



## Belfast City Council

<b>Report to:</b>	Parks and Leisure Committee
<b>Subject:</b>	Balmoral Show – Additional Car parking at Strangford Avenue and Boucher Road Playing Fields
<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 the Royal Ulster Agricultural Society (RUAS) to use all four soccer pitches at Strangford Playing Fields and the gravel area at Boucher Road playing fields for an additional 1,200 car parking spaces. This is a prestigious annual event which attracts visitors from all over Ireland and the UK, enhancing the image of the city. The event will be attended by approximately 45,000 people from Wednesday 11 May 2011 through to Friday 13 May 2011. The council in the past has given its consent for the use of these facilities.</p>
<b>2.</b>	<b>Key Issues</b>
	<p>Although the event runs from Wednesday to Friday the organisers will occupy the site from Monday 9 May 2011 to begin set up and envisage that the rig will be completed and the site vacated by Saturday 14 May 2011.</p> <p>The committee is asked to note that if permission is granted for the use of Boucher and Strangford Playing Fields it will be necessary to close these sites for the duration of the event to accommodate the park and ride facilities and therefore the clubs who normally use these facilities would need to be informed. The Outdoor Leisure Unit would endeavour where possible to relocate these teams to alternative Belfast City Council venues.</p> <p>The organisers would be required to pay a levy for the use of the aforementioned facilities. The organisers would also be required to resolve all operational, safety, statutory and reinstatement issues to the satisfaction of the council, entering in to an appropriate legal agreement based on advice from the Assistant Chief Executive and Town Solicitor.</p>
<b>3.</b>	<b>Resource Implications</b>
	<p><u>Financial</u> It is proposed to charge the event organisers £11,790 for the use of</p>

	<p>Strangford Avenue and Boucher Road Playing Fields.</p> <p>It has been estimated that both sites could approximately cater for 1,200 cars. The event organisers intend to levy a charge for the use of the car parks. Potential revenue if the sites are fully maximised is anticipated to be £50,400 over the three days. The event organiser has indicated that the income is required to meet the costs of providing 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 soccer pitches at Strangford will occur if there is notable rainfall during the event. The proposed legal agreement and bond will guarantee that the site is suitably reinstated to the satisfaction of council officers at the organiser's expense if damage occurs.</p>
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<b>4.</b>	<b>Equality and Good Relations Implications</b>
	There are no equality or good relations implications to running the event.

<b>5.</b>	<b>Recommendations</b>
	<p>It is recommended that the committee grant authority for the event organiser to use Strangford Avenue and Boucher Road Playing Fields for additional car parking spaces for the Balmoral Show 2011.</p> <p>The Committee approval will be subject to satisfactory terms being agreed by the Assistant Chief Executive and Town Solicitor on the condition that:</p> <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; and</li> <li>(iii) the event organisers meet all statutory requirements.</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>
	RUAS: Royal Ulster Agricultural Society

<b>8.</b>	<b>Documents Attached</b>
	Appendix 1: Letter from Royal Ulster Agricultural Society