



## Belfast City Council

<b>Report to:</b>	Parks and Leisure Committee
<b>Subject:</b>	<b>Request from Ballynafeigh Orange Hall Management Committee</b>
<b>Date:</b>	10 November 2011
<b>Reporting Officer:</b>	Andrew Hassard, Director of Parks and Leisure
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	Emer Boyle, Policy and Business Development Manager

<b>1.</b>	<b>Relevant Background Information</b>
1.1	The Parks and Leisure Committee, at its meeting in September 2011, considered a request from the Ballynafeigh Orange Hall Management Committee for a floral display in Ormeau Park (overlooking the Ormeau Road) during the summer of 2012 to mark the 125 <sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Ballynafeigh Orange Hall and Reading Room (request attached at Appendix 1).
1.2	At this meeting it was agreed that the request should be referred to the Council's Historic Centenaries Working Group.
1.3	The Orange Hall is the second oldest public building in Ballynafeigh and the Hall secretary has informed the council of the importance of this anniversary for their members and the community in Ballynafeigh who support the Orange Hall.
1.4	Some initial consultation was carried out in the spring of 2011 by Parks staff in conjunction with the council's Equality and Diversity Officer, who spoke to local community groups and local councillors for the area, gauging their informal views on both the equality and good relations impacts of the proposal; a mix of views was expressed from groups above and below the Ormeau Bridge.
1.5	Ballynafeigh Community Development Association assisted in this by requesting the views of their partner organisations in their Inter-Dependence Project in Ballynafeigh.
1.6	Ballynafeigh prides itself as being a diverse community and identifies itself as a "shared neighbourhood", unusual in Belfast. Ballynafeigh Community Development Association is supported in this by both the Housing Executive and the council.

<b>2.</b>	<b>Key Issues</b>
2.1	The Historic Centenaries Working Group met on Monday 17 October and considered this request amongst a number of others. The group received a report which outlined the background to the request and the fact that community consultation was ongoing, through the Ballynafeigh Community Development Association.
2.2	The location of the flowerbed for which the display has been requested overlooks the Ormeau Road from an elevated position within the park (approximate size = 24ft wide x 12ft high). Photos of the flower bed from a range of perspectives are attached at Appendix 2.
2.3	The Parks and Leisure Department does not have a formal policy on how it manages requests for floral displays for centenaries or other occasions although it has planted up floral displays in the past. This particular flowerbed was used previously to mark the centenary of the 'Girl Guides' organisation in 2010 (see Appendix 2)
2.4	The Good Relations Unit has advised that the department should develop such a policy and the Historic Centenaries Working Group were made aware of this at their meeting on 17 October when this item was considered.
2.5	A policy on the management of requests for floral displays is currently under development and it is anticipated that a draft will be ready to bring before this Committee early in the new year. To ensure that the status of the Parks as high quality shared facilities, enjoyed by all is preserved, any proposed floral display of this nature should have local agreement, should be non-offensive in design (i.e. no flags, no paramilitary emblems, no references to illegal organisations etc.) and should be in line with existing council policies.
2.6	The Historic Centenaries Working Group agreed to recommend to the Parks and Leisure Committee that: <i>"...approval to this request be granted, subject to an appropriate policy being developed that opens up this opportunity to all bona fide groups celebrating centenaries..."</i>

<b>3.</b>	<b>Resource Implications</b>
3.1	<p><u>Financial</u></p> <p>There are no additional financial implications surrounding this proposal. It is normal practice that this flowerbed is planted out bi-annually with seasonal bedding plants as part of the planned maintenance programme and this is allocated from the Ormeau Park revenue budget.</p> <p>The design of the proposed floral display does not impact on the normal amount of bedding plants required to fill this flowerbed. No specialist plants or materials are required to complete this display.</p>
3.2	<p><u>Human Resources</u></p> <p>There are no human resource implications. The design of the proposed floral display does not impact on the normal amount of labour (man hours) required to plant this flowerbed.</p>

3.3	<u>Asset and Other Implications</u> None.
-----	----------------------------------------------

<b>4.</b>	<b>Equality and Good Relations Considerations</b>
-----------	---------------------------------------------------

4.1	The council is committed to the promotion of good relations in the city including the celebration of cultural diversity. The local Ballynafeigh Orange Lodge is an active member in the wider Ballynafeigh community network. A simple floral display of this type would represent an official acknowledgement of the role of the local Orange Hall in the community over the past 125 years.
-----	-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

<b>5.</b>	<b>Recommendations</b>
-----------	------------------------

5.1	The Committee is asked to approve the recommendation of the Historic Centenaries Working Group and therein the request from Ballynafeigh Orange Hall Management Committee that this request be granted, subject to an appropriate policy being developed that opens up this opportunity to other bona fide groups celebrating centenaries.
-----	--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

<b>6.</b>	<b>Decision Tracking</b>
-----------	--------------------------

	Stephen Stockman, City Park Manager, Principal Parks and Cemeteries Services Manager to complete actions by Summer 2012.
--	--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

<b>7.</b>	<b>Key to Abbreviations</b>
-----------	-----------------------------

	None.
--	-------

<b>8.</b>	<b>Documents Attached</b>
-----------	---------------------------

	Appendix 1: Letter from Ballynafeigh Orange Hall Appendix 2: Photos of location of flower bed for proposed display
--	-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------