



## Belfast City Council

<b>Report to:</b>	Parks and Leisure Committee
<b>Subject:</b>	<b>Ballysillan Bowling Green – change of use.</b>
<b>Date:</b>	13 March 2014
<b>Reporting Officer:</b>	Andrew Hassard, Director of Parks and Leisure
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	Paula Irvine, Community Parks Outreach Manager

<b>1.</b>	<b>Relevant Background Information</b>
1.1	Belfast City Council has a total of 17 bowling greens located across 12 sites within the city. Usage and income generated from the bowling greens has steadily declined over the years despite ongoing efforts to encourage participation and promote programming.
1.2	The purpose of this report is to seek approval to pilot the use of Ballysillan bowling green as a golf putting green for 6 months (April – September). In recent years unauthorised golf has become an issue within parks. The pilot will help alleviate problems of unauthorised golf while also encouraging an interest in the sport. The Community Parks Outreach Manager is currently exploring programming opportunities i.e. “try it” golf sessions in parks in partnership with the City of Belfast golf club.

<b>2.</b>	<b>Key Issues</b>
2.1	A bowling facility costs the council approximately £25,000 per annum to manage and maintain, including the costs of turf maintenance, staff, heating and electricity.
2.2	The combined income generated from the 12 bowling greens has decreased from £9,570 in 2011 to £7,722 in 2013. In 2013 the bowling green at Ballysillan generated an income of £28.40, more than a 50% decrease from the previous year £62.50.
2.3	The recent achievements of Northern Ireland’s major winners Rory McIlroy, Graeme McDowell and Darren Clarke could also encourage and increase participation in golf and attract new users to the Ballysillan site. The Community Parks Outreach Manager will work closely with the

2.4	departmental communication team to market and promote the proposed diversification of the facility.
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<b>3.</b>	<b>Resource Implications</b>
3.1	<u>Financial</u> The cost of converting the bowling green to a putting green at Ballysillan will be roughly £730.00. Following comparative research with similar local authority facilities in Northern Ireland and UK we are suggesting a fee of £2.00 p/hr. Initially no deposit will be retained for security of golf equipment however this will be reviewed regularly.
3.2	<u>Human</u> The bowling facility will be staffed and maintained as normal by the mobile facilities attendants and the bowling green keeper.
3.3	<u>Asset and other implications</u> Pilot the use of Ballysillan bowling green to a golf putting green.

<b>4.</b>	<b>Equality Implications</b>
	There are no equality or good relations implications anticipated.

<b>5.</b>	<b>Recommendations</b>
	It is recommended that the committee agree to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pilot the use of Ballysillan bowling green to a golf putting green for a period of 6 months (April – September 2014).</li> <li>• A fee of £2.00 p/hr to play on the golf putting green.</li> </ul>

<b>6.</b>	<b>Decision Tracking</b>
	All actions will be completed by the Community Parks Manager and the Community Parks Outreach Manager and an update report will be brought to committee following completion of the pilot.

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

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