



Belfast City Council

Report to:	Strategic Policy and Resources Committee
Subject:	Land at Ballysillan Park, Belfast
Date:	25 January 2008
Reporting Officer:	Gerry Millar, Director of Improvement
Contact Officer:	Stephen Walker, Parks & Cemeteries Services

Relevant Background Information

At its meeting on 13 December 2007 the Parks and Leisure Committee re-affirmed a previous decision of the former Parks and Amenities Sub-Committee at its meeting on 11 November 1997 to acquire certain lands known as Ferguson Park, off Ballysillan Park, Belfast.

The land was developed with recreational facilities by Benview and Ballysillan Avenue Tenants Association with the aid of grant monies. The proposed acquisition was not previously completed because officers in Parks and Cemeteries Services were not satisfied that the grant aided work had been satisfactorily completed.

The site includes recreational facilities and a community building. The transfer to the Council is likely to exclude the community building and some other parts of the site. The terms of the grant aid are not currently known and any transfer to the Council will be subject to compliance with same.

The agreed term of the lease from the Tenants Association to the Council is five years with the Council paying a nominal rent. The Council will be responsible for maintenance of equipment and surfaces during the term of the lease. This and other detailed terms to be documented in a legal agreement as already drafted by the Director of Legal Services.

Key Issues

- Parks and Leisure Committee at its meeting on 13 December 2007 re-affirmed decision to acquire lands at Ballysillan Park, Belfast, known Ferguson Park, by way of a lease from the Benview and Ballysillan Avenue tenants Association.
- It has been previously agreed that the term of the lease would be five years with maintenance responsibilities being carried out by the Council at Council expense.

Resource ImplicationsFinancial

There are no costs in terms of land acquisition although there are maintenance and repair costs as detailed in the attached minute.

Human Resources

Additional duties for Parks staff.

Asset and Other Implications

The proposed five year arrangement was aimed at protecting the Council in terms of future liabilities. However, the timescale in accepting the property has eliminated this protection.

Recommendations

The Committee is recommended to accept the Parks and Leisure Committee decision given commitments made to the community group.

Key to Abbreviations

None

Documents Attached

Appendix 1 – Copy minute of Parks & Leisure Committee 13 December 2007