



Belfast City Council

Report to:	Parks and Leisure Committee
Subject:	Film Event at Ormeau Park
Date:	10 January 2013
Reporting Officer:	Andrew Hassard, Director of Parks and Leisure
Contact Officer:	Stanton Martin, Community Parks Manager

1.	Relevant Background Information
1.1	The department has received a request from organisers of the 'Belfast Film Festival' for permission to hold a proposed screening of a film outdoors in Ormeau Park as part of their 13 th Festival in April 2013 (festival dates 10 – 21 April).
1.2	Over the past 12 festivals organisers have been keen to screen films in unusual or site specific locations throughout Belfast and feel that these types of events engage new audiences and also present films in an exciting and dynamic context.
1.3	In the past they have screened films in St. Anne's Cathedral, Sinclair Seaman's Church, The High Court's, as a drive in movie in Titanic Quarter, in the grounds of Belfast Castle overlooking Cave Hill, on the Lagan Boat and last April 2012 had a special outdoor screening of the Titanic film 'A Night to Remember' at the Thompson Dry dock where the ship was launched. This event was attended by over 500 people including the First Minister and Deputy First Minister.
1.4	Event organisers have identified a possible location in the Ormeau park and would propose a small scale event for a potential audience of 250 people.
1.5	The event would take place on one night between 10 - 21 April 2013 from 8pm to 11pm approximately. The exact date to be agreed with the organisers.

1.6	Given the location and the atmosphere of the park at night they would like to show a horror film. The film is however uncontroversial in nature and certified for an audience of over 15 year olds, made in 1987. The film is set in a wooded area and is a horror comedy called 'Evil dead 2'.
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2.	Key Issues
2.1	Belfast Film festival would provide audio visual equipment, generators, seating, lighting equipment, St. John Ambulance, Portaloos, two project managers, volunteer staff and technical staff on the site. They would also hire security staff.
2.2	The event organisers wish to locate a portable film screen (20ft wide x 12ft high) within an enclosed grassland area surrounded by woodland. This area was preferred by the organisers to prevent or minimise the effects of wind on the film screen.
2.3	It is anticipated that this area would also minimise the effects of noise to surrounding areas.
2.4	There is a house located within Ormeau Park (Old Foreman's Lodge) which is now occupied by a family under arrangement with Hearth Housing Association (leased from the council). This is approximately 100 metres from the proposed location of the film event.
2.5	It is proposed that the film event starts at 8pm and is over by 11pm. It is not anticipated that any noise be generated after 11pm; however noise levels throughout the event will need to be carefully monitored.
2.6	Since it is not unreasonable to anticipate that residents living close to a park or open space used for an open air event of this nature will experience some degree of noise disturbance, event organisers and those attending events must recognise that there may be a need for noise level or finish time restrictions to be imposed to protect the local community from being unreasonably disturbed by noise.
2.7	It is proposed that the audience of approximately 250 people will be seated on camping style seats.
2.8	This particular area can be susceptible to wet ground conditions. Although there is no requirement for vehicular access or erection of scaffolding; some ground reinstatement may be required due to the heavy footfall in this location within the park.
2.9	Entrance to the film is by ticket only (estimated £10 per person) paid in advance at the event booking office. No cash transactions will be accepted at the event location.

2.10	No catering involved; however attendees may be advised by the event organisers to be permitted bottled water.
2.11	No alcohol will be sold or permitted at this event.
2.12	Parking proposed at the Ozone Recreation centre car park; subject to agreement.
2.13	There would be a requirement to ensure that the audience is safely marshalled to the film location within Ormeau Park and that safe access and egress are maintained.
2.14	There would be a minimal risk of anti-social behaviour.
2.15	As with all events, but particularly because of the ‘evening’ element to this event; it is essential that health and safety issues are addressed through the preparation of an event management plan by the event organisers to the satisfaction of Council Officers and the Police Service of NI.
2.16	The Council’s Fire Safety Officer is content that the location is adequate for the intended purpose.

3.	Resource Implications
3.1	<p><u>Financial</u></p> <p>There would be a hire charge for the period of hire in line with Council Policy.</p> <p><u>Human Resources</u></p>
3.2	Normal ‘park closing time’ in early April is 8.30pm, therefore additional three Parks staff cover will be required for this event to assist with public safety and enable park closing at approximately 12 midnight.

4.	Equality Implications
4.1	There are no known equality or good relations implications in relation to this request.

5.	Recommendations
	<p>It is recommended that the Committee grant authority to the Director of Parks and Leisure to provide consent to this Film show; providing –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An appropriate legal agreement be prepared • The event Organisers provide an ‘event management plan’ including ‘Public Liability Insurance’ and Health & Safety Risk Assessments – to the satisfaction of the Council. • The event organisers meet all statutory requirements

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">the event organisers resolve all operational issues to the Council's satisfaction.
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6.	Decision Tracking
	All actions to be carried out by Stanton Martin (Community Parks Manager).

7.	Key to Abbreviations
	none

8.	Documents Attached
	none