



Belfast City Council

Report to:	Parks and Leisure Committee
Subject:	Private Patrick Carlin VC
Date:	Thursday, 11th December, 2014
Reporting Officer:	Mrs Rose Crozier, Assistant Director of Parks and Leisure
Contact Officer:	Mr Barry Flynn, Democratic Services Officer (6312)

1	Relevant Background Information
1.1	The Committee will recall that, at its meeting on 16th October, it had granted permission to the Ulster Covenant and Historical Society (UHC) to place a marker close to the site of the grave of Private Patrick Carlin V.C., which is situated in the Friar's Bush Cemetery on the Stranmillis Road. Private Carlin served as a Private in the Somerset Light Infantry during the Indian Mutiny of 1858 and was awarded the Victoria Cross for bravery.
1.2	At the meeting of the Council on 3rd November, during discussion on the minute in respect of Private Carlin, a Member pointed out that Private Carlin had originally been interred within the burial ground of the former Belfast Union Infirmary (i.e. the Workhouse) at Abingdon Street, Donegall Road. That burial ground had been uncovered during the work associated with the building of the City Hospital in the 1970s. Consequently, the bodies of those interred within Abingdon Street were reinterred within unmarked graves at the Belfast City Cemetery and at Friar's Bush. Accordingly, the Council agreed that a letter be forwarded to the UHC requesting that consideration be given to erecting a Blue Plaque at the site of the former Cemetery at Abingdon Street to mark the original burial place of Private Carlin.

2	Key Issues
2.1	After the meeting of the Council, the UHC was contacted to consider the Council's request. The Secretary indicated that the Circle would, in principle, be sympathetic to the request and that it would be brought to the attention of its board for its consideration. It is hoped that further information in this regard will be available for Members at Thursday's meeting.
2.2	The Committee should bear in mind that, should the UHC agree to support the erection of the plaque at the site in Abingdon Street, there is a prolonged process which must be followed before it can be erected. This would entail the UHC undertaking detailed research to confirm an individual's credentials and achievements. Thereafter, permission would need to be granted from the owners of any building upon which the plaque might be affixed.

2.3	Given the centenary of World War I, the UHC is currently considering a range of local individuals associated with that period for the erection of blue plaques. Therefore, the Committee should note that the timescale for the erection of a plaque to Partick Carlin is unknown. Thus, periodic updates will be submitted for consideration.
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3	Resource Implications
	None at this stage.

4	Equality and Good Relations Considerations
	None

5	Recommendation
	The Committee is requested to note the contents of the report.

6	Decision Tracking
	Democratic Services to follow-up on any decision taken.