



Subject:	Request for use of City Hall grounds – Fields of Battle, Lands of Peace: The Doughboys 1917-18
Date:	24 th March 2017
Reporting Officer:	Gerry Millar, Director of Property & Projects
Contact Officer:	George Wright, Head of Facilities Management

Is this report restricted?	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	No	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Is the decision eligible for Call-in?	Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No	<input type="checkbox"/>

1.0	Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues
1.1	Members will be aware requests for the use of the City Hall grounds are normally dealt with under the authority delegated by the Committee to the Director of Property & Projects, using criteria agreed for this purpose. Occasionally however, it is necessary to place such requests directly before the Committee, and the request set out below falls into this category on the basis of the proposed month-long duration of the event.
1.2	A request has recently been received from the Cultural Affairs office of the US Embassy in London seeking the council's agreement to host an outdoor photographic exhibition to be set up in the grounds of the City Hall. The exhibition, including set up and strip down days, would run for the full month of September 2017.
2.0	Recommendations
2.1	The Committee is asked to; <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Approve the holding of the exhibition outlined in the report in the City hall grounds, and also that a launch event is hosted in City Hall, with the provision of small-scale hospitality.
3.0	Main report
3.1	The exhibition called Fields of Battle, Lands of Peace: The Doughboys 1917-18 is a powerful photographic exhibition by the photo-journalist, historian and battlefield guide Michael St.

	<p>Maur-Sheil. It tells of 'the healed scars of the First World War through the only remaining witness, the fields of battle themselves. Once places of devastating violence, the landscapes are now seen as scenes of great beauty, testament to peace and remembrance'.</p>
3.2	<p>Commissioned by the National World War I Museum and Memorials the exhibition focuses on the American Expeditionary Forces through France. The exhibition would be free to view, and it is suggested that, with its focus on education, it is ideal to be viewed by adults and children alike. It features archive images and fascinating facts to support Michael St Maur-Sheil's contemporary battlefield images.</p>
3.3	<p>There are 15 weather proof L-shaped stands, 2.2m long x 1.2m wide and 2m high that are secured in place by sandbags. The stands will be put in place by a professional exhibition company and all costs associated with transporting and erecting the stands, public liability insurance etc. is covered by the American Embassy in London.</p>
3.4	<p>The organisers' view is that no security or marshalling staff will be needed at the stands, and there would be no utility or other costs to be borne by the council. However, and although it is hoped that no vandalism will occur, the organisers have asked that, if any graffiti were to occur, BCC would try in the first instance to use in-house resources to remove it, and this should be possible except in circumstances where the graffiti is extensive or where specialist cleaning is required.</p>
3.5	<p>The organisers have also requested that, if possible, the council would agree to host a launch event in the City Hall, which may comprise of the American Ambassador, exhibition artist, media and representatives from BCC being in attendance. The purpose of the event would be to highlight the exhibition and to thank those involved in the exhibition. It would be normal in these circumstances for the host city to provide some type of appropriate small-scale hospitality at the launch event.</p>
	<p><u>Key Issues</u></p>
3.6	<p>The key issue is whether the Committee is minded to approve this request to hold the exhibition in the City Hall grounds for the full month of September 2017. Previous outdoor exhibitions have taken place without incident.</p>
3.7	<p>It will also be necessary to give consideration to the request to host an exhibition launch event in the City Hall, with appropriate hospitality.</p>

3.8	<p><u>Financial & Resource Implications</u></p> <p>In terms of the main exhibition there would be no costs for the council as the organizers would bear all the transport, build and strip down costs. The organisers would also provide public liability insurance in order to indemnify the council. Some staff cleaning resources maybe required if graffiti occurred on the exhibition stands, although if specialist graffiti removal were necessary this would have to be at the organizers' expense.</p>
3.9	<p>The provision of small scale hospitality if a launch event is permitted to take place in City Hall would generate costs of approx. £350.</p>
3.10	<p><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications</u></p> <p>Liaison has taken place with the Good Relations Unit in relation to this request and no issues or concerns have been expressed in relation to the above event or the proposed content.</p>
4.0	Appendices – Documents Attached
	None.