



Belfast City Council

Report to:	Parks and Leisure Committee
Subject:	Naming Proposal- Black's Road Park
Date:	12 June 2014
Reporting Officer:	Rose Crozier, Assistant Director of Parks and Leisure
Contact Officer:	Ricky Rice, City Park Manager Maria McAleer, Policy and Business Development Officer

1.	Relevant Background Information
	<p>Members will recall that Council agreed at its meeting in July 2013 to acquire land at Blacks Road for the purposes of developing a park in accordance with the terms set out in the Parks and Leisure report of 13 June 2013. The site is currently owned by the Northern Ireland Environment Agency (NIEA) and there is a proposal by Groundwork NI (GNI) to transform the site with funding from the 'Sharing our Space' Peace III fund into a park for the use of the local community to include new pathways, trim trails, car park, grass area, wild flora area and an outdoor gym. A site location map is attached at Appendix 1.</p> <p>The park is currently within the boundary of Lisburn City Council but will fall within Belfast City Council's revised boundary post local government reform in 2015. Groundwork Northern Ireland (GNI) has been awarded a temporary licence by NIEA to undertake construction. On completion of the works, the Council will acquire the site (estimated to be around January 2015) at nil cost, subject to satisfactory title. The current working name of the site is 'Blacks Road Park' and GNI have requested confirmation of the name of the park in order to arrange suitable signage.</p>

2.	Key Issues
	<p>Recently Council Officers have received a request proposing the naming of this new park as 'Blacks Road Park'. Committee at its meeting in August 2008 agreed a policy framework for managing requests to (re)name parks and leisure facilities. The policy only applies to the (re) naming of entire parks and facilities.</p> <p>It was also agreed by Committee that if the Council decide that the proposed name change meets the criteria, the applicant will have to undertake consultation with users and the local community to show that there is widespread support for the name change. In summary, 50% of the catchment area population of the park should be consulted and the applicant will have to demonstrate that 66% of the sample i.e. 50% of the catchment area population agrees with the proposed name change.</p> <p>Criteria was also agreed for assessing requests in relation to a specific unique location advising that;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The name should provide a sense of place, reflecting geographic location, community, neighbourhood or street where the park, facility is located.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The name should reflect the historical significance of the area or reflects unique characteristics of the site (unique flora/fauna). <p>Names should not be considered which:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cause confusion due to duplication or names sounding similar to existing named facilities/locations within the City. Unlawfully discriminate within the meaning and scope of the provisions of Section 75, the Good Relations Plan (2007) and the Shared Future agenda. Are party-political in intention or use. <p>Having considered the relevant criteria above Members may decide that because this proposed name for this new park is both non-contentious and demonstrating clear alignment to the criteria as set out above and that they agree to this naming request and that in this instance consultation is not required.</p>
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3.	Resource Implications
	<p><u>Financial</u> The applicant will be required to cover costs associated with the consultation on the proposed name change.</p> <p><u>Human Resources</u> Continued resource from Estates and Legal Services is required to complete the acquisition. Thereafter Parks and Leisure staff will be required for ongoing management.</p> <p><u>Asset and Other Implications</u> A 4.49 acre site will be added to the Council's assets. The site will be held by the Parks and Leisure Department.</p>

4.	Equality Implications
	The request will be subject to equality screening but it is anticipated that it will be screened out as there are no known equality implications.

5.	Recommendations
	It is recommended that having considered the relevant criteria as outlined above members agree the naming of the new Park as Black's Road Park and agreeing that in this instance consultation is not required.

6.	Decision Tracking
	The Director will implement the Committee's decision as required.

7.	Key to Abbreviations
	GNI – Groundwork Northern Ireland NIEA- Northern Ireland Environment Agency

8.	Documents Attached
	A site location map is attached at Appendix 1.