



Belfast City Council

Report to:	Parks and Leisure Committee
Subject:	Barnett Demesne – Request for use by the County Grand Lodge of Belfast
Date:	13 February 2014
Reporting Officer:	Andrew Hassard, Director of Parks and Leisure
Contact Officer:	Ricky Rice, City Parks Manager.

1. Relevant Background Information

The Committee is reminded that in 2004 it received a request, for the first time, from the County Grand Lodge of Belfast to hold the 12th July Demonstration event at Barnett's Demesne.

On 15 October 2004 the Lodge wrote to the Council and sought permission to use Barnett's Demesne property for the Twelfth of July event from July 2005 to July 2009. The former Community and Recreation (Parks and Amenities) Sub Committee at its meeting on 30 November 2004 acceded to the request for the event to be held on 12 July 2005.

At the meeting in November 2004 the Sub Committee recommendation stated that 'it will look favourably at a request to use the property (by the County Grand Lodge) as and when each is made but that in the exercise of fairness and equality of opportunity the Council cannot contract itself to reserve the use of its premises solely for the Lodge of the Twelfth of July demonstrations without giving equal consideration to other requests for use of the premises on such dates.'

The Committee is reminded that in successive years, all such requests from the Lodge have been approved.

2. Key Issues

The Committee is asked to note that the County Grand Lodge has requested the use of Barnett's Demesne for the 12th July Annual Demonstration event for 2014.

As indicated earlier, the event has been held at Barnett's Demesne since 2005

(8 years). The Council has worked closely with the Grand Lodge to ensure that the venue has facilitated the holding of a satisfactory event.

The main concern is that the site be vacated as quickly as possible and be left in the same state as prior to use given that Malone House and the grounds are heavily used by others. The County Grand Lodge has undertaken to ensure that litter is removed and that any physical damage to the site is repaired to its original condition.

3. Resource Implications

Financial

The charges for the use of the site will be in line with existing policy in relation to Parks events. The appropriate legal agreements will be entered into in respect of issues such as damage to property, health and safety and a bond of £2,000 will be required from the County Grand Lodge.

Human Resources

There are no additional human resource implications.

Asset and Other Implications

There is no significant impact on the asset.

4. Equality Implications

Equality criteria have been met.

5. Recommendations

It is recommended that the Committee accede to the request from the County Grand Lodge for the use of Barnett's Demesne on the 12th July 2014, subject to an appropriate legal agreement being prepared by the Town Solicitor.

6. Decision Tracking

The City Parks Manager will inform the County Grand Lodge of the Council's decision by 11th April 2014.

7. Key to abbreviations

None.

8. Documents Attached

None.