



Belfast City Council

Report to:	Parks and Leisure Committee
Subject	Erection of a temporary Meccano bridge across the River Lagan, Event.
Date:	24 February 2015
Reporting Officer:	Rose Crozier, Assistant Director, Parks and Leisure
Contact Officer:	Ricky Rice, City Parks Manager.

1.	Relevant Background Information
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Belfast City Council Officers have been approached by Staff of Queens University Engineering Faculty requesting Council permission to hold a small event at Clement Wilson Park. The event is based around the construction of a lightweight 'meccano' bridge which will span approximately 24m across a section of the river Lagan in Clement Wilson Park . See appendix A location map.

The University has designed and tested a model of the bridge and is satisfied that it can be done. Construction will take place off site and sections of the bridge will be transported to the Park and erected on site, as would a normal bridge, such as for example, the erection of the John Luke Bridge. The University has had to pre-order the 'pieces' in advance and expect to commence construction shortly. Construction will involve bringing in schools to help build the bridge as part of Queens University's outreach programme.

The erection of the bridge is scheduled for mid June 2015 and it is expected the event will attract considerable media interest. It is planned the temporary bridge structure will be dismantled within 24 hours of its erection. In all the University expect to be on site for approximately 3-4 days.

To facilitate the work the University has requested permission to store a container on site to enable the 8 metre sections of the bridge to be erected quickly on site

2.	Key Issues
	<p>The Committee is asked to note that:</p> <p>There have been discussions between Council Officers from Property & Projects (Estates); the Parks and Leisure Department and Queens on the matter to consider issues around access; biodiversity and location;</p> <p>The university has confirmed that as it is a temporary structure and will be dismantled almost immediately and not for use by the public there is no need for planning permission;</p> <p>The University has been in contact with Rivers Agency seeking permission to erect the bridge across the River Lagan, however permission has not yet been received from Rivers Agency.</p> <p>The university has indicated that it will indemnify the Council in the event of any loss; damage or injury;</p> <p>In with other Events the University will be required to comply with the Council's 24 point event plan;</p> <p>Such an event is unusual and it is likely to attract media attention which will help to profile not just the university but also the City and its assets</p>
3.	<p>Resource Implications</p> <p>Financial. There are no financial implications for Belfast City Council.</p> <p>Human Resources There are no Human Resource implications other than officer time.</p>
4.	Equality Implications
	There are no equality implications.
5.	<p>Recommendations</p> <p>It is recommended Committee grant permission for Queens University to locate a container and erect a temporary bridge across the River Lagan at Clement Wilson Park as part of their engineering educational programme, subject to completion of Belfast City Council's 24 point event plan which will require detail of appropriate insurance, stewardship, bond and all Health and safety aspects of the event.</p>
6.	<p>Decision Tracking</p> <p>Ricky Rice, City Park Manager</p>

7.	Key to Abbreviations
	None

8.	Documents Attached
	Appendix A location map and access route.