



Belfast City Council

Report to:	Parks and Leisure Committee
Subject:	50 th Belfast Festival at Queen's – use of Drumglass Park for a 'Ghosts of Drumglass' event.
Date:	13 September 2012
Reporting Officer:	Andrew Hassard, Director of Parks and Leisure
Contact Officer:	Emer Boyle, Policy and Business Development Manager

1	Relevant Background Information
	<p>Committee is asked to note that the Council has received a request from Paperclip Architects and the Kabosh theatre company to use Drumglass Park for a 'Ghosts of Drumglass' evening event from Wednesday 24th October to Wednesday 31st October 2012 (excluding Sunday 28th). The event programme will run from 8.00pm to 11.00pm each evening (8.45pm to 11.45pm on the 31st) as part of the 50th Belfast Festival at Queen's. The letter of request and accompanying documents are provided at Appendix 1.</p> <p>Paperclip Architects have recently approached Heritage Lottery Fund for support to undertake a feasibility study on the development of Drumglass Park. It is Paperclip's intention that the event would provide an opportunity to engage the Park's users in advance of this.</p>

2	Key Issues
	<p>The event is based on the Musgrave Family who in the nineteenth century bequeathed the land which now forms Drumglass Park. It proposes <i>cutting-edge sound and light installation (to) present a haunting theatrical experience in this unique setting</i>. Entry will be by ticket only, priced at £8.50, with an advisory minimum age limit of 15 years.</p> <p>During each evening, parties of up to 25 people will be guided around six</p>

	<p>stations within the park at which a series of short performances will be delivered over a 45 minute period. Entry and exit to the event will be at the Lisburn Road and Cranmore Park gates respectively (as detailed in the map provided at Appendix 1).</p> <p>The request seeks permission to use the park to stage the event, with assistance by Council staff. At this stage no financial support has been requested.</p> <p>With respect to the relationship of the event to the feasibility study proposed by Paperclip Architects, it is suggested that any action relating to the future development of Drumglass Park should be undertaken in consultation with the Council and within the context of the Council's wider objectives for parks development.</p> <p>It is proposed that approval for this event should be on the basis of its merit as an innovative artistic event providing entertainment to the local community and visitors to Belfast, as part of the Belfast Festival.</p>
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3	Resource Implications
	<p><u>Financial</u> There may be costs to the Council for additional electricity and water, and for re-instatement of grounds. Should Members grant authority to provide Drumglass Park as a venue for the event, it is proposed that this would be subject to agreement by the event organisers to meet these costs, and subject to the payment of a 'bond of intent' which would cover these costs.</p> <p><u>Human Resources</u> Any requirement for Council staff involvement would be accommodated within normal staffing arrangements.</p> <p><u>Asset and Other Implications</u> It proposed that further discussions would be undertaken to satisfy the Council that all health and safety and other legal obligations would be met by the event organisers.</p>

4	Equality and Good Relations Implications
	There are no equality or good relations implementations.

5	Recommendations
	Members are asked to consider the request and grant approval for the use of Drumglass Park on the basis that the event organisers will:

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pay a bond of intent • Have in place the required event management plan • Resolve all operational and health and safety issues to the Councils satisfactions • An appropriate legal agreement be prepared by the Assistant Chief Executive and Town Solicitor.
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6	Decision Tracking
	Community Parks Outreach Manager (Area South/West)

7	Key to Abbreviations
	None.

8	Documents Attached
	Appendix 1 – Copy of the request letter from Paperclip Architects with supporting documents.