



Belfast City Council

Report to:	Parks and Leisure Committee
Subject:	Licence Agreement for Signage at Botanic Gardens
Date:	13 January 2011
Reporting Officer:	Andrew Hassard, Director of Parks and Leisure
Contact Officer:	Stephen Walker, Principal Parks and Cemeteries Development Manager

1	Relevant Background Information
	<p>The Committee is reminded that during the summer of 2009 Queen's University carried out resurfacing works at the Stranmillis Gardens entrance to Botanic Gardens, which also serves the university's new Physical Education Centre. The works were mostly carried out on land in the university's ownership but extended to a small portion of land in Council ownership. The works were satisfactorily completed and provide good quality surfacing at this entrance to the site.</p> <p>As part of the scheme the University erected signage which was mistakenly placed on Council owned land (see photograph Appendix 2). The University is now seeking permission to retain this.</p>

2	Key Issues
	<p>The key issue for the Committee is whether it wishes to permit the sign to remain in its current location and accede to the request from the University. Should the Committee wish to accede to the request it would be appropriate for the retention of the University's signage on Council land to be regulated by way of a Licence Agreement which would cover responsibility for maintenance of the sign and any public liability issues. Absence of a Licence might allow Queen's to acquire rights to retain the signage and a Licence Agreement would contain provisions for termination of the arrangement and thus protect the Council's position.</p> <p>An alternative would be to request the University to remove the signage to its own adjoining land. However, in the interests of developing our working relationship with Queens this is not considered appropriate at this time.</p>

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3	Resource Implications
	<p><u>Financial</u> There are no financial implications for the Council.</p> <p><u>Human Resources</u> There are no additional human resources required,</p> <p><u>Asset and Other Implications</u> A Licence Agreement would protect the Council's land interests at this location. Removal of the signage would also achieve this.</p>

4	Equality and Good Relations Considerations
	There are no equality or good relations issues associated with this issue.

5	Recommendations
	It is recommended that the Committee accommodate Queen's University and permit retention of the signage, shown in Appendix 2, on Council land, subject to an appropriate Licence Agreement to be drawn up by the Town Solicitor and Assistant Chief Executive and the approval of the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee in accordance with Standing Orders 45 and 60.

6	Decision Tracking
	Director of Parks and Leisure to liaise with the Director of Property and Projects to ensure reference of this matter to Strategic Policy and Resources Committee before the end of February 2011.

7	Key to Abbreviations
	Queen's: The Queen's University Belfast

8	Documents Attached
	<p>Appendix 1: Map showing (shaded yellow) the extent of Council land ownership at Stranmillis Gardens entrance to Botanic Gardens with the approximate position of Queen's signage illustrated with a red dot.</p> <p>Appendix 2: Photograph showing signage placed on Council owned land.</p>