



Belfast City Council

Report to:	Parks and Leisure Committee
Subject:	Installation of artistic seat at Cave Hill Country Park
Date:	12 January 2012
Reporting Officer:	Andrew Hassard, Director of Parks and Leisure
Contact Officer:	Paula Irvine, Community Parks Outreach Manager

1.	Relevant Background Information
1.1	Cave Hill Conservation Campaign was founded in 1989 and acts today as the official friends group for Cave Hill Country Park. The group has membership of approximately 80 enthusiasts whose mission is to preserve Cave Hill in as natural and as unspoilt a state as possible and to encourage its public use in an environmentally sensitive manner.
1.2	Annually the group carries out various conservation activities which include tree planting, elimination of invasive species, erection of nest boxes, clean ups and a series of guided walks for members of the public.

2.	Key Issues
2.1	Cave Hill Conservation Campaign recently applied to the Landscape Partnership Programme of the Belfast Hills Partnership for funding to design and install a stone seat at a natural viewpoint within Cave Hill Country Park.
2.2	The group have approached the council with a request to install the new seat at an area adjacent to the main walking trail. The area is already used as a resting and gathering point by visitors walking on the hill, however there is currently no seating available and the area is suffering from a small amount of localised erosion as people stand to rest and congregate.
2.3	The friends group engaged two schools from the area - Cave Hill Primary School and St Therese of Lisieux Primary School - to become involved in the project. Through partnership and cross-community working, the pupils will decide the theme of the stone art piece and, through a series of art workshops facilitated by a local artist, design the seat. Departmental officers from within the Landscape and Planning Unit will adopt an advisory role.

2.4	The group has been notified that the funding application was successful, however, the group did not secure the full financial amount required to enable the project to be completed in its entirety.
2.5	In addition to seeking permission to install the new artistic seat, the group is requesting a financial contribution to the project.

3.	Resource Implications
	<p><u>Financial</u> The friends group has secured £3,750 through the Landscape Partnership Programme of the Belfast Hills Partnership. This represents approximately 75% of the funding required to deliver the project.</p> <p>The group has sought a financial contribution to the project not in excess of £1,500. It is anticipated that this could be met from within the existing departmental budget.</p> <p><u>Human resource</u> No additional human resources known at this time.</p> <p><u>Asset and other implications</u> Once installed, the stone seat will form part of the departmental asset portfolio and the department will assume responsibility for the ongoing maintenance of the seat. It is expected that maintenance requirements will be minimal given the material used for the seat, with the main exception likely to be the removal of graffiti.</p>

4.	Equality and good relations implications
	There are no equality or good relations implications anticipated.

5.	Recommendations
	It is recommended that the Committee notes the location of the proposed artistic seat and approves a financial contribution to the project not in excess of £1,500.

6.	Decision Tracking
	All actions will be completed by Paula Irvine, Community Parks Outreach Manager and Michael Largey Community Parks Manager.

7.	Key to Abbreviations
	None.

8.	Documents Attached
	None.