



Belfast City Council

Report to:	Parks and Leisure Committee
Subject:	Placing of International Peace Garden Rock in Botanic Gardens
Date:	12 January 2012
Reporting Officer:	Andrew Hassard, Director of Parks and Leisure
Contact Officer:	Alex McNeill, Community Park Manager

1	Relevant Background Information
1.1	The Council has received a request to host a 'peace rock' in Botanic Gardens in February-March 2012. The request has come from Mr Graham Burgess, representing the UK team which is organising for the rock to travel around Britain and Ireland before it is sent to an "International Peace Garden".
1.2	The plan for this rock is that it will be one of a number to be placed in an "international Circle of Friendship" within an International Peace Garden. The International Peace Garden was established in 1932 and straddles the U.S. and Canadian borders of North Dakota and Manitoba. A copy of the invite letter from the Chief executive of the Garden and two of their directors is attached as Appendix 1.

2	Key Issues
2.1	The rock which is 4 tonnes (photo is attached as appendix 2) will be placed in several locations around Britain throughout 2012 before it is transported to Canada. Locations and dates have not yet all being confirmed, and while an initial approach has been made to Glenree in Co Wicklow they have not to date agreed to host the rock.
2.2	Mr Burgess has suggested that the rock be placed in Botanic Gardens in February – March 2012 with definite dates still to be confirmed.
2.3	If it is agreed that the rock will be situated in Botanic Gardens it is proposed that it will be placed on an open grass space near the pedestrian entrance at Stranmillis Road.
2.4	Mr Burgess is currently in discussions with Bibbys to transport the rock to

	Belfast and they would also be responsible for loading and off-loading the rock and their insurance will cover this process.
2.5	As the purpose behind placing the peace rock in public locations is to get people to touch it, there would be no fencing around the rock and it would be fully accessible to the public. In order to encourage participation in this international initiative, Mr Burgess has indicated that he will inform the national and local press and information will be placed on their website www.circleoffriendship.co.uk
2.6	If it is agreed that the rock can be placed in Botanic Gardens a legal agreement will be drawn up and as part of this Mr Burgess will be required to provide evidence of public liability insurance.

3.0	Resource Implications
3.1	<u>Financial</u> It is not anticipated that there would be any financial cost to the Council
3.2	<u>Human Resources</u> No additional human resources known at this time.
3.3	<u>Asset and Other Implications</u> None at this stage. If Members agree that the rock should be placed in Botanic Gardens the Community Park Manager will ensure that the necessary legal agreement and public liability insurance are in place.

4	Equality and Good Relations Implications
	There are no equality or good relation implications but the main driving force behind the rock is an ethos of friendship and peace.

5	Recommendations
	Members are asked to consider the request for the rock to be placed in Botanic Gardens.

6	Decision Tracking
	Community Park Manager to undertake actions as determined the Committee's decision.

7	Key to Abbreviations
	None

8.	Documents Attached
	Appendix 1: Letter from International Peace Garden Appendix 2: Picture of the Peace Rock