



## Belfast City Council

<b>Report to:</b>	Parks and Leisure Committee
<b>Subject:</b>	Friends of Grove Park- Four day activity programme
<b>Date:</b>	9 August 2012
<b>Reporting Officer:</b>	Andrew Hassard, Director of Parks and Leisure
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	Paula Irvine, Community Parks Outreach Manager

<b>1.</b>	<b>Relevant Background Information</b>
	<p>In mid-July the Friends of Grove Park (FOGP) approached the Outreach Manager for the North to request support to hold a 4 day activity programme in the Grove Park and Bowling Pavilion from Tuesday 14 August to Friday 17 August 2012.</p> <p>The FOGP have existed for the last five years and are actively involved in working with Council and a range of other organisations to develop the use of the Park. They were the catalyst behind the application to the Alpha Fund for £50,000 which recently resulted in the development of the Community Garden at the rear Grove Bowling Pavilion.</p>

<b>2.</b>	<b>Key Issues</b>
	<p>Planned activities will take place in the newly opened community garden, surrounding parkland and the bowling pavilion.</p> <p>Activities will include Grow your Own sessions, arts and crafts and dance workshops.</p> <p>The FOGP have partnered with Groundwork NI and the Crescent Arts Centre to deliver a 4 day summer scheme from 14-17 August. They have worked previously with both Groundwork NI and the Crescent Arts Centre in the park to deliver various projects such as the community garden and the creation of a dance school.</p>

	<p>The activities will run from 11am to 2.30pm each day and will be open to the children from the dance school and adults from the Grove Day Care Centre.</p> <p>The FOGP have requested free use of the Park and the Bowling Pavilion allowing them to offer the 4 day programme to participants free of charge.</p> <p>The volunteers from the FOGP have all been Access NI verified. All activities delivered by Groundwork NI and Crescent Arts Centre will be risk assessed and they will undertake their own insurance liability. The FOGP also process annual public liability insurance for the organisation of events in the Grove Park.</p> <p>The bowling club and regular bowlers will need to share the space of the bowling pavilion for the 4 days. The programme of activities has been communicated to the 2 bowling clubs and there are no clashes with bowling activity. Council officers are hoping to involve bowling “try it” sessions as part of the scheme with the help from both Clarendon bowling club and the 58<sup>th</sup> Old Boys Bowling Club who play out of Grove Bowling pavilion.</p> <p>The FOGP are aware that should the Committee refuse their request that they will be required to pay for the hire of the facilities.</p>
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<b>3.</b>	<p><b>Resource Implications</b></p> <p>There are no additional human resource implications as the scheme will take place during staff working hours so parks staff will be able to assist with the scheme at no additional cost to the department.</p> <p>The bowling pavilion is already open and staffed between 11am and 2.30pm every day for bowling and therefore no additional resource is required to accommodate this request.</p> <p>The FOGP has requested free use of the bowling pavilion which equates to a “potential” loss of £216.00 income to the department.</p>
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<b>4.</b>	<p><b>Equality and good relations implications</b></p> <p>There are no implications at this stage. The Council will request the FOGP and Groundwork take on board Equality and Good Relations factors when planning the activities for the project.</p>
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<b>5.</b>	<p><b>Recommendations</b></p> <p>Committee is asked to grant approval to the FOGP request for free use of the park and bowling pavilion from 14 to 17 August 2012.</p>
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<b>6.</b>	<b>Decision Tracking</b>
	None required

<b>7.</b>	<b>Key to Abbreviations</b>
	Friends of Grove Park – FOGP

<b>8.</b>	<b>Documents Attached</b>
	None