



Belfast City Council

Report to:	Parks and Leisure Committee
Subject:	Use of Falls Bowling Pavilion by Beechmount Harriers Athletic Club
Date:	6 December 2012
Reporting Officer:	Andrew Hassard, Director of Parks and Leisure
Contact Officer:	Rose Crozier, Assistant of Director Parks and Leisure

1.	Relevant Background Information
	<p>The Parks and Leisure Department has received a request from Beechmount Harriers Athletic Club for use of the bowling pavilion at Falls Park free of charge for an initial period to allow the club to become established in the park. They have stated they would like to use Falls Park and the pavilion as their home base.</p> <p>The club has been in existence for almost 30 years and currently has around 100 members with ages ranging mainly from 8 to 18 years old.</p> <p>The club currently meets four days a week: Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday and Sunday and as they don't have a club house or base they meet in three different venues. The Harriers are already very active in the park and help organize the successful Falls Parkrun every Saturday morning in the park.</p>

2.	Key Issues
	<p>The Council wishes to promote the city and the use of its parks and open spaces for participation in healthy activity.</p> <p>The club's catchment area is throughout West Belfast and most of the members would come from low income families and would be the target group for many health improvement programmes currently supported by the Council.</p>

	<p>The club is actively engaging young people in healthy activities and retaining their membership which is often a challenge for this age group.</p> <p>Positive use of the park promotes the park as a safe open space and encourages other users into the park.</p> <p>It is proposed that the Harriers are given free use of the pavilion for a three month period from January to March 2013 to help them become an established group in the park.</p>
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3.	Resource Implications
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	<p><u>Finance</u> The hire of the bowling pavilion is £18 per hour and the suggested free usage would amount to £126 per month or £378 lost income for the three month period.</p> <p><u>Human Resources</u> None.</p> <p><u>Asset</u> The Harriers presence will encourage positive use of the park.</p>
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4.	Equality and good relations implications
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5.	Recommendations
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	It is recommended that Committee accede to the request to provide Beechmount Harriers Athletic Club free use of the pavilion at Falls Park for a three month period from January to March 2013.
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6.	Decision Tracking
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	Ricky Rice, City Park Manager (South West)
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7.	Key to Abbreviations
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8.	Documents Attached
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