



Subject:	Requests for the use of Parks for 2023 events
Date:	4 th April 2023
Reporting Officer:	David Sales, Director of Neighbourhood Services
Contact Officer:	Cate Taggart, Neighbourhood Services Manager

Restricted Reports	
Is this report restricted?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
If Yes, when will the report become unrestricted?	
After Committee Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>
After Council Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>
Some time in the future	<input type="checkbox"/>
Never	<input type="checkbox"/>

Call-in	
Is the decision eligible for Call-in?	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>

1.0	Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues
1.1	Committee is asked to note that Council has received several requests from event organisers to host events across several city park locations in 2023 and these include: <ul style="list-style-type: none">i. Belfast Mela – Botanic Gardensii. Lantern Parade – Alexandra Parkiii. Chinese Language School – Ormeau Parkiv. Gospel Van Ministry – Ballysillan Park
2.0	Recommendations
2.1	The Committee is asked to: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Grant authority to each of the applicants for the proposed events on the dates noted and to delegate authority to the Director of Neighbourhood Services to ensure the following:

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Where appropriate negotiate a fee which recognises the costs to Council, minimises negative impact on the immediate area and takes account of the potential wider benefit to the city economy, in conjunction with the Councils Commercial Manager; ii. Negotiate satisfactory terms and conditions of use via an appropriate legal agreement prepared by the City Solicitor, including managing final booking confirmation dates and flexibility around 'set up' & take down' periods, and booking amendments, subject to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The promoter resolving any operational issues to the Council's satisfaction. - The promoter meeting all the statutory requirements of the Planning and Building Control Service including the terms and conditions of the Park's Entertainment Licence. <p>2.2 The committee is also asked to note that other event requests are likely to be submitted to the department during the period that Committee and Council are in recess. Committee are asked to delegate authority to the Director of Neighbourhood Services to consider and approve any such event requests during this time. The Director will liaise with the Chief Executive of Council where appropriate.</p> <p>2.3 Please note that the above recommendations are taken as a pre-policy position in advance of the Council agreeing a more structured framework and policy for 'Events', which is currently being taken forward in conjunction with the Councils Commercial team.</p>
<p>3.0</p>	<p>Main report</p>
	<p><u>Key Issues</u></p> <p>3.1 If agreed, the event organiser or promoters will be required in advance of each event to submit an event management plan for approval by the Council and all relevant statutory bodies. This will include an assessment of how the event will impact upon the surrounding area and measures to mitigate these impacts.</p> <p>3.2 <u>Belfast Mela – Botanic Gardens</u></p> <p>Over the past number of years, the Council has established a successful partnership with ArtsEkta, the organisers of Belfast Mela. This type of event is well-received by audiences and significantly adds to the attractiveness of the Council's parks and open spaces. This year the Council has received a request from the Director of ArtsEkta to use Botanic Gardens for the Belfast Mela on Saturday 26th & Sunday 27th August 2023. The event requires the closure of all or a substantial proportion of the facility at times to allow for set up and de-rig. The keys dates required are as follows:</p>

Friday 18th to Friday 25th August – Site Build

Saturday 26th & Sunday 27th August – Live Event

Monday 28th to Wednesday 30th August – De-rig

In addition, since 2013 the Mela has been engaged with a highly successful strategic partnership with Belfast City Council in relation to enhancing cultural provision in council's parks and open spaces. With this strategic partnership there has been an annual funding package of £20,000 offered in support of the event in terms of promoting one of the city's key outdoor spaces – Botanic Gardens as an accessible, welcoming and shared space. This year's funding contribution was agreed at the March Committee meeting.

3.3 **North Belfast Lantern Festival – Alexandra Park**

The North Belfast Lantern Festival event is led by Ashton Community Trust and delivered by New Lodge Arts as part of the North Belfast Community Pride Programme. The event is supported by a variety of funding sources. This is the 13th year that this event has been organised and the seventh year at Alexandra Park. The event activities, at Alexandra Park, will involve a firework display, live music stage, walkabout acts, amusements, street performers, art workshops and refreshment stalls.

Thursday 26th October – Site Build

Friday 27th October & Saturday 28th October – Event Dates

Sunday 29th October – De-rig

3.4 **Chinese Language School 40 years anniversary celebration – Ormeau Park**

The Chinese Language School NI have requested the use of Ormeau Park to host their 40-year anniversary celebration.

The event organiser has requested the use of Ormeau Park on Sunday 4th June 2023 from 9am to 7pm. Although this date is during the Belsonic residency, there is no live concert taking place on this date and the area requested by the Chinese Language School does not fall within the concert area or arena.

The event organisers plan to hold this event to celebrate the 40th anniversary of Chinese Language School NI. Chinese Language School has currently nearly 300 children aged from 5yrs to 18yrs across Norther Ireland. The event will include live performances in the

band stand along with other children's entertainment, such as face painting, balloon modelling, bouncy castles, origami, dragon dance and Chinese calligraphy.

The event organiser has also expressed their interest in hiring the pavilion to access the kitchen and toilet facilities for the families. This however will be dependent on the outdoor bowling schedule and may not be possible. In that event, the organiser will need to make alternative arrangements. The event is open to pre-booked ticket holders only with all proceeds being donated to the Chinese Language School, a registered charity. Because this event is closed to members of the public and an entrance fee is being charged; a small hire fee for use of the park may be negotiated in consultation with the Council's Commercial Manager

3.5 **Gospel Van Ministry – Ballysillan Park**

The event organisers for the Gospel Van Ministry have requested the use of Ballysillan, Park specifically the car park at Ballysillan Leisure Centre, to deliver their outdoor Gospel Service

The organisers have requested the use of the car park from Sunday 20th August until Sunday 3rd September 2023. Services will take place daily starting at 7pm and ending at 9pm. The gospel had previously taken place in the park in 2021.

The gospel van ministry for many years have organised outdoor drive-in church and ministry services and have a dedicated and experienced team to deliver these events. Each service normally lasts around 60 minutes with set up and take down time roughly lasting 30 minutes each.

GLL will be advised of any likely disruption to their users

Financial & Human Resource Implications

3.6 The Director of Neighbourhood Services will negotiate any appropriate fees where required that takes account of the potential wider benefit to the city economy, in conjunction with the Councils Commercial Manager.

Asset and Other Implications

3.7 Council officers will liaise with Event Organisers and promoters in relation to any potential environmental impact from events.

3.8	<u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u> There are no known implications.
4.0	Appendices – Documents Attached
	None