



Belfast City Council

Report to:	Parks and Leisure Committee
Subject:	Installation of Tidal Flood measures at Victoria Park
Date:	14 February 2013
Reporting Officer:	Rose Crozier, Assistant Director of Parks and Leisure
Contact Officer:	Stephen Walker, Departmental Portfolio and Programme Manager

1	Relevant Background Information
	<p>Members will be aware of the ongoing problem of flooding in parts of the city. In response to this a number of projects have been identified which are aimed at minimizing the impact of the flooding. A series of recommendations were made in the flood incident report which was approved by Strategic Policy and Resources Committee at its meeting in June 2012. One of the recommendations related to the installation of a tidal flood barrier at Victoria Park.</p> <p>The Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (DARDNI) was in contact with our Emergency Services staff in January 2013 and informed us of their intention to install the tidal flood barrier at Victoria Park as quickly as possible and proposed a date in early February. Following discussions with operational staff it was agreed that the work would be completed on the 5 and 6 February. The intention was to install the barrier at the tunnel access to Victoria Park and that access through the tunnel will not be permitted. Temporary notices informing park users of the closure have been put up and the Council's web site updated.</p> <p>A pedestrian gate will remain open during the works.</p>

2	Key Issues
	<p>The Committee is asked to note the following points:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. This work was undertaken as part of ongoing flood alleviation measures to minimise the potential impact of flooding;

	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. DARDNI / Rivers Agency carried out the work and has a right of access in such instances; 3. The work was undertaken over a two day period and has been completed; 4. Access to the park was restricted during the works; however a pedestrian gate remained opened to minimise the inconvenience to park users; 5. Notices had been put up in the area in advance of the works to inform users and residents about the works and a diversion sign was in place during the work period.

3	Resource Implications
	<p><u>Financial</u></p> <p>There are no financial implications for the Council.</p> <p><u>Human Resources</u></p> <p>It will be necessary for Council staff to be trained in the use of the barrier should flooding occur. Discussions are ongoing to clarify roles and responsibilities in the event of flooding.</p>

4	Equality and Good Relations Considerations
	There are no equality implications

5	Recommendations
	The Committee is asked to note the report.

6	Decision Tracking
	No further action is required.

7	Key to Abbreviations
	Department of Agriculture and Rural Development - DARDNI

8	Documents Attached
	Appendix A – Draft specification of works and photographs showing location of the barrier.