



## Belfast City Council

<b>Report to:</b>	Parks and Leisure Committee
<b>Subject:</b>	<b>Landslide at Cave Hill Country Park</b>
<b>Date:</b>	12 June 2014
<b>Reporting Officer:</b>	Rose Crozier, Assistant Director of Parks and Leisure
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	Fintan Grant, City Parks Manager, North Belfast.

### **Relevant Background Information**

Hazelwood Nature Reserve is located adjacent to Belfast Zoo and forms part of the Cave Hill Country Park. There have been sporadic landslides in the area in the past due to the topography of the area and this usually happens after heavy rainfall or snow. A landslide occurred in November 2013 which blocked one of the main paths. At this time the path was closed to the public while the Council's measured term contractor removed the blockage. The path was re-opened and temporary signage erected to warn the public of the risk. An engineering consultants report was commissioned to inform a decision on managing any associated risks. (see attached at Appendix 1).

A further landslide blocked the same area of pathway between 10 – 11<sup>th</sup> May 2014. Contactors moved on site on May 14<sup>th</sup> 2014 to remove the blockage however the path has since been closed to manage the risk to the public.

### **Key Issues**

- This is a well used pathway that forms part of the infrastructure of the wider Cave Hill Country Park.
- There have been two landslides at the same location in a period of six months.
- Legal Services have advised the department to keep the path closed until a decision is made on the future of the pathway.
- Management are currently investigating the options available and will bring an updated report to committee once recommendations have been agreed.

### **Resource Implications**

#### **Financial**

There may be financial implications depending on which option is decided upon. These will be clearer in the coming months and will be provided in a follow up report.

#### **Human Resources**

There are no additional human resource implications.

**Asset and other implications**

The closure of this path will restrict the movement of park users in this area of the Country Park and may affect their enjoyment of the asset.

**Recommendations**

Members are asked to note the contents of this report and that a follow-up report will be brought to Committee in September 2014.

**Key to Abbreviations**

None.

**Documents Attached**

Appendix 1 Engineers Report