



## Belfast City Council

<b>Report to:</b>	Parks and Leisure Committee
<b>Subject:</b>	<b>Erection of murals in South Link Park</b>
<b>Date:</b>	<b>16 January 2014</b>
<b>Reporting Officer:</b>	Rose Crozier, Assistant Director, Parks and Leisure Department
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	Ricky Rice, City Parks Manager

<b>1.</b>	<b>Relevant Background Information</b>
	<p>Link Community Association is an organisation based on the Andersonstown Road. It is an organisation that works with youths in the area of North Link and South Link park. The organisation identified an area in the park in which there had been considerable graffiti and underage drinking. Link Community association engaged with local youths and encouraged the youths within the area to contribute in the construction and design of a number of mosaic murals which were of a sporting and cultural nature. See attached photographs, Appendix A. The murals have been erected on a fence in South Link Park which is owned by Belfast City Council.</p>
<b>2.</b>	<b>Key Issues</b>
	<p>Unfortunately permission was not sought to erect the murals on Belfast City Council property. The organisation was made aware of this and has written to Belfast City Council requesting retrospective permission to erect the murals on the fence. The Link Community organisation have explained the project had a very tight time scale and that it was an oversight on their part that permission was not sought prior to erection of the murals. City Council Officers have been to the site and have made the following recommendations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The murals are of a sporting and cultural nature and are aesthetically pleasing. Whilst on site, Parks Officers were informed by local users of the park that they were considered appropriate for the park and beneficial.</li></ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Local youths stated they are very proud of their achievements and to date no damage has been caused to the murals.</li> <li>However, Belfast City Council Officers noted that additional rails to the fence will be required to support the murals and a more secure method of attaching the murals to the fence will also be required.</li> </ul>
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<b>3.</b>	<b>Resource Implications</b>
	It is intended that Belfast City Council staff will fix the mosaic murals to the fence in a secure and safe manner. The cost of this will be approximately £600 and is considered an appropriate method of ensuring the murals are properly secured to the fence.

<b>4.</b>	<b>Equality Implications</b>
	There are no equality issues.

<b>5.</b>	<b>Recommendations</b>
	Committee is requested to grant retrospective permission to Link Community Association to erect the sporting and cultural mosaic murals on the fence at South Link Park.

<b>6.</b>	<b>Decision Tracking</b>
	Ricky Rice, City Parks Manager

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

<b>8.</b>	<b>Documents Attached</b>
	Appendix A