

Parks and Leisure Committee

Thursday, 6th December, 2012

MEETING OF PARKS AND LEISURE COMMITTEE

Members present: Councillor McCabe (Chairman);
Aldermen Humphrey and Rodgers;
Councillors Corr, Garrett, Haire, Hartley, Hendron,
Kelly, Kyle, Mallon, McKee, Mac Giolla Mhín,
Mullan, A. Newton, Ó Donnghaile,
Spence and Thompson.

In attendance: Mr. A. Hassard, Director of Parks and Leisure;
Mrs. R. Crozier, Assistant Director of Parks
and Leisure; and
Mr. B. Flynn, Democratic Services Officer.

Apologies

Apologies were reported on behalf of Councillors McNamee and O'Neill.

Minutes

The minutes of the meetings of 12th and 15th November were taken as read and signed as correct. It was reported that those minutes had been adopted by the Council at its meeting on 3rd December, subject to the undernoted amendments:

- (i) the amendment of the minute of 12th November under the heading "Proposed Redevelopment of Windsor Park" to provide that monthly progress reports be submitted for the Committee's consideration; and
- (ii) the amendment of the minute of the meeting of 15th November under the heading "Suffolk Football Club" to provide that the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee be requested to include, within its Capital Programme's list of uncommitted programmes, provision for a two-room changing pavilion and meeting area at the Suffolk Playing Fields.

Declarations of Interest

No declarations of interest were reported.

Schedule of Meetings - 2013

The Committee endorsed a schedule of Committee meetings for 2013, details of which were available on the Modern.gov website.

Support for Sport - Hospitality

The Committee noted a schedule of Support for Sport applications in relation to hospitality grants which had been approved by the Director of Parks and Leisure in accordance with the authority delegated to him.

Financial Reporting - Quarter Two

The Committee considered the undernoted report:

“1. Relevant background information

The Strategic Policy and Resources Committee agreed on 18 June 2010 that:

- the Council would produce financial reporting packs for the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee and each Standing Committee on a quarterly basis; and
- the Budget and Transformation Panel would also receive monthly financial updates if there were any significant issues to report.

2. Key issues

Current and forecast financial position 2012/13

The current performance in quarter two of the Parks and Leisure department shows a (0.2%) variance against the year to date budget; i.e.; an under spend of £25K. There are a number of key reasons for the department’s current financial position. Income for the department is down 8% or £443k on budget:-

- Leisure Centres are down by 15% or £190k on the budget for fees and charges. Promotional activity especially around the new membership scheme is ongoing and campaigns have been underway from June.
- Income from fees and charges at the Zoo is down 15% or £119k against budget and the income at the shop is also down £81k but this is offset by a reduction on expenditure on supplies. Visitor numbers are currently down slightly on the same period as last year despite 100,000 visitors to the Zoo in July and August. The poor weather and the opening of other prestigious visitor centres have impacted on the Zoo.
- Income from fees and charges in Parks and Open Spaces are up by 8.2% largely in relation to events and pitch hire and the Crematorium which is up on budget by £55k.

Utility costs although currently on budget are a concern the department. However the Zoo has been experiencing recent problems with the use of water from the existing borehole which has resulted in the Zoo being reconnected to the mains water supply which will have financial consequences for the revenue budget and potentially the capital budget.

Grounds Maintenance expenditure is currently under spent against budget by £320k. £106k of this relates to the maintenance of paths and £85k in relation to playgrounds but both projects are on schedule to be completed by the end of the year.

Supplies and Services within the department are under spent by £125k. This expenditure relates to a number of programmes of work that are being developed and also programmes of work with external partners that are underway and are being monitored on a monthly basis.

This also refers to the issue of the Zoo shop referred to above which has reduced its supplies for resale by £60k in response to poor sales. The department will continue to monitor the variance between actual and budgeted expenditure/income during quarter 3

3. Resource Implications

There is a year to date under-spend of £25k and a forecast overspend of some £0.35m or 1.5% by year end mainly due to utility costs, the impact of maintenance closures and the issue with the borehole at the Zoo and the predicted income for the year.”

In response to a Member's query in respect of the provision of free Wi-Fi internet access at Malone House, the Director indicated that this matter would be addressed within the context of a full review of the business model at both the Belfast Castle and Malone House, provision for which had already been authorised within the Departmental Plan.

The Director informed the Committee that the year-end forecast for the Department was for a £350,000 overspend and explained that this had arisen due to pressure on income, which had been alluded to within the report, and as a consequence of unanticipated maintenance issues which had arisen in respect of the borehole at the Belfast Zoo and the pool at the Avoniel Leisure Centre. He assured the Members that steps would be taken to reduce spending against other budget headings to endeavour to reduce the level of overspend being forecast currently.

The Committee noted the information which had been provided.

Burial Lands at Dundrod - Update

The Committee considered the contents of a report which provided an update on the options which were being explored currently in respect of the potential acquisition of land for a new Council cemetery at Dundrod. It was reported that Council officials had held a number of meetings with the representatives of the landowner regarding the terms proposed and, prior to entering into formal negotiation in this regard, it was proposed that a further feasibility study, which would include a planning assessment, would be required to be carried out on the land to establish its suitability for use as a burial ground.

The Director indicated that, should the further feasibility study indicate that the site would be suitable for use as a cemetery, the next stage in the process would be to undertake a Tier 2 Preliminary Quantitative Risk Assessment, which would involve in-depth soil investigations together with water sampling to identify any hazards and potential contamination issues for local water sources. Based on previous exercises, it is estimated that the cost of undertaking the Tier 2 tests would be in the region of £25,000 to £30,000 and, accordingly, the Director sought the Committee's approval, subject to the findings of the further feasibility study and the outcome of negotiations on the associated terms, to commission suitably qualified experts to undertake this work on the Council's behalf through a tendering exercise.

The Committee noted the information and granted the authority sought.

Ulster GAA Partnership Development - Update

The Committee considered the undernoted report:

"1.0 Relevant Background Information

1.1 The purpose of this report is to;-

- (i) Provide an update on the ongoing partnership development with the Ulster GAA and;**
- (ii) Seek approval to formalise the governance arrangements through a joint management board in the interim until 'agreements for use' are finalised and in place.**

1.2 Members will recall at November Committee a new Playing Pitches agreements policy was agreed which will manage requests received from sporting organisations or clubs (amateur to international level of competition play) to enter into 'agreements for use' of parks and leisure sites.

1.3 This forms part of the department's overall approach to the development of a framework which will consistently manage the requests from external organisations to provide services and / or develop the use of assets in partnership with the Council.

1.4 The engagement on the draft policy is being planned and over the next year the operational changes required to service delivery will be made for 'Agreements for use' to go live in the next business year.

1.5 In the meantime officers in the Council continue to develop and maintain relations with a range of partners at all levels and in this interim period it is likely these arrangements will need to be formalised.

2.0 Key Issues

2.1 Ongoing liaison with the Ulster GAA has reached a point where the legal and management arrangements need to be progressed in order for their financial contribution to be drawn-down.

2.2 The Joint Management Board type of arrangement can still be delivered via an 'Agreement for use' rather than a FMA or a lease. Legal Services are currently drafting a prototype 'agreement for use' document to enable the partnership discussions to proceed.

2.3 A joint management board (JMB) is the preferred governance model which will manage the detail of the Agreement for Use and it is proposed that the Council will sit on the JMB alongside Ulster GAA, Antrim GAA and Down GAA Board.

2.4 The "sample" terms of reference set out the purpose and scope of the JMB governance arrangement along with the general roles and responsibilities of the partners and the benefits to be realised from the partnership. N.B. Officers continue to work with Legal Services and Estates to finalise the details of these arrangements. GAA will also have to agree to the terms of the Joint Management Board.

2.5 A draft timeline has been developed and bearing in mind the wider picture of the engagement on the playing pitches agreements policy.

2.6 Wider Council position

Council agreed a draft playing pitches agreement policy which forms part of the department's partnership management framework in November 2012. This partnership is being developed in parallel to the engagement period for the draft policy and finalising the operation of 'agreements for use and may need to adapt or adopt depending on the outcome of this work.

2.7 Joint management board

A joint management board is a management structure that can be applied to any other partnership with any other governing body or equivalent level body.

2.8 The prototype 'agreement for use' between Ulster GAA and the Council

The arrangement between Ulster GAA and the Council will:

- remove the need for individual agreements for use with the individual clubs and is the preferred route by the Council to strategically develop playing pitch provision across the city.
- Ensure any specific requirements do not contravene any obligations the Council may have under covenant or in setting precedent that cannot be provided equally to any other party.
- Provide an agreed schedule of specific sites and requirements to be delivered through the partnership which is appended to the legal document;
- Ensure any revisions or changes to the purpose which impact earlier agreements by Council need to be presented back to the relevant committee.
- Protect the investment of the GAA in the programme to ensure that clubs get adequate pitch time at the sites invested in.

3.0 Resource Implications

3.1 Financial

To date GAA have agreed on investment of £1Million to contribute to the development at Cherryvale, Woodlands, Musgrave and Cliftonville. A formal letter of offer has not yet been received but is imminent. Discussions are still ongoing about the level of investment on specific sites.

3.2 Human Resources

Ongoing officer time from a range of officers across the department will be dedicated to implementation and ongoing management in the medium to long term.

Legal services support and advice and assistance from Estates and Property / Projects will also be a requirement during the next stage.

3.3 Asset and Other Implications

There may be a requirement to consult on the development of the partnership at the related sites which may require resources.

4.0 Equality Implications

4.1 The final draft of the legal document and terms of reference of the partnership will be screened in line with the Council's existing equality screening process.

5.0 Recommendations

5.1 Members are asked to:

- (i) note the update provided and the ongoing work continuing at officer level on the draft sample terms of reference for joint management boards ;**
- (ii) authorise officers to continue discussions with Ulster GAA to finalise the terms for an appropriate Joint Management Board to cover the pitches which are to be partly funded by the GAA."**

In response to a Member's query, the Director indicated that the matter of the 'Primacy Rule', which was imposed by some association football leagues, together with ground requirements, restricted the Council's ability to help certain clubs in the more senior leagues. He explained that any changes to the 'Primacy Rule' would be a matter for the leagues and the Irish Football Association to pursue. In this regard, he undertook to discuss the matter with the Chief Executive of the Irish Football Association.

A Member indicated that he would wish, on behalf of his Party, to reserve the right have a party briefing on the development of the proposed partnership board and he requested also that a report be submitted to a future meeting which would outline the feasibility of the Council developing a rugby strategy for the further development of that sport in the City.

The Director reminded the Committee that the Council's agreed Pitches Strategy, which covered the future development of all pitch-based sports in the City, had included an assessment of all pitch-based sports, including rugby. He explained that this assessment had formed the basis on which the current investment decisions had been made. He pointed out also that it had always been the Council's intention to revisit the baseline information which had been provided and, as such, it was anticipated that this would take place during the financial year 2013/2014 and would include a re-assessment of the needs of rugby sport in the City.

After further discussion, the Committee adopted the recommendations within the report.

Parks and Leisure Departmental Plan – Progress Report

The Committee note the contents of a report which provided an update in respect of the progress which had been achieved in respect of the Departmental Plan for 2012/2013 during the period from 1st April till 30th September, 2012.

Growing Communities Update

The Committee noted the contents of a report which provided an update on the formal consultation exercise which had been carried out in relation to the Council's Growing Communities Strategy.

Young Adults' Association Areas - Falls Park, Musgrave Park and Botanic Gardens

The Committee considered the undernoted report:

"1. Relevant Background Information

Members will be aware that complaints and concerns are raised by residents of Belfast and Councillors regarding antisocial behaviour (ASB) in park areas across the city as a result of young adults (aged 14 to 16 years) gathering to socialise or consume alcohol.

There are pilot interventions designed to reduce ASB currently taking place in parks:

- **Tackling sectarian attacks in Ballysillan playing fields**
- **Supporting local youth activity programmes in Reverend Robert Bradford Park; and**
- **Enhancing fencing to reduce trespass in Woodlands playing fields.**

An increasing amount of resources are directed towards dispersing and diverting young adults who gather in parks before and after closing time, however there is no evidence that these interventions are changing the habits of young adults who wish to gather in parks. This report will present proposals designed to:

- **provide a long term alternative to increasing staff presence at night,**
- **manage groups of young adults who continue to access parks in large numbers or trespass after closing regardless of any increase in staff numbers,**
- **reduce damage largely created by young adults,**

- tackle the high risk activities young adults participate in
- create attractive, defined and visible young adult association areas within parks
- create areas that can be easily accessed day or night by local youth outreach services, Park Wardens or PSNI

2. Key Issues

The following table profiles incidents largely created by young adults trespassing, causing damage, or involving substance misuse in parks across the city:

Table 1

Incidents of damage, trespass and substance misuse in parks (2012)

<u>Location</u>	<u>Number of incidents</u>
Falls Park	82
Botanic Gardens	80
Woodvale Park	44
Ormeau Park	38
Musgrave Playing Fields	32
Waterworks	28
Cavehill Country Park	15
Belfast Castle Estate	6
Orangefield	3
Belmont Park	2
Greenville Park	1
Dunville Park	1

Although some of these parks have significant numbers of incidents, the parks have different assets and characteristics. Of the six parks which are at the top of the table; Falls, Botanic, Ormeau and Musgrave are parks regulated by closing times, they currently have yards where vehicles

The proposals request approval to create open young adult association areas which are designed to be distant from residential buildings to reduce noise nuisance, therefore the areas which have been identified to immediately benefit from the proposals are Falls park, Botanic gardens and Musgrave playing fields. These parks have similar profiles caused by young adults gathering in large numbers.

Falls Park

The issue of trespass and damage in the park has become a regular occurrence, and several discussions have already taken place with local Councillors to explore appropriate actions.

1. As there are no explicit areas where young adults can socialise, they inevitably gravitate towards playgrounds and regularly leave glass and litter behind. During the summer evenings youths gather preventing families from accessing the play equipment.
2. Park staff spend a significant amount of time clearing up glass and rubbish in playgrounds, causing upset to park users due to the high demand from children and young families.
3. The playground is not visible from the road and therefore the PSNI will not know if there is any reason to enter the park to patrol.
4. Serious damage was caused to the bowling pavilion, the playground and service yard after the park closed at night.

Although there has been an increase in staff resources to respond to or control these issues, the damage and upset continues.

Musgrave Playing Fields

This area suffers from the same issue of youths gathering and causing nuisance and damage. It is proving expensive to maintain a staff presence and there is still damage being caused by youths to the fabric of the park including recent additions such as the therapy gardens.

1. Large numbers of youths gather around the interior of the park. The park has suffered damage, for example, trees are being burnt in the Grovelands area of the park and bottles are broken onto paths.
2. Youths are gathering around the playgrounds during the evenings and causing damage to the therapy garden.
3. The interior of the park and the therapy garden is not visible from the road.

4. Staff spend a significant amount of time clearing up glass and rubbish the following day.

Botanic Gardens

The gardens are frequently subject to very large groups gathering, usually when the sun is out.

1. Crowds gather on the great lawn and openly drink, leave litter and play boisterous football, rugby or frisbee games. There is no doubt that this activity upsets and displaces families and older people.
2. Groups of youths gather at the bandstands and they in turn attract older more hardened drinkers.
3. Member of staff have raised serious concerns about lone working and safety in the park when the crowds gather.

A number of actions have been identified to reduce the impact of antisocial behaviour and respond to the complaints from local residents. Each of the park areas have hotspots near assets that staff are trying to protect from potential damage. Due to sheer numbers gathering, and risks involved in ejecting large groups from the parks, there are few options to manage drinking and rowdy behaviour. It is impractical to exclude all young adults, therefore it is proposed that in Falls, Musgrave and Botanic, a defined area is created near to an entrance, which is visible to PSNI and is attractive to young adults. It is also proposed to enhance existing playgrounds and park facilities to encourage more families and older people to use the parks.

Young Adult Association Areas

The areas are to be secured from the rest of the park and will contain natural seating, adventure activities, robust outdoor games and soft grass, bark or sand surfaces.

It is envisaged that these areas will be developed and supervised in conjunction with local youth service providers, community representatives and PSNI.

Each of the sites selected to locate the young adult association areas are visible from a public road. As the areas are to be secured from the rest of the park and have their own entrance, they will have permanent open access. This will enable young adults to come and go as they please, allow youth providers access to appropriate activity areas outside regular park opening hours and allow PSNI to freely enter and patrol.

Enhancement of existing facilities

Seating and picnic tables will be placed to create more attraction for families and older people in existing playground formal garden and bandstand areas. Further appropriate use will be supported through performances by formal dance clubs, brass and silver bands or children's entertainers during periods of peak usage.

3. Resource Implications

The approximate costs are illustrated below and are proposed to be drawn from the ASB programme budget for 2012-2013 and existing departmental budgets.

Falls Park

Fencing and landscaping: £8000
Adventure elements, basic rain shelter & natural seating: £10,000
Optional Lighting: £1000
Crown lift trees: £2000
Extending play and picnic facilities in playground: £4000.

£25,000

Musgrave Park

Fencing youth area: £5000
Fencing around playground and therapy garden: £7000
Adventure elements, basic rain shelter & natural seating: £10,000
Optional Lighting: £1000
Crown lift trees: £2000

£25,000

Botanic Gardens

Active leisure elements at PEC: £15,000
Crown lift trees reduce shrubs: £6000
Picnic tables seating: £4000

£25,000

Total £75,000

4. **Equality and good relations implications**

Much of the antisocial behaviour programme work spans activities related to reducing interface or internal community 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.

5. **Recommendations**

Members are requested to approve, subject to the undertaking of consultations with a range of bodies and agencies, to include the Police Service of Northern Ireland, the Belfast Education and Library Board and local residents, the following recommendations:

- Increase the playground footprint and create a young adult association area in Falls Park
- Erect a fence around the therapy garden and playground and create a young adult association area in Musgrave playing fields
- Enhance family friendly activities in the formal gardens, bandstand and great lawn and create a young adult association area in the Queens University Physical Education Centre area of Botanic Gardens.”

After discussion, the Committee adopted the recommendations as set out within the report, subject to the findings of the consultations with other agencies and local residents being reported to the Committee prior to the implementation stage of the project. It was agreed also that an evaluation framework would be developed to enable an assessment of the impact of the pilot project to be reported to the Committee on a routine basis.

Tennents Vital

The Committee considered the undernoted report:

“1. **Relevant Background Information**

- 1.1 The Parks and Leisure Department has received a request from MCD Productions to use the playing fields at Boucher Road for a minimum of two and maximum of three shows between Mon 19th and Thursday 22nd Aug 2013 and the same period in 2014. MCD are the promoters behind a number of UK and Ireland top music festivals and held a similar event in the playing fields in August 2012. Although the acts for the concerts have not yet

been confirmed it is proposed that they will be top international acts. It is estimated that each concert will have a capacity of 45,000 plus staff.

2. Key Issues

- 2.1** The Council wishes to promote the city and the use of its parks and open spaces and in line with the Council's events policy will permit the use of these facilities for large events and concerts.
- 2.2** A review of the event in August 2012 has been carried out to assess delivery and to identify areas for improvement. The review was attended by Council officers, the promoter and all agencies involved in the delivery of the event.
- 2.3** The noise issues which arose this year were discussed and there was general agreement that through closer communication and co-operation with the promoter improvements could be made regarding noise management for future events at the playing fields. Given the scale and nature of the events proposed it cannot be guaranteed that noise disturbance will be completely eliminated and in this regard it is important that all concerts finish by 11.00pm.
- 2.4** The promoter will require 12 days before the first concert for set up and 5 days after the second concert to take down and tidy up. However the build will allow for use of the pitches up to 2 days before the concerts and from 1 day after the concert.
- 2.5** The promoter has been advised that Archery will be taking place on site up to 6 August 2013 as part of the World Police and Fire Games and depending on weather this event may overrun. The promoter has agreed to work around this.
- 2.6** The promoter is proposing to protect grass surfaces with industry standard covering as used at Croke Park and Aviva Stadia.
- 2.7** The promoter will be required to carry out proper reinstatement of the grounds therefore a bond of reinstatement will be paid by the promoter prior to the event.
- 2.8** As it is estimated that each concert will have a capacity of 45,000 plus staff, traffic management and flow of people to and from the concert will be a key aspect of planning the event.
- 2.9** Discussions between the promoters, MCD Productions and Council officers has highlighted the potential need to use the car park at Olympia Leisure Centre as a taxi pick up point after the concert and to use the grounds around Strangford playing fields as a contingency for overflow parking.

- 2.10 The promoter will be required to liaise with the Community Parks Manager, the Events team, Building Control, Environmental Health, PSNI, Roads Service and emergency services to produce an Event management plan for Council's approval.
- 2.11 A fee of £20,000 per concert has been offered by the promoter to be paid in advance. Officers have assessed the offer and consider it to be value for money based on market rates and the indirect income this will generate for the city in terms of hotels bookings, taxi hire and restaurant use.
- 2.12 The event will disrupt bookings of pitches however it is anticipated that these bookings can be accommodated at other sites.

3. Resource Implications

3.1 Finance

The promoter will be required to provide:

- a fee for the use of the site - £20,000 is proposed per concert
- a bond of intent to be paid to the Council which would be retained in the event of a concert being cancelled; and
- full ground reinstatement cost to be met by the promoter, subject to a bond.

4. Recommendations

It is recommended that Committee grant authority to MCD to hold up to 3 concerts at Boucher Road Playing Fields between 19th and 22nd Aug 2013 and the same period in 2014 – the date to be agreed with Council subject to satisfactory terms in line with the above being agreed with the Director of Parks and Leisure and on condition that:

- the event organisers resolve all operational issues to the Council's satisfaction;
- an appropriate legal agreement is completed, to be prepared by the Assistant Chief Executive and Town Solicitor; and
- the event organisers meet all statutory requirements including entertainment licensing."

The Committee agreed to adopt the recommendations within the report and agreed also that the Council would undertake to provide additional information to local residents on the possibility of excess noise and disruption occurring as a result of the concerts taking place.

Temporary Accommodation - World Police and Fire Games

The Committee considered the undernoted report:

- “1.1 Belfast Visitor and Convention (BVCB) have been contracted by WPFG Ltd to undertake the accommodation booking and sourcing for the World Police and Fire Games (WPFG) in Belfast from the 1-10 August 2013. As part of this process not only is BVCB aiming to contract with regular registered accommodation providers – they are also exploring new options to bring in extra beds to meet the demand which is projected to be in the region of 10,000 participants and up to 15,000 friends and family .**
- 1.2 As a result BVCB are asking the Parks and Leisure Committee to agree to permit ‘All About Space’ to erect temporary pop up accommodation in both Ormeau Park and in the playing fields in Botanic Gardens from the 24th of July to approximately the 12 of August, (the early arrival is to accommodate Ice hockey teams).**
- 1.3 The WPFG are a biennial athletic event open to active and retired law enforcement and fire service personnel throughout the world. The Games are a well established brand and one of the top three international multi-sports events, on par with the Olympic Games and Commonwealth Games in terms of the number of athletes competing. Belfast was awarded the honour of hosting the 2013 Games following an international competition beating Washington DC, Denver, Calgary and Innsbruck in the final stages of the bid process.**
- 1.4 The 2013 Games will be held from 1st August – 10th August and is expected to attract in the region of 25,000 visitors from over 71 countries- to Belfast and Northern Ireland. With over 10,000 athletes expected to compete across 67 sports the Games will provide Northern Ireland with an opportunity to raise its profile internationally by hosting the largest sporting event ever to be held here. It is anticipated that the Games will inject upwards of £21m into the local economy and leave a lasting legacy.**
- 1.5 WPFG Ltd commissioned Deloitte in September 2012 to undertake a Belfast/Northern Ireland accommodation review which found that whilst the attendance targeted visitors outlined within the WPFG Strategic Plan was achievable, a**

number of measures would have to be considered and acted upon to fully accommodate all guests and deliver a satisfactory visitor experience. Various forms of additional accommodation options such as 'Pop-up' hotels/portable accommodations, converting boarding schools and training facilities into tourist accommodation are currently being explored by BVCB with the view to getting them certified by NITB and available for booking.

2. Key Issues

- 2.1 WCFG/ BVCB are currently in the process of submitting a business case to NITB for approval to seek DETI agreement for an exemption from the accommodation certification process to permit currently two pop up hotels (and possibly a third) to provide temporary portable accommodation for the games. If this exemption is permitted companies could trade as accommodation providers for a temporary 28 day period without having to seek either planning permission or building control approval. CPD have inspected both products and if NITB board approve the business case on the 13th of December a request to DETI will be made for an exemption from certification under the Tourism (NI) order 1992.**
- 2.2 One of the providers 'All About Space' is interested in building two pop up accommodation complexes in two of BCC parks—Ormeau Park (beside the Ozone) and in the Playing Fields in Botanic Gardens.**
- 2.3 'All About Space' has two types of units - podules which are ensuite and cabins which are standard rooms. An outline specification and pictures of the proposed accommodation can be found on Modern.gov.**
- 2.4 'All About Space' can connect into local services supply (water, waste and power) but can alternatively bring its own services and be completely stand alone. However, utilising and accessing local services is the preferred option as it brings down the selling price of the units. From previous experience, 'All About Space' would expect to be stand-alone in terms of power (using generated power) but an access to a freshwater feed and mains drains are the areas where the most cost savings can be achieved.**
- 2.5 For the Botanic Gardens site the proposal would be to install in the region of 40 en-suite double or twin units into Botanic Gardens playing Fields.**
- 2.6 The units are 'flat packed' and assembled on site. This enables more units to be transported in one move and the units themselves can be unloaded by forklift. Essentially a level base**

is set up from base pads arrangement and the unit lifted onto this. The top section is then raised, corner posts set in place and the walls folded out. Separate en-suite and service units are then attached to the rear. In spatial terms this arrangements provides good internal circulation space while still being able to offer a good level of fit out.

- 2.7 There is insulation built into the structure thermal fire and acoustic protection. The units will stand individually (in rows) with approximately one metre space between each to give some form of protection.
- 2.8 'All About Space' would employ an operations co-ordinator, maintenance and security staff and housekeeping. All linens and a housekeeping and reception service would be provided. Food would not be provided on site but arrangements would be made with Queens PEC, the Students union and the Lyric for catering. Where possible, local staff would be employed.

2.9 Ormeau Park

'All About Space' would propose using the playing fields located beside the Ozone in Ormeau Park for 100 non en-suite units. These 100 units could accommodate two people each – or two adults and a twin in single and double beds.

- 2.10 'All About Space' would propose using the group showers and toilet facilities attached to the Ozone – and ideally would require a meeting space within the complex .In addition they would bring some extra portable toilets and showers. In addition they would bring some extra portable toilets and showers if the extra facilities were required.
- 2.11 As with Botanic Gardens 'All about Space' would support the site with the necessary – security, operations and housekeeping requirements.

3. Resource Implications

3.1 Finance

'All About Space' are coming to Belfast at their own commercial risk but will contribute to the running cost of the games by providing 8% commission to BVCB. If accommodation commercial targets are met the initial £140, 000 will go back into the funding costs of the games. If BVCB makes any additional income over this level, the surplus will be split with WCFG and any extra coming back into BVCB will be used for marketing and visitor servicing activity for the City. On this basis BVCB have asked that the sites are provided free of charge.

3.2 Further investigation will be required to assess the impact on the Ozone and its ability to open for business as usual during this period.

3.3 **Human Resources**

None established at this stage.

3.4 **Asset**

Some bookings re: summer leagues will be displaced and will be accommodated in other sites. Prolonged use of the site for this purpose will cause damage to the grass and 'All About Space' will be required to reinstate the sites after use. A bond of reinstatement will be required. Reinstatement may have some impact on the start of the winter season.

4. **Equality and Good Relations Implications**

Local residents groups will be consulted regarding the use of the sites for this purpose.

5. **Recommendations**

It is recommended that Committee, in principle grant authority to use Ormeau Park, Botanic Gardens and the Ozone for the purposes of providing temporary accommodation for the WPFG on condition that:

- i. the organisation(s) resolves all operational issues to the Council's satisfaction;
- ii. appropriate legal agreements are completed, to be prepared by the Assistant Chief Executive and Town Solicitor; and
- iii. the organisation(s) meets all appropriate statutory requirements including health and safety.

A further report will be brought to committee at a later date when detailed planning has been completed and the full impact on Council sites is known."

The Committee adopted the recommendations.

Lagan Valley Regional Park - Funding Request

The Committee considered the undernoted report:

“1.0 Relevant Background Information

The Committee is reminded that at its meeting on 10 September 2009 approval was given to provide an annual grant of £21,551 to £23,309 to Lagan Valley Regional Park (LVRP) for the period April 2010 until March 2013. Members will be aware that LVRP is a partnership between Belfast City Council, Castlereagh Borough Council, Lisburn City Council, Department of Culture Arts & Leisure and the Northern Ireland Environment Agency. Belfast City Council has been one of the main partner funding organisations for LVRP since its inception in 1967.

Members are reminded that the former Parks and Cemeteries Sub-Committee at its meeting on 13 June 2007 agreed to support the formation of the Lagan Valley Regional Park Company and that two Councillors would be appointed as Directors to the Board. Currently these are Alderman Tom Ekin and Councillor Ruth Patterson. Members are also reminded that the LVRP Company successfully secured a total of £1.5 million from the Heritage Lottery Fund for a range of specific projects throughout the Park. A number of grassland and wetland enhancement works have been completed on Council sites and further grassland and wetland projects have been proposed for Lagan Meadows and Sir Thomas and Lady Dixon Park.

The Council has benefited significantly from the work of LVRP through organised events, wardening by LVRP Rangers, additional signage, community engagement; education and from other partnerships developed through the LVRP. Over the last three years, the achievements of LVRP include;

- establishment of a Friends of LVRP group;
- initiation of a strategic review of LVRP to provide a management framework for the next 10 years;
- delivery of an annual programme of events on topics ranging from nature and heritage to conservation and recreation;
- provision of a Ranger Service, a key interface with the public path which in 2011 had a recorded usage of over one million users;
- promotion of the park as an educational resource through its new Lagan Valley Learning website;
- engagement of the community in environmental projects within the park;

- undertaken surveys of bats and butterflies and collation of information for inclusion in national databases;
- received a Tidy NI award for an annual river and canal clean up which was undertaken in conjunction with other partners and the scouts; and
- raised the profile of the Park on the nationwide programme 'Countryfile'.

2.0 Key Issues

Following an economic appraisal the option which includes the employment of an additional Promotions and Visitor Officer will be taken forward. On this basis LVRP has requested further funding commitment from the Northern Ireland Environment Agency, the Department of Culture Arts & Leisure and the three participating Councils and is requesting a contribution from the Council for the next three years as follows:

April 2013 – March 2014	£26,360
April 2014 – March 2015	£26,680
April 2015 – March 2016	£27,370

This contribution represents 16% of the overall costs and approximately 13.5% increase on the 2012/13 contribution.

This will enable LVRP to continue functioning for a further three years, during which time it will help deliver a number of key projects that will complement and support Belfast City Council including:

- complete a strategic review of the Regional Park and update the Management Plan for the next five years including sustaining the legacy of the Laganlandscape project which is due to finish in 2013
- organising and delivering an events programme offering a broad range of interests and activities that will enhance our own Council events' programme
- continue to provide a Ranger Service along the towpath which complements and supports our parks that lie within the boundary of LVRP and develop a towpath initiative focusing on issues raised by park users
- continue to engage the local community in projects in the Park encouraging them to manage their environment as well as the associated physical and mental health benefits.

Funding the LVRP for a further three years will support the work being done by the Council and will enhance many other areas

of work including biodiversity, education, community engagement, countryside recreation and promotional activities. If the Committee accedes to this request, it will be necessary to review and update the Funding Agreement between the Council and LVRP for the next three years.

It is envisaged that under the Review of Public Administration, the makeup of the Regional Park partnership will change which will have financial implications. A further report will be brought to Committee if there are consequent implications for the Council.

3.0 Resource Implications

The contribution requested is as follows:

April 2013 – March 2014 £26,360
April 2014 – March 2015 £26,680
April 2015 – March 2016 £27,370

The draft revenue estimates for 2013/14 provides for this grant and provision will be made in future years.

Assets and other Implications

The work of the LVRP promotes and enhances the natural environment along the Lagan Corridor, and in particular makes a significant positive contribution to Lagan Meadows, Clement Wilson Park, Barnett Demesne, Sir Thomas and Lady Dixon Park and Lagan Lands East.

4.0. Recommendation

It is recommended that the Committee agree to provide financial support to the Lagan Valley Regional Park for a further three years and the funding agreement is updated accordingly”

The Committee adopted the recommendation.

Laganscape Partnership Scheme Project

The Committee considered the undernoted report:

“1.0 Relevant Background Information

Members will be aware that, in September 2012 the Committee agreed to allocate human and financial resources in order to complete the Council’s programme of activities within the

Laganscape Partnership Scheme Project and fulfil its requirement to the programme. Specific agreement was as follows:

- Agree that a contribution of £10,000 'in-kind' be made to the project for this final year of the original agreement in order to fulfil our obligation to the programme;
- Agree that any further request for financial or 'in-kind' support would be subject to a more detailed proposal from Laganscape being submitted to the Parks and Leisure Committee for review and agreement in line with current planning and estimates processes.

At the Council meeting held in October, due to representations from Laganscape partners, the matter was referred back to Committee for further consideration.

2.0 Key Issues

Following a number of meetings with the Laganscape Project Manager it was agreed that Council would reconsider its original commitment to 'in-kind' contribution upon written receipt of the following information:

- Copy of revised Laganscape strategy, approved by Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF);
- Confirmation that Council's total 'in-kind' contribution to the project is £40,000;
- Confirmation that to date Council has evidenced an 'in-kind' contribution in the sum of £4,407 leaving an outstanding balance of £35,593 to be evidenced;
- Confirmation from HLF that the following costs are an eligible expenditure towards 'in-kind' contributions:
 - Council staff time;
 - Contractor costs;
 - Hire of machinery; and
 - Purchase of materials

The Laganscape Project Manager resigned from post in November however prior to his resignation Council received the following information:

- A copy of the revised Laganscape Strategy approved by HLF confirming an increase in grant percentage from 70.95% to 75.0%. HLF has advised that they are not yet in a position to issue a revised letter of offer to

Laganscape to verify the changes in these funding terms and conditions until such time as Laganscape submit proposals to HLF for the replacement of the project manager and these are approved by HLF;

- Confirmation that Council's total 'in-kind' contribution to the project is £40,000; this has been verified by HLF;
- Confirmation that Council has, to date submitted an 'in-kind' contribution in the sum of £4,407, leaving an outstanding balance of £35,593 to be evidenced;
- HLF has confirmed that the following costs are an eligible expenditure towards 'in-kind' contributions:
 - Council staff time;
 - Contractor costs;
 - Hire of machinery; and
 - Purchase of materials.

In the interim, Council has submitted a revised programme of works to the Laganscape Partnership for completion on Council sites during the period January to September 2013. The proposals were approved by the Laganscape Partnership Sub-Committee on 19 November 2012 and the proposals are being developed further for approval by HLF.

3.0 Resource Implications

As outlined above, it is proposed that the remaining balance of £35,593 is contributed (by way of 'in-kind' contribution) to the Laganscape Partnership in the financial period 2012 to 2014. This will be provided for from the Parks budget for the area.

Human Resources

Officer time will be required for planning, coordinating and delivering project activities.

Asset and Other Implications

The project activities will contribute to the biodiversity value of a number of Council parks and ongoing maintenance will need to be incorporated into the relevant parks management plans.

4.0 Equality Implications

There are no known associated equality considerations associated with this project.

5.0 Recommendations

It is recommended that the Committee:

- Note the contents of this update report; and
- Agree that, upon receipt of the revised letter of offer from HLF as detailed in paragraph 2.0 above, a contribution of £35,593 'in-kind' be made to the project during the financial period 2012 to 2014 in order to fulfil our obligation to the programme."

The Committee adopted the recommendations.

Hospitality for Events in 2013

The Director sought the Committee's approval to provide appropriate hospitality at the undernoted events and ceremonies during 2013:

- The Spring Fair;
- Belfast Parks' Primary Schools' Athletics event;
- Belfast Parks Photographic Competition;
- Rose Week; and
- The City of Belfast Autumn Flower Show.

The Committee agreed to provide hospitality at the events at a cost of approximately £7,300, provision for which had been made within the Department estimates for 2013/2014.

NI Schools' Cup 'Quarter Finals Day'

The Director reported that the Northern Ireland Schools' Football Association had submitted a request to the Council to host the quarter-finals of the Northern Ireland Schools' Cup at the City of Belfast Playing Fields at Mallusk. It was anticipated that the event would attract approximately six hundred participants, aged between 12 and 18 years, from twenty-five schools across Northern Ireland. The organisation had indicated that the event would take place on Wednesday, 13th February, 2013.

He pointed out that this was the third occasion on which the quarter-finals would be held at the location and it was envisaged that this would enhance and promote cross-community participation and engagement in the sport. He outlined for the information of the Members the media coverage which would be associated with the event and stated that the event organisers had agreed to the completion of an event management plan and to address all relevant issues, including health and safety, to the satisfaction of the Council. Each participating school would cover the costs of its transport and sponsorship of the event and would meet the costs of referees. The potential revenue income to the Council for the use of the pitches would be approximately £506 and the additional staffing costs of facilitating the event had been estimated at £138. However, the organisers had submitted an application for the free use of both the pitches and ancillary facilities.

The Director stated that, since the event would take place on a Wednesday, there would be no displacement of regular users. Accordingly, he recommended that the Committee agree to the holding of the quarter-finals of the Schools' Cup and approve the free use of the facilities at the City of Belfast Playing Fields by the Northern Ireland Schools' Football Association, subject to the completion of an appropriate event management plan to the satisfaction of the Council.

The Committee adopted the recommendation.

Pilot Night Activity Programme – Donegall Pass

The Committee considered the undernoted report:

“1 Relevant Background Information

The purpose of this report is to inform the committee of an evening pilot which Parks and Leisure officers are working on in collaboration with our dedicated partners Belfast Education and Library Board (BELB) Youth Club, South Belfast Alternatives and the Police Service Northern Ireland (PSNI) to take place in Reverend Robert Bradford playground and local area. Since August 2011 the department has invested £20,000 developing an overused grass pitch adjacent to Rev. Robert Bradford Playground.

The issue of lighting was raised by the community upon completion of the maintenance, a pilot temporary lighting scheme was suggested however this did not progress for a number of reasons;

- Due to the completion of the maintenance being so close to Christmas, the pilot was not a priority for the community.**
- Officers tried to sign post young people to Blythefield MUGA, an area which has facilities with lighting, however the young people were unwilling to relocate their evening activities out of their own community.**

Local community representatives from Donegall Pass have since met with BELB Youth Club, South Belfast Alternatives, PSNI and Council officers and have indicated that and the community is now ready to pilot temporary lighting to facilitate evening activities.

Donegall Pass has been chosen to pilot this programme for a number of reasons:

- Strong community Stakeholders**

- This location is a safe environment for children and young people to participate in facilitated night time sessions.
- Opportunity to assess community need for lighting.

The pilot will involve temporary lighting and programming of evening facilitation and activities. We propose that this pilot take place pre and post Christmas 2012.

A five week programme of events will take place before Christmas. Council officers and partners will work towards providing facilitation for at least two evenings per week.

To make this project sustainable our partners BELB and South Belfast Alternatives will take the lead programming four/five weeks of activities after Christmas. We will encourage local coaches/ businesses and facilitators to become involved in this pilot project.

2 Key Issues

There has been ongoing consultation with our partners BELB youth Club, South Belfast Alternatives and PSNI regarding a pilot evening programme. This pilot will take place in Reverend Robert Bradford playground after the playground is 'closed'.

Our aim as Belfast City Council officers is to work with our partners and young people to promote positive activities, shared space and collaborative working in Donegall Pass.

We will work in partnership with community representatives and young people to develop a participation plan focused on building respect and ownership of their local park and enhancing skills and personal development in young people. Council officers and partners will be involved in the monitoring and evaluation of this process.

If this pilot is successful we will encourage local coaches/ businesses and facilitators to become involved to enhance community participation in the programme and enhance the opportunities for capacity building among the young people involved. The department hopes that this project, if successful may be rolled out city wide, in areas where it is believed the project can be successfully led and sustained by the community. Adequate risk assessments will be carried out and actions taken in relation to various activities.

This pilot programme is in line with Parks and Leisure departmental objectives in terms of animating the city's parks and increasing community involvement and participation.

Monitoring and evaluation forms will be completed throughout the pilot.

3 Resource Implications

Financial

Provision can be provided for this within the Parks and Leisure Anti Social Behaviour Coordinator budget as follows:

Lighting: £245 per week
Sports Facilitation: £120 per evening
DIY workshops: £125 - £250 per evening

Total per week: £860 - £985

Human Resources

There are likely to be some additional staffing costs to cover evening activities. Council officers will play an active role in participation and facilitation throughout the pilot programme, to include workshop facilitation and interaction with young people and adults to continually evaluate and assist in the organic development of this pilot programme.

Asset and Other Implications

Provision of this programme will enhance the asset by its increased use by the community and reduce the incidents of antisocial behaviour within the park.

4 Equality and Good Relations Considerations

There are no implications at this stage however equality and good relations will be taken into account in any activities delivered throughout this pilot, to ensure that the programme is facilitated in an inclusive manner.

5 Recommendations

It is recommended that the committee grant authority for a pilot to take place in the Reverend Robert Bradford Millennium Park by South Belfast Alternatives and BELB subject to satisfactory terms being agreed by the director of Parks and Leisure and on the condition that:

- The groups resolve all operational and health and safety issues to the Council's satisfaction;
- Parks and Leisure part fund this pilot programme.
- To grant authority for the young people to generate funds for future activities.

- **An evaluation report be submitted to committee in March 2013 with recommendations on how this can be applied across the city.”**

The Committee adopted the recommendations.

Committee for Culture, Arts and Leisure

The Committee authorised officers from within the Department to attend the Committee for Culture, Arts and Leisure at the Assembly on 17th January to provide a briefing on the Council's amateur boxing strategy.

Replacement of Bridge at Clement Wilson Park

The Committee noted the contents of a report which provided an overview of the latest arrangements which had been put in place for the replacement of a bridge at Clement Wilson Park. It was noted that the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee, at its meeting on 23rd November, had agreed that a sum of £200,000 in capital funding be set aside for the project and that a tendering exercise be commenced in this regard.

Mountain Bike Trail at Barnett Demesne

The Committee noted the contents of a report which provided an update on the development of a Mountain Bike Trail at Barnett Demesne, the construction of which was due to commence in March, 2013.

Falls Park Bowling Pavilion - Beechmount Harriers

The Director reported that correspondence had been received on behalf of the Beechmount Harriers Athletic Club requesting the free use of the Falls Park Bowling Pavilion for a period of three months to enable the club to establish itself within the park. The Committee was advised that the club, which drew its membership from the greater west Belfast area, organised a Saturday morning fun run within the park and sought to engage with young people to promote healthy lifestyles through athletics. The Director indicated that, should the Committee accede to the request from the club, it was anticipated that the total amount of lost income to the Council would be £378.

Discussion ensued in respect of the request and it was pointed out that the Committee, should it agree to grant the free use of the pavilion, would set a precedent which could encourage further clubs and societies to request the free use of Council facilities. Other Members made the point that any loss of income should be measured against the health benefits which could be accrued within the wider area should the club locate itself within the park on a permanent basis.

Proposal

Moved by Alderman Rodgers,
Seconded by Councillor Spence,

That the Committee agrees to defer consideration of the report in order to ascertain the projected loss of income which would be incurred by the Council should it agree to grant free use of the Department's bowling facilities to all groups between 1st January and 31st March, 2013.

On a vote by show of hands six Members voted for the proposal and nine against and it was accordingly declared lost.

Further Proposal

Moved by Councillor Hartley,
Seconded by Councillor Ó Donnghaile,

That the Beechmount Harriers Athletic Club be permitted the free use of the Falls Bowling Pavilion between 1st January and 31st March, 2013.

On a vote by show of hands ten Members voted for the proposal and six against and it was accordingly declared carried.

Chairman