

Variations to Facilities Management Agreements

The Committee was united that, at its meeting on 14th June, it had acceded to a request from Shankill United Football Club to enter into a lease agreement in respect of land at the Hammer Open Space. The Committee was reminded further that, at its meeting on 9th August, it had granted a similar request from the North Belfast Play Forum in relation to a portion of land at the Waterworks Park which was used currently as a Multi-User Games Area. The Director of Parks and Leisure explained that both facilities were operated currently under a Facilities Management Agreement and that the leases had been required to satisfy funding conditions. Since each lease had related only to a portion of land and not its entirety, it had, therefore, been necessary to obtain approval from the Committee to vary the existing Agreements.

In terms of the Hammer Open Space, he reported that the existing Agreement covered the pitch area, including the floodlighting, the changing pavilion and an adjoining building which was used for meetings and post-match refreshments. Under the revised Agreement the pitch area, including the floodlighting, would be leased to Shankill United Football Club. That would necessitate their removal from the current Facilities Management Agreement relating to the Hammer Open Space and a corresponding reduction in the maintenance fee.

He reported further that the existing Facilities Management Agreement relating to the Multi-User Games Area at the Waterworks Park incorporated the pitch area and the adjacent small pavilion and storage area. The North Belfast Play Forum would, in future, lease the pitch area, however, as the pavilion was not suitable for use as a changing facility, the Forum had concluded that it was not in a position to undertake the liability associated with the building in its current state and was content to use it as office accommodation, from which it would co-ordinate the use of the pitch. It would avail also of the storage area. It had been agreed that the Council would continue with its management and maintenance responsibilities in relation to the fencing surrounding the pitch area. However, the floodlight columns were located outside the boundary of the pitch and it was, therefore, proposed that responsibility for them would remain with the Council but the utility costs would be met by the Forum.

After discussion, the Committee approved the variation of the existing Facilities Management Agreements in respect of the North Belfast Play Forum and the Hammer Open Space, as outlined.