



Belfast City Council

Report to:	Strategic Policy and Resources Committee
Subject:	Rock Concert in Giant's Park
Date:	22nd January 2010
Reporting Officer:	Gerry Millar, Director of Property and Projects
Contact Officer:	Susan Quail, North Foreshore Unit Project Manager

Relevant Background Information

The Committee is asked to note that the council has received a request from PLM Promotions Ltd of 130 Ballynahinch Road, Lisburn, seeking permission to hold a major event on Saturday 8th May 2010 in Giant's Park.

The proposed event is a rock concert targeted at those aged between 18 and 40 years old and attracting an audience in the region of 10,000 to 15,000 people. The promoter proposes to provide alcoholic beverages, food concessions, a fun fair and a small number of stalls. The intention is to run the event from 5.30pm on Saturday 8th May to 1.30am on Sunday 9th May. The promoter would require the site for up to 10 days before the event to set up the facilities and 6 days after for removal and clean up.

The promoter has applied to the council for an Entertainment Licence which has identified the Giant's Park as the venue subject to council approval. A licence to occupy will not be granted until the Entertainment Licence is issued.

Key Issues

The key issues for the Committee to note are:

- In August 2009 the council stoned a 7 acre site at the Giant's Park for use as a car park in connection with the Tall Ships event. The site has not been used since and will not be further developed until late 2010 at the earliest.
- This application is regarded as a 'one off' pilot scheme to test the feasibility of holding further events at the Giant's Park venue. The promoter will not be granted any form of exclusivity.

- The Committee will be aware of the potential benefits to Belfast from such a major concert/event in terms of positive publicity, promoting public awareness and income generation for both the council and the city.
- The promoter considers the Giant's Park site to be an ideal venue for a concert as it is flat, hardcore surfaced, well drained and is easily accessed from the city centre. It is also distant from residential accommodation, the nearest housing being at Mount Vernon, a distance of 0.6 miles and Shore Crescent, 0.8 miles from the site.
- The stage will face east and sound will be directed over Belfast Lough. The entertainment license will specify a maximum sound level.
- There will be no vehicle access and no audience car – parking on site. Only artists and facility management vehicles will be permitted on site. The promoter will enter into an arrangement with the Belfast Bus Company to provide a bus shuttle service from the city centre to the venue. This will operate continuously from 5.00pm on 8th May to 2.00am on 9th May or until the site is cleared of spectators.
- The promoter will provide public liability insurance to the council's satisfaction and will indemnify the council against all claims of whatever nature arising out of the proposed use of the site. No services and no facilities will be provided by the council.
- The promoter will provide a Risk Assessment, a Risk Management Plan and an Event Management Plan for approval by the council's Environmental Health & Safety Manager.
- The promoter will be required to conform with the council's draft policy guidelines and associated applicant handbook for the management of large scale concerts and music festivals in parks, as considered at the Parks and Leisure Committee on 14th January 2010.

Resource Implications

Financial Implications

- A fee for the use of the site has been provisionally agreed with the Director of Property and Projects at £2.00 per head for the first 11,000 spectators and £3.00 per head thereafter.
- The promoter will be required to pay a bond to the council in respect of site clearance, clean up and reinstatement.
- This event is at nil cost to the council.

Asset Management

The use of this vacant site to produce an income is an effective use of a council asset.

Recommendations

It is recommended that the Committee agree to the request to hold a rock concert on Saturday 8th May at times to be determined by the Licensing Committee.

It is further recommended that the Committee grant authority to the Director of Property

and Projects to provide consent to the event providing:-

- (i) The event organisers satisfy the Director on all operational issues.
- (ii) An appropriate legal agreement incorporating the above financial implications is prepared by the Director of Legal Services.
- (iii) The event organisers meet all statutory requirements including entertainment licensing.
- (iv) The council's Environmental Health Manager (health & safety) is satisfied on all aspects of health & safety.

Documents Attached

- (i) Site location plan A.
- (ii) Giant's Park layout plan B.

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