



Belfast City Council

Report to:	Parks and Leisure Committee
Subject:	Key holding arrangements for Cliftonville Playing Fields
Date:	11 October 2012
Reporting Officer:	Andrew Hassard, Director of Parks and Leisure
Contact Officer:	Liam McKinley, Community Parks Manager

1.	Relevant Background Information
	<p>The department has received a request from Ardoyne Kickham's GAC and Pearses GAC to become key holders of Cliftonville Playing Fields (the Cricky) and ancillary facilities.</p> <p>Both Ardoyne Kickham's and Pearses use the Cricky as their home venue for match fixtures. Both clubs also conduct their training sessions at the Cricky when the pitch is not closed for renovation.</p> <p>Both clubs meet periodically with Council officers regarding their use of the site and during these meetings have expressed an interest in becoming key holders for the entrance gates to the playing fields and the toilet facilities. The toilet facilities are alarmed and secured separately from the main changing building and it is on this basis that this request can be considered.</p> <p>Currently the site is bookable through the Outdoor Leisure Unit if a staff member is available to work the shift. Some bookings particularly last minute may not always be accommodated as a result of staffing difficulties.</p> <p>Both clubs have explained to the department that there is a need for toilet facilities under health and safety guidance but that for training sessions there is no requirement for dressing rooms.</p> <p>This request would enable both clubs to train at the site without the department having to staff the site and incur overtime costs.</p>

	Match fixtures organised by the Gaelic Athletic Association will still require use of the full facilities as these fixtures host a travelling team and in this instance normal booking arrangements will apply.
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2.	Key Issues
	<p>All usage, matches and training sessions must still be booked through the Outdoor Leisure unit and a cost without changing facilities will apply. This will ensure that:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. There are no fixture clashes between Ardoyne Kickham's, Pearses or any other user. 2. The income that the site generates from usage is protected. 3. The Park Manager has usage figures to assist with the appropriate management and maintenance of the site and the grass pitch. 4. The Outdoor Leisure Unit can effectively manage all requests for the site Gaelic or otherwise. <p>An appropriate legal agreement will be prepared by the Director of Legal services similar to that of the "Out of Hours" use at our Leisure centres. This legal document will outline the terms and conditions of the key holding arrangements and will protect the Council in relation to all operational and health and safety implications.</p> <p>Training will be required in relation to all health and safety issues as regards to the use of the toilet facilities and opening and closing of the site.</p> <p>All usage will still take place within the parks opening and closing times in keeping with all other sports pitch usage across the city.</p>

3.	Resource Implications
	<p><u>Financial</u> There are no financial implications anticipated at this time. This request will result in a saving to the department for staffing costs associated with opening and manning the changing facilities.</p> <p><u>Human</u> All appropriate training will be delivered by the Community Park Manager for the site.</p> <p><u>Asset or other implications</u> None</p>

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

5.	Recommendations
	<p>It is recommended that the committee grant authority for: Ardoyne Kickem's and Pearses to have key handling responsibilities for access to the Cliftonville Playing Fields and toilet facilities subject to satisfactory terms being agreed by the Director of Parks and Leisure and on the condition that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Both clubs manage all operational and health and safety issues to the council's satisfaction • An appropriate agreement, to be prepared by the director of Legal Services, is completed. • All bookings are arranged with the Outdoor Leisure Unit prior to actual usage.

6.	Decision Tracking
	All actions will be completed by Fintan Grant, City Parks Manager and Liam McKinley, Community Parks Manager

7.	Key to Abbreviations
	GAC – Gaelic Athletic Club

8.	Documents Attached
	None