



Belfast City Council

Report to: Parks and Leisure Committee

Subject: **Request for Use of the Ballysillan Playing Fields**

Date: 9th May, 2013

Reporting Officer: Andrew Hassard, Director of Parks and Leisure, ext 3400

1.	Relevant Background Information
	None

2.	Key Issues
	<p>An enquiry has been received from Mr. William Mawhinney, County Grand Orange Lodge of Belfast regarding the availability of the Ballysillan playing fields on 12th July between 13.00 and 16.00.</p> <p>Mr Mawhinney has subsequently indicated that they intend to use the car park space as a meeting and/or dispersal point for up to 8,000 people, should the need arise, as part of the parade. It is not for the purposes of an event. They will provide their own stewards. Mr Mawhinney has said that they are only enquiring at this stage on availability and will confirm their request closer to the day.</p> <p>The request was referred to the Council's Joint Group of Party Group Leaders Forum and Historic Centenaries Working Group. They advised that the request should be forwarded to Parks and Leisure Committee for their consideration.</p> <p>The playing fields and car parks are available and not in use for soccer at that time.</p>

3.	Resource Implications
	<p>Financial None – a charge would only be incurred if the use of the space was for the purposes of an event.</p> <p>Human No staffing implications in addition to normal provision. Stewards to be provided by County Grand Orange Lodge of Belfast.</p> <p>Assets The space likely to be used is a hard surface area and there will be no detrimental effect to the sports ground. There may be restricted access to the playground but this is unlikely to affect many users.</p>
4.	Equality Implications
	<p>The relevant equality and good relations implications have been taken into consideration and a completed screening form has been forwarded to the Equality and Diversity Officer.</p>
5.	Recommendation
	<p>The Committee is requested to note the correspondence from the County Grand Orange Lodge of Belfast and consider granting delegated authority to the Director of Parks and Leisure to grant use, should the request be formalised.</p>
6.	Decision Tracking
	<p>Director of Parks and Leisure by 12th July, 2013</p>
7.	Key to Abbreviations
	<p>None</p>
8.	Document attached
	<p>Correspondence from County Grand Orange Lodge of Belfast</p>