



Belfast City Council

Report to:	Parks and Leisure Committee
Subject:	Green Flag Awards 2013
Date:	8 August 2013
Reporting Officer:	Andrew Hassard, Director of Parks and Leisure
Contact Officers:	Rose Crozier, Assistant Director of Parks and Leisure

1	Relevant Background Information
	<p>The Green Flag awards were established in 1996 and are managed by Keep Britain Tidy, the British Trust for Conservation Volunteers and Green Space. This year the administration of the awards for N. Ireland has moved to TidyNI.</p> <p>In 2009 the Green Flag scheme was piloted in N. Ireland and the department achieved its first Green Flag Award for Cave Hill Country Park. Subsequently in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 2010 Musgrave Park• 2011 Barnett Demesne, Botanic Gardens, Falls Park, Ormeau Park and Roselawn Cemetery and• 2012 Belmont Park, Sir Thomas and Lady Dixon Park and Waterworks Park. <p>In August 2012 Committee agreed as part of the Departmental Improvement Plan that a further two sites be put forward for the 2013 assessment round. The two sites were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Grove Playing Fields• Lagan Meadows. <p>This report is to advise Members that the external assessment has been completed using the green flag criteria (Appendix 1), that the Department has retained the ten Green Flags previously held and achieved the standard for the two new sites of Grove Playing Fields and Lagan Meadows.</p>

2	Key Issues
	<p>Green Flag is a standard for quality management and in particular community engagement, with significant emphasis placed on the stakeholders experience and involvement in site development and improvements.</p>

	<p>Management and staff have worked with the local community to understand needs and priorities and to apply the standards to all sites. This has included the development of an improvement framework which is applied across all sites to raise standards.</p> <p>The Council now holds 12 of the 20 awards held in Northern Ireland.</p> <p>Members will be aware that in the report to Committee in April 2013 it was agreed that Knocknagoney Linear Park, Dunville Park and Woodvale Park will be put forward for the 2014 Green Flag assessment round.</p>
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3	Resource Implications
	<p><u>Financial</u> None</p> <p><u>Human Resources</u> None</p> <p><u>Asset and Other Implications</u> Green Flag encourages the provision of good quality public parks and green spaces that are managed in environmentally sustainable ways.</p>

4	Equality and Good Relations Implications
	There are no equality and good relations implications from this proposal.

5	Recommendations
	Members are asked to note the achievement of the Green Flag awards.

6	Decision Tracking
	Assistant Director of Parks and Leisure

7	Key to Abbreviations
	None.

8	Documents Attached
	Appendix 1 Green Flag Criteria