



Belfast City Council

Report to:	Parks and Leisure Committee
Subject:	Charity Abseiling Event on Cave Hill
Date:	9 June 2011
Reporting Officer:	Andrew Hassard, Director of Parks and Leisure
Contact Officer:	Fiona Holdsworth, Principal Parks and Cemeteries Services Manager

1.0	Relevant Background Information
	<p>This is a charity event being held to raise funds for Opportunity Youth. Cave Hill was chosen for its unique location and marketing potential, specifically McArt's Fort which will be the area where the event will take place as it is the main viewpoint at Cave Hill.</p> <p>The charity involved wants to make this event special by promoting it as the first ever abseil on Cave Hill and therefore raising the profile of the occasion.</p> <p>The event is scheduled to take place on a Saturday between 3 September and 17 September 2011.</p> <p>Consideration has been given to the health and safety implications and environmental issues involved surrounding this area.</p>

2.0	Key Issues
	<p>The main concern is the possible disturbance of nesting birds around the cliff faces on Cave Hill. Cave Hill has been identified as a key nesting area for peregrine falcons and kestrels however the last successful breeding took place in 1999.</p> <p>The event organisers have given assurances that a survey will be carried out in the weeks running up to the event. If birds are found to be nesting in the vicinity of the proposed abseil, the event will be delayed until advice is received from the Raptor Study Group who are the experts on birds of prey.</p> <p>The event organisers will be required to undertake a risk assessment and to ensure that all health and safety requirements are met.</p>

3.0	Resource Implications
	<p><u>Financial</u> There are no financial costs to Belfast City Council.</p> <p><u>Human Resources</u> There are no human resource implications to Belfast City Council.</p> <p><u>Assets</u> Use of Cave Hill for event.</p>

4.0	Equality and Good Relations Implications
	None.

5.0	Recommendations
	<p>It is recommended that the committee grant authority for the charity abseiling event on Cave Hill subject to satisfactory terms being agreed with the Director of Parks and Leisure and on condition that:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (1) the event organisers resolve all operational issues to the council's satisfaction; (2) an appropriate legal agreement to be prepared by the Town Solicitor and Assistant Chief Executive is completed; (3) the event organisers meet all statutory requirements including entertainment licensing; and (4) the event organiser ensure that all health and safety requirements are met to the council's satisfaction including risk assessments, safe systems of work and equipment inspection information.

6.0	Decision Tracking
	All actions will be completed by the City Parks Manager North by August 2011.

7.0	Key to Abbreviations
	None.

8.0	Documents Attached
	None.