



## Belfast City Council

<b>Report to:</b>	Parks and Leisure Committee
<b>Subject:</b>	Royal British Legion 90 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebrations
<b>Date:</b>	10 March 2011
<b>Reporting Officer:</b>	Andrew Hassard, Director of Parks and Leisure
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	Lynne McCreery, 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 CW Events Management to use three council venues in close proximity to the Balmoral Showgrounds for park and ride facilities for the Royal British Legion 90<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations on Saturday 4 June 2011.</p> <p>The event organisers have requested the use of the top field in Sir Thomas and Lady Dixon Park, all four soccer pitches at Strangford Playing Fields and the gravel area at Boucher Road Playing Fields which will provide approximately 1,500 car parking spaces.</p> <p>It is anticipated that this event will attract visitors from all over Ireland and the UK which will enhance the image of the city. It is envisaged that the event will be attended by up to 20,000 people.</p> <p>Activities confirmed to date include marching bands, a parade of youth organisations, children's entertainment, static displays, fun fair rides, exhibitors, catering, beating of the retreat by the band of the Royal Marines and finishing with a fireworks display.</p> <p>Funding has been obtained from the Royal British Legion but it is anticipated that this funding will only cover the venue hire for the Balmoral Showgrounds. Any surplus funds will go back into supporting the Royal British Legion's welfare work.</p> <p>Ticket prices for the Royal British Legion 90<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebrations are £5 per adult and £2.50 for concessions.</p>

<b>2.</b>	<b>Key Issues</b>
	<p>Although the event is on Saturday 4 June 2011 the organisers will occupy the park sites from Friday 3 June 2011 to begin set up and envisage that the rig will be completed and the site vacated by Sunday 5 June 2011.</p> <p>The event starts at 2pm and will finish with a fireworks display at 10.30pm therefore it is anticipated that the venues will not be vacated until 12 midnight.</p>

	<p>If permission is granted there is some potential impact for the use of pitches Boucher Road playing fields. Should this be the case, alternative venues would be offered.</p> <p>Due to poor access into the top field at Sir Thomas and Lady Dixon Park the use of it would be subject to the approval of the PSNI Traffic Section and that any health and safety issues are resolved. The event organisers would be required to provide adequate lighting on all sites to facilitate safe dispersal from these sites.</p> <p>At Strangford Avenue Playing Fields there are a number of concerns including the anticipated late finish of the event and possible disruption to local residents, the use of the pitches already in May for Balmoral Show parking (if approved by Committee) and the ongoing pitch renovations that will be taking place in June 2011.</p> <p>The organisers will also be required to resolve all operational, safety, statutory and reinstatement issues to the satisfaction of the Council, entering in to an appropriate agreement based on advice from the Assistant Chief Executive and Town Solicitor.</p>
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<b>3.</b>	<b>Resource Implications</b>
	<p><u>Financial</u> It would be normal to levy a charge for the use of the venues. However, Committee has been asked by the event organisers to provide these venues for free as this is a charity event and the event organisers will not be charging for the park and ride facilities.</p> <p><u>Human Resources</u> There will be no human resource implications as the event will be set up, stewarded and de-rigged by the event organisers.</p> <p>The event organisers will carry out a daily litter pick and general tidy of the site and on completion of the event will leave the area as they found it.</p> <p><u>Asset and other implications</u> It is anticipated that some damage to the grass areas will occur due to the significant increase in footfall on particular areas. Significant damage to the upper field in Sir Thomas and Lady Dixon Park will occur if there is notable rainfall during the event also if Strangford Playing Fields is utilised for this event it could potentially have a significant impact on the forthcoming soccer season at this site.</p> <p>The proposed legal agreement and bond will guarantee that the site is suitably reinstated to the satisfaction of council officers if damage occurs.</p>

<b>4.</b>	<b>Equality and Good Relations Implications</b>
	There are no equality implications to run the event.

<b>5.</b>	<b>Recommendations</b>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It is recommended that the Committee grant authority for the use of the areas identified in Sir Thomas and Lady Dixon Park and Boucher Playing Fields.</li> <li>• It is recommended that the Committee do not grant permission for the use of Strangford Playing Fields due the anticipated late finishing times given that they are located in a residential area and also due to the ongoing pitch renovations that will be taking place in June 2011.</li> <li>• Committee are asked to consider granting the use of the sites fee of charge.</li> <li>• The committee's approval will be 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> </ul>

<b>6.</b>	<b>Decision Tracking</b>
	All actions will be completed by the Park Manager.

<b>7.</b>	<b>Key to abbreviations</b>
	None

<b>8.</b>	<b>Documents Attached</b>
	Appendix 1: Time table as of 14 February 2011  Appendix 2: PowerPoint Presentation, Celebrating 90 years of The Royal British Legion 1921-2011.