



Belfast City Council

Report to:	Parks and Leisure Committee.
Subject:	Progress report on redevelopment of Dunville and Woodvale Parks
Date:	11 October 2012
Reporting Officer: Rose Crozier, Assistant Director of Parks and Leisure	
Contact Officer: Stephen Walker, Departmental Portfolio Programme Manager	

1	Relevant Background Information
	<p>The Committee will be aware that work is underway at both Dunville Park and Woodvale Park. The contractors took possession of each respective site on 25 June 2012, both are 12 month contracts and work is scheduled to be completed by the end of June 2013.</p> <p>Steady progress has been made at both sites and there has been little reported incidence of anti social behaviour. Council Officers have continued to engage with PSNI, local community workers and the contractor on these matters.</p> <p>At Dunville Park there has been significant earth works carried out throughout the site; work to the new path structure is underway and the foundations for the third generation pitch and associated changing pavilion have been laid.</p> <p>At Woodvale Park work has focused on the realignment of the two football pitches. This has required the removal of a significant volume of earth and the installation of a new drainage system. The scheduling of the pitch work early in the programme will minimise the delay in its availability post completion.</p>

2	Key Issues
	Whilst the physical improvement works are important it is recognised that the potential benefits will only be realised through a positive programme of

activities in the park. The Committee is reminded that at its meeting in May 2012 it received an update report which included proposals to undertake discussions within each community to consider how we might engage with the community in relation to the future management of the two parks.

At the meeting Members stressed the importance of ensuring that there was community engagement in the process and that the management option selected should be community specific. To ensure an open discussion an external facilitator has been appointed and there have been preliminary discussions with representatives from within the two communities. These discussions have been held independently to ensure that the conversations are locality sensitive.

A number of points have emerged from the preliminary meetings:

1. There is general agreement that some form of joint management committee should be developed which would provide a platform for interaction between the Council and representatives from the community to ensure that the park is well maintained and used positively;
2. There is agreement that the Council should continue to operationally manage the assets in terms of routine maintenance, opening and closing, grounds maintenance, litter, bedding etc;
3. There is agreement that the focus of the joint management committee should be around encouraging positive use of the park by addressing concerns about safety and ensuring a pervasive and balanced programme of activities and events within the parks throughout the year;
4. There is agreement that there should be clarity around terms of reference for the 'committee' and that consideration be given to capacity building issues and the resourcing of such programmes;

It is intended to hold a second discussion to consider how such a management committee might be formed and work. A report on this will be brought back to the Committee by the end of the year.

3	Resource Implications
	<p><u>Financial</u> There are no additional human resource implications at this time.</p> <p><u>Human Resources</u> There are no additional human resource implications at this time.</p> <p><u>Asset and Other Implications</u> The physical improvement to the parks will create a high quality open space for the area and will provide further opportunities for both passive and more physically active recreation. Through our plans to engage in a more dynamic way with the community we hope to change our</p>

	management paradigm and put people and participation at the centre of our assets.
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4	Equality and Good Relations Considerations
	There are no equality implications.

5	Recommendations
	<p>The Committee is asked to note:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The physical completion of the work at both parks remains on schedule for completion by the end of June 2013; 2. Discussions regarding the options for a management model of the parks post completion of the works will be brought to a conclusion before the end of 2012.

6	Decision Tracking
	A further report will be brought to Committee for its December 2012 meeting.

7	Key to Abbreviations
	None.

8	Documents Attached
	None.