



## Belfast City Council

<b>Report to:</b>	Parks and Leisure Committee
<b>Subject:</b>	<b>Row on Row Remembrance Events</b>
<b>Date:</b>	16 October 2014
<b>Reporting Officer:</b>	Andrew Hassard, Director of Parks and Leisure
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	Parks Outreach Managers, Lynne McCreery and Paula Irvine

<b>1.</b>	<b>Relevant Background Information</b>
1.1	The Parks and Leisure Department has received a request from Dr Pitt Park Centenary Committee and the Royal British Legion to hold World War 1 memorial events over 11 days in both Dr John Pitt Memorial Park and Shankill Memorial garden.
1.2	Both events are a memorial to the 100 year anniversary of the Great War and the dates selected for the events specifically lead up to Armistice day.
1.3	Both organisations are working in partnership along with other established groups in each area to host these events.
1.4	It is hoped to involve as many groups as possible in all aspects of these events. Many local people will visit both locations for reflection during the period of events.

<b>2.</b>	<b>Key Issues</b>
2.1	Both events will officially open on Saturday 01 November 2014 and conclude on Tuesday 11 <sup>th</sup> November 2014. During the course of the 11 days the programmes will entail a mixture of religious services and placing of wreaths and crosses displaying poppies. Each venue hopes to end up with a display of several thousand crosses.
2.2	Each service will pay remembrance to certain World War I battles that took place known as the Flanders series of battles. These include Ypres and Passchendale.
2.3	The closing ceremony will take place on the evening of the 11 November 2014.

2.4	Each night during the event at 8pm Binyon's oration will be read and the Last Post sounded.
2.5	The project committee for Dr John Pitt Memorial Park has requested assistance to avail of the secure electrical supply in this Park. It is anticipated that the park frontage will be illuminated and some promotional banners will be put along the railings.
2.6	Some hospitality and the installation of temporary structures may also be required.
2.7	With regards the Shankill Memorial Garden the department will delay the planting of the new seasonal bedding until after the event. The event organiser has also requested that the garden is not locked as usual for the duration of the event to allow members of the public to visit and reflect throughout the course of the 11 days.
2.8	Members of the public will also have an opportunity to donate during both events to the Royal British Legion.
2.9	No financial contribution is required by the Council as the ground at both locations will be prepared by parks staff during normal operating hours.
2.10	The event organisers will do a litter lift after each evening service has concluded and will then remove all the poppies from each of the venues following Armistice day.
2.11	A small event management plan will be completed and forwarded to Belfast City Council in advance of the event along with associated risk assessments and the event programme.

<b>3.</b>	<b>Resource Implications</b>
	<u>Financial</u> There are no financial implications for the Council  <u>Human Resources</u> There are no human resource implications with this request other than officer time to assist with the preparation of an event management plan.  <u>Asset and Other Implications</u>  None

<b>4.</b>	<b>Equality Implications</b>
	There are no equality or good relations implications anticipated. Local communities and agencies have been consulted on the proposals

<b>5.</b>	<b>Recommendations</b>
	It is recommended that Committee grant approval for Dr Pitt Park Centenary Committee and the Royal British Legion to hold a 11 day long remembrance event in both Dr Pitt Memorial Park and Shankill Memorial garden between 01 November 2014 and 11 November 2014 on the condition that all health and safety requirements are met, including an event management plan, risk assessments and public liability insurance.

<b>6.</b>	<b>Decision Tracking</b>
	All actions will be carried out by the Parks Management Team for each of the sites.

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

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