



## Belfast City Council

<b>Report to:</b>	Parks and Leisure Committee
<b>Subject:</b>	Belfast Mela 2011
<b>Date:</b>	10 March 2011
<b>Reporting Officer:</b>	Rose Crozier, Head of Parks and Leisure
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	Alex McNeill, Park Manager

<b>1</b>	<b>Relevant Background Information</b>
	<p>The Committee is asked to note that the council has received a request from the Director of ArtsEkta to use Botanic Gardens for the event "Belfast Mela" event.</p> <p>The Mela is a large multicultural festival that over four years has attracted almost 40,000 people into Botanic Gardens. This event has developed a shared, inclusive culturally rich space that also connects minority ethnic and local indigenous communities. The Mela has been successful in raising cultural awareness, encouraging civic identity and promoting a positive image for Belfast and Northern Ireland.</p>

<b>2</b>	<b>Key Issues</b>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The council wishes to promote the use of its parks and open spaces and where appropriate will permit the use of these facilities for large events and concerts.</li><li>• In this particular instance the council has received a request for use for Botanic Gardens for the Belfast Mela on 28 August 2011, from midday to 8.30pm.</li><li>• The total proposed number of days from set up to take down of the event is seven days.</li><li>• The Director of ArtsEkta has highlighted concerns about the uncertainty of funding streams. To ensure the festival can continue to be provided at its current scale, the Director of ArtsEkta has stated the possible need to collect a fee of £1 at entrances to Botanic Gardens during the event. Council officers will work with the event organiser to explore opportunities for funding.</li><li>• The event would be subject to the preparation of an event management plan which would cover all aspects of management including health and safety, access and shall comply with the current events policy.</li><li>• A legal agreement shall be provided by Legal Services.</li></ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Consultation will be undertaken by ArtsEkta with local stakeholders such as Queens University, Ulster Museum, Lyric Theatre, etc</li> </ul>
--	--

<b>3</b>	<b>Resource Implications</b>
----------	------------------------------

	<p><u>Financial</u> As ArtsEkta is a registered charity, the bond of intent shall be waived but the bond of reinstatement of £1,000 shall be provided by ArtsEkta as in previous years.</p> <p><u>Human Resources</u> There may be overtime required by staff to assist with the management of the proposed event which would need to be met from the fee charged.</p> <p><u>Asset and Other Implications</u> ArtsEkta shall ensure minimal impact on council property and shall provide a bond of reinstatement prior to the event.</p>
--	--

<b>4</b>	<b>Equality and Good Relations Considerations</b>
----------	---

	There are no equality or good relations implications as the event promotes cultural diversity and recognizes minority and local indigenous groups
--	---

<b>5</b>	<b>Recommendations</b>
----------	------------------------

	<p>Committee is requested to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• grant permission to ArtsEkta to provide the Belfast Mela event in Botanic Gardens subject to satisfactory terms being agreed by the Director of Parks and Leisure and on the condition that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. the event organisers resolve all operational issues to the Council's satisfaction;</li> <li>ii. an appropriate legal agreement, to be prepared by the Assistant Chief Executive and Town Solicitor is completed;</li> <li>iii. and the event organisers meet all statutory requirements.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• permit an admission charge of £1 into Botanic Gardens to access the Belfast Mela if this is deemed necessary to support the financing of the event.</li> </ul>
--	--

<b>6</b>	<b>Decision Tracking</b>
----------	--------------------------

	All actions will be completed by the City Park Manager East by September 2011.
--	--

<b>7.</b>	<b>Key to Abbreviations</b>
-----------	-----------------------------

	All actions will be completed by the City Park Manager East by September 2011.
--	--

<b>8.</b>	<b>Documents Attached</b>
-----------	---------------------------

	Appendix 1: Letter from Director of ArtsEkta
--	--