



Belfast City Council

Report to:	Parks and Leisure Committee
Subject:	Request for use of Ballysillan Playing Fields
Date:	13 June 2013
Reporting Officer:	Andrew Hassard, Director of parks and Leisure
Contact Officer:	Andrew Hassard, Director of Parks and Leisure

1.	Relevant Background Information
	<p>Members will be aware that the Committee considered a request from the County Grand Orange Lodge of Belfast at its May meeting regarding the availability of the Ballysillan Playing Fields on 12th July between 13:00 and 16:00. Original letter attached at Appendix 1.</p> <p>The County Grand Orange Lodge has indicated that their intention was to consider the use of the car park space as a meeting and/or dispersal point for up to 8,000 people should the need arise. Mr William Mawhinney on behalf of the County Grand Orange Lodge had explained that this was only an enquiry on the availability of the site for hire on the day and that he would confirm their request closer to the day.</p> <p>The request had been referred to the Council's Joint Group of the Party Group Leaders Forum and the Historic Centenaries Working Group. They had advised that the request be forwarded to Parks and Leisure Committee for their consideration.</p> <p>The Parks and Leisure Committee at its meeting on 9th May 2013 agreed to defer consideration of the request until the June Committee meeting. Subsequently the Equality Screening form was distributed to the members of the Committee.</p>

2.	Key Issues
	<p>Following the May meeting the Director wrote to the County Grand Orange Lodge seeking additional information on their intentions. The response of the County Grand Orange Lodge is attached at Appendix 2.</p>

	<p>The County Grand Orange Lodge have indicated that they are unable to provide any further information until the Parades Commission make their determination.</p> <p>The Director will provide an oral update to Committee at the meeting if any additional information is forthcoming.</p>
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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>“If the Committee grants approval for the event, and the organizers formalize their request, the mitigating actions to be put in place include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Action plan and risk assessment completed, in line with standard procedures, from organisers to demonstrate dispersal routes and appropriate liaison with Police Service NI and emergency services. In particular, assurance would be sought in relation to stewarding and monitoring the lower part of the open space to ensure that there are no incidents in relation to Deerpark residents or properties; ▪ Promotion of other facilities and open spaces in North Belfast; ▪ Early notice of potential disruption to service users e.g. playground; ▪ Communication of closure of Ballysillan Leisure Centre in accordance with standard operating practice on 12 July.” <p>Equality Screening Form attached as Appendix 3.</p>

5.	Recommendations
	<p>The Committee is asked to consider the request from the County Grand Orange Lodge of Belfast.</p> <p>Should the Committee decide to make the Ballysillan Playing Fields available for use by the County Grand Orange Lodge of Belfast on 12th July 2013, this would be subject to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An appropriate event management plan • All statutory requirements being met • The organisers having appropriate liability insurance • A legal agreement being drawn up by the Assistant Chief Executive and Town Solicitor

6.	Decision Tracking
	The Director of Parks and Leisure by 12 July 2013.

7.	Key to Abbreviations
	None

8.	Documents Attached
	<p>Appendix 1– Letter dated 19 March 2013</p> <p>Appendix 2- Letter dated 29 May 2013</p> <p>Appendix 3 – Equality Screening Form</p>