



1912 Joint Unionist
Centenary Committee 2012



I am writing on behalf of the Joint Unionist Covenant Committee (the Committee).

This new group consists of people authorised to act on behalf of the Unionist Centenary Committee and the County Grand Orange Lodge of Belfast.

The purpose of the Committee is to;

“To commemorate the Centenary of the Balmoral Review which was held to demonstrate Unionist opposition to Home Rule for Ireland, and to do this in a manner which is factually correct and open to all.”

Previously I wrote to you asking for permission to use Strangford Playing Fields on the 19th May 2012. We have decided now to withdraw that application and ask for Ormeau Park We would hope that the number of people attending will be in the region of 15,000 and we would like with your permission to have;

- A stage where a short religious service could be held followed by a celebration of our culture through music, dance and drama. There would be no political speeches other than a possible actor reading out a speech from 1912.
- An area for children’s games.
- A tented village including first aid, information point etc
- A catering area

We do not envisage any alcohol being sold in the Park, indeed we would welcome any assistance you can provide to help us make it an area free from alcohol.

As a Committee we have signed up to the following principles which have been agreed by the Community Relations Council and the Heritage Lottery Fund.

- 1) Start from the historical **facts**;
- 2) Recognise the implications and **consequences** of what happened;
- 3) Understand that different **perceptions** and interpretations exist; and
- 4) Show how events and activities can deepen **understanding** of the period.

We believe by adopting these principles we will play our role in assisting the community as we move forward together.

If the Council approves the application we would like to meet with the Council or their representatives to ensure the Park is used correctly and returned to the Council fit for purpose.

Yours Sincerely,

Stephen Gough

Secretary

Phone; 07714238963

E Mail; secretary@unionistcentenaries.com