

Appendix 1

Extract from meeting of Parks and Leisure Committee
of 13th March, 2008

“Cricket Delegation

The Committee was reminded that, at its meeting on 13th December, it had agreed to receive a presentation from representatives of the Northern Cricket Union and Woodvale Cricket Club in relation to the provision of cricket facilities throughout Belfast. Accordingly, it was reported that Messrs. R. Haire, R. Johnston and R. Palmer were in attendance and they were admitted to the meeting and welcomed by the Acting Chairman.

Mr. Palmer advised the Committee that the Irish Cricket Union was the overarching body for cricket on the island of Ireland and to which the Northern Cricket Union was affiliated. The Northern Cricket Union represented currently 43 Clubs and approximately 5000 players. The Northern Ireland Cricket Association represented the Irish Cricket Union in Northern Ireland and was responsible for grass root development and the development of youth and elite players for the national cricket team. He pointed out that during the 1970's approximately 17 clubs had been utilising five Council facilities. However, due to the fact that the Council had reduced its cricket facilities to 3 sites and the fact that there had been a reduction in the number of clubs, only 4 cricket clubs played currently within the City. He stated that, due to the success of the national team, the Association had seen a huge rise in interest in the sport. He referred to the lack of provision for indoor cricket and stated that the Association was of the view that the facilities which the Council provided for cricket were in a poor condition. Accordingly, the organisation was requesting that a partnership be established between the Northern Ireland Cricket Association and the Council, with a view to improving and restoring existing outdoor facilities and establishing a dedicated indoor facility and Centre of Excellence.

The Acting Chairman thanked the representatives for their attendance and they retired from the meeting.

(The Chairman (Councillor Stoker) in the Chair.)

After discussion, the Committee agreed that a report in relation to the Council's existing cricket facilities and the potential sport development opportunities be submitted for its consideration in due course.”

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