



Belfast City Council

Report to:	Parks and Leisure Committee
Subject:	Installation of Flood Alert Station, Knock River, Orangefield
Date:	16 September 2010
Reporting Officer:	Andrew Hassard, Director of Parks and Leisure.
Contact Officer:	Celine Dunlop, Estates Surveyor, Property and Projects.

Purpose of Report

The purpose of this report is to seek approval from the Committee to the request from the Rivers Agency to install a flood alert station at Orangefield Park.

Relevant Background Information

The Committee will be aware of the sporadic flooding which has occurred across the city over the past few years. To help tackle the problem the Rivers Agency has initiated a programme of installing flood alert stations at various key areas throughout Belfast to enable early warning of potential flooding.

Key Issues

The Rivers Agency has sought a licence from the Council by way of exchange of correspondence for the installation of data logger equipment and a water level gauge board on the masonry wall and fence of the Knock river near the entrance to Orangefield Park as indicated on the attached plan and photograph at Appendix 1.

The data logger is contained within a 100 mm rigid PVC pipe with the top end capped. Both pieces of equipment will be fixed to the masonry wall and fence. The equipment is battery powered and the data gathered is relayed by a SIM card telemetric communication system. The equipment can be installed in less than a day and will require routine maintenance once or twice a year. Installation and maintenance of the equipment will be undertaken by the Rivers Agency engineering staff.

The Flood Alert Station will be a permanent fixture until such time as the proposed realignment of the Knock River is completed as part of the Connswater Community Greenway project.

Rivers Agency will indemnify the Council against any loss or claim of damage to the Flood Alert Station during installation, operational presence and maintenance, caused by any unauthorised person or persons or injury to same during such an event.

Members are asked to note that the Rivers Agency has powers under the Drainage (Northern Ireland) Order 1973, which permit it to undertake such installations as of right. However, the Agency prefers to seek agreement with landowners on a voluntary basis.

Resource Implications

Financial

There will be no cost to Council.

Human Resources

There are no additional human resource implications

Asset and Other Implications

This work will not enhance the facility but will provide a valuable resource to the community as it will enable greater warning to be given to local residents.

Recommendations

It is recommended that the Committee grant approval for the Rivers Agency's proposal.

Decision Tracking

The actions will be completed by the Estates Surveyor, Property and Projects Department by October 2010.

Key to Abbreviations

None.

Documents Attached

Appendix 1: Plan and photograph