



## Belfast City Council

<b>Report to:</b>	Parks and Leisure Committee
<b>Subject:</b>	<b>Request for the Use of Dixon Playing Fields - Bloomfield Gospel Hall Outreach Initiative</b>
<b>Date:</b>	9th May 2013
<b>Reporting Officer:</b>	Andrew Hassard, Director of Parks and Leisure, ext 3400
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	Lynne McCreery, Community Parks Outreach Manager

<b>1.</b>	<b>Relevant Background Information</b>
1.1	A request has been received from Bloomfield Gospel Hall to hold their 6 <sup>th</sup> biennial outreach programme at Dixon Playing Fields.
1.2	Bloomfield Gospel Hall has been working with the community for over 60 years situated in Woodcot Ave off the Bloomfield Road. Approximately 9 years ago the church piloted their first outreach mission striving to encourage non-church goers into a neutral venue giving participants a more relaxed atmosphere. Bloomfield Gospel Hall has a membership of 50+ members and relies heavily on volunteers to support this free outreach initiative.
1.3	Previous events have been well attended attracting between 40 to 90 Christians each evening. Bloomfield Gospel Hall has requested the use of the site from Saturday 14 September 2013 for a period of five weeks with an option to extend by one or two weeks depending on community desire and sufficient volunteers.

<b>2.</b>	<b>Key Issues</b>
2.1	This event will bring together the congregation of Bloomfield Gospel Hall, friends and family also the local community for the purpose of worship and will attract 1,200+ participants.
2.2	The services will take place from Saturday 14 September 2013 until Friday 18 October 2013 Monday to Friday, the service will run between 8pm to 9.30pm with the Sunday service being extended one hour between 7 p.m. to 9.30 p.m.

2.3	A wooden mobile gospel hall will be situated in Dixon Playing Fields car park area with Heras / mess fencing installed for protection. Setup will take place on Saturday 14 September 2013 with the de rig completed and the site vacated on Saturday 19 October 2013 provided the event has not been extended.
2.4	Volunteers will supervise the car parking area and complete a nightly litter pick to ensure grounds are kept clean throughout their event.
2.5	A small event management plan and any associated risk assessment will be completed and forwarded to BCC before Monday 2 September 2013.
2.6	This event is in line with Parks and Leisure departmental objectives in terms of animating the city's parks and increasing community activities and access to the parks.

<b>3.</b>	<b>Resource Implications</b>
3.1	<b><u>Financial</u></b> This request is for free use of the site as the event is for worship as outlined above in section 2.1.
3.2	<b><u>Human Resources</u></b> No additional human resources are required to facilitate this request.
3.3	<b><u>Asset and Other Implications</u></b> None.

<b>4.</b>	<b>Equality Implications</b>
4.1	There is no known equality or good relations implications.

<b>5.</b>	<b>Recommendation</b>
5.1	It is recommended that the Committee grant approval for the free use of Dixon Playing Fields for Bloomfield Gospel Hall Outreach Initiative on condition that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>the event organisers complete an event management plan and risk assessment and resolve all operational issues to the council's satisfaction.</li> </ul>

<b>6.</b>	<b>Decision Tracking</b>
6.1	All actions will be completed by the Community Parks Outreach Manager and Project Coordinator.

<b>7.</b>	<b>Documents Attached</b>
7.1	None.