



Belfast City Council

Report to:	Parks and Leisure Committee
Subject:	Pilot Night Activity Programme – Donegal Pass
Date:	06 December 2012
Reporting Officer:	Andrew Hassard, Director of Parks and Leisure
Contact Officer:	Cailín Lynn, Project coordinator

1	Relevant Background Information
	<p>The purpose of this report is to inform the committee of an evening pilot which Parks and Leisure officers are working on in collaboration with our dedicated partners Belfast Education and Library Board (BELB) Youth Club, South Belfast Alternatives and the Police Service Northern Ireland (PSNI) to take place in Reverend Robert Bradford playground and local area.</p> <p>Since August 2011 the department has invested £20,000 developing an overused grass pitch adjacent to Rev. Robert Bradford Playground.</p> <p>The issue of lighting was raised by the community upon completion of the maintenance, a pilot temporary lighting scheme was suggested however this did not progress for a number of reasons;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Due to the completion of the maintenance being so close to Christmas, the pilot was not a priority for the community.- Officers tried to sign post young people to Blythefield MUGA, an area which has facilities with lighting, however the young people were unwilling to relocate their evening activities out of their own community. <p>Local community representatives from Donegal Pass have since met with BELB Youth Club, South Belfast Alternatives, PSNI and council officers and have indicated that and the community is now ready to pilot temporary lighting to facilitate evening activities.</p> <p>Donegal Pass has been chosen to pilot this programme for a number of reasons:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Strong community Stakeholders• This location is a safe environment for children and young people to participate in facilitated night time sessions.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Opportunity to assess community need for lighting. <p>The pilot will involve temporary lighting and programming of evening facilitation and activities. We propose that this pilot take place pre and post Christmas 2012.</p> <p>A five week programme of events will take place before Christmas. Council officers and partners will work towards providing facilitation for at least two evenings per week.</p> <p>To make this project sustainable our partners BELB and South Belfast Alternatives will take the lead programming four/five weeks of activities after Christmas. We will encourage local coaches/ businesses and facilitators to become involved in this pilot project.</p>
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2	<p>Key Issues</p> <p>There has been ongoing consultation with our partners BELB youth Club, South Belfast Alternatives and PSNI regarding a pilot evening programme. This pilot will take place in Reverend Robert Bradford playground after the playground is 'closed'.</p> <p>Our aim as Belfast City council officers is to work with our partners and young people to promote positive activities, shared space and collaborative working in Donegal Pass.</p> <p>We will work in partnership with community representatives and young people to develop a participation plan focused on building respect and ownership of their local park and enhancing skills and personal development in young people. Council officers and partners will be involved in the monitoring and evaluation of this process.</p> <p>If this pilot is successful we will encourage local coaches/ businesses and facilitators to become involved to enhance community participation in the programme and enhance the opportunities for capacity building among the young people involved.</p> <p>The department hopes that this project, if successful may be rolled out city wide, in areas where it is believed the project can be successfully led and sustained by the community.</p> <p>Adequate risk assessments will be carried out and actions taken in relation to various activities.</p> <p>This pilot programme is in line with Parks and Leisure departmental objectives in terms of animating the city's parks and increasing community involvement and participation.</p> <p>Monitoring and evaluation forms will be completed throughout the pilot.</p>
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3	Resource Implications
	<p><u>Financial</u> Provision can be provided for this within the Parks and Leisure Anti Social Behaviour Coordinator budget as follows: Lighting: £245 per week Sports Facilitation: £120 per evening DIY workshops: £125 - £250 per evening</p> <p>Total per week: £860 - £985</p> <p><u>Human Resources</u></p> <p>There are likely to be some additional staffing costs to cover evening activities. Council officers will play an active role in participation and facilitation throughout the pilot programme, to include workshop facilitation and interaction with young people and adults to continually evaluate and assist in the organic development of this pilot programme.</p> <p><u>Asset and Other Implications</u></p> <p>Provision of this programme will enhance the asset by its increased use by the community and reduce the incidents of antisocial behaviour within the park.</p>

4	Equality and Good Relations Considerations
	<p>There are no implications at this stage however equality and good relations will be taken into account in any activities delivered throughout this pilot, to ensure that the programme is facilitated in an inclusive manner.</p>

5	Recommendations
	<p>It is recommended that the committee grant authority for a pilot to take place in the Reverend Robert Bradford Millennium Park by South Belfast Alternatives and BELB 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"> • The groups resolve all operational and health and safety issues to the council's satisfaction; • Parks and Leisure part fund this pilot programme. • To grant authority for the young people to generate funds for future activities. • An evaluation report be submitted to committee in March 2013 with recommendations on how this can be applied across the city.

6	Decision Tracking
	All actions to be carried out by Community Parks outreach team, Lynne McCreery and Cailín Lynn and ASB coordinator Peter Murray. A report will be brought back to committee in March 2013
7	Key to Abbreviations
	<p>BELB – Belfast Education and Library Board PSNI –Police Service Northern Ireland MUGA – Multi-Use Games Area</p>
8	Documents Attached
	Before and after photographs of MUGA at Rev. Robert Bradford playground.