



Belfast City Council

Report to:	Parks and Leisure
Subject:	European Heritage Open Day September 2012
Date:	9 August 2012
Reporting Officer:	Andrew Hassard
Contact Officer:	Fiona Holdsworth

1	Relevant Background Information
	<p>The European Heritage Open Days celebrates Northern Ireland Architecture by allowing free access to interesting and or unusual properties that are normally not open or would charge an entrance fee. The Heritage Open Days were established in 1994 by the Civic Trust in England and have now been introduced in Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland.</p> <p>All the City Council properties that are to be listed are open to the public on these dates anyway. However the staff will be made aware of the EHOD in order that any preparations can be made for the expected influx of visitors on these days.</p>

2	Key Issues
	<p>The purpose of this report is to inform members of the buildings, parks and cemeteries that will be participating in this event on the 8 and 9 September 2012. In recent years various facilities within Parks and leisure Department have participated in the European Heritage Open Day Initiative.</p> <p>This year it is purposed that Belfast Castle, Malone House, City Cemetery, Knock and Dundonald Cemeteries, Balmoral, Friars Bush, Clifton and Shankill Cemeteries, Palm House and Tropical Ravine in Botanic Gardens will participate in this event. These locations will all be open to the public over the two days in September as normal but will be made aware that</p>

	<p>additional visitors can be expected then.</p> <p>In the past organised tours have been conducted at certain sites such as Belfast Castle. However, due to the nature of the various and irregular arrival times of the visitors the uptake on this practice has been discontinued.</p>
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3	Resource Implications
	Staffing resources will be minimal.

4	Equality Implications
	None.

5	Recommendations
	Members are asked to note the contents of this report.

6	Decision Tracking
	N/A

7	Key to Abbreviations
	EHOD – European Heritage Open Day.

8	Documents Attached
	None.