



Belfast City Council

Report to:	Parks and Leisure Committee
Subject:	Hire of Musgrave Bowling Pavilion
Date:	13 October 2011
Reporting Officer:	Andrew Hassard, Director of Parks and Leisure
Contact Officer:	Ricky Rice, City Park Manager

1.	Relevant Background Information
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The council has received a request from Mr Alan Gibson, on behalf of a non-denominational Christian group, who wish to hire Musgrave Bowling Pavilion each Friday evening (8.00pm to 9.00pm) commencing 20 January 2012 to 27 April 2012 (inclusive) for a series of gospel meetings.

2.	Key Issues
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The group will require the main hall, reception, toilets and car park adjacent to the building. Access to the pavilion will be through the main vehicular gate off Hospital Road which will be opened and closed by staff before commencement and at the end of each hire period. The event is anticipated to attract an estimated number of between eighty and one hundred people each week.

The group has requested permission to use a small battery operated public address system. Mr Gibson has confirmed that there would be no charge or fee or collection of money at the gospel meetings. No food or catering is required. No advertising would be placed outside or around council property; however Mr Gibson wishes to hand out invitation cards outside the park.

The council's events policy places responsibility for appropriate management of waste associated with an event with the event organiser. Officers will ensure that the organiser is in receipt of our Events Policy – "Handbook for Applicants" which outlines clearly that arrangements must be in place for litter collection and gives guidance on appropriate steps, based on the scale of the event proposed.

As with all events, but particularly because of the evening element to this event it is essential that health and safety and other issues are addressed through the preparation of an event management plan by the event organisers to the satisfaction of council officers.

	<p>Current policy permits the use of council premises for religious activity as long as there is no breach of Section 76 of the Northern Ireland Act 1998.</p> <p>The council previously granted Mr Gibson permission to hold gospel meetings at Ormeau Bowling Pavilion between January and April 2011. These proved to be a success and attendees averaged between eighty and one hundred each evening.</p>
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3.	Resource Implications
	<p><u>Financial</u> There would be a hire charge for the period of hire in line with the council's pricing policy. Mr Gibson has agreed to contribute towards the cost of providing staff cover for this event.</p> <p><u>Human Resources</u> Current bowling pavilion attendants will provide cover for this event involving maximum three hours cover each Friday evening to open and close the building and park gates.</p>

4.	Equality and Good Relations Implications
	None.

5.	Recommendations
	<p>It is recommended that the permission is granted for this subject to satisfactory terms being agreed with the Director of Parks and Leisure and on condition that:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. the event organisers resolve all operational issues to the Council's satisfaction; ii. appropriate documentation is in place prior to commencement, to include event management plan, public liability documentation and appropriate risk assessments iii. the event organisers meet all statutory requirements; iv. an agreement is reached regarding the charge for use of the facility which will cover the department's costs and the agreed hire charge v. the building is inspected and deemed fit for use by the councils health and safety officer

6.	Decision Tracking
	Officer responsible: Patrick Smyth, Community Parks Manager. Actions to be completed by: 27 April 2012

7.	Key to Abbreviations
	None.

8.	Documents Attached
	None.