfast
BT4 1FT

Ref: 125th Anniversary

Date 27th July 2010

To: The Chairman
Parks & Cemeteries Committee
Belfast City Council

Dear Sir

In 2012 Ballynafeigh Orange Hall & Reading Room will celebrate its 125th anniversary. The Orange Hall is the second oldest public building in Ballynafeigh only St. Jude's Parish Church is older. This is an important anniversary for our members and the public in Ballynafeigh who support the Orange Hall.

In the Ormeau Park over looking the Ormeau Road the Parks & Cemeteries Committee each year organises a flora display to mark important anniversaries of various organisations. My committee believes the 125th anniversary of the Orange Hall is such an important occasion. So we would like to nominate the hall anniversary for a flora display during the summer of 2012. May I thank-you for your help in this matter and look forward to hearing your reply.

Yours sincerely

Wor Bro Noel Liggett
Hall Secretary.

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APPENDIX 2

The design of the proposed floral display entails an orange lily at the centre, with silver/grey lettering at the top reading 'Ballynafeigh Orange Hall' Each side of the lily would read 1887 - 2012; and along the bottom edge '125th Anniversary'. The flowerbed would have a dark blue background.



View of flower bed from within the Park;-



Example of bed planted for centenary of Girl Guides





Belfast City Council

Report to:	Parks and Leisure Committee.
Subject:	Request from Joint Unionist Centenary Committee
Date:	10 November 2011
Reporting Officer:	Andrew Hassard, Director of Parks and Leisure.
Contact Officer:	Emer Boyle, Policy and Business Development Manager

1	Relevant Background Information
1.1	The Parks and Leisure Committee, at its meeting in September 2011 considered a request from the Joint Unionist Centenary Committee (UCC), which is based at West Belfast Orange Hall, Shankill Road Belfast.
1.2	The original Unionist Centenary Committee (UCC) request dated 28 August 2011 was to have a parade to Strangford Playing Fields in south Belfast, but at the council meeting on 3 October this request was amended to refer to Ormeau Park.
1.3	Following the council meeting, the Good Relations Manager and the Policy and Business Development Manager from Parks and Leisure Department met three representatives from the UCC on Monday 10 October to clarify the detail of the application.
1.4	The Unionist Centenary Committee (UCC) was set up at the end of 2009 as an umbrella group and consists of the following stakeholders: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 36th Ulster Division Memorial Association • Apprentice Boys of Derry • Confederation of Ulster Bands • Democratic Unionist Party • Grand Orange Lodge of Ireland • Independent Loyal Orange Institution • Progressive Unionist Party • Regimental Bands Association • Somme Association, Conlig • Traditional Unionist Voice • Ulster Defence Union 1893 Committee • Ulster Unionist Party.
1.5	The purpose of the UCC is: <i>“to commemorate the Centenary of the Balmoral Review which was held to demonstrate Unionist opposition to Home Rule for Ireland, and to do this in a manner which is factually correct and open to all.”</i>

	<p>The additional information gleaned from the meeting with the UCC and the revised request and location have since been discussed at the meeting of the Council's Historic Centenaries Working Group on 17 October and at a special meeting of the same group on Wednesday 26 October, when four representatives of the UCC were in attendance.</p>
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2	Key Issues
2.1	<p>The UCC representatives stated that Windsor Park had been their original choice of venue but this was deemed unsuitable. Strangford Playing Fields had been second choice but this was later considered too small to host an event which might attract up to 25,000 people. Barnett Demesne had been considered, since this is the usual destination for the annual 12 July demonstration, but the UCC had decided that the considerable distance involved - 6 miles to and from the city centre - made this impractical.</p>
2.2	<p>Their application had therefore been altered to Ormeau Park. This was their preferred option, primarily due to its close proximity to the city centre, ease of access for all and in their view would allow the proposed parade and entertainment to have minimal impact on local communities, traffic or policing.</p>
2.3	<p>The UCC members stated that the parade would initiate from 5 meeting points from Orange Halls located at Clifton Street, Alexandra Park Avenue, Sandy Row, Shankill Road and Albertbridge Road. They envisaged that the main parade would start at 10:00 am, making its way to Ormeau Park for the start of the main events at 12:00 noon.</p>
2.4	<p>At Ormeau Park itself a platform party would review a march past of the parade, to be followed by a brief religious service, in accordance with the original 1912 event. Entertainment would carry on through the afternoon and the main parade would leave the park around 5:00pm whilst the fairground element and entertainment would continue into the evening.</p>
2.5	<p>The UCC stressed that this was intended to be an alcohol-free event and would seek assistance from the police and park staff in the management of the event; all stall holders, caterers and traders at the event would be certified in the usual manner. The UCC proposed that parking for essential parade traffic, including some vintage vehicles, would be at the Ozone site and they would organise their own event marshals on site.</p>
2.6	<p>At the meeting of the Centenaries Working Group on 25 October, representatives from the UCC also outlined their intentions to have a "Cultural Village" of tented workshops and displays in the park with activities including music, dancing etc. Since the 25 October the UCC has communicated that they would like to extend the fairground and cultural village element to the Friday night if possible (text of email attached in Appendix 2).</p>
2.7	<p>The key uncertainty around the event is the number expected. Since no other demonstrations in NI are currently planned for that day the event could potentially attract up to 25,000+ attendees.</p>

<p>2.8</p> <p>2.9</p> <p>2.10</p>	<p>When council staff met with the UCC representatives, essential factors considered were the size, scope, location and all health and safety aspects of the proposed event. An event of this size would require a full events plan and would have to conform to the conditions set out in the Parks policy for “large scale concerts and music festivals”.</p> <p>In addition, normally an application for an event on this scale would be from a commercial promoter and a ‘bond of intent’ would be required to be to confirm the booking of the venue and associated set-up and take-down time and is refundable, as long as no significant damage is incurred during the event. In these circumstances, given the non-commercial nature of the organiser, it is not proposed to require a bond of intent.</p> <p>The UCC stressed that this was not an Orange Order demonstration; they hoped it would be an open, non-contentious, welcoming community event in which all elements of the local community could participate positively. Their plans were provisional at present but the UCC would keep all interested parties, including the police and Parades Commission, informed of ongoing developments.</p> <p>After consideration, the council’s Historic Centenaries Working Group agreed to recommend to the Parks and Leisure Committee that approval be granted for this request in line with the proviso detailed in the September Committee report, i.e.:</p> <p><i>“that:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <i>1. the event organisers resolve all operational issues to the council’s satisfaction;</i> <i>2. an appropriate legal agreement prepared by the Town Solicitor and Assistant Chief Executive is completed;</i> <i>3. the event organisers meet all statutory requirements including entertainment licensing; and</i> <i>4. the event organisers ensure that all health and safety requirements are met to the council’s satisfaction.”</i> <p>and subject to a number of further conditions, namely that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • there are no displays of paramilitary emblems or regalia; • no national flags or symbols are burnt or defaced; and • all the requirements of the council’s events plan are fully complied with.
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<p>3</p>	<p>Resource Implications</p>
<p>3.1</p>	<p><u>Financial</u> There are no financial contributions requested at this stage.</p>
<p>3.2</p>	<p><u>Human Resources</u> There are likely to be some additional staffing and planning implications which should be able to be accommodated through our normal event management process.</p>
<p>3.3</p>	<p><u>Asset and Other Implications</u> Depending on scale of event and weather, some repair to Ormeau Park terrain may be required.</p>

4	Equality and Good Relations Considerations
4.1	<p>The council has established an Historic Centenaries Working Group, which reports to the Strategic Policy & Resources Committee, to co-ordinate its work in this area. The Working Group has agreed that the forthcoming <i>Decade of Centenaries, 2012-2022</i>, provides an opportunity for the council to contribute to a better understanding of the past and to promote respect for the complexity of our shared history.</p> <p>The Historic Centenaries Working Group has already discussed a programme of events for the first period in the decade 2012-2014, and has recommended to the Strategic Policy & Resources Committee that the Centenary of the Signing of the Covenant should be one of the first major events to be marked, with the commissioning of an exhibition in the City Hall plus a number of individual events.</p> <p>All of the proposals currently under consideration within the programme would have positive implications in terms of the promotion of equality and good relations, if undertaken in an inclusive manner. In line with this rationale, through the Strategic Policy & Resources Committee, the council has committed to the set of principles attached at Appendix 3 – and <i>“will not support events or activities that could be deemed to be triumphalist, to deepen or harden existing divisions, or belittle or demonise other groups.”</i></p>

5	Recommendations
5.1	<p>That the Parks and Leisure Committee approve the recommendation of the Historic Centenaries Working Group in line with the proviso detailed in the September Committee report (detailed at section 2.10 above) and subject to a number of further conditions (the first two of which have been in place for some years in relation to the Bonfire Management Programme), namely that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • there are no displays of paramilitary emblems or regalia • no national flags or symbols are burnt or defaced • all the requirements of the council’s Events Plan are fully complied with.

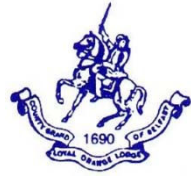
6	Decision Tracking
	City Park Manager and Principal Parks and Cemeteries Services Manager to ensure actions are completed by May 2012.

7	Key to Abbreviations
	JUCC: Joint Unionist Centenary Committee

8	Documents Attached
	<p>Appendix 1: Letter from Joint Unionist Centenary Committee</p> <p>Appendix 2: Copy of text from email re – extension of plans for tented village to the Friday evening.</p> <p>Appendix 3 : Copy of Centenaries Working Group – Agreed Principles</p>



1912 Joint Unionist
Centenary Committee 2012



I am writing on behalf of the Joint Unionist Covenant Committee (the Committee).

This new group consists of people authorised to act on behalf of the Unionist Centenary Committee and the County Grand Orange Lodge of Belfast.

The purpose of the Committee is to;

“To commemorate the Centenary of the Balmoral Review which was held to demonstrate Unionist opposition to Home Rule for Ireland, and to do this in a manner which is factually correct and open to all.”

Previously I wrote to you asking for permission to use Strangford Playing Fields on the 19th May 2012. We have decided now to withdraw that application and ask for Ormeau Park We would hope that the number of people attending will be in the region of 15,000 and we would like with your permission to have;

- A stage where a short religious service could be held followed by a celebration of our culture through music, dance and drama. There would be no political speeches other than a possible actor reading out a speech from 1912.
- An area for children’s games.
- A tented village including first aid, information point etc
- A catering area

We do not envisage any alcohol being sold in the Park, indeed we would welcome any assistance you can provide to help us make it an area free from alcohol.

As a Committee we have signed up to the following principles which have been agreed by the Community Relations Council and the Heritage Lottery Fund.

- 1) Start from the historical **facts**;
- 2) Recognise the implications and **consequences** of what happened;
- 3) Understand that different **perceptions** and interpretations exist; and
- 4) Show how events and activities can deepen **understanding** of the period.

We believe by adopting these principles we will play our role in assisting the community as we move forward together.

If the Council approves the application we would like to meet with the Council or their representatives to ensure the Park is used correctly and returned to the Council fit for purpose.

Yours Sincerely,

Stephen Gough

Secretary

Phone; 07714238963

E Mail; secretary@unionistcentenaries.com

APPENDIX 2

Emer

Clifton Street
Alexandra Park Avenue
Sandy Row
Shankill Road
Albertbridge Road

To get better value for our money we may wish to extend the cultural village idea, fairground and live music into the Friday night as well. Finishing around 10.30. Would that be a problem?

Stephen

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Principles that might be used in selection of events to be marked in Decade of Centenaries 2012-2022

Agreed by Centenaries Working Group 17 October 2011 and by Strategic Policy & Resources Committee 21 October 2011

The decade in question marks a number of particularly significant dates that have shaped the history of Northern Ireland and Ireland and therefore our own identities and cultures – see list previously circulated.

The marking of these events provides the Council with an excellent opportunity to broaden our understanding of the past and our respect for the complexity of our shared history.

As a shared city in the twenty-first century, we should be able to deal with difference in a positive and constructive manner, demonstrating openness on the basis of shared civic values within a democracy and a mature respect for cultural diversity within our heritage.

These principles are suggested in draft only, for initial discussion, based on reports previously submitted and comments made by the Working Group.

- Events supported by the Council should provide opportunities to include a range of different perspectives and ideologies, rather than a single viewpoint, aiming to increase understanding and appreciation of other perspectives and identities
- They should be based on historic accuracy, robust academic expertise and critical analysis – engagement with universities, museums, libraries, PRONI etc is essential to ensure this evidence base
- The interpretation of events should be in a broad historical context and understanding of the national and European setting of the time
- The Council should develop strong links with other institutions – i.e. museums, libraries, PRONI and other relevant organisations, to ensure that there is no duplication and that events and programmes are complementary
- We will provide/support a range of different types of events – from lectures, discussions, debates to films, drama, activities that attract schools and children/families etc – so that events can not only be educational but participative, creative and enjoyable
- We will provide/support events and activities that are not exclusive¹ but are welcoming to all sections of our increasingly diverse community in Belfast

This set of principles, if agreed, should be applied corporately to any key anniversaries being marked by the Council.

¹ The Council, committed both to the promotion of equality of opportunity and good relations in the City, will not support events or activities that could be deemed to be triumphalist, to deepen or harden existing divisions, or belittle or demonise other groups.
(Adapted from the Irish School of Ecumenics, *Moving Beyond Sectarianism* research)

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Belfast City Council

Report to:	Parks & Leisure Committee
Subject:	Departmental Plan Update
Date:	10 November 2011
Reporting Officer:	Andrew Hassard, Director of Parks and Leisure
Contact Officers:	Emer Boyle, Policy and Business Development Manager Maria McAleer, Policy and Business Development Officer

1.	Relevant Background Information
	<p>The purpose of this report is to provide a six month progress report on the 2011-12 departmental plan highlighting key achievements during this period and to ask for Members input into the development of the 2012-13 Departmental Plan.</p> <p>The Parks and Leisure departmental plan 2011-12 was approved by Committee on 9 June 2011 with agreement that a six month update report would be presented to Committee in October 2011. This update is for the first six months of 2011/12 (for the period 1 April – 30 September 2011).</p>
2.	Key Issues
	<p>The department plan describes how the Parks and Leisure Department's purpose, vision, values, objectives, activities and key performance indicators for the year 2011-12 complement those outlined in the corporate plan. As agreed at the September 2011 meeting of the Parks and Leisure Committee, a six monthly up-date report on the progress associated with 2011-12 departmental plan would be provided to Members in Nov-Dec 2011.</p> <p>Lead officers were asked to provide updates on the status of their service/ unit projects, programmes and activities under each of the departmental objectives, providing commentary if necessary. As many of the department's projects involve land re-development, repair and improvement, a number of the projects continue to feature on an ongoing basis in the department's plan. Key areas of progress and achievement are summarised under each of the corporate strategic themes below.</p>

City leadership

In the Parks and Leisure Department this theme is about **partnering and leading**. The Parks and Leisure Department takes a strategic lead role on behalf of the council in working with other partners and agencies to deliver an active, healthy and vibrant city. Work is still continuing with arrangements being made for the management and maintenance of phase of the Connswater Community Greenway. An economic appraisal is underway for the Tropical Ravine in Botanic Gardens with a planned re-submission of application for funding to Heritage Lottery Fund in December 2011.

Better care for Belfast's environment

In the Parks and Leisure Department this theme is about **protecting and linking** the city through its parks, open spaces and leisure centres. Throughout the year we will be committed to delivering a sustainable approach to service provision, contributing to a cleaner, greener and healthier environment. This year the Department achieved 5 new Green Flags and retained 3 – bringing the total achievement to a record 8. Three additional sites: Waterworks, Belmont and Sir Thomas and Lady Dixon have been selected to go forward in 2012. Green Flag Management Plans are being developed for these sites. Applications planned for submission in January 2012.

Better opportunities for success across the city

In the Parks and Leisure Department this theme is about **physical** regeneration in **local** neighbourhoods and the department playing a key role in the local economy. The department will continue to develop ways of using our facilities and open spaces; to enrich the city's cultural, tourism and heritage offering.

Operational staff working with the Departmental Portfolio and Programme Manager continue to develop local communities' programmes for Connswater, Dunville and Woodvale with anticipated commencement in April 2012.

Better support for people and communities

In the Parks and Leisure Department this theme is about **participation and lifestyles**. The Department will continue to provide programmes and services to make people feel safer and encourage people to lead healthier and more active lifestyles.

The Presence in Parks Pilot is in the process of redevelopment as the initial approach proved not to be practicable; a new plan has been produced and is awaiting approval.

The Department has delivered improvements in dog services and dog control in Parks and is actively participating in the Dog Fouling Campaign and Working Group with Health and Environmental Services. Over one thousand poop scoop bags have been distributed in Parks.

Currently a base line for measuring dog fouling in Parks is being developed and problem areas are being identified by monitoring the issuing of fixed penalties. Also we are exploring other dog control measures in parks such as zoning areas in line with the Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment bill. Relevant bye law signage has also been reviewed.

A range of health and wellbeing programmes and activities have been delivered including parent and toddler swim classes, 'Make a Splash' swim programme, summer schemes, Health wise exercise referral scheme, Cardiac rehabilitation (Phase 4) programme, Work for health, Health for life scheme, Activ8 programme, Healthy families, Watch this space programme, toddler to teenager programme and programmes for seniors and women. Some programmes are continuous throughout the year e.g. Make a splash, Health wise.

Better services

In the Parks and Leisure Department this theme is about delivering a **proficient** service and **listening** to our customers. The Department will continue to deliver service improvement right across the department. Operational reviews identifying and delivering improvements and efficiencies in our services in relation to both Parks and Leisure Services are currently underway. "Growing Communities" strategy development commenced with a baseline study commissioned, pre-consultation meeting conducted in September 2011 and a timetable of steering group meetings scheduled throughout 2011/12. We have developed a customer charter and continue to roll-out a programme of customer care training.

Better value for money

In the Parks and Leisure Department this theme is about reviewing and improving our **processes** and creating a **learning** organisation. The Department will continue to invest and support our people by improving employee capacity and capabilities. The corporate approach to personal development planning has been implemented throughout the Department. This will facilitate the planning and prioritisation of training needs and more efficient procurement with external training providers if necessary. The department is continuing to work towards the corporate achievement of liP and is currently implementing a detailed action plan to support this aim.

Finance

The Department continues to identify opportunities and implement initiatives to maximise income most notably through completing a review of the Boost membership programme and pricing scheme with recommendations' to be presented to committee in December 2011. The Department continues to secure and manage funding from external sources with a number of external grants sourced in the year to date including the securing of funding under Phase II of the Belfast Peace III Plan for delivery of the City of Neighbourhoods - Health and Wellbeing project Respect through Sport commencing in January 2012.

	<p><u>Policy, Planning and Performance</u> The Department progressed the development of the playing pitches strategy and proceeds with work on the associated action plans. In line with the improvement programme, the Department continues to develop its business planning and performance management processes in line with the corporate priorities.</p> <p><u>Communication and Engagement</u> As part of the improvement programme we continue to prioritise online transactions within available budgets and system functionality. Key online transactions have been identified, notably in relation to leisure, cemeteries' and grant schemes and these are being progressed as part of specific projects. The Department participated in the council wide video project which produced promotional and information videos that are hosted on the council website. The department now has 11 short videos showcasing our venues and services.</p> <p><u>Planning for 2012-13</u> Work has commenced on the development of a draft departmental plan for 2012-13. It is proposed that a draft will be presented to the Committee in either February or March 2012. Key priorities for action will include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • progressing the playing pitches strategy; • continuing with the improvement programme to modernise service delivery in line with customer expectations; • development of a draft "Growing Communities" strategy – including allotments and community gardens; • planning to be able to fulfil our obligations under forthcoming legislation – including clean neighbourhoods, high hedges and biodiversity; • retaining our 8 green flags and attaining 3 additional in 2012; • ongoing development and regeneration of our parks and open spaces; • agile programme development and diversionary provision to deal with anti-social behaviour in and around our sites; • active development of friends groups in a number of sites; and • ongoing development of health and activity programmes – with key connections to the emerging Active Belfast agenda and the Active Communities programme. <p>This list is in no way exhaustive and input from Members would be welcome if there is anything they think should be included.</p>
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<p>3.</p>	<p>Resource Implications</p>
	<p>There are no additional resource implications at this time. The 2012-13 Departmental Plan will be developed in line with the Department's allocated budget.</p>

4.	Equality and Good Relations Implications
	None.
5.	Recommendations
	Members are asked to note this update report and advise if there is anything they feel should be addressed in the draft departmental plan for 2012-13.
6.	Decision Tracking
	There is no decision tracking attached to this report.
7.	Key to Abbreviations
	<p>KPI Key Performance Indicator IIP Investors in People FOI Freedom of Information DMT Departmental Management Team PDP Personal Development Plan</p>
8.	Documents Attached
	None.

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Belfast City Council

Report to:	Parks and Leisure Committee
Subject:	Underutilised Funds
Date:	10 November 2011
Reporting Officer:	Andrew Hassard, Director of Parks and Leisure
Contact Officer:	Jacqui Wilson, Business Manager

1.	Relevant Background Information
1.1	<p>At the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee on 19 August the potential for underutilised funds becoming available for re-allocation was highlighted. The reason for funds becoming available is due to slippage in a number of capital projects and a reduced vehicle replacement requirement.</p> <p>At SP&R on 23 September it was agreed to allocate £800,000 of the underspend to Parks and Leisure to supplement the department's budget on a non-recurrent basis. The following areas were identified as being suitable for non-recurrent financing:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. A programme of 3G and grass resurfacing which has been identified as being required through the Pitches Strategy. 2. The resurfacing of the cycling track at Orangefield Park which is used as a training facility for national cyclists who compete in the Commonwealth and Olympic games. 3. A programme of improvements and renewals in parks and leisure facilities, including lighting and equipment. 4. A programme of community initiatives including playgrounds, community gardens and local community events. <p>The SP&R Committee, agreed, however, and that the Parks and Leisure Committee should agree the final allocation of money to specific initiatives.</p>

2.	Key Issues												
<p>The table below sets out the proposed areas for allocation of funding:</p>													
<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th data-bbox="284 376 1027 450">Proposed allocation of Underspend</th> <th data-bbox="1027 376 1273 450">Estimated Cost</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td data-bbox="284 450 1027 562">Provision of Outdoor Gym Equipment at various park sites to be agreed (8 sites @ £10,000, working in partnership with the Public Health Unit)</td> <td data-bbox="1027 450 1273 562">£80,000</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="284 562 1027 636">Replacement Leisure equipment now at end of life (all centres)</td> <td data-bbox="1027 562 1273 636">£250,000</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="284 636 1027 710">Development of Community Gardens at 4 locations to be agreed across the city</td> <td data-bbox="1027 636 1273 710">£200,000</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="284 710 1027 748">Essential work on Orangefield Cycle Track</td> <td data-bbox="1027 710 1273 748">£220,000</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="284 748 1027 824">Grass Pitch Maintenance in line with resurfacing needs identified through the Pitches Strategy</td> <td data-bbox="1027 748 1273 824">£50,000</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		Proposed allocation of Underspend	Estimated Cost	Provision of Outdoor Gym Equipment at various park sites to be agreed (8 sites @ £10,000, working in partnership with the Public Health Unit)	£80,000	Replacement Leisure equipment now at end of life (all centres)	£250,000	Development of Community Gardens at 4 locations to be agreed across the city	£200,000	Essential work on Orangefield Cycle Track	£220,000	Grass Pitch Maintenance in line with resurfacing needs identified through the Pitches Strategy	£50,000
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<p>Although the governance arrangements for these smaller schemes has still to be considered by SP&R it is proposed that a number of projects are developed to a state of readiness to be progressed as funding becomes available and to allow some flexibility in delivery should other projects not progress. These include:</p>													
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<p>Consultation and work on specifications are required after which projects will be brought before committee for agreement on locations and delivery.</p>													
<p>A number of procurement exercises will be required to be under taken to ensure the delivery of the projects within the tight timescale and work is currently underway to work up the relevant specifications.</p>													

3.	Resource implications
	<p><u>Financial</u> The cost/value of each tender will be reported back to committee as soon as the detail of the procurement needed is completed. The £800k will be used for both revenue and capital projects subject to the appropriate business cases being developed. All revenue expenditure will be required to be spent by the end of March 2012.</p> <p><u>Human Resources</u> There are no additional human resource implications.</p> <p><u>Asset and Other Implications</u> Completion of the identified work will enable the Department to continue to provide a high standard service while still effectively managing our resources.</p>

4.	Equality and good relations implications
	The tendering process requires companies to include their equality policy within their submission.

5.	Recommendations
	<p>It is recommended that Members approve the proposed use of the under spend on the initiatives as set out and agree for the tendering exercises required to be initiated and authorise the Director, under the scheme of delegation, to award the successful tenders.</p> <p>Work will continue with Finance and Resources to develop the required business cases to progress the capital items included in line with the gates process.</p> <p>Further reports will be brought before committee to seek agreement on locations and delivery.</p>

6.	Decision Tracking
	All tenders to be issued, evaluated and approved during the financial year 2011/12 by the Business Manager.

7.	Key to abbreviations
	None.

8.	Documents Attached
	None.

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Belfast City Council

Report to:	Parks and Leisure Committee
Subject:	Sport NI – Community Capital Programme
Date:	10 November 2011
Reporting Officer:	Andrew Hassard, Director of Parks and Leisure
Contact Officer:	Stephen Walker, Departmental Portfolio Programme Manager Ken Anderson, Estates Management Unit, Property and Projects Department

1	Relevant Background Information
	<p>At its meeting on 11 August 2011 the Committee was provided with information on three schemes which were progressing under the Sport NI Community Capital Programme funding scheme. The three schemes were for the provision of a:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. mountain bike trail at Barnett Demesne/Mary Peters Track (CAAN); 2. 3G soccer pitch at Marrowbone Millennium Park (Shankill United); and 3. a 3G soccer pitch at Hammer Open Space (Ardoyne Youth Providers). <p>Sport NI (SNI) has indicated that the applicants have all demonstrated a high level of need for their respective projects and that these projects fit with the criteria of the programme. The three schemes have been prioritised for funding subject to the applicants satisfying Sport NI that they have:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. security of tenure; 2. secured sufficient matched funding to complete the project; and 3. all the necessary statutory approvals. <p>Sport NI has now asked the three applicants to demonstrate their state of readiness.</p> <p>Committee had authorised officers to enter into further discussions with the applicant groups to agree the nature of any legal arrangements and agree terms prior to referring the matter back to the Parks and Leisure Committee and ultimately the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee in accordance with Standing Orders 46 and 60. Committee also authorised officers to continue to explore ways in which the council might provide financial assistance to the projects.</p>

2	Key Issues
	<p>Further discussions have taken place between officers, the grant applicants, and SNI resulting in clarification of the requirements for each party as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In the case of the Marrowbone and Hammer 3G pitch developments, SNI has stated that while it prefers that the grant applicant hold a lease for ten years from the date of the grant award, it would be satisfied with an appropriate management agreement between the council and the applicant setting out the respective roles and responsibilities of each; this agreement would be underpinned by a deed of dedication which would represent a tie to the land and would require the council to continue to use the land for the agreed purpose for a period of 10 years from completion of the works; • In the case of the mountain bike trail at Barnett's Demesne/Mary Peters Track, SNI has stated that it does not require the grant applicant to hold a lease and is content that the applicant's security of tenure is by means of a 'permissive agreement'. This is basically an acknowledgement that the track will be installed on the council's land and does not confer any title upon the grant recipient. The council would also enter into a deed of dedication similar to that for the projects at Marrowbone and the Hammer • The deed of dedication with the three grant recipients would require the council to take over responsibility for maintaining, operating and (if necessary) replacing or renewing the facility if the grant recipient is unable to do so at any time during the ten years. Alternatively if the council chose not to maintain, operate, or replace the facility, SNI could seek repayment of part of the grant funding (based on a sliding scale over the ten year period). <p>It is therefore proposed that the schemes at Marrowbone and the Hammer be formalised by way of an agreement for a management arrangement. The terms set out in the agreement would allow for a building licence, during the construction period and would lead to the grant of a management arrangement plus deed of dedication once the construction phase had been satisfactorily completed. It would also require the relevant group to satisfy some prerequisites before commencement of the building works. These would include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • plans and outline specification to be submitted by grant recipient to the council for approval; • full planning permission, where necessary, obtained for the project; • evidence that capital funding is in place for the whole project; • a sports development plan and business plan for the delivery of the programme of activities/use. <p>All of the applicants have indicated that they have a current shortfall in funding to match the SNI offer of £245,000 for each project. The exact amount in each case has still to be finally determined but is likely to be as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Barnett Demesne/Mary Peters approximately £100k. • Hammer – approximately £100k. • Marrowbone – approximately £250k.

	<p>Discussions have taken place with the Director of Finance and Resources who has indicated that as the schemes are enhancing council assets they should be viewed as capital schemes and therefore the best source for any council match funding would be the capital budget.</p> <p>The Director of Finance and Resources reported to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee on 4 November that the introduction of the new Local Government Finance Act 2011 would give greater flexibility to how the capital programme is managed. With the new Act, if the full budget for the capital programme loan repayments is not needed in a particular year, that element of the budget which is not required may be reallocated in that year to pay for other capital schemes, on a one-off basis.</p>
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3	Resource Implications
	<p><u>Financial</u> In this context it is recommended that the Committee agree that the three schemes should be put forward for inclusion in the council's capital programme. This means that Members will be required to submit the above proposal to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee and the gates process. If approved, the council's funding element would then be financed on the basis of a one-off payment in the context of the new Finance Act. This means that there would be no additional burden on the ratepayer and the spend would lever external funding totalling up to £735,000.</p> <p>Should the council make a contribution to the project costs it would be to a maximum of £375k.</p> <p><u>Human Resources</u> No additional human resources required or released. Existing resources in Parks and Leisure, Legal Services and Property and Projects Department required in setting up the various legal arrangements.</p> <p><u>Asset and Other Implications</u> The projects will have implications for the council's estate in that there will be associated deeds of dedication that tie the council in to a 10 year use of that land for the specified purpose. Should the council default on this there may be financial implications imposed through a claw back clause. However, the completion of the works will provide an enhanced facility and will make a positive contribution to health and well being of the city.</p>

4	Equality and Good Relations Considerations
	<p>The proposed agreements and deeds of dedication will include requirements related to Section 75 compliance via the sports development plans.</p>

5	Recommendations
	<p>It is recommended that the Committee:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. approve entering into management agreements with each of the applicants and formalise this by agreement to enter into management agreements to the satisfaction of Sport NI; 2. agree that the management arrangement be for a period of 10 year; 3. agree to 10 year deeds of dedication with Sport NI and the prospective grant recipients to provide a safety net to Sport NI in the event that the aforementioned grant recipients are unable to sustain the facilities and/or the leases. This recommendation is subject to the further approval of the SP&R Committee in accordance with Standing Orders 46 and 60; 4. agree to provide the necessary licence agreements to facilitate construction works at the appropriate times; and 5. agree to recommend to SP&R Committee that a financial contribution be made to each of the three projects to a maximum of £125k per project.
6.	Decision Tracking
	<p>A further update report will be brought to Committee in March 2012 by the Departmental Portfolio Programme Manager.</p>
7.	Key to Abbreviations
	<p>SNI: Sport Northern Ireland SP&R: Strategic Policy and Resources Committee</p>
8.	Documents Attached
	<p>None.</p>



Belfast City Council

Report to:	Parks and Leisure Committee.
Subject:	Proposal from Michael Davitt's GAC
Date:	10 November 2011
Reporting Officer:	Rose Crozier, Assistant Director of Parks and Leisure
Contact Officer:	Stephen Walker, Departmental Portfolio Programme Manager

1.	Relevant Background Information
	<p>The committee of Michael Davitt's GAC has requested that the council give consideration to a proposal for privileged access and use of the main GAA pitch at Boucher Playing Fields. A copy of the proposal and background is attached at Appendix 1 and a letter of support from Antrim GAA County Board is attached at Appendix 2.</p> <p>The club has offered to meet the cost of the provision of 40ft ball stop net behind each goal, and erect a 4ft spectator boundary around the pitch together with a gated entry. The estimated cost of the work would be in the region of £25,000. The club has stated that these works will improve and benefit the facility and bring it up to county level competition standard. In return the club has asked that the council to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • provide privileged access to the pitch for the club • provide access for a period of 20-25 years; • provide total access to the pitch for training and playing of matches; • provide key holder status for access to the pitch and the facility for nominated officers from the club; • consult the clubs before permission is granted for use of the pitch for purposes other than the club's activities; • provide use for the Antrim County GAA Board as a neutral venue. <p>The club has obtained the support of the Antrim County GAA Board and officers have met with the club to discuss their proposal.</p>
2.	Key Issues
	<p>The Committee is asked to take the following points into account:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Facilities management agreements (FMAs) are still under review as part of the pitches strategy and no decision has been taken regarding the future of such agreements. Members might prefer not to enter into a new type of agreement in advance of completion of the review.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The offer from the club is not in respect of a management arrangement but rather for preferential use. Council has not entered into similar arrangements to date and there is an issue of any precedent that would be established and the impact that this might have for other sites. • As part of the pitches strategy council officers have engaged with GAA at county level to develop a partnership approach. The discussions are at an early stage and it may appear premature to enter into a bespoke agreement at this time. • The council has not in the past entered into agreements for the length of time suggested here, i.e. 20 -25 years, unless significant investment has been made in the site and the length of the management agreement and lease has been a condition of the funding body supporting the investment, eg Sport NI. The majority of the existing FMAs are for between three and seven years and are currently being extended on a month by month basis pending the outcome of the FMA review.
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3.	Resource Implications
	<p><u>Financial</u> It is not clear if the proposal would bring any potential benefit to the council as the agreement does not appear to relate to facility management. The cost of management would remain however and the ability to generate revenue from it would reduce.</p> <p><u>Human Resources</u> There are no additional human resource implications.</p> <p><u>Asset and Other Implications</u> Should this proposal be approved it would have the potential to create a new precedent which could create management difficulties at other playing field sites.</p>

4.	Equality and Good Relations Considerations
	None.

5.	Recommendations
	It is recommended that the Committee defer taking a decision on this request until the review of facilities management agreements has been completed and authorise officers to continue to work with Michael Davitt's GAC to develop their proposal.

6.	Decision Tracking
	Departmental Portfolio Manager to implement the decision of the committee.

7.	Key to Abbreviations
	None.

8.	Documents Attached
	Appendix 1 Proposal from Michael Davitts GAC Appendix 2 Letter of Support from Antrim County GAA Board

Parks and Leisure Committee
Belfast City Council
City Hall
Belfast

Dear xxxxxx

MICHAEL DAVITT GAC PROPOSAL RE: BOUCHER ROAD PLAYING FIELDS

The Committee of Michael Davitt GAC respectfully requests that the Parks and Leisure Committee of Belfast City Council give due consideration to the following proposal for privileged access and use of the main GAA pitch at Boucher Playing Fields.

Background

Michael Davitt GAC is a club based in the Lower Falls council ward of West Belfast, designated as one of the most socially deprived areas of the city. Despite this, the club has been instrumental in providing access to quality sports coaching and participation for hundreds of people from the local area and beyond, young and old, boys and girls, and more recently, on a cross community basis.

The Club's Football and Hurling teams have been based at Boucher Road Playing Fields for more than 10 years, playing home league games for all age groups, and training on the main pitch during the traditional GAA season which runs from March to October each year.

Throughout this time, the club have continually campaigned for a more permanent residence at Boucher Road, as opposed to booking and paying for the pitch through the normal council channels as any other club would do. Council records will verify the expenditure that Michael Davitt GAC has incurred for this facility over the past decade.

Club officials have met and lobbied local politicians and other public representatives and the prospects of a breakthrough had on occasion appeared very positive, especially given the indications the club received from Senior personnel within the Belfast City Council. Alas however, the club and its membership have been left frustrated and disappointed that these initiatives have not led to any long term arrangement with the Council that would allow the 'access and residency' desired by the club.

The current position

Over the past year, club officials have once again intensified their efforts to achieve this ambition. The latest efforts being triggered to some degree by the Council's Pitches Strategy, which Michael Davitt GAC is very much in support of. Perhaps of more significance, is the fact that the club is on the verge of celebrating its Centenary Year in 2012, and there would be no more fitting attainment and legacy for the club committee to achieve, in this special year, than to deliver a pitch to the many juvenile

players and mentors that are the life blood of the club and the community moving into the next century of the club's existence.

Club officials have therefore re-engaged with local politicians from the Clonard and wider West Belfast area, senior officials within the County Antrim GAA Committee, and also with Rose Crozier, (Asst Director of Parks and Leisure, BCC) The club are very grateful for the response and support it has received from all those who have been involved in these discussions, and their advice and guidance has led to this specific proposal being put before you.

In relation to the Antrim County Board, the County Secretary has been authorised to confirm in writing the County's support in asking Belfast City Council to agree the allocation of the Boucher Road pitch to Michael Davitt GAC (see attached). The County Board fully appreciate the benefits of a club having a pitch that they may call their "own" as it offers a base and a place of identity which is recognised by players, managers, coaches, supporters and parents alike.

Michael Davitt GAC is one of a very small number of clubs in the entire county which does not have such a facility. There is no doubt that the lack of a home pitch has hindered the development and success of the club, particularly at juvenile level over the past 10 years and beyond.

The fact that Michael Davitt GAC continues to field teams from under 8 years of age through to senior level, is testimony to the commitment and dedication of successive groups of volunteers within the club. To have a pitch that they can call their "own" would be just and lasting reward and testimony for all their efforts.

Another key aspect of the letter from the GAA County Secretary is confirmation of the fact that allocation of the main GAA pitch at Boucher Road to Michael Davitt GAC will cause no detriment to any other club. Whilst a small number of clubs may have placed bookings for this pitch over the years, this has been limited to a very short period, usually during February/March for pre-season training or games, preserving their own club pitch until the season commences. The County recognises that this is no reason for any of its affiliated clubs to stand in the way of the long standing ambition of Michael Davitt GAC, one of its oldest clubs, to have access to the same quality of facility as other clubs that are fortunate enough to have, their home venue.

No interest whatsoever is shown in access to the main pitch at Boucher Road when the season gets up and running due to other clubs using their own playing facilities for training and fixtures.

Details of the proposal

Michael Davitt GAC seeks privileged access and use of the main GAA pitch at Boucher Road Playing Fields.

The Club requests permission to install 40 ft high ball stop nets behind each of the GAA posts and a 4 ft spectator boundary around the pitch, and gated entry to comply with Health & Safety requirements. The former is a very practical and standard fixture

to control footballs and in particular, hurling balls.. The latter is significant in that it will help protect the pitch, while enabling Michael Davitt GAC teams to be allocated home fixtures in the Senior Championship by the Antrim County Board; something the club has never experienced in recent history.

The estimated cost of these works (by BCC Works Dept) is circa £25k. The club is willing to meet the full cost of these works and is in a position to pay for the same with immediate effect. These improvements would benefit the Council's playing facility while bringing it up to County competition standard.

In terms of 'privileged position' Michael Davitt GAC would be seeking

- a minimum guarantee period of 20-25 years,
- total access to the pitch for training sessions and games.
- key holder status for the gate to the pitch for designated officers of the Michael Davitt Committee
- key holder access to Boucher Playing Fields request
- consultation before permission is granted for use of the pitch for purposes other than Michael Davitt club activity. (e.g. games in the local school leagues ,particularly those schools that the club has strong and lasting relationships with, such as St Peter's PS, St Clare's PS and others.
- use by the Antrim County Board as a neutral venue for club games, including championship fixtures throughout the season.

To summarise, Michael Davitt GAC is willing to invest in this project although pitches are BCC owned property; this is something that the club has aspired to for many years. The benefits for our club, and more particularly for the many young people that we serve in the community outweigh this monetary investment. There is no evident detriment or risk to BCC given the pattern of usage over the past decade and longer. Assurances offered by the most senior County officials as Michael Davitt GAC's governing body lend further assurances to this proposal.

We sincerely hope that the Committee will look favourably on this proposal from Michael Davitt GAC. Club officials will be more than happy to meet with Council members and officials to answer any questions or explain the rationale and details of our proposal.

Yours faithfully

Thomas Shaw
Club Chairman, Michael Davitt GAC

Enc

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COISTE CHONTAE AONTROMA

CUMANN LUTHCHLEAS GAEL

25th August 2011

RE: Michael Davitts GAC

To whom it may concern,

I understand you require a letter of support from the Governing Body of Michael Davitts G.A.C. to accompany their application to obtain preferential user status at Boucher Road playing fields. Michael Davitts G.A.C is affiliated to Cumann Luthchleas Gael Coiste Chontae Aontroma, (Antrim County Board of the G.A.A.), I have been asked, in my capacity as County Secretary, to provide a support letter. I am only too happy to do so.

Michael Davitts G.A.C, like other G.A.A. clubs, delivers ongoing coaching and development to a range of teams in both Hurling & Football, and provides players to Antrim County teams, and development squads as well as providing coaching to local schools.

As part of Antrim's strategic plan we set out (pages 27 – 28) a series of strategic actions to address current deficits in coaching and development infrastructure. Included are proposals to:

- “ improve the standards of coaching in all schools and clubs”
- “ increase the frequency of coaching courses for club mentors and teachers”
- “ensure that each club has a strategy for the promotion of coaching and games”
- “ ensure that each club has an overall Facilities Development Plan”
- “ increase the numbers of quality coaches available for higher grade coaching Sessions”

Having spoken with the officers of Michael Davitts G.A.C when they asked me to provide a formal letter of support, I am both satisfied and encouraged that one of the county's oldest clubs (100 years in existence in 2012) is now taking action to obtain and develop a quality facility in order to meet all of the above strategic targets. This will produce benefits not only for the Micheal Davitts club, but, more importantly, the larger GAA community in West and South Belfast.

At present I am aware that several other GAA clubs use the Boucher Road facilities, can assure you that if Michael Davitts GAA were granted privileged user status, there would be no negative reaction from any other Antrim GAA club currently using the site.

Runai: Proinsias Ó Coinne

CASEMENT PARK
88-104 Andersonstown Road
Belfast, BT11 9AN

PÁIRC MHIC ASMAINT
88-104 Bóthar Bhaile Andarsan
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COISTE CHONTAE AONTROMA

CUMANN LUTHCHLEAS GAEL

I am therefore only too happy to provide this letter of support to Michael Davitts G.A.C and I wish them every success with this application.

Is Mise
Proinsias Ó Coinne
Runai Coiste Chontae Aontrom

Runai: Proinsias Ó Coinne

CASEMENT PARK
88-104 Andersonstown Road
Belfast, BT11 9AN

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Belfast City Council

Report to:	Parks and Leisure Committee
Subject:	Update on refurbishment of the Mary Peters' Track
Date:	10 November 2011
Reporting Officer:	Andrew Hassard, Director of Parks and Leisure
Contact Officer:	Stephen Walker, Parks and Leisure Department Dermot Black, Project Manager, Property and Projects Department

1	Relevant Background Information
1.1	The Committee is reminded that at its meeting in September 2011 it asked that a monthly progress report be submitted to Committee on the refurbishment of the Mary Peters Track.

2	Key Issues
2.1	<p>The current position is as follows:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. as reported to Committee in October, the planning application has been lodged and is currently out for consultation; 2. detailed design work is underway at risk and it is proposed to go to tender, at risk, at the end of November 2011. <p>As previously indicated in the October update the following actions will be taken:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. work up a specification regarding future management of the facility which will be subject to external expressions of interest; 2. work with Northern Ireland Athletics to manage closure during the works phase; 3. put in place a communication plan to update users, interested parties and the general public of the proposals; and 4. subject to planning or other issues that might arise the current anticipated programme is: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • November 2011: issue tender • March 2012: commence work on site • March 2013: completion. <p>Work is continuing on the preparation of a specification for a future management arrangement for the facility following completion of the works and it is hoped that this will be ready for advertisement in January/February 2012.</p>

	<p>Discussions are continuing with NIAF regarding arrangements during construction works. Members will be aware that school athletics days are accommodated at Mary Peters Track and notification has been issued to participating schools that the track will not be available during the summer of 2012.</p> <p>Discussions have commenced regarding how best to communicate the proposals and the details around the project.</p> <p>In summary, the Committee is asked to note that the project remains on target.</p>
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3	Resource Implications
3.1	<u>Financial</u> There are no additional financial implications.
3.2	<u>Human Resources</u> There are no additional human resource implications; work is being progressed within existing resources.
3.3	<u>Asset and Other Implications</u> The refurbishment of the track will safeguard the future of facility and provide improved facilities for users of the track and spectators.

4	Equality and Good Relations Considerations
4.1	Equality considerations will be taken account of in the design of the facility which will be DDA compliant.
4.2	When completed it is proposed to have a delivery plan in place which will seek to ensure wide access to the facility.

5	Recommendations
5.1	The Committee is asked to note the report and accompanying presentation of plans.

6	Decision Tracking
	A further report will be presented to Committee in December 2011.

7.	Key to abbreviations
	None.

8.	Documents attached
	None.



Belfast City Council

Report to:	Parks and Leisure Committee
Subject:	Outdoor Fitness Equipment Proposal
Date:	10 November 2011
Reporting Officer:	Andrew Hassard, Director of Parks and Leisure
Contact Officer:	Andrew Steenson, Health and Fitness Officer

1.	<p>Relevant Background Information</p> <p>Blythefield Park is located in the Sandy Row area of South Belfast and is the only green space in the area. The park comprises a children's playground, 18 small allotments and a BMX track, all owned and managed by the council. There is also a nursery school within the park and a primary school, youth club and multi use games area (MUGA) within the surrounding area.</p> <p>Blythefield Park is included within the neighbourhood renewal action plan for South West Belfast, which makes reference to the improvement of public realm and provision of green and communal spaces in the area.</p> <p>Areas of South Belfast, including the Sandy Row area, have significantly worse health than other more affluent areas of the city, with higher prevalence of diabetes, circulatory and respiratory disease recorded.</p> <p>Following local consultation the Sandy Row Community Forum (SRCF) approached the council and Public Health Agency (PHA) regarding potential for the development of Blythefield Park to include outdoor fitness equipment for adults.</p> <p>The land identified for the installation of outdoor gym equipment is owned by the council.</p> <p>Discussions have also been ongoing with the PHA about the rolling out of a programme to install outdoor gym equipment in other council parks and open spaces.</p>
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2.	Key Issues
	<p>Blythefield is a community led initiative, which has been identified through local consultation undertaken by the SRCF and links to the neighbourhood action plan for South West Belfast.</p> <p>The proposal links directly to the work of the Local Commissioning Group in South Belfast in promoting physical activity and opportunities for physical activity and the council's vision of improving quality of life and is supported by the PHA and Belfast Health Development Unit (BHDU) as part of the developing work around 'Active Belfast'.</p> <p>This proposal would increase physical activity opportunities for adults living in the Sandy Row and surrounding area.</p> <p>Blythefield Park has low levels of recorded incidents of anti-social behaviour.</p> <p>The SRCF has asked council to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. agree to the proposed installation of outdoor adult fitness equipment at the Blythefield site; 2. provide assistance in designing the layout for proposed scheme; 3. prepare the land prior to the installation of equipment; 4. undertake the maintenance of the equipment; and 5. accept the public liability responsibility in respect of the equipment. <p>Officers have been working with the PHA who have expressed a willingness to provide funding to develop a proposal for the purchase and installation of outdoor fitness equipment for another seven sites across the city.</p> <p>Work is currently being undertaken to develop a selection criteria to identify other potential sites. Once this has been completed the list of potential sites will be brought back to committee for approval.</p>

3.	Resource Implications
	<p><u>Financial</u></p> <p>The BHDU has confirmed funding of £25,000 with a further £3,950 confirmed by the PHA, to cover the cost of purchasing and installing the equipment. A small financial outlay may be required to prepare the land for installation. The equipment would be inspected as part of the ROSPA inspection programme in place for children's playgrounds. The cost of installing equipment on an additional seven sites is approximately £160,000. PHA have indicated their willingness to provide £80k to this project. In September 2011 the SP&R Committee agreed to allocate £800k to Parks and Leisure Programmes. It is proposed that this scheme be allocated £80k from that budget.</p> <p><u>Human Resources</u></p> <p>Resources will be required for the additional seven sites.</p>

	<p><u>Asset and Other Implications</u> The installation of this equipment will make a significant contribution to the quality of life of the community and will support neighbourhood renewal through delivery of the action plan.</p>
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4.	Equality and Good Relations Implications
	None.

5.	Recommendations
	<p>It is recommended that Committee agree to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. the land at Blythefield Park being used to locate adult outdoor fitness equipment; 2. provide assistance in designing the layout for the proposed scheme; 3. prepare the land prior to the installation of equipment; and 4. undertake the public liability responsibility in respect of the equipment and ongoing maintenance as required. 5. the installation of outdoor gym equipment on another seven sites subject to agreement by committee on locations.

6.	Decision Tracking
	Decision of the committee to be implemented by the Health and Fitness officer and a report on seven additional sites to be presented to a future committee.

7.	Key to Abbreviations
	<p>MUGA: multi use games area LCG: Local Commissioning Group SRCF: Sandy Row Community Forum PHA: Public Health Agency BH DU: Belfast Health Development Unit</p>

8.	Documents Attached
	None.

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Belfast City Council

Report to:	Parks and Leisure Committee
Subject:	Consultation on High Hedges
Date:	10 November 2011
Reporting Officer:	Andrew Hassard, Director of Parks and Leisure
Contact Officer:	Alan McHaffie, Woodland and Recreation Manager

1.	Relevant Background Information
1.1	In March 2010, the council responded to the Department of the Environment (DoENI) consultation on the draft High Hedges Bill - which became the <i>High Hedges Act (Northern Ireland) 2011</i> (the Act) in May 2011. Following on from this, in September 2011 the council responded to a DoENI consultation on the associated <i>(Draft) High Hedges (Fee) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2011</i> and the <i>(Draft) High Hedges (Fee Transfer) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2011</i> (the Regulations), as approved by this Committee at its September 2011 meeting.
1.2	In summary, the Act will provide a means of redress for people who are suffering because of a high hedge (types of hedges that are covered by the legislation are specified) on a neighbour's land acting as a barrier to light, and will provide district councils with certain powers to deal with complaints about high hedges. The regulations will allow councils to charge a fee for complaints, and to transfer this charge to 'hedge owners' where hedges are found to be a problem.

2.	Key Issues
2.1	DoENI is currently undertaking further consultation on the <i>High Hedges Act (Northern Ireland) 2011- Draft Guidance</i> , to which responses are required by the deadline of 11 November 2011. The consultation seeks views on five draft guidance documents to support the <i>High Hedges Act (Northern Ireland) 2011</i> , specifically: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Draft Guidance for Councils; • Technical Guidance; • Draft Guidance for Complainants; • Draft Guidance for 'Hedge Owners'; and • Draft Guide to Appeals.

2.2	The consultation documents are available through the Consultations page of the DoENI website at http://www.doeni.gov.uk/index/information/foi/recent-releases/publications-details.htm?docid=8356 (these are too large to provide with this report).
2.3	A draft response has been prepared though consultation with relevant officers across the council including staff from the Public Health and Regulatory Services Division in Health and Environmental Services (see Appendix 1).
2.4	There are staff resource requirements to implement the legislation. These are dealt with in the section below.

3.	Resource Implications									
3.1	<p><u>Financial</u></p> <p>As detailed in the report to Committee in September 2011, the DoENI recommends that the charge levied be in the region of £320 to £350 per case. At present it is anticipated that we would be required to deal with a figure in the region of 200 cases per year, generating potential revenue of between £64,000 and £70,000. However the Department does not currently have the resources to deal with this anticipated caseload. Therefore it is estimated that additional staff will be required.</p> <table data-bbox="325 1153 1126 1265"> <tr> <td>Revenue generated:</td> <td>£64,000</td> <td>£70,000</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Staff cost:</td> <td>£55,000</td> <td>£55,000</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Net cost saving:</td> <td>(£9,000)</td> <td>(£15,000)</td> </tr> </table>	Revenue generated:	£64,000	£70,000	Staff cost:	£55,000	£55,000	Net cost saving:	(£9,000)	(£15,000)
Revenue generated:	£64,000	£70,000								
Staff cost:	£55,000	£55,000								
Net cost saving:	(£9,000)	(£15,000)								
3.2	<p><u>Human Resources</u></p> <p>To effectively manage the scheme it is anticipated that 2 additional staff should be recruited; one administrative and one technical for a range of duties which will include:</p> <ul data-bbox="373 1451 1369 1832" style="list-style-type: none"> • dealing with daily queries/requests and assessing if the complaint falls within the scope of the High Hedges Act; • providing advice and information packs; • detailed site visits which will enable the gathering and assessment of evidence in each individual case; • issuing various letters to complainants and hedge owners; • enforcement; • monitoring 'Remedial Notices'; • dealing with appeals; and • updating the High Hedges database on a daily basis 									
3.3	<p>These posts are not currently in the establishment for the Department. The indicative grade at this stage is scale 4 for the administrative post and S01 for the technical post with a combined cost of £55,000 per year, to include NIC and superannuation. Given that the level of demand is not</p>									

	<p>yet known, it is envisaged that these posts would be recruited as fixed term in the first instance. A review would then take place at an agreed future date with a view to establish whether or not a business case can be made for permanency.</p> <p><u>Asset and Other Implications</u> None at this stage.</p>
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4.	Equality and Good Relations Implications
4.1	In the consultation documents, DoENI states that it undertook an equality impact screening of the draft High Hedges Bill and the High Hedges fee regulations, concluding that “there is no adverse impact for any of the nine categories listed under Section 75”. From this, DoENI considers that separate screening of the supporting guidance is not necessary.
4.2	DoENI also considers that its proposals are compatible with the Human Rights Act 1998.

5.	Recommendations
5.1	<p>Members are asked to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) Approve submission of a final consultation response to DoENI, subject to any comments provided, by the deadline of 11 November 2011. This would be with the proviso that the response is subject to full council approval on 1 December 2011; and (ii) Approve the creation of 2 posts, one administrative and one technical, to discharge the council’s new responsibilities under the High Hedges Act (Northern Ireland) 2011. These posts will be fixed term in the first instance with the Department presenting a further report at a future date, providing an analysis of demand and cost and the associated staffing implications.

6.	Decision Tracking
	Report to Committee By the Woodland and Recreation Manager in January 2012, providing an update on progress towards the draft regulations coming into operation.

7.	Key to Abbreviations
	DoENI: Department of the Environment Northern Ireland

8.	Documents Attached
	Appendix 1: Draft Consultation Response

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CONSULTATION ISSUES**Q1 – Do you have any comments on the draft High Hedges Act (Northern Ireland) 2011 – Guidance for Councils?**

There are concerns surrounding the timescale 2.17 (page 29) for Councils to arrive at a decision. There is an expectation that it could take at least 12 weeks as well as the indeterminate length of time it may take for the hedge owner to take action, for example; a complaint may be made in December and a decision may not be through until March which would run into the beginning of the bird nesting season.

Where the Council is party to a complaint concerning its own evergreen/semi evergreen hedges within its properties, would it be fair to charge a generic fee in this instance, considering the Council should be maintaining to a degree, boundary vegetation?

Although this guidance is made for Councils it is likely to be available to the public and the reference in 2.19 (page 30) may be unhelpful in relation to refund if a complaint is withdrawn. Councils should be able to decide their own policy on refunds.

Compliance period in Section 3.6 (page 35) is very clear that there is only one enforcement date i.e. compliance date of notice. In cases where very high hedges must be lowered by stages, could it not be timetabled into what steps must be carried out annually with an enforceable date attached at each stage. The alternative to this is that a hedge owner may receive a notice to reduce the hedge to 2 metres from 30 metres and may be given 4 years to complete this in staged reductions. That hedge owner may decide to continue with the 30 metre hedge until just before the enforcement date and then remove the hedge. Some may be aggrieved at seeing no action in that 4 year period.

In section 3.7 (page 36) there appears to be a directive that Councils should apply a statutory charge against an outstanding fee applied to the hedge owner. It was our understanding that this charge could be pursued as a civil debt through small claims court.

In section 2.4 (page 70) there is a reference to 'view' which cannot be a consideration for this legislation.

Q2 – Are there any further aspects that need to be covered in the Guidance for Councils?

Can the Department issue advice in relation to a situation where a high hedge is complained about and the investigation finds that no remedial work is required in relation to distance to the dwelling? If the complainant in later years extends their house towards the hedge, does this initiate a new complaint and assessment or is there an onus on relevant authorities to assess this e.g. planning, or in some cases no planning permission may be required for a small extension?

In the case of a complainant making a complaint about multiple hedge where notices are served on these multiple hedge owners, does the fee transfer onto those that don't carry out remedial work at the full rate or at the relevant fraction of the full rate? (E.g. three hedge owners receive notice and none do the remedial work, then would the maximum fee be transferred onto each of them or is it one third of the maximum fee onto each of them?)

Q3 – Do you have any comments on the High Hedges Act (Northern Ireland) 2011 – Technical Guidance?

No comments.

Q4 – Do you have any comments on the draft High Hedges Act (Northern Ireland) 2011 – Guidance for Complainants?

No comments.

Q5 – Do you have any comments on the draft High Hedges Act (Northern Ireland) 2011 – Guidance for ‘Hedge Owners’?

No comments.

Q6 – Do you have any comments on the draft High Hedges Act (Northern Ireland) 2011 – Guide to Appeals?

No comments.

Q7 – Are there any other aspects of the High Hedges Act that could benefit from guidance being produced by the Department?

No comments.



Belfast City Council

Report to:	Parks and Leisure Committee
Subject:	Alexandra Park Update
Date:	10 November 2011
Reporting Officer:	Andrew Hassard, Director of Parks and Leisure
Contact Officer:	Paula Irvine, Outreach Manager

1.	Relevant Background Information
	<p>In late 2008 Groundwork NI was awarded £998,000 under the European Regional Development Fund Peace III Programme, Priority 1.1 Building Positive Relations at a Local Level, to deliver the Reconciling Communities through Regeneration (RCTC) programme.</p> <p>In consultation with the council and the local community, Alexandra Park was chosen as a specific project within RCTC, with a budget allocation of £50,000 towards physical regeneration works. In November 2009, a community/inter-agency project steering group (the Steering Group) was established</p> <p>In November 2010, Committee approved regeneration proposals made by the Steering Group including development of a nature trail, installation of seating and interpretive panels on the history and wildlife within the park and development of a picnic area. Site work was completed earlier this year with the assistance of an additional £50,000 secured from the Alpha Programme (the Landfill Communities Fund distribution body).</p> <p>Members will be aware of the funding agreement, agreed at the September 2011 committee, between Groundwork NI and the Council regarding Alexandra Park. This agreement was to ensure that the progress to date is built upon and that sustainable partnerships and relationships continue to be developed.</p> <p>Groundwork continue to work with the cross community steering group, the Community Park Manager, Community Outreach Manager and the Department's Antisocial Behaviour Co-ordinator to extend the activities that came about through the RCTR and ALPHA funding.</p>

2.	Key Issues
	<p>In February of this year Groundwork NI carried out consultation with residents to gauge opinions on installing an access point in the peace wall running through Alexandra Park. The survey responses were in favour of opening the peace wall temporarily as a pilot with possible extension following evaluation. It was agreed that the gate would be constructed in time for a formal opening in September 2011 and would trial for three months to December 2011. Currently the gate is open from 9.00am to 3.00pm Monday to Friday.</p> <p>The formal opening of the peace wall took place on Friday 16 September 2011. It was opened by Justice Minister David Ford and school children from Currie and Holy Family primary schools. The Chair of the Parks and Leisure Committee also attended the launch event and spoke on behalf of Belfast City Council. The launch was well attended and received positive media coverage not only locally but also nationally and internationally.</p> <p>Since the opening, several prestigious visits have taken place to the park. On Thursday 6 October 2011 the park was visited by the Joint Oireachtas Committee on the Implementation of the Good Friday Agreement upon request by one of the project funders, SEUPB; and on Thursday 13 October 2011 Ms Jane B Zimmerman and Ms Kamala Shirin Lakhdhir, who are representatives of the US Embassy, visited the park and the Deputy Chair of the Parks and Leisure Committee also attended on this occasion. As a result of her visit the US Consul has offered to host the Steering Group's planning day in December when the group will discuss future plans for the park and develop an action plan for the way forward.</p> <p>On Saturday 17 September the community enjoyed a wide range of activities at a family fun day to celebrate the completion of the regeneration works. The event was free for all to attend and activities included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • bouncy castles; • a zip line across the peace wall; • a penalty shoot out; • an environmental scavenger hunt; • fishing demonstrations; • a climbing wall; • a variety of art workshops, musical entertainment, face painting, magician and street entertainment; and • a birds of prey display <p>Attendance on the day was estimated at just over 500 people. The Lord Mayor attended the fun day and walked throughout the whole park to see the variety of activities on offer at the fun day.</p> <p>Since then several workshops have been organised with the surrounding schools to work on both historical and environmental artwork for the interpretive panels installed within the park as part of the regeneration work. Work will also be commencing with the local youth clubs to try and</p>

	<p>engage some of the more marginalised young people who ‘hang out’ in the park and give them a more positive role in the regeneration of the park. This ongoing engagement with young people within the community ensures community buy-in and ownership. The artwork and information should be printed on the interpretive panels by January/mid February and will add educational value to the park and its users.</p> <p>Groundwork NI and the council continue to monitor and evaluate the success of the pilot through community feedback and reports of incidents or antisocial behaviour directly linked to the access gate. To date there have been no incidents of antisocial behaviour reported to the antisocial behaviour officer or to the PSNI.</p> <p>On completion of the pilot Groundwork NI in partnership with the council will carry out any further necessary evaluation and consultation around the possibility of extending the opening hours of the access gate in line with park opening and closing times and making it permanent. Following her visit to the park, the Committee Deputy Chair has suggested that the Committee might want to receive a presentation on the pilot once it has concluded.</p>
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3.	Resource Implications
	This work is being carried out by Groundwork with involvement from the Department’s outreach and parks staff in line with the agreement with Groundwork. The cost to the council is £11,000 in the 11/12 financial year.

4.	Equality and Good Relations Implications
	The Alexandra Park project has been developed with the full involvement of the good relations team, local communities and all relevant stakeholders and is completely in line with the Council's responsibilities in this area.

5.	Recommendations
	Members are asked to note the content of this update report and to agree to a presentation on the project at the conclusion of the pilot of the opening of the gate in the park

6.	Decision Tracking
	None.

7.	Key to Abbreviations
	None.

8.	Documents attached
	None.

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Belfast City Council

Report to:	Parks and Leisure Committee
Subject:	Reservoir Supervision and Maintenance
Date:	10 November 2011
Reporting Officer:	Rose Crozier, Assistant Director of Parks and Leisure Department
Contact Officer:	Damien Lavery, Landscape Planning and Development Unit, Parks and Leisure Department.

1	Relevant Background Information
	<p>In February 2011 there was a minor overflow of water from the upper pond in the Waterworks. In investigating the underlying reasons for this, discussions were held with the Rivers Agency. During these discussions they indicated that in Great Britain duties are placed on owners of reservoirs and water retaining structures under the Reservoirs Act 1975 (as amended) to have required inspections carried out by 'qualified' reservoir panel engineers to ensure that necessary measures are taken to ensure the integrity of water retaining structures.</p> <p>The Act is considered as established good practice in the supervision and maintenance of reservoirs. The term 'enforcement authority' as used within the Act, being the body which has legal powers to ensure action is taken to carry out all measures recommended in the interests of safety is not currently applicable in Northern Ireland. However, there is still an onus on the reservoir owner to put into practice any recommendations made in that they are ensuring best practice.</p> <p>Northern Ireland is in the process of developing a separate Reservoirs Bill in a similar manner to the "Reservoirs (Scotland) Act 2011". The development of the proposed Bill is at consultation stage involving representatives of various organisations including local district councils, NI Water, NI Environment Agency, the Ulster Farmers Union, the Ulster Angling Federation and the Institution of Civil Engineers (ICE). The proposed legislation is scheduled to be introduced by 2013 and will ensure that reservoirs are managed and operated to minimise the risk of failure thereby protecting human life, the environment, cultural heritage and economic activity from flooding.</p>

	<p>Three water retaining structures owned by the council have been identified as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Waterworks Upper Pond and Lower Pond dam structures; • Boodles Dam at Ligoniel Park; and • Half Moon Lake, off Suffolk Road. <p>The council has been pro-active in commissioning a survey for the first of these structures, the Waterworks Upper Pond and Lower Ponds.. The inspection was carried out by URS Scott Wilson, Belfast and the report was produced in July 2011.</p> <p>The report was followed by recommendations from URS Scott Wilson, Belfast regarding the implementation of a formal inspection and reporting system for the Waterworks Upper Pond and Lower Pond structures.</p> <p>A number of recommendations for remedial measures were identified by their report and steps are currently being taken to implement these recommendations.</p>
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2	<p>Key Issues</p> <p>There is no current framework for the regular formal inspection and provision of condition surveys for any water retaining structures within council parks estates.</p> <p>Failure to undertake regular formal inspections may mean that repairs which otherwise would be minor, may require major work, resulting in significant cost.</p> <p>The council needs to implement a formal inspection and reporting system for its water retaining structures, in line with current best practice and forthcoming legislation.</p> <p>It is anticipated that once inspection reports for all sites are completed a plan for remedial works will be put in place.</p>
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3	<p>Resource Implications</p> <p><u>Finance</u> In order to undertake a robust inspection process, independent inspections will be required at each of the three dam sites identified.</p> <p>A previous inspection of the Waterworks Upper Pond and Lower Pond dams cost £7,835.00 excluding VAT. It is anticipated that inspections of Boodles Dam, Ligoniel Park and Half Moon lake may have similar costs.</p> <p><u>Human Resources</u> Staff from the Landscape Planning and Development Unit within the Parks and Leisure Department will be required to procure, engage and liaise with external consultants regarding inspection of the three dam structures city wide.</p>
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	<p>Inspection and survey reports will be carried out by external consultants. The system of inspections may make provision for the regular visual inspections of the dam structure by Landscape Planning and Development Unit staff of the Parks and Leisure Department. This will be incorporated alongside other existing inspections therefore incurring minimal resource issues.</p>
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4	Equality and Good Relations Implications
	None.

5	Recommendations
	<p>Members are asked to agree to the establishment of an inspection process in line with current best practice for all appropriate water retaining structures.</p>

6	Decision Tracking
	<p>Committee decision to be implemented by the Assistant Director of Parks and Leisure.</p>

7	Key to Abbreviations
	None.

8	Documents Attached
	None.

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Belfast City Council

Report to:	Parks and Leisure Committee
Subject:	Institute of Cemetery and Crematorium Management AGM
Date:	10 November 2011
Reporting Officer:	Rose Crozier, Assistant Director of Parks and Leisure
Contact Officer:	Sharon McCloy, Cemeteries and Crematorium Manager

1.	Relevant Background Information
1.1	<p>The Parks and Leisure Department has received a written request from the Branch Secretary of the Scotland and Northern Ireland Branch of the Institute of Cemetery and Crematorium Management (ICCM), asking if Belfast City Council would host its Annual General Meeting (AGM) in Spring 2012 - possibly in late April/early May. A copy of this letter is attached at Appendix 1.</p> <p>Previously this Committee agreed (14 April 2011) to allow the ICCM to hold a Branch Meeting in September 2011 in Belfast. However due to the current financial climate only five members expressed an interest to travel to Belfast from Scotland and the Branch Meeting venue was changed to Glasgow.</p>

2.	Key Issues
2.1	<p>The Scotland and Northern Ireland Branch currently have five members in Northern Ireland. Of these four are currently serving officers within the Parks and Leisure Department. Belfast City Council is also a corporate member of the ICCM and frequently avails of the specialised services that the ICCM offers to its members.</p> <p>Membership of the ICCM allows officers to keep up to date with developments in the funeral services industry and make contacts with other authorities and service providers, learning from their knowledge and experience. As the providers of the only cremation service in Northern Ireland and of the busiest cemetery, it is important to keep up to date with new developments in the industry and changes in legislation.</p>

	<p>With the vast majority of the branch meetings being held in Scotland it is expensive for the Northern Ireland members to attend regularly. Therefore, following the cancellation of the September Branch meeting in Belfast, the Scotland and Northern Ireland Branch have decided to hold their branch AGM here in Belfast in Spring 2012.</p> <p>By announcing its intention to hold the AGM in Belfast, it is hoped that enough interest will be generated from branch members to travel to Belfast. The President and/or Deputy President of the ICCM try to attend all Branch AGMs throughout the United Kingdom as part of their duties. Especially invited guest speakers also attend the AGMs' as well as Trade sponsors.</p> <p>In addition, by having this opportunity once again to host a ICCM meeting for visitors from the United Kingdom mainland, Belfast City Council will have the opportunity to showcase one of our premier facilities within the Parks and Leisure Department i.e. Belfast Castle as the venue for the AGM. A bus tour of Belfast will also be undertaken, time permitting, thereby promoting our city as a tourist venue.</p>
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3.	Resource Implications
3.1	<p><u>Financial</u> At this stage the Branch Secretary is unsure how many members wish to travel to Belfast as they or their individual authorities will have to incur the costs of flights/ferries. At the last meeting held in 2006, 29 members travelled to Northern Ireland and 5 attended from Northern Ireland all of whom were Belfast City Council Officers.</p> <p>Based on 36 people the cost on the current scale of charges is approximately £1,324.00. This is broken down into bus hire £240, room hire at Belfast Castle £292.00 and conference catering package of £22.00 per person.</p> <p>A revenue budget is available for the proposed expenditure with the expense being met out of the cemeteries and crematorium budgets.</p>
3.2	<p><u>Human Resources</u> A member of staff will be in charge of arranging the proposed visit and will provide appropriate information briefings to senior management.</p>
3.3	<p><u>Asset and Other Implications</u> None</p>

4.	Equality and Good Relations Implications
	None.

5.	Recommendations
5.1	It is recommended that the Parks and Leisure Department host the Annual General Meeting of the Scotland and Northern Ireland Branch of the Institute of Cemetery and Crematorium Management in the Spring 2012.
6.	Decision Tracking
	Actions to be completed by Sharon McCloy, Cemeteries and Crematorium Manager in consultation with the secretary of the Scotland and Northern Ireland Branch of the Institute of Cemetery and Crematorium Management by end of May 2012.
7.	Key to Abbreviations
	ICCM: Institute of Cemetery and Crematorium Management AGM: Annual General Meeting
8.	Documents Attached
	Appendix 1: Letter from the Branch Secretary of the Scotland and Northern Ireland Branch

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Belfast City Council

Report to:	Parks and Leisure Committee
Subject:	Closure Report on People in Parks Initiative
Date:	10 November 2011
Reporting Officer:	Andrew Hassard, Director of Parks and Leisure
Contact Officer:	Pete Murray, Antisocial Behaviour Co-ordinator

1.	Relevant Background Information
	<p>The People in Parks initiative is a pilot project that was developed as part of the Parks and Leisure Department's Antisocial Behaviour Programme. Members will recall previous reports updating the committee on the development of the initiative (12 August 2010 and 10 February 2011). The delivery of the initiative cost £27,000.</p>

2.	Key Issues
	<p>The People in Parks Initiative consists of activities that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • involve young people in legitimate use of council parks; • involve young people in creating safer parks; and • reduce antisocial behaviour. <p>The pilot initiative has been delivered by Challenge for Youth.</p> <p>The project has delivered youth participation opportunities in park hotspot areas in north, south, east and west Belfast. The hotspot areas were identified as Falls Park, Orangefield Park, Ormeau Park and Alexandra Park. These locations were chosen based upon evidence gathered by the Safer Belfast Tasking Process and the Parks and Leisure department ASB Co-ordinator.</p> <p><u>Main findings of the Evaluation Report</u></p> <p>The initiative has attempted to deliver 2 projects in each park as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Orangefield Park: access to the bowling pavilion for young people and a community fun day to tie in with the Royal Wedding in April 2011. • Ormeau Park: the design and development of a tourist information board/art piece and the delivery of a community fun day targeted at young people.

- Alexandra Park: access to the football pitches and facilities and a Lark in the Park community fun day.
- Falls Park: the erection of a plaque to a local young person who had passed away in the park and the delivery of a Schools Out for Summer community fun day.

Outputs achieved from the work have included

- Engaging 110 young people in the activities, 64% of these were male.
- The provision of more than 400 hours direct youth work delivery.
- Engaging the local community in the work being undertaken.
- Young people progressing on to other forms of support including training in child protection and health & safety and leadership programmes.

Outcomes from the initiative

- A reduction in antisocial behaviour in the areas targeted.
- An increase in the number of young people that have been engaged with, empowered and supported to change their behaviour.
- An opportunity for young people to get involved in their local communities and to influence the provision of future services in Council parks.
- Identifying young people that could potentially be the lead animators for community work in the future.

Recommendations

As a result of the evaluation process, the following recommendations are put forward for the future delivery of the People in Parks initiative.

- Project Planning and Management:
 - A project management group should be formed and be attended by key stakeholders including Parks Managers and community representatives. If necessary, a group should be established for each park targeted with minutes kept for each meeting.
 - Work should, where possible, feed into other existing groups such as the area based antisocial behaviour partnerships.
 - Standard documentation should be established, including templates for monitoring the work.
 - There should be more opportunities for the groups of young people to meet with decision makers in the council.
 - Meetings involving the young people should be in a place and at a time that is suitable to their needs.
- Outreach, Recruitment and Engagement:
 - A balance needs to be achieved between working with existing groups of young people and targeting those individuals that are detached and may be actively involved in antisocial behaviour.
 - Detached street outreach work and attendance at community events will be required to identify suitable young people.
- Timescales:
 - Any future contract should be awarded for a 12 month period and factor in times when it is difficult to achieve active engagement, such as school holidays.

- Individual projects should be delivered over 12 months as opposed to 6 months with potentially two groups engaged in each area simultaneously.
- Additional time should be built in to project delivery to allow development work to be carried out with both the young people targeted and the communities in which they live to ensure active buy in.
- Types of projects to be delivered:
 - A list of examples of other projects that had been successfully delivered in Parks in the past should be produced to give examples of what would be admissible for support and realistic with the time and resources available.
 - Each park area should deliver a community engagement event (fun day) as well as an event targeted at the identified needs of the particular park.
- Recognition of achievement and media coverage:
 - Young people engaged with work such as this should be considered for the Community Safety Partnership's Young People's Awards.
 - The work could be better promoted to the local community through the wider media and better use of Council resources such as City Matters magazine, in conjunction with the Council's communications department.
- Additional support to the young people:
 - Young people should be given opportunities to achieve accredited qualifications as a part of the support provided, including volunteering qualifications. This could be done by bringing young people from across Belfast into one group and learn from one another's experiences.
- Links to other council initiatives taking place:
 - Future delivery should be linked into other Council initiatives operating in those areas to achieve better value for money and reduce any duplication in delivery.

Next steps

The evaluation report has made a recommendation to incorporate the People in Parks Initiative into the ongoing work of the Safer Neighbourhoods Antisocial Behaviour Programme. The council and the Belfast Community Safety Partnership have invested resources into youth outreach work.

Currently, the Community Safety Coordinator with thematic responsibility for Antisocial behaviour and the Parks and Leisure ASB Coordinator are exploring a one-Council approach to the provision of Youth outreach/participation opportunities across the city. This work will provide better management of a citywide project and ensure that where there are efficiencies these savings could be redirected into service provision.

3.	Resource Implications
	<p><u>Financial</u> £30,000 would be required for the People in Parks initiative to continue for another year. These resources have been allowed for in the 2012/2013 Safer Neighbourhoods Antisocial Behaviour budget estimate which has been put forward by the department for approval.</p> <p><u>Human Resources</u> None.</p> <p><u>Asset and other implications</u> None.</p>
4.	Equality and Good Relations Implications
	<p>The antisocial behaviour programme work spans activities related to reducing interface tensions and bringing youth together to take part in positive programmes and activities. All of the programme work is in line with the council's equality and good relations policies and procedures.</p>
5.	Recommendations
	<p>The Committee is asked to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • note the content of this report and the attached evaluation, and • agree to the development of a city-wide council programme for youth intervention and engagement to help combat antisocial behaviour.
6.	Decision Tracking
	<p>Decision of the Committee to be implemented by the Antisocial Behaviour Co-ordinator.</p>
7.	Key to Abbreviations
	<p>None.</p>
8.	Documents Attached
	<p>Appendix 1: People in Parks Evaluation Report, October 2011</p>

**BELFAST CITY COUNCIL PARKS & LEISURE
DEPARTMENT
PEOPLE IN PARKS INITIATIVE
DRAFT EVALUATION REPORT**



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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

I. The People in Parks initiative is a pilot project that has formed a part of Belfast City Council's Parks and Leisure Departments Safer Neighbourhoods Antisocial Behaviour Programme. The aim of the Antisocial Behaviour Programme is to reduce antisocial behaviour around parks and leisure facilities, through the provision of programmes and services that make people feel safer. The People in Parks Initiative consists of activities that:

- Involve young people in legitimate use of Council Parks,
- Involves young people in creating safer Parks, and
- Reduces antisocial behaviour.

The pilot initiative has been delivered by Challenge for Youth.

II. The project has delivered youth participation opportunities in hotspot areas in north, south, east and west Belfast. The specific locations based upon evidence gathered by the Safer Belfast Tasking Process and the Parks and Leisure department Antisocial Behaviour Co-ordinator, were identified as Falls Park, Orangefield Park, Ormeau Park and Alexandra Park.

III. The initiative has attempted to deliver 2 projects in each park as follows:

- Orangefield Park – access to the bowling pavilion for young people and a community fun day to tie in with the Royal Wedding in April 2011.
- Ormeau Park – the design and development of a tourist information board/art piece and the delivery of a community fun day targeted at young people.
- Alexandra Park – access to the football pitches and facilities and a Lark in the Park community fun day.
- Falls Park – the erection of a plaque to a young person that had died and the delivery of a Schools Out for Summer community fun day.

IV. Outputs achieved from the work have included:

- Engaging 110 young people in the activities, 64% of these were male.
- The provision of more than 400 hours direct youth work delivery.
- Engaging the local community in the work being undertaken.
- Young people progressing onto other forms of support including training in child protection and health & safety and leadership programmes.

- V. As a result of the support provided, the People in Parks initiative has achieved the following outcomes:
- A reduction in antisocial behaviour in the areas targeted.
 - An increase in the number of young people that have been engaged with, empowered and supported to change their behaviour.
 - An opportunity for young people to get involved in their local communities and to influence the provision of future services in Council parks.
 - Identifying young people that could potentially be the lead animators for community work in the future.
- VI. As a result of the evaluation process, the following recommendations are put forward for the future delivery of the People in Parks initiative.

Project Planning and Management

- A project management group should be formed and be attended by key stakeholders including Parks Managers and community representatives. If necessary, a group should be established for each park targeted with minutes kept for each meeting.
- Work should, where possible, feed into other existing groups such as the area based antisocial behaviour partnerships.
- Standard documentation should be established, including templates for monitoring the work.
- There should be more opportunities for the groups of young people to meet with decision makers in the Council.
- Meetings involving the young people should be in a place and at a time that is suitable to their needs.

Outreach, Recruitment and Engagement

- A balance needs to be achieved between working with existing groups of young people and targeting those individuals that are detached and may be actively involved in antisocial behaviour.
- Detached street outreach work and attendance at community events will be required to identify suitable young people.

Timescales

- Any future contract should be awarded for a 12 month period and factor in times when it is difficult to achieve active engagement, such as school holidays.
- Individual projects should be delivered over 12 months as opposed to 6 months with potentially two groups engaged in each area simultaneously.
- Additional time should be built in to project delivery to allow for development work to be carried out with both the young people targeted and the communities in which they live to ensure active buy in.

Types of Projects to be delivered

- A list of examples of other projects that had been successfully delivered in Parks in the past should be produced to give examples of what would be admissible for support and realistic with the time and resources available.
- Each park area should deliver a community engagement event (fun day) as well as an event targeted at the identified needs of the particular park.

Recognition of achievement and media coverage

- Young people engaged with work such as this should be considered for the Community Safety Partnership's Young People's Awards.
- The work could be better promoted to the local community through the wider media and better use of Council resources such as City Matters magazine, in conjunction with the Council's Departmental and Corporate communications teams

Additional support to the young people

- Young people should be given opportunities to achieve accredited qualifications as a part of the support provided, including volunteering qualifications. This could be done by bringing young people from across Belfast into one group and learn from one another's experiences.

Links to other Council initiatives taking place

- Future delivery should be linked into other Council initiatives operating in those areas to achieve better value for money and reduce any duplication in delivery.

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 The People in Parks initiative is a pilot project that has formed a part of Belfast City Council's Parks and Leisure Departments Antisocial Behaviour Programme. The aim of the ASB Programme is to reduce antisocial behaviour around parks and leisure facilities, through the provision of programmes and services that make people feel safer.
- 1.2 The People in Parks initiative contributes to the departmental plan by contributing to the specific objective of developing education initiatives involving creative or supportive interventions to model acceptable behaviour around Parks and Leisure facilities. The initiative consists of activities that:
- Involve young people in legitimate use of Council Parks,
 - Involves young people in creating safer Parks, and
 - Reduces antisocial behaviour.

Challenge for Youth was appointed to deliver the pilot initiative.

- 1.3 With the delivery of the initiative now complete, the Council has identified the need for an independent external evaluation of the Project delivery. Brian Stratford & Associates was appointed to undertake this review with a report to be prepared for October 2011. The evaluation seeks to document the processes that have been followed (what has happened), the outputs and outcomes that the Programme has brought about (what has changed) and attempts to establish the longer term impact that the funding will have brought for the young people and Parks targeted and the legacy this will leave for the communities they are in (what has lasted).
- 1.4 The objectives set for the evaluation process are as follows:
- (a) Evaluate the efficacy of the People in Parks initiative within the context of the outputs and outcomes as indicated in the project specification, making reference to the constituency and demographics of the young people involved; the activities they were engaged in; their successes; their visibility within the community and the role of the contractor's community partners.
- (b) Evaluate the efficacy of the contractor in delivering the initiative, making reference to the challenges of working with the constituency of young people

engaged in the programme within the specific park areas used during the course of the initiative.

(c) Provide recommendations for improving the initiative, reflecting on the scope of the outputs and outcomes against the finances made available for the initiative, making comment on whether the initiative should be incorporated into the ongoing work of Belfast City Council's Parks and Leisure Departments Safer Neighbourhoods Antisocial Behaviour Programme.

- 1.5 The methodology employed for the evaluation has combined a range of quantitative and qualitative techniques and has included:
- A desk review of materials generated by the People in Parks initiative, including Council committee minutes, Project Specification and Initiation documents, evaluation forms and monitoring reports prepared by Challenge for Youth.
 - A consultation with Council and Challenge for Youth staff who were involved in the delivery of the initiative.
- 1.6 Having provided some background to the People in Parks initiative and the organisations involved, the report considers the quantitative outputs that have been achieved. This is followed by qualitative analysis of how the initiative has operated to identify the key issues emerging. Finally, the report attempts to draw out the impact that the People in Parks initiative has had before making some recommendations for the delivery of support in the future.

2. BACKGROUND

2.1 This Section provides some background information on the Belfast City Council Parks and Leisure Antisocial Behaviour Programme, the People in Parks initiative, Challenge for Youth and the Outputs and Outcomes established for the work.

2.2 **Belfast City Council Parks and Leisure Antisocial Behaviour Programme**
The Council established the Parks and Leisure Departments Antisocial Behaviour Programme as a pilot in 2007 with an initial focus on nine locations. This has subsequently been extended to all of the Council's Parks and Leisure facilities with the overall aim of reducing antisocial behaviour around parks and leisure facilities.

The antisocial behaviour programme contributes to the achievement of the departmental vision of providing quality parks, open spaces and leisure environments that people value and use. In particular, it enables the delivery of the departmental objective regarding the provision of programmes and services to make people feel safer.

In line with the departmental plan, the specific objectives of the antisocial behaviour programme are:

- Enhancing the **Environment** around Parks and Leisure facilities.
- Developing **Education** initiatives involving creative or supportive interventions to model acceptable behaviour around Parks and Leisure facilities.
- Defining **Enforcement** as a deterrent against infraction of Bye-Laws and Legislation.
- Developing sustainable **Interagency and Interdepartmental networks** and leading a partnership approach to reducing antisocial behaviour.

Under each of these objectives, there are a range of actions available for intervention. The People in Parks initiative falls within the second objective 'developing education initiatives involving creative or supportive interventions to model acceptable behaviour around Parks and Leisure facilities'.

2.3 The People in Parks initiative

Under the theme of Education, the antisocial behaviour programme has initiated a number of projects to create opportunities for young people to be positively involved in the development of safer parks and leisure facilities. The People in Parks initiative, which commenced in June 2010 and was completed during the summer of 2011, sought to engage young people from across the city to:

- involve them in the legitimate use of Council parks;
- in creating safer parks; and
- in reducing antisocial behaviour by using a range of outreach and youth engagement techniques.

The People in Parks initiative has involved four phases:

- Outreach – identification of young people from the antisocial behaviour “hotspot” areas;
- Engagement – appropriate developmental work to motivate young people to participate;
- Education – raise awareness of the impact of antisocial behaviour on the community; using high energy, problem solving and discussion activities; and
- Project work – facilitating the development of better relationships between the young people and their wider community.

The project has delivered youth participation opportunities in hotspot areas in north, south, east and west Belfast. The specific locations based upon evidence gathered by the Safer Belfast Tasking Process and the Parks and Leisure department Antisocial Behaviour Co-ordinator, were identified as Falls Park, Orangefield Park, Ormeau Park and Alexandra Park.

The project has been delivered by Challenge for Youth, an organisation with extensive experience of engaging in youth outreach work across Belfast and has the appropriate expertise, networks and experience in working with hard-to-reach young people. Challenge for Youth has worked in conjunction with the Antisocial Behaviour Co-ordinator and in partnership with local community youth providers in each of the areas, to ensure that the work is appropriate and is targeted to areas of greatest needs.

2.4 Challenge for Youth

Challenge for Youth was established in 1990 as a result of collaboration between NIACRO and Fairbridge, a youth charity specialising in adventure learning with “at risk” young people. The organisation exists to engage and support young people who for a range of reasons find themselves outside of, or excluded from, mainstream community youth provision.

Challenge for Youth delivers a range of programmes of support, including:

- **Adventure Learning** based on building relationships and engaging in a reflective learning process. Activities include hill walking, camping and survival skills, canoeing & kayaking (training to assessment), bouldering, team-building and indoor climbing. Skills can be gained in navigation, survival, leadership and teamwork.
- **Mountaineering and Expeditions** including preparatory training in the Mourne and expeditions to Ben Nevis.
- **Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme** with Challenge for Youth being an Approved Activity Provider.
- **Drop in** facility where young people can make informal contact through the Youth Enquiry Service and drop-in centre in Belfast city centre. We also engage with young people who use the city centre as a recreational space through detached streetwork.
- **Short Courses** where young people are supported through structured ‘games’ that challenge decisions and behaviour in a thought provoking way.

2.5 Outputs and Outcomes established

The People in Parks initiative established a number of outputs and outcomes against which the relative success of the work could be measured.

2.5.1 Outputs

- At least 10 young people (male and female aged 14-16 years) engaged within each area every six months from north, south, east and west Belfast. (80 young people in total).
- Provision of 60 hours of activity with each group of 10 young people, each year from north, south, east and west Belfast. (480 hours in total)
- Young people taking advantage of further opportunities each year.

- 8 projects to reduce antisocial behaviour developed by young people within a park or leisure facility, with their community or other groups of young people each year.
- At least one story will be run in the local press for each area throughout the year (4 in total).

2.5.2 Outcomes

- Reduction in antisocial behaviour identified through statistics available or through the Safer Belfast tasking report.
- More young people become engaged, empowered and supported to change their behaviour and access opportunities.
- Opportunities for young people to express their concern about their communities.
- Young people informed about their responsibilities.
- Support for young people to understand and fulfil their potential.
- Young people visible and engaged in positive actions within communities.

The next Section will consider the quantitative outputs from the People in Parks initiative, including the projects delivered and extent to which the outputs were achieved.

3. QUANTITATIVE OUTPUTS

3.1 This Section provides a brief overview of the quantitative outputs from the People in Parks initiative.

3.2 Projects delivered

The following provides a brief descriptive overview of the projects that were delivered across the city. Each group was tasked with leading a project which would reduce antisocial behaviour or create a safer park environment.

3.2.1 Orangefield Park

In East Belfast, an emerging community development organisation worked to support a group of young people to influence the development of the Park and to increase the usage of the Park by seeking permission for community groups to access the bowling pavilion in the evenings.

A group of young people were identified and over a series of meetings, it emerged that the main issue they identified was a lack of suitable youth provision in the area. Working in conjunction with a local community worker and the Park Manager and Warden, a 12-week trial use of the pavilion was agreed. Requests were made for lighting near the bowling pavilion to facilitate the safe passage of the pavilion users in and out of the park in the evening.

The group also liaised with a Belfast Education and Library Board youth worker to establish what was required to run youth provision in the area and the steps that would be required, including the development of a constitution and relevant policies, holding adequate insurance, undertaking child protection training, Access NI checks and registering with the Board as a part-time centre.

Leading on from the initial engagement around the pavilion, the young people have engaged in a number of other activities in conjunction with the community worker, including:

- Carrying out a clean up of the Park and the surrounding area.
- Organising a fun day/celebration to tie in with the Royal Wedding, supported by local residents, community workers and MLA's. The young people worked on the day as stewards.

- Organising a day trip to Londonderry involving the young people, their parents as well as older people from the local area.

The work to establish a permanent youth facility is ongoing and the group continue to engage with the Friends of Orangefield Park and other local stakeholders to move this project forward.

3.2.2 Ormeau Park

In South Belfast, a group of young people were identified through youth workers from Ballynafeigh Youth Club as users of the Park. Through development activities including team building, survival skills and community identity work, the group identified a possible project around putting together a tourist information board/art piece. The group carried out research into the possible options for the art piece, how this could be used and how the design would look once it was completed.

After an initial positive meeting with the Park Manager, it became apparent that there were issues in relation to their plans. The project would take a long time to come to fruition and would not be completed during the period of the People in Parks initiative. In addition, the young people had wanted to have an element of charitable donations that could be made. There was a concern that this could open the art piece to vandalism if it was thought that there was money inside.

A second project involved planning and delivering a community fun day for young people in the Park. It proved difficult for the youth workers to maintain contact with the group as numbers had dropped as the summer approached and the fun day did not happen.

Whilst maintaining contact with individual members from the group, the youth workers and young people developed a media project exploring antisocial behaviour within the Park as a way to raise awareness of these issues amongst their peers. This production has yet to be completed although progress is being made.

3.2.3 Alexandra Park

In North Belfast, a group of young people formed with a view to coming up with ideas for ways in which the facilities and usage of the Park could be improved, both from their own and the wider communities point of view. The group produced a list of issues that they would like to be addressed.

The first project was to carry out work on the football pitch in the park, including cleaning up the area and the provision of goal posts and nets that could be used by local young people. The group worked with the Park Manager and rangers to make this happen and built relations between the two, with the young people able to contact the Park Rangers when they wanted to use the nets. The local youth club was also involved in this.

The second project was to set up and facilitate a fun day (called Lark in the Park) for all the local young people in the area. This was delivered in partnership with the Terry Enright Foundation and the local youth club, with Challenge for Youth helping to provide training, advice and equipment for use in the activities delivered. More than 100 individuals attended the fun day, many of them young people and their families.

This group of young people still exists and they are keen to take on other projects that would benefit the Park and local community. The group has met with the Director of Parks and Leisure and discussed how they might influence the development of Alexandra Park. They specifically asked if they could work with a group from lower Alexandra Park in an attempt to ease interface tensions that have developed in the area over a number of years. There is the potential to work with Groundwork NI to develop a series of interpretive panels to be located on either end of the park recording the history of the park and trace the history of the surrounding community from the perspective of the young people.

3.2.4 Falls Park

In West Belfast, a group of young people were engaged with by working through the Intervention Project, a part of the Upper Springfield Development Trust. These young people had been identified as being at the source of antisocial behaviour in the Park and were not engaged with mainstream provision. This work would allow them to give something back to the area and for them to be seen in a more positive light.

Following a series of teambuilding and community mapping activities, the group decided they wanted to erect a plaque to Cory Wisdom, a friend of theirs that had recently died in the Park. Despite initially positive work, the project could not be completed as was planned and the group disintegrated. Staff remain in contact with individuals from within this group and there is the potential for the plaque to be erected in the future.

The second project planned was for a 'Schools Out for Summer' fun day working again with the Intervention Project but also engaging with 24 young people from neighbouring schools. A range of activities would be delivered and the Park Manager was kept informed as to what was being planned. Unfortunately, due to a poor attendance from the young people the fun day was cancelled. A network of organisations that are willing to work together now exists and there is the potential to build upon this again in the future.

Whilst neither of the projects in Falls Park were delivered as planned, feedback from the young people engaged with has been very positive and suggests that they got a great deal from the engagement. Comments included:

'Was great to do something different and have something to do in the area'

'Liked showing the staff around where we hang out and the activities we did with them'

'I loved it every week and the activities we did. I would love to do it again it was brilliant'.

These young people had been identified as being marginalised and it may be that there is more work required with them than was the case in the other Parks targeted.

3.3 Outputs met

The following provides an overview of the outputs established at the outset for the People in Parks initiative and the extent to which these have been achieved.

3.3.1 At least 10 young people (male and female aged 14-16 years) engaged within each area every six months from north, south, east and west Belfast. (80 young people in total).

The following provides an overview of the number of young people engaged with.

Area	North	South	East	West	Total
Numbers	28	19	24	39	110

This shows that the target number of 80 young people was exceeded by 30. The 'core' group of young people engaged on each project was smaller than this, though it can be said that all of those that engaged with the projects will have got some benefit from the work in terms of their personal development.

The age of the young people engaged ranged from 12 to 20 years old with 25% aged 16 and 20% aged 17 years old. 64% of those engaged were male with more males than females in every group except in the Ormeau Park projects.

3.3.2 Provision of 60 hours of activity with each group of 10 young people, each year from north, south, east and west Belfast. (480 hours in total)

The following provides an overview of the number of hours of direct delivery.

Area	North	South	East	West	Total
Hours	124.5	97.5	90.5	104	416.5

This figure is below the number of hours of delivery that was the target but does not reflect all of the preparatory work that was involved with each of the groups including phone calls made, materials produced and facilities set up. If this time was included then the total hours of delivery are likely to exceed the target set.

3.3.3 Young people taking advantage of further opportunities each year.

A number of the young people targeted have been able to benefit from other forms of assistance. This includes progressing on to other forms of support through Challenge for Youth such as the leadership programme that will commence in October 2011. In addition, the group from Orangefield have been able to undertake training in child protection, health and safety and stewarding.

It would require a longer period of time to track the young people that have been engaged to establish what further opportunities have been taken advantage of. Anecdotal evidence would suggest that some of these young people display the potential to be community leaders in the future.

3.3.4 8 projects to reduce antisocial behaviour developed by young people within a park or leisure facility, with their community or other groups of young people each year.

Section 3.2 has outlined the projects that have been delivered in each of the areas. Whilst at least two projects have been attempted in each area and development work undertaken in support of this, not all of the projects have been able to be completed, most notably in west and south Belfast. The reasons for this will be discussed in Section 4.

3.3.5 At least one story will be run in the local press for each area throughout the year (4 in total).

Challenge for Youth has indicated that they found it difficult to get the local press to take an interest in the projects that have been delivered. One example was the Lark in the Park work in North Belfast. Members of staff from local newspapers were in attendance but not working at the event, the newspapers preferring to focus on the negative stories in the local area around the 12th of July. The Royal Wedding event in Orangefield did attract interest from the press although this did not reflect the People in Parks initiative in the coverage.

3.4 Summary

The quantitative analysis above shows that Challenge for Youth have been relatively successful in achieving the outputs set for the People in Parks initiative. In particular, they have been able to achieve engagement with young people in the areas targeted, provided professional development opportunities for these young people and delivered positive projects that have had an impact on the Park and the community it serves. Some of the difficulties that have been faced will be considered in Section 4 with some recommendations made as to how these could be addressed in the future.

4. QUALITATIVE ANALYSIS

4.1 This Section considers the results of the desk review of materials generated and the consultation exercise carried out with staff from the Council and Challenge for Youth. Results will be presented around a number of key themes emerging.

4.2 Initial aims of the work

Consultees were asked what it was that they had hoped the People in Parks initiative would achieve at the outset. Answers included:

- To identify young people that could define the park as their own place and feel a connection to the Park.
- To have support around connecting the young people to the Park.
- To demonstrate that most young people are not involved in antisocial behaviour and transmit/publicise this back to the community.
- To work where the need is greatest with young people causing the damage.
- To show what it is possible to do in a Park with young people through working with Challenge for Youth and their participatory approach to youth work.
- To try to get informal youth work and engagement into the Parks by using adventure learning and to better utilise the green spaces that exist in the city.
- To have a positive impact on reducing antisocial behaviour through active engagement and to explore ways of doing this.
- To engage young people and to support their personal development.
- To target young people that were attached to a community organisation and add value to that by addressing issues in the Parks.
- As the first step onto other pieces of work between the Council, their parks and the local community.

4.3 Success in achieving the aims

All the consultees have indicated that the work was relatively successful in achieving what was hoped for given the timescales involved and resources available. This initiative represented the first time that the Parks and Leisure department has attempted to engage another organisation to undertake work such as this so it is difficult to quantify the success as there is nothing to compare the work against.

The initiative has been successful in testing whether this type of work can be effective in achieving engagement and having a positive impact on Parks and communities. There is now a history of engagement of the community into outreach work in the Parks and they are less likely to just dismiss young people as has happened before. There has been a reduction in antisocial behaviour as well as changing the perception in the Parks that young people are involved in this behaviour when in fact they were not. In north and east Belfast in particular, the young people have been given a voice and a place in the Park through the work with the Council.

Anecdotal evidence would suggest that the young people have developed a greater sense of connectivity to the Park. In Ormeau Park for example, the young people have indicated that they used the Park but did not feel any sense of belonging to it. The work has resulted in an increase in their usage of the Park, a greater awareness of what the Park has to offer and a feeling that they want to play a positive role in the future of the Park.

'I learned that the Park is for everyone, not just the older people'.

'I learned that we are not too young to have a voice and make a change in our area'.

Given that the pilot was only really delivered over a nine month period (September 2010 to May 2011), it may have been too ambitious to expect the initiative to achieve all of the issues outlined in 4.2 above. The initiative was successful in laying the foundations for future engagement, both in terms of the Parks and with the young people and to demonstrate that the overall approach can be successful in making a positive change.

4.4 Reasons for the relative success of the work

Consultees identified a number of reasons for the relative success of the work:

- **Approach adopted by Challenge for Youth** – the organisation is experienced in delivering this type of work and are good at achieving and retaining the engagement of young people by adopting creative techniques appropriate to the area and young people being targeted. A generic or single approach would not work in each park location but having a structured approach where the young people meet regularly and follow an agreed

programme is very important. This is reflected in the feedback received from the young people:

‘Any of the young people that were involved seemed to enjoy the programme but also liked Challenge for Youth’s approach. The programme seemed to motivate and focus the group in a positive way’.

‘Staff were really good fun and listened to us and what we wanted to do’.

‘Challenge for Youth have been a great help in pulling together the group and highlighting to us the difficulties faced in setting up a youth club’.

‘I would like the chance to work with Challenge for Youth again’.

- **Flexibility in delivery** – following discussions between the Council and Challenge for Youth, revisions were made to the projects that had initially been envisaged when it appeared these may not be possible to deliver. This helped when achieving the overall targets for the work.
- **Community engagement** – Challenge for Youth used their contacts in the communities surrounding the Parks targeted to bring community representatives on board to support the work. Several of the community workers had previously come through Challenge for Youth and the relationships and trust already existed with them. These contacts also made it easier to identify existing groups of young people and will help to ensure that these young people continue to receive support following the People in Parks initiative. A consultee indicated:

‘It was great to have support from the community organisations staff to help with the young people in some areas, as you didn’t know how many young people you would have had otherwise’.
- **Appropriateness of the projects** – the projects selected were chosen by the young people and reflected issues they were facing and things that they wanted to see happen in the Park. They also took into consideration the resources available and circumstances in the Park. Where possible, the projects were tied into the overall strategies in place for the Parks so that they ‘fitted’ with the Park ethos or management plan being adopted.
- **Added value** – projects were more likely to be successful where the value that the project would bring could be clearly demonstrated and ‘sold’ to the community. It was important that the projects were not seen to be a threat to existing work taking place and that delivery was with and through existing community structures and networks.

4.5 Difficulties experienced and how they were overcome

Consultees identified a number of difficulties experienced in the delivery of the initiative, including:

- **Recruitment and engagement** – trying to engage young people through outreach in a Park is difficult and there is a need to find other ways to engage them. In particular, working with and through community organisations proved to be successful. In south and west Belfast, it proved difficult to maintain the contact throughout the whole period of the initiative and the projects were not able to be completed. One of the reasons for this may have been the nature of the group of young people, with those in west Belfast having been identified as being involved in antisocial behaviour in the past and that difficulties existed between individuals within the group. There appears to be a willingness amongst individuals within this group to engage again in the future but perhaps not with all of the others that were involved here.
- **Methods of working** – young people and how they work can be different to how professional people work. There was difficulty in getting meetings arranged that suited all parties and with the Park Managers in general. There is a need to recognise that the expectations and awareness of young people is different and needs to be considered.
- **Levels of the young people** – the young people engaged with were often at very different levels in terms of their education, maturity and therefore their ability to engage with the projects. This presented problems when managing the group. Several groups were quite young and energetic which made the project a bit over ambitious.
- **Managing expectations** – there is a need to balance what the young people want with what was realistically achievable in terms of time and resources. Young people asked for projects that needed a great deal of negotiation, for example a request was made for a youth shelter in the upper side of Alexandra Park. The young people were very motivated but were not aware of the potential opposition to the idea or the timescale involved in securing resources for this idea in the time available.
- **Speed of change** – young people are regularly asked to get involved in activities such as this but when they don't see an actual change they don't want to engage again. When the money runs out in projects, the young

people end up feeling let down when they haven't achieved what was planned.

- **Community infrastructure** – this is more developed and integrated in some areas than others making it difficult to break into areas with established structures and many leading organisations. For example it was easier to engage with a relatively new group in Orangefield than it was to work with some of the existing organisations in the Falls area.
- **Promoting the initiative to the community** – when an initiative such as this is instigated, there can be a perception that the work and resources are being taken away from locally based organisations that could or should be delivering the work. Whilst this was not actually the case here as Challenge for Youth has a long standing partnership with community organisations across Belfast, there is a need to promote the opportunities within the initiative to locally based organisations and work through existing structures where possible.

4.6 Programme Management

All consultees agreed that whilst the People in Parks initiative had been fairly success in terms of the outputs achieved, there was room for improvement in terms of how the work was managed. Recommendations for how this could have been improved will be made in 4.7 below.

4.7 Future Project Delivery

It was agreed by all of those consulted that work such as this should be delivered again in the future and be incorporated into the Parks and Leisure Departments Antisocial Behaviour Programme. A number of recommendations were made for ways in which this work could be improved upon.

4.7.1 Project Planning and Management

There is the need to form a project management group through which the work would be planned, managed, monitored and evaluated. This group would be attended by key individuals that need to engage with the work and buy into what it is trying to achieve. This would include the relevant Park Manager and other parks staff as required, Council Antisocial Behaviour Officers and other Council staff as appropriate, community representatives and staff from the organisation contracted for delivery. Meetings would have an agenda established and be

minuted with clear actions outlined. This would also provide a good opportunity for feedback to be given on the work being delivered.

If necessary, these meetings would be set up for each Park engaged with and should begin prior to the young people being engaged with to ensure that appropriate planning is in place and the necessary requirements are established. Meetings would probably be required every three months, perhaps more frequently at the outset. It is also important that where possible the same staff would attend each meeting to allow for continuity to be built up in terms of relationships and what was agreed. Utilising other groups, including area based antisocial behaviour partnership meetings, should also be considered.

Once the groups of young people have been formed, there should be more opportunities for them to meet with Council staff to voice their opinions and feed into existing work that is going on in their parks. This worked very well with Alexandra Park during the pilot when the young people met with the Director of the Parks and Leisure department.

In addition, templates should be established for monitoring the work in a clear and consistent way and in line with the outputs and outcomes established for the work. These would be agreed by the Council and the contracted organisation at the project initiation meeting and would be consistent with the information that is required when reporting to Council committees.

4.7.2 Outreach, Recruitment and Engagement

When targeting young people for involvement in the work, a decision is required as to whether to target an already formed group of young people (that may exist through a local youth club or community group) or to target individuals that will be seen in the Park and may be directly involved in antisocial behaviour. The former option is much easier to identify and engage with and the young people are more likely to be willing to work together. The latter is a greater challenge and is likely to require additional work but these may be the young people an initiative such as this should be targeting and the impact that can be made on the individuals could potentially be much greater.

Once a group was formed, Challenge for Youth proved to be very good at maintaining engagement with the young people keen to get involved and wanting to know when the next session was going to be. Where the group does not already exist, there can be a considerable period of time required to build up the trust and understanding required to achieve active engagement and this would need to be factored in to future project delivery. This time was not available during the pilot delivery.

Challenge for Youth staff carried out detached street outreach work both in the Parks and in the areas immediately surrounding them. Attendance at community events at which young people were in attendance also proved to be a useful technique in identifying individuals.

4.7.3 Timing of the People in Parks initiative

The tender for the delivery of the initiative was awarded in June but delivery of the work did not commence until September 2010 due to existing work commitments for Challenge for Youth. Any organisation that is involved in youth work is likely to be involved in activities over the summer as are the young people that are to be targeted. Therefore a longer period of lead in would be required with a start for the work at Easter being perhaps more realistic.

Staff involved in the delivery have indicated that 4 Park locations should have been targeted over the course of 12 months with 2 projects delivered in each Park. This would allow for a longer period of time to identify and engage with the young people, form a larger core group and to allow for greater flexibility in delivery to accommodate other activities taking place, such as school holidays. This is particularly the case when working with young people that have not been exposed to youth work before. It may be possible to engage two groups simultaneously in each Park and work with them on different projects over a 12 month period rather than devoting 6 months exclusively to each project.

4.7.4 Community Engagement

As well as having the time to work with and achieve engagement with the young people, consultees also indicated that they would have welcomed additional time to work with the communities that were being targeted to lay the foundations for the work that was being undertaken, to outline what they hoped to achieve and

hopefully to achieve buy in for this. As has been indicated above, there were several community organisations that showed some reticence to support the work and additional time to promote the work may have helped to bring these organisations on board. Additional community consultation would also gather opinions regarding any developments in parks and this could have been reflected in the projects that were undertaken, resulting in greater support for the work in the future.

4.7.5 Types of Projects to be delivered

There would be value in presenting the young people with examples of other projects that had been successfully delivered in Parks in the past and that would be admissible for support from the People in Parks initiative. An analysis of the types of projects delivered was completed as a part of the evaluation of the Community Safety Partnerships Small Grants scheme and this may be a good listing to use. This would also help Challenge for Youth in the provision of resources and ensuring a range of projects that could be delivered. Each Park could potentially undertake an activity based project (such as Lark in the Park) and another project identified by the young people specific to their park.

4.7.6 Outputs and outcomes established

With the timescales and resources available for the pilot, the outputs were quite ambitious particularly given this was the first time that work such as this had been attempted. These outputs would be much more realistic now that the relationships have been built in the communities and if the work was delivered over a longer period as was recommended above.

The outcomes set were more visionary and likely to be achievable in the longer term and not directly through a pilot project such as this. The initiative has made a contribution to addressing antisocial behaviour, the extent of which will be considered in Section 5 below.

4.7.7 Recognition of achievement and media coverage

There is the need to better promote the success of the work, both at an individual and at a community level. There is an opportunity to recognise individual achievement through the Community Safety Partnership's Young People's Awards. It is important to recognise young people for the work that they have

done both to increase their own confidence but also to promote this to the local community that they live in. This did happen to an extent in north and east Belfast but there is scope to improve upon this in the future.

More could also have been done to promote the positive work of the projects in the local press, perhaps through the Council City Matters magazine. In addition, Challenge for Youth would have benefited from closer liaison with the communications department in the Council to better promote the work being undertaken.

4.7.8 Additional support to the young people

As well as undertaking projects that have developed the young people and their self-confidence, there is the potential for additional skills development work to be undertaken. The group in Orangefield were able to undertake some training in child protection. There is the potential for accredited training to be offered to all of the young people engaged with as well as other support that might be of benefit to them in the role that they could play in the community such as first aid training and volunteering qualifications that would benefit them in the future.

In addition, there may be benefit in bringing the groups of young people together into one forum where they could benefit with learning to be gained from one another. This would particularly be the case where there were similar types of projects being planned, such as fun days in the parks.

4.7.9 Links to other Council initiatives taking place

There is the need to ensure that any work such as People in Parks is carried out in conjunction with other Council initiatives taking place and that duplication of effort does not take place. Other relevant Council initiatives may include:

- Community Safety Partnerships small grant and youth outreach programmes.
- Peace III youth intervention programme.
- Good Relations Unit's bonfire management programme.
- Culture and Arts community festivals fund.

If Council initiatives can be integrated, better value for money can be achieved with resources pooled to achieve a greater impact.

5. OUTCOMES ACHIEVED AND ASSESSMENT OF IMPACT

5.1 The previous sections of the report have looked at how the People in Parks initiative has operated. This Section considers the outcomes established for the work and seek to identify the likely benefits that the work will bring and the lasting changes that may have been made.

5.2 Consideration of Outcomes established

5.2.1 Reduction in antisocial behaviour identified through statistics available or through the Safer Belfast tasking report.

Statistics available for incidents of antisocial behaviour reported in parks show a decrease in the total number of incidents, with an increase in only two months (April and June) year on year.

Year	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
2009	110	138	140	138	191	152	118	90	75
2010	174	126	172	86	64	109	80	48	29

Not all of the decreases in reported incidents can be attributed to the People in Parks initiative but the projects have clearly made a positive impact on the positive changes evidenced. There is a need for closer analysis of the types of antisocial behaviour being recorded and the seriousness of these incidents to build up a true picture of the impact that is being made by initiatives such as this.

5.2.2 More young people become engaged, empowered and supported to change their behaviour and access opportunities.

With this being the first time that an initiative such as this has been delivered, it is difficult to establish if there were more young people being engaged with as a baseline figure does not exist to make a comparison. Anecdotal evidence would suggest that many of these young people had not been engaged in mainstream youth provision in the past. Feedback from the evaluation forms would also suggest that their behaviour may have changed as a result of the support:

‘I learned to respect our Park more, and clean up after us’.

‘Lots of people use the Park so we need to look after it better and stop writing all over it’

‘We want to be able to use the Park better and stop people thinking we are trouble makers because we aren’t’.

5.2.3 Opportunities for young people to express their concern about their communities.

The People in Parks initiative allowed the young people to come up with ideas that they believed would benefit the Park and the people using it. This has been very successful in several areas, most notably north and east Belfast where the wider community engaged with the work and the young people continue to play a positive role in their communities. Even where the projects could not be completed, the young people were given the opportunity to express their concerns and come up with possible ways to address these.

‘I learned that we are not too young to have a voice and make change in our area’.

‘I learned more about the community and how things could be changed’.

5.2.4 Young people informed about their responsibilities.

The opportunities to identify, plan and deliver projects have given the young people the opportunity to take responsibility in a way they may not have done in the past. The education and development work carried out in conjunction with Challenge for Youth will also have challenged many of their existing behaviours and the anecdotal evidence drawn from evaluation forms would suggest that the young people intend to change their behaviour as a result of the support.

‘I see the Park now as somewhere for me and my friends to use but to respect it and the wardens’.

‘I have more respect for the Park and the people looking after it. They have gone out of their way to help us’.

5.2.5 Support for young people to understand and fulfil their potential.

It will take a longer period of time to truly see whether the young people engaged with will have changed as a result of the support and gone on to truly fulfil their potential. Challenge for Youth staff have indicated that a number of the young people display the skills and commitment to go on to become the community leaders of the future. A number of these young people have expressed an interest in undertaking future leadership training whilst some could go on to be employed in the parks that have been targeted.

5.2.6 Young people visible and engaged in positive actions within communities.

As was mentioned above, the People in Parks initiative could have done more to promote the success of the work, both to the local communities and to Belfast in general. Young people did get considerable credit for the role that they played in making a change, most notably in north and east Belfast and this has led to these young people continuing to engage in community work beyond the programme. Delivery of events such as Lark in the Park is an excellent way of allowing the young people to be visible and demonstrate the added value they can bring.

5.3 Impact of the work

5.3.1 On the young People engaged with

Clearly the biggest impact of the work has been on the young people engaged with. The immediate impact can be seen from the changes in these young people from before and after they were engaged with. The initiative has given them something to do as well as showing that they mattered enough to be listened to. Comments from the young people show that they are taking much more of an interest in their parks than before and are more interested in how it will develop. The activities, teamwork and group support will have made a positive contribution to their personal development although it will take a longer period of time for the real impact of this to be seen. Some of the young people have gone on to other forms of support and the staff have indicated that there has been a general increase in the self-confidence of those involved and an increased willingness to open up and engage in general.

5.3.2 On the Parks and staff

There has not been a major impact on the Parks and their staff from this pilot initiative but the groundwork has been laid for future engagement work. Physical changes have been affected in several Parks, including clean ups and improved facilities, and several Park Managers have been willing to actively engage with the projects being delivered. The impact on parks can be much greater where initiatives such as this can link in with other work taking place.

The success of initiatives such as this can feed into the future development of Council facilities and provide an excellent opportunity to target resources to maximise their benefit in reducing antisocial behaviour. This would include more pursuits in parks for those aged 12+.

5.3.3 On the local community

Projects that managed to achieve active engagement from the community have had a positive impact and there has been some success in achieving community engagement in each of the areas targeted. In particular, where the young people were involved in the running of an event, such as the Royal Wedding party, the role played by the young people was much more visible.

The consultation has highlighted that there is more work required in some communities to further build these relationships and trust to ensure the active participation of all key stakeholders and reduce the perception of this work being 'parachuted' in or that it should be delivered by other existing community organisations. This will require additional time and planning to ensure that any future work links in with the existing community infrastructure in those areas.

6. RECOMMENDATIONS

The following recommendations are made for the future delivery of the People in Parks initiative as a result of the findings of this evaluation.

6.1 Project Planning and Management

- A project management group should be formed and be attended by key stakeholders including Parks Managers and community representatives. If necessary, a group should be established for each park targeted with minutes kept for each meeting.
- Work should, where possible, feed into other existing groups such as the area based antisocial behaviour partnerships.
- Standard documentation should be established, including templates for monitoring the work.
- There should be more opportunities for the groups of young people to meet with decision makers in the Council.
- Meetings involving the young people should be in a place and at a time that is suitable to their needs.

6.2 Outreach, Recruitment and Engagement

- A balance needs to be achieved between working with existing groups of young people and targeting those individuals that are detached and may be actively involved in antisocial behaviour.
- Detached street outreach work and attendance at community events will be required to identify suitable young people.

6.3 Timescales

- Any future contract should be awarded for a 12 month period and factor in times when it is difficult to achieve active engagement, such as school holidays.
- Individual projects should be delivered over 12 months as opposed to 6 months with potentially two groups engaged in each area simultaneously.
- Additional time should be built in to project delivery to allow for development work to be carried out with both the young people targeted and the communities in which they live to ensure active buy in.

6.4 Types of Projects to be delivered

- A list of examples of other projects that had been successfully delivered in Parks in the past should be produced to give examples of what would be admissible for support and realistic with the time and resources available.
- Each park area should deliver a community engagement event (fun day) as well as an event targeted at the identified needs of the particular park.

6.5 Recognition of achievement and media coverage

- Young people engaged with work such as this should be considered for the Community Safety Partnership's Young People's Awards.
- The work could be better promoted to the local community through the wider media and better use of Council resources such as City Matters magazine, in conjunction with the Council's Departmental and Corporate communications teams.

6.6 Additional support to the young people

- Young people should be given opportunities to achieve accredited qualifications as a part of the support provided, including volunteering qualifications. This could be done by bringing young people from across Belfast into one group and learn from one another's experiences.

6.7 Links to other Council initiatives taking place

- Future delivery should be linked into other Council initiatives operating in those areas to achieve better value for money and reduce any duplication in delivery.

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Belfast City Council

Report to:	Parks and Leisure Committee
Subject:	Support for Sport Development Grants
Date:	10 November 2011
Reporting Officer:	Andrew Hassard, Director of Parks and Leisure
Contact Officer:	Claire Moraghan, Sports Development Officer

1. Relevant Background Information

Members will be aware that delegated authority was given to the Director of Parks and Leisure for Hospitality and Development applications requesting up to £3,000 and £1,250 respectively – including a one off equipment grant of £250.

The purpose of this report is to inform Members of the decision taken by the Director of Parks and Leisure under delegated authority regarding Support for Sport small development and hospitality applications received during October 2011.

2. Key Issues

The Director and relevant officer met on Monday 1 November to discuss small development and hospitality grants.

The small development applications (delegated authority October) are listed in Appendix 1, the hospitality grants (delegated authority October) are listed in Appendix 2.

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

Members are asked to note the over allocation of the hospitality budget. Due to the cancellation of an event previously recommended and occasional instances of full amounts not being drawn down the budget will come in on target at year end. The hospitality grant is now closed for this financial year.

3.	Resource Implications				
	<p><u>Financial</u> The table below indicates the amounts allocated from the 2010/2011 budget.</p>				
	Area	Total available	Allocated to date	Proposed allocation for October	Remaining after allocation
	Small Development	£120,000	£77,994	£12,729	£29,277
	Hospitality	£31,000	£33,085	£300	£-2,385

4.	Equality and Good Relations Implications
	<p>All applications have been assessed in line with the current Support for Sport scheme.</p> <p>When the review of the Support for Sport Scheme has been completed, the revised scheme and award framework will be re-screened through the council's equality screening process.</p>

5.	Recommendations
	That Members note the content of this report with regard to Support for Sport development and hospitality applications.

6.0	Decision Tracking
	Sports Development Officer to arrange the award of all Support for Sport small grants by 30 November 2011.

7.0	Key to Abbreviations
	None.

8.0	Documents Attached
	<p>Appendix 1: Small Development Applications October 2011</p> <p>Appendix 2: Hospitality Applications October 2011.</p>

Appendix 1 Support for Sport Small Development Grants October 2011

ID	Club/Organisation	Activity details	Amount recommended	Recommendation and reason	Breakdown
D-712-12	Malachians Football Club	To deliver soccer taster sessions at St Malachys College for males from the North Belfast area over a 10 week period	£1,000	Support to a maximum of £1000 not representing any more than 75% of eligible costs. Not eligible for equipment grant	Facility Hire £533 Coaching £800 Total: £1333-75%=£1,000
D-713-12	Boccia NI	To deliver an over 55s Boccia Coaching Programme	£715	Support to a maximum of £715 not representing any more than 75% of eligible costs	Coaching £750 Facility Hire £96 Medals/Trophies £107 Total: £953-75%= £715
D-714-12	St Andrews AFC- Youth and Community	Deliver a new mini-soccer programme for boys and girls aged 7-9	£327	Support to a maximum of £327 not representing any more than 75% of eligible costs	Facility Hire £300 Medals £68 Certificates £68 Total: £436-75%= £327
D-715-12	Grosvenor Youth Project	New section for soccer male beginners aged 10-12 to run over November 2011-February 2012. Aimed to attract 30-40 participants	£0	Do Not Support same application as last year so not a new section	
D-716-12	Nettlefield Multi Sports	To deliver a new street soccer programme every Saturday evening for children and young people aged 7-17	£250	Support Equipment Grant £250.00	Total £250
D-717-12	York Road Young Men	To set up and run football training from Oct-June 2012 for 30 male adults to improve fitness and technical ability.	£0	Deferred pending more information on activity	
D-718-12	Ardoyne Working Men's Club Football Club	To deliver a soccer try it programme for males aged over 16 over a period of 5 weeks and to establish a new team within the club	£1,250	Support to a maximum of £1000 not representing any more than 75% of eligible costs plus Equipment Grant £250	Facility Hire £380 Coaching £783 Leaflets/flyers £70 Trophies £100 Total £1350-75%= £1000 + £250 Equipment Grant
D-719-12	Belfast Warriors L.F.C	Kick start grant to fund coaching and facility hire costs to increase soccer participation for females by the establishment of a new ladies football team	£1,045	Support to a maximum of £795 not representing any more than 75% of eligible costs + £250 Equipment Grant	Coaching £500 Facility Hire £560 Total £1060-75%= £795 + £250 Equipment Grant

Appendix 1 Support for Sport Small Development Grants October 2011

D-720-12	Ardoyne Holycross Boxing Club	Sport Festival grant to fund a boxing event The club will host boxers from Washington D.C, USA. Age range for event is 14-18 years and hope to attract 50-60 participants in total	£1,000	Support to a maximum of £1000 not representing any more than 75% of eligible costs	Ring Hire/Construction £100 Doctor £50 Posters/Flyers/Tickets £100 Trophies £383 Facility Hire £800 Total £1333 - 75%= £1000
D-721-12	Woodvale Cricket Club	Indoor cricket tournament hoping to have 120+ participants to take place in Shankill Leisure Centre from January -March 2012	£1,000	Support to a maximum of £1000 not representing any more than 75% of eligible costs	Facility Hire £1350 Total £1333-75%= £1000
D-722-12	Beann Mhadaghain F.C	Funding to help establish a second team for men of all ages over a 16 week period at Solitude sport facility	£730	Support to a maximum of £480 not representing any more than 75% of eligible costs plus £250 Equipment Grant	Facility Hire £640 Total £640-75% = £480 + £250 Equipment Grant
D-723-12	Fight Academy Ireland	Kickstart/equipment grant to fund coaching sessions to 60+ female participants 5-13 year olds and 14 year + over a 16 week period	£0	Deferred to confirm status of Fight Academy Ireland.	
D-724-12	Orangefield Community Association	Equipment grant to establish a new football club	£250	Support Equipment Grant £250	Total £250
D-725-12	Belfast Darts Academy	Coach Education Award followed by a tournament to attract 60 young people to participate in playing darts aged 9-17 both male and female on dates 27/11/11 and 04/12/11 at Grove Wellbeing Centre. Also to fund equipment.	£1,239	Support to a maximum £989 not representing any more than 75% of eligible costs plus £250 Equipment Grant	Coach Education £450 Facility Hire £410 Posters/Flyers £100 Certificates/Medals/Trophies £118 Hire of Equipment £240 Total £1328-75%= £996 + £250 Equipment Grant
D-726-12	Divis Ladies Bowling Club	15 week Bowls coaching course aimed at increasing female participation targeting potential participants over the age of 60 . The coaches will use specialised equipment to introduce the mechanics of the game. All sessions to be held at Falls Pavilion	£510	Support to a maximum of £510 not representing any more than 75% of eligible costs	Coaching £600 Facility Costs £80 Total £680-75% = £510

Appendix 1 Support for Sport Small Development Grants October 2011

D-727-12	Divis Men's Bowling Club	13 week coaching sessions aimed at young people to participate in bowls. This will involve coach education courses and coaching at local schools and youth clubs. As a result of this programme a new Under 21 section will be developed	£805	Support to a maximum of £555 not representing any more than 75% of eligible costs plus £250 Equipment Grant	Coach Education £100 Coaching £560 Facility Costs £80 Total £740-75% = £555 + £250 Equipment Grant
D-728-12	Cairde Naomh Pol	Generic training and coaching awards from November 2011- March 2012 . All courses to be held at La Salle Multi Sports Complex	£1,000	Support to a maximum of £1000 not representing any more than 75% of eligible costs	GAA Foundation Course £500 First Aid Course £573 Child Protection Course £260 Total £1333 - 75% =£1,000
D-729-12	All Stars Special Olympics Club	Coach Education course for 3 coaches followed by indoor coaching for club members at Queens PEC	£670	Support to a maximum £670 not representing any more than 75% of eligible costs	Coach Education £605 Facility Hire £288 Total: £893-75%= £670
D-730-12	Thomas Hawkes School of Dance	To bring a highly trained choreographer over from London to teach new skills to the club and further technique training in order to build confidence and progress further in dance. Some participants have special needs and they will greatly benefit from this	£938	Support to a maximum of £937.50 not representing any more than 75% of eligible costs	Coaching Costs £800 Facility Hire £160 Certificates £90 Travel Accommodation for mentor/tutor £200 Total: £1250-75% = £937.50
Total Amount allocated to date		£77,994	Total amount allocated October	£12,729	Overall Total: £90,723

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Appendix 2 Support for Sport Hospitality Grants October 2011

ID	Club/Organisation	Title of event	Tourism Appeal	Recommendation	Amount recommended
H-106-12	Ardoyne Holycross Boxing Club	Belfast Beltway Boxing Event against visiting team from Washington DC on 22 January 2012 at Lansdowne Court Hotel.	A party of 25 will travel to Belfast for 4 days.	Recommend	£300
Total Amount allocated to date		£33,085	Total amount allocated October	£300	Overall Total: £33,385

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