



Belfast City Council

Report to:	Parks and Leisure Committee
Subject:	Parks Events Small Grants Scheme
Date:	15 November 2012
Reporting Officer:	Andrew Hassard, Director of Parks and Leisure
Contact Officer:	Agnes McNulty, Open Spaces and Active Living Manager

1.	Relevant Background Information
	<p>The Committee is reminded that the Parks Events Small Grants Scheme has been operating successfully since 2006. Its original purpose was to encourage community based groups and organisations to organise and hold events in parks and thus increase their usage and instil a sense of ownership within the community.</p> <p>The Committee is further reminded that at its meeting on 13 October 2011, it approved the running of the grants scheme for the 2012/13 period and to also extend the scheme to provide a fund of £100,000. The Committee subsequently at its meeting on 10 May 2012, authorised the Director of Parks & Leisure under delegated authority to approve funding applications to the Parks Events Small Grants Scheme.</p> <p>The purpose of the report is to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Inform Members of the decision taken by the Director of Parks & Leisure under delegated authority regarding subsequent applications received to the Parks Events Small Grants Scheme.• To set out the main headlines from the previous year and to seek authority to advertise the scheme for a further year.

2.	Key Issues
	<p>The Director and the Open Spaces & Active Living Manager met in September to review the applications and these applications are presented in Appendix 1. These applications were assessed according to the current criteria and two out of the three applications met the criteria for an award to be made. The unsuccessful application was received from Paperclips Architects. The Committee is reminded that at its meeting on 13 September 2012, it had granted Paperclip Architects and the Kabosh Theatre Company approval to hold a ticket only event in Drumglass Park as part of the 50th Belfast Festival at Queens.</p> <p>The successful groups on the return of a signed 'letter of offer' have received 50% of the grant funding before their event took place and the remaining balance will be paid on the successful completion of the event and submission of the correct supporting documentation. Detailed applications are retained in the Parks & Leisure Department and can be viewed by Members on request.</p> <p>The Parks Events Small Grants Scheme continues to be popular with community groups, churches, Friends groups and other organisations and in 2012 the following was achieved:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ a total of 45 applications were received ▪ 41 groups were funded ▪ 57 events were to be held ▪ 29 different sites were to be used. <p>In 2012, a maximum grant of £2,250 was available per group and it is proposed that this amount is increased to £3,000 for the 2013/14 year.</p>

3.	Resource Implications
	<p><u>Financial</u> £100,000 was allocated in the revenue estimates to cover this scheme.</p> <p><u>Human Resources</u> The management of the scheme mainly involves staff from the Open Spaces & Active Living Unit and Business Support. The Community Park Managers and Outreach Officers are responsible for liaising with groups on site.</p> <p><u>Asset and Other Implications</u> The running of community events increases use of the parks and encourages a sense of ownership.</p>

4.	Equality and good relations implications
	There are no known equality and good relation implications.

5.	Recommendations
	<p>It is recommended that Committee:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Note the contents of the report with regard to the funding applications to the Parks Events Small Grants Scheme. ▪ Approve the running of the Parks Events Small Grants Scheme for the 2013/14 period and increase the maximum grant available per group to £3,000. ▪ Grant delegated authority to the Director to approve funding applications to the Scheme in 2013/14 if required. ▪

6.	Decision Tracking
	<p>Responsible Officer - Open Spaces & Active Living Manager, closing date of scheme: 8 January 2013. Further report to be brought to Committee in February 2013 for approval of the grants to be awarded.</p>

7.	Key to Abbreviations
	N/A

8.	Documents Attached
	Appendix 1: List of applications to the Parks Events Small Grants Scheme