



## Belfast City Council

<b>Report to:</b>	Parks and Leisure
<b>Subject:</b>	<b>Ulster Bank Belfast Festival at Queens Event in Belmont and Falls Park</b>
<b>Date:</b>	12 September 2013
<b>Reporting Officer:</b>	Andrew Hassard, Director of Parks and Leisure
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	Lynne McCreery, Community Parks Outreach Manager

<b>1.</b>	<b>Relevant Background Information</b>
1.1	The purpose of this report is to seek Committee approval for free use of Belmont Park and Falls Park to host a contemporary circus event in Belmont and Falls Park in October 2013.
1.2	The Ulster Bank Belfast Festival at Queens is an international arts festival held annually throughout Belfast. This year the festival will take place from Thursday 17 October to Sunday 27 October. This will be the 51st year of the festival with theatre, dance, music, talks and family events taking place in venues including the Waterfront Hall, Ulster Hall, Lyric Theatre, The Mac, Elmwood Hall and Churches throughout the city.
1.3	For the 2013 programme, the Festival has developed partnerships with Féile an Phobail in West Belfast and East Belfast Arts Festival in the East of the City. In an attempt to encourage greater participation from communities in the East and West of the City the festival plans to host two consecutive weekends of family friendly circus/theatre events. The award winning theatrical/comedy shows consist of 2 performers doing acrobats, theatre, comedy sketches, juggling etc. The events will take place in a round circus tent to be erected in each park the day before the shows will take place.
1.4	Tumble Circus are a Belfast based circus group who provide a unique experience of innovative and contemporary circus, specialising in theatre and comedy. The show is family friendly and includes trapeze, acrobats, juggling and comedy. Tumble Circus have toured extensively throughout Ireland, Europe and Australia and won Best Circus Show at Adelaide and Perth Fringe Festivals.

<b>2.</b>	<b>Key Issues</b>
2.1	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. The event organisers in partnership with council officers will liaise with both "Friends of" groups to effectively promote both events.
2.2	The festival is supported by public sector funders including Belfast City Council, Arts Council of Northern Ireland, Northern Ireland Tourist Board and the Department of Culture Arts and Leisure.
2.3	Each show will last 55 minutes with the below proposed show times; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Belmont Park, East Belfast Saturday 19th October 7pm Sunday 20th October 3pm and 7pm</li> <li>• Falls Park, West Belfast Saturday 26th October 7pm Sunday 27th October 3pm and 7pm</li> </ul>
2.4	250 tickets will be available for each show. Entry for the event is proposed to be set at £4 for children, £8 for adults and £18 for a family ticket (2 adults 2 children).
2.5	The event organisers will complete an appropriate event management plan in order to make the event as safe and successful as possible:- <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Employ a security firm to provide security cover during the events.</li> <li>• Employ a waste management to ensure the grounds are kept clean.</li> <li>• Ensure that any background music will not cause a nuisance or be inconvenient to any residents living in either area.</li> </ul>
2.6	The event organisers will require to be on site on Friday 18 <sup>th</sup> October and Monday 21 <sup>st</sup> October for set up and derig.
2.7	Council officers are ensuring that both sites have the appropriate entertainments licences in place to host both events. Falls Park has adequate entertainments licences in place and the department has recently applied for Belmont Park.
2.8	It is anticipated that damage to the grass areas may occur during the events from the marquees and footfall but will be dependent on weather conditions. Council officers will work with the event organisers to ensure minimal damage occurs. It is not anticipated that a bond be required to guarantee reinstatement at the organisers expense.

<b>3.</b>	<b>Resource Implications</b>
	<u>Financial</u> In-kind support will be provided to the value of £250 for the Belmont Park

	<p>Entertainments Licence.</p> <p><u>Human Resources</u> No requirement for officer time additional to that already allocated to managing events is expected.</p> <p><u>Asset and Other Implications</u> As outlined above in section 2.8.</p>
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<b>4.</b>	<b>Equality and good relations implications</b>
	There are no known equality or good relations implications in relation to this request.

<b>5.</b>	<b>Recommendations</b>
	<p>It is recommended that Committee grant approval for the free use of Belmont Park and Falls Park for the Ulster Bank Belfast Festival at Queens events on condition that:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The event organisers ensure that all health and safety requirements are met to the Council's satisfaction including an event management plan and associated risk assessments.</li> <li>2. Resolve all operational issues to the Council's satisfaction.</li> <li>3. Complete an appropriate legal agreement and meet all statutory requirements including entertainment licensing.</li> </ol>

<b>6.</b>	<b>Decision Tracking</b>
	All actions will be completed by Lynne McCreery, Community Parks Outreach Manager.

<b>7.</b>	<b>Key to Abbreviations</b>
	None

<b>8.</b>	<b>Documents Attached</b>
	None