



Belfast City Council

Report to:	Parks and Leisure Committee
Subject:	Donations to Societies for the Spring Fair & Autumn Flower Show in 2014
Date:	5 December 2013
Reporting Officer:	Andrew Hassard, Director of Parks & Leisure
Contact Officer:	Agnes McNulty, Open Spaces & Active Living Manager

1.	Relevant Background Information
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The purpose of this report is to seek approval from Members to authorise the payment of a £100 donation to each Society involved in the Spring Fair and Autumn Flower Show.

In previous years the Committee has authorised a £100 donation to each of the horticultural Societies involved in the organisation of these flower shows in recognition of their assistance throughout the year.

The Open Spaces & Active Living (OS&AL) Unit organises the annual Spring Fair in April at Barnett Demesne and the annual Autumn Flower Show in September at Botanic Gardens. Officers from OS&AL work in partnership with the two flower show committees during the year to organise the flower show elements of the Spring Fair and the Autumn Flower Show.

In April 2013, the Spring Fair at Barnett Demesne incorporated the annual spring flower show and over 500 horticultural exhibits were on display with a mix of environmental activities, children's entertainment, displays of animals and birds, demonstrations and music. This year over 8,000 visitors attended the Spring Fair over the two afternoons.

The Autumn Fair which took place in Botanic Gardens in September is an inter-departmental event between Parks & Leisure and the Development Departments. The event incorporates the annual autumn flower show

	with a number of food stalls, a selection of plant and craft traders, children's entertainment, workshops and music. At this year's event, there were over 1,000 horticultural exhibits on display at the flower show and the event attracted 10,500 visitors.
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2.	Key Issues
	<p>The planning of the spring and autumn show elements of both events involves Officers meeting regularly with representatives from 13 horticultural societies. The spring and autumn flower show committees each meet three or four times a year to discuss and plan for the two events.</p> <p>Earlier this year, the Ulster Alpine Garden Society expressed an interest in participating in future flower shows and at the Autumn Flower Show this year, they provided a society stand. Officers also informed them about the partnerships that had been developed with the other horticultural societies and after discussion, the Ulster Alpine Garden Society has now joined the Spring Fair Committee. The Society has also committed to attending the Spring Fair and Autumn Flower Show in 2014 where they will provide a display of alpine plants.</p> <p>Altogether there are 14 Societies represented on the two committees. The Societies are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Friends of Bonsai; ▪ Northern Ireland Daffodil Group; ▪ Belfast and District Beekeepers' Association; ▪ Belfast Winemakers' Circle; ▪ British Cactus and Succulent Society; ▪ Federation of Women's Institutes of Northern Ireland; ▪ Irish Fuchsia and Pelargonium Society; ▪ North of Ireland Dahlia Society; ▪ Northern Ireland Bonsai Society; ▪ Northern Ireland Group of Flower Arrangement Societies; ▪ Northern Ireland Orchid Society; ▪ Northern Ireland Vegetable Association; ▪ Rose Society of Northern Ireland; ▪ Ulster Alpine Garden Society. <p>The £100 contributions are normally issued to the Societies involved after each event has taken place. The Societies involved with the Spring Fair receive their donation before the end of April while those involved in the Autumn Fair receive their donation after the September event.</p>

3.	Resource Implications
	<p><u>Financial</u> The value of providing a contribution to each Society is £1,400. In compiling estimates for 2014/15, Officers have asked that this amount be set aside in OS&AL Unit's budget.</p> <p><u>Human Resources</u> There are no additional human resources implications.</p> <p><u>Asset and Other Implications</u> Working in partnership with the horticultural societies provides additional assistance to the Council. Also their presence at shows and events offers additional interest for visitors and adds an educational element to the events.</p>

4.	Equality Implications
	There are no known equality implications

5.	Recommendations
	The Committee is asked to approve a £100 contribution to each of the Societies outlined above which includes the Ulster Alpine Society who has recently joined the Spring Fair Committee.

6.	Decision Tracking
	None

7.	Key to Abbreviations
	OS&AL – Open Spaces & Active Living

8.	Documents Attached
	None