



<b>Subject:</b>	<b>Request for the use of Parks for 2024 Events</b>
<b>Date:</b>	4 February 2025
<b>Reporting Officer:</b>	David Sales, Strategic Director of City and Neighbourhood Services.
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	Stephen Leonard, Director of Resources, Fleet and OSS

<b>Restricted Reports</b>	
<b>Is this report restricted?</b>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<b>Please indicate the description, as listed in Schedule 6, of the exempt information by virtue of which the council has deemed this report restricted.</b>	
Insert number <input type="checkbox"/>	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Information relating to any individual.</li><li>2. Information likely to reveal the identity of an individual.</li><li>3. Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the council holding that information)</li><li>4. Information in connection with any labour relations matter</li><li>5. Information in relation to which a claim to legal professional privilege could be maintained.</li><li>6. Information showing that the council proposes to (a) to give a notice imposing restrictions on a person; or (b) to make an order or direction.</li><li>7. Information on any action in relation to the prevention, investigation or prosecution of crime</li></ol>	
<b>If Yes, when will the report become unrestricted?</b>	
After Committee Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>
After Council Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sometime in the future	<input type="checkbox"/>
Never	<input type="checkbox"/>

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

1.0	<b>Purpose of Report/Summary of Main Issues</b>
1.1	<p>The Committee is asked to note that Council has received a number of requests to hold events across our parks:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Belfast Children’s Festival Family Day Out - Cathedral Gardens</li> <li>• CardioSoc Colour Run – Ormeau Park</li> <li>• Bloomfield Gospel Hall Gospel Outreach - Dixon Playing fields.</li> <li>• Darkness into Light – Ormeau Park</li> <li>• 24 Hour Run – Victoria Park</li> <li>• Belfast Memory Walk – Ormeau Park</li> <li>• Autism NI Colour Run – Ormeau Park</li> </ul>
2.0	<b>Recommendation</b>
2.1	<p>The Committee is asked to grant authority to the applicants for the proposed events on the dates noted; subject to the completion of the appropriate event management plans and satisfactory terms being agreed by the Director of City &amp; Neighbourhood Services and on the condition that the Event Organisers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• resolves all operational issues to the Council’s satisfaction;</li> <li>• meets all statutory requirements including Public Liability Insurance cover, Health and Safety, and licensing responsibilities; and</li> <li>• shall consult with adjoining public bodies and local communities as necessary.</li> </ul>
2.2	<p>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>
3.0	<b>Main Report</b>
3.1	<p><b><u>Key Issues</u></b></p>
	<p>If agreed, the event organiser or promoters will be required in advance of the 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>
3.2	<p><b><u>Belfast Children’s Festival Family Day Out - Cathedral Gardens</u></b></p> <p>Belfast City Council has received a request from Young at Art to host their family day out at Cathedral Gardens during the weekend before St Patricks day. This event took place in 2024 with no issues arising from it.</p>
3.3	<p>The activities will include three music performances from local bands and singers, a magician and a live theatre &amp; comedy show. Further entertainment will include walkabout performances from the acts. The event organiser has requested access to the electric supply at Cathedral Gardens for the duration of the event. The event will be free for all to attend and is designed to have people come into the city during the festivities that are held during St Patricks Day weekend.</p>

3.4	This request will be subject to entertainment licence implications being considered by Building Control and if required the license will be transferred via appropriate legal agreement prepared by the City Solicitor
3.5	<p><b>The Key dates for the request are:</b></p> <p>Set Up – 9am, Saturday 15 March 2025  <b>Main Event – 1pm to 4pm, Saturday 15 March 2025</b>  De Rig – 5pm, Saturday 15 March 2025</p>
3.6	<p><b><u>CardioSoc Colour Run – Ormeau Park</u></b></p> <p>Belfast City Council has received a request from Queens University Belfast’s Cardiology Society to host a charity colour run at Ormeau Park. The paint that is used is washable and will not damage any areas of the park. They have requested permission to collect money on site to raise funds for the British Heart Foundation with 50% of all money raised being donated to them. The cost for participating is:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• £5 for Adults</li> <li>• £3 for Children</li> <li>• £15 for groups of 4</li> </ul>
3.7	The organisers are still deciding on which charity the remaining 50% will be donated to and will inform the council of their choice prior to the event.
3.8	<p><b>The Key Dates for the request are:</b></p> <p>Set Up – 8.30am, Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2025  <b>Main Event – 10am to 1pm, Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2025</b>  De Rig – 2.30pm, Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2025</p>
3.9	<p><b><u>Bloomfield Gospel Hall Gospel Outreach - Dixon Playing fields</u></b></p> <p>Belfast City Council has received a request from Bloomfield Gospel Hall to host their annual Outreach activities at Dixon Playing fields. The church has a small congregation with around 50 members who meet in Bloomfield Gospel Hall, Woodcot Avenue. As part of their community work, they have held a number of gospel outreach events in Dixon Park in recent years. This has involved the erection of a portable hall for a number of weeks. In 2024 the council granted permission for drive-in services on Sunday evenings throughout the Spring and Summer months. In addition, the church also hosted their outreach programme Monday to Friday throughout the month of June. The organiser has informed Council that this was very well received by the local community with a number of non-members attending the services.</p>
3.10	The organiser would like to repeat the success of the last 3 years in 2025. During the Sunday evening services a small curtain-sided van will be used as a platform for the event guest speaker with low volume battery powered portable loudspeakers being used to enable the persons speaking to be heard within the carpark. The group have also requested to carry out a Summer Bible time outreach event that would include children from the local area along with Polish, Slovakian & Romanian children.
3.11	The organisers have a good working relationship with the Scirocco Football Club who use the playing fields. The football club help to advertise the services on their website and on the few occasions that football training occurs during the services, there is ample room for both groups to co-exist.

3.12	<p><b>The Key Dates for the request are:</b></p> <p><b>Sunday Evening Services</b> Sunday 6 April 2025 to Sunday 28 September 2025 – 7pm to 7.30pm</p> <p><b>Tent Outreach</b> Saturday 14 June 2025 to Friday 11 July 2025, Sundays 7pm to 8pm &amp; Monday to Friday, 8pm to 9pm</p> <p><b>Summer Bible Time</b> Monday 7 July 2025 to Thursday 10 July 2025 – 4pm to 5pm &amp; 6.30pm to 7.30pm Friday 9 August 2024 – 4pm to 8pm</p>
3.13	<p><b><u>Darkness into Light – Ormeau Park</u></b> Belfast City Council has received a request from PIPS Suicide prevention for the use of Ormeau Park to host their annual Darkness into Light Walk. Darkness into Light walk is a pre dawn walk around the 5 kilometre track in Ormeau Park. Each year the walk provides an opportunity for people to connect with their local community and to bring hope to people who have been impacted by suicide. PIPS Charity the organiser and beneficiary of this walk are a local charity who provide support and counselling to people affected by mental unwellness, suicide and self-harm.</p>
3.14	<p><b>Key Dates for the request are.</b></p> <p>Set-up – 9am, Friday 9<sup>th</sup> May 2025 <b>Main Event – 4.15am to 11am, Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> May 2025</b> De-Rig – 9am, Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> May 2025</p>
3.15	<p>The event is due to take place out of hours and will use the main paths around the park for the 5km walk. The event organiser has requested for money to be collected on site through charity buckets. It is anticipated that there will be between 50 to 200 people attending.</p>
3.16	<p><b><u>24 Hour Run – Victoria Park</u></b> The event organiser has requested the use of Victoria Park to host the 24-hour championship race. The race is in its 14<sup>th</sup> year having moved to Victoria Park in 2016.</p>
3.17	<p>It is estimated that around 250 runners will take part. This event takes place throughout the night. In previous years there have been a number of reports of noise disturbances so Council Officers will work closely with the event organiser again this year to ensure these disturbances are mitigated.</p>
3.18	<p>As Victoria Park has 24-hour access due to forming part of the Connswater Community Greenway there are no additional operational considerations that need addressed as part of this request.</p>
3.19	<p><b>The Key Dates for the request are:</b></p> <p>Set Up – 12pm, Friday 13<sup>th</sup> June 2025 <b>Main Event – 12pm Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> June 2025 to Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> June – Official Race ends at 12pm</b> De Rig – 3pm, Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> June 2025</p>
3.20	<p><b><u>Belfast Memory Walk – Ormeau</u></b> The Alzheimer’s Society has requested the use of Ormeau Park for their Belfast Memory Walk charity event. Belfast Memory Walk is a family friendly fundraising walk, which will raise money to provide help and hope to everyone affected by dementia. Everyone is welcome to</p>

	<p>take part, and registration is free. Walkers can sign up on our website and will receive a fundraising pack and t-shirt in the post.</p>
3.21	<p><b>The Key Dates for the request are:</b></p> <p>Set up – 7am to 10am, Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> September 2025  <b>Main Event – 10am to 3pm, Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> September 2025</b>  De-Rig 4.30pm , Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> September 2025</p>
3.22	<p>On the day there will be an event site, where there will be food and drink vendors, an information stand, a merchandise stand, a Memory Tree and a stage with a Zumba warm up. There will be a long and short route around the park, meaning there will be something to suit everyone.</p>
3.23	<p>They have requested permission to collect donations in buckets across the stands. Their charity number is 296645.</p>
3.24	<p><b><u>Autism NI Colour Run – Ormeau Park</u></b>  Belfast City Council has received a request from Autism NI to host a charity 5k Colour run at Ormeau Park. They have requested permission to collect money on site through the use of Charity Collection Buckets.</p>
3.25	<p>The route they have requested to use is that of the 5k loop used for Parkrun. The event organiser will be responsible for ensuring the park is tidied and clear of any paint once the event is complete.</p>
3.26	<p>Their charity number is – XR22944 with 100% of the donations going to the charity.</p>
3.27	<p><b>The Key Dates for the request are:</b></p> <p>Set Up – 9am, Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> April 2025  <b>Main Event -10am to 12pm, Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> April 2025</b>  De Rig – 1pm, Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> April 2025</p>
3.28	<p><b><u>Financial and Resource Implications</u></b>  There are no known implications.</p>
3.29	<p><b><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u></b>  There are no known implications.</p>
<b>4.0</b>	<b>Appendices</b>
	None