



Belfast City Council

Report to:	Parks and Leisure Committee
Subject:	Connswater Community Greenway – Opening Hours and Lighting
Date:	14 February 2013
Reporting Officer:	Andrew Hassard, Director of Parks and Leisure
Contact Officer:	Rose Crozier, Assistant Director of Parks and Leisure

1.	Relevant Background Information
	<p>The Connswater Community Greenway (CCG) will create a linear park through East Belfast, following the course of the Connswater, Knock and Loop Rivers, connecting the open and green spaces and remediating the Connswater River itself. The Greenway will reconnect the communities of East Belfast and restore the rivers as community assets. It will create vibrant, attractive, safe and accessible parkland for leisure, recreation and community events and activities.</p> <p>As the design phase is progressing consideration is being given to the opening and closing of parks and the lighting of the space.</p>

2.	Key Issues
2.1	<p>The CCG is an open greenway comprising 16kms of accessible cycle and walkways, linking people and places. It is envisaged that the spine of the greenway will be open 24 hours except where there are:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Health and Safety risks to the public2. Issues that cannot be addressed in relation to anti-social behaviour3. Environmental restrictions <p>Where either 1,2,3 are likely to arise, the design where possible may allow for gates to be included and the management and closure of these areas will be agreed with key stakeholders including park users, local communities, businesses, land owners and council staff.</p>
2.2	<p>Lighting supports the use of the CCG and highlights key areas and routes. Lighting has been included to encourage people to use the greenway, on the assumption that there is increased safety in numbers. PSNI Design Out Crime experts have advised</p>

	that proper use of lighting has been shown to reduce ASB and other crime across the UK.
2.3	It is proposed that areas of the greenway are classified as either the main spine of the greenway or general areas and through consultation agreement is sought on the opening, closing and lighting of the areas. Design for safety and use along the CCG needs to involve users and the residents in the area(s). Involvement of local communities has been proven to reduce levels of vandalism and crime.
2.4	It is proposed that information sessions will take place where users and residents will have input to the CCG opening and lighting hours where local factors will need to be taken into consideration. Crime statistics and local perceptions will also need to be considered and PSNI, community safety wardens and council staff consulted.
2.5	Proposals regarding opening and closing and lighting of the area will be brought forward to committee after the consultation has been completed and the findings analysed.

3.	Resource Implications
	<p><u>Finance</u></p> <p>None</p> <p><u>Human Resources</u></p> <p>None</p> <p><u>Asset and Other Implications</u></p> <p>None</p>

Recommendations
Members are asked to note the report.

Decision Tracking
Assistant Director Parks and Leisure

Key to Abbreviations
CCG Connswater Community Greenway PSNI Police Service for Northern Ireland ASB Anti-social behaviour

Documents Attached
None