



Belfast City Council

Report to:	Parks and Leisure Committee
Subject:	Donations to Spring Fair Committee
Date:	11 August 2011
Reporting Officer:	Andrew Hassard, Director of Parks and Leisure
Contact Officer:	Alice Blennerhassett, Marketing Officer

1	Relevant Background Information
	<p>The Committee will be aware that the Spring Fair took place at Barnett Demesne on Saturday 16 and Sunday 17 April 2011. This event incorporated the annual spring flower show which had 700 horticultural exhibits on display, with a mix of environmental activities, children's entertainment, displays, demonstrations and music. This year almost 10,500 visitors attended the Spring Fair over the two afternoons which more than tripled the previous year's attendance.</p> <p>Members of staff from the Parks and Cemeteries Services Section work in partnership with the Spring Fair Committee to organise the flower show element of the event. There are three horticultural societies represented on the Committee namely the Northern Ireland Daffodil Group, Friends of Bonsai and the Northern Ireland Group of Flower Arrangement Societies.</p> <p>In previous years the Committee has authorised the making of a £100 donation to each of the horticultural societies involved in the organisation of the Autumn Flower Show, in recognition of their assistance throughout the year. However up until now a similar donation has not been made to the members of the Spring Fair Committee to recognise their help and support.</p>

2	Key Issues
	<p>The planning of the spring flower show element of the event in Barnett Demesne involves staff in the Parks and Cemeteries Services Section meeting regularly with representatives from three horticultural societies. The Spring Fair Committee meets four times a year to discuss and plan for the event and without this partnership, the event would be less successful. It is suggested that, as in the past, the Council makes a goodwill contribution to two of the three horticultural societies represented on the Spring Fair</p>

	<p>Committee namely the Northern Ireland Daffodil Group and Friends of Bonsai. The Northern Ireland Group of Flower Arrangement Societies already receives a £100 donation for recognition of its support to the Parks and Cemeteries Section at the Autumn Flower Show.</p> <p>This would acknowledge in a tangible way, the contribution of the horticultural societies and preserve this partnership.</p>
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3	Resource Implications
	<p><u>Financial Implications</u> The total cost would be £200. Provision has been made in the revenue estimates.</p> <p><u>Human Resource Implications</u> None</p> <p><u>Asset & Other Implications</u> None</p>

4	Equality and Good Relations Implications
	None

5	Recommendations
	<p>It is recommended that the Committee approves the making of a donation of £100 to each of the undernoted societies in recognition of their continued support and assistance for the Spring Fair.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The Northern Ireland Daffodil Group ▪ The Friends of Bonsai

6	Decision Tracking
	The actions will be completed by the Marketing Officer by November 2011.

7	Key to Abbreviations
	None

8	Documents Attached
	None