



<b>Subject:</b>	Event at Blanchflower Playing Fields to host the Wilgar Rock and Blues Festival
<b>Date:</b>	9 <sup>th</sup> May 2017
<b>Reporting Officer:</b>	Nigel Grimshaw, Director City & Neighbourhood Services Department
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	Rose Crozier, Assistant Director City & Neighbourhood Services Department

**Restricted Reports**

Is this report restricted? Yes  No

If Yes, when will the report become unrestricted?

- After Committee Decision
- After Council Decision
- Some time in the future
- Never

  
  
  

**Call-in**

Is the decision eligible for Call-in? Yes  No

<b>1.0</b>	<b>Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues</b>
1.1	The purpose of this report is for Members to consider a request from Wilgar Community Forum, the organisers of the Wilgar Rock and Blues Festival, for the use of Blanchflower Playing Fields to host an event over the period from Friday 4 <sup>th</sup> August to Sunday 6 <sup>th</sup> August, 2017 within a marquee.
1.2	Members may be aware that the event usually takes place at Wilgar Park of Dundela Football Club. This is the 6 <sup>th</sup> year of the event and the first year it is being proposed to be held away from Wilgar Park.
1.3	The organisers have advised that the event has developed over the years and as such, has outgrown Wilgar Park. Therefore, they consider Blanchflower Playing Fields as the ideal

1.4	<p>location to hold the event, permitting it to develop further and they would be grateful if the Committee would grant permission for the event to be held over the aforementioned period at the venue.</p> <p>The acts and running order for the event have not yet been confirmed but the organisers have confirmed that they wish to showcase local acts and provide them with a platform and opportunity to portray their talents.</p>
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Recommendations</b>
2.1	<p>The Committee is asked to;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Grant authority to the organisers of the Wilgar Rock and Blues Festival to hold the event at Blanchflower Playing Fields from the period of 4<sup>th</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> August, 2017, subject to satisfactory terms in line with the above being agreed with the Director of City and Neighbourhood Services and on condition that: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The organisers resolves all operational issues including Health and Safety through an agreed Event Management Plan to the satisfaction of Council officers.</li> <li>2. An appropriate legal agreement is completed, to be prepared by the Town Solicitor; and</li> <li>3. The organisers meet all statutory requirements of the Building Control Service including the terms and conditions of the Parks Entertainments Licence.</li> </ol> </li> <li>• Agree to wave the fees for the use of the facility on the basis that this is a community based event organised by a not for profit organisation.</li> </ul>
<b>3.0</b>	<b>Main report</b>
3.1	<p><b><u>Key Issues</u></b></p> <p>The Council wishes to promote Belfast and the use of its parks and open spaces and in line with the Council's Events Policy, will permit the use of these facilities for events and concerts.</p>
3.2	<p>A review of all events has been carried out to assess delivery and to identify areas for improvement. This was attended by Council Officers, event organisers and all agencies</p>

involved in the delivery of events. Considerable effort has been made in recent years to keep residential and business properties fully informed by means of a letter drop and this helped to significantly reduce the number of noise complaints, disruption to those living or working in the vicinity of venues and to generally raise awareness of events.

3.3 This is an important event that will add to the profile of the area. Therefore, in order to maximise the opportunity, the organisers are requesting to be permitted the ability to operate the event beyond the permitted hours of the Entertainments Licence of 11.00 pm to 1.00 am on each of the nights proposed.

3.4 The organisers will require access to the venue a few days in advance in order to have it ready in time for the first night on the 4<sup>th</sup> August 2017. They further propose to start derigging and removal on Monday 7<sup>th</sup> August and have advised that all will be removed by the end of that day.

3.5 We are currently discussing options of protecting the grass surfaces with industry standard terraplas covering as used at the likes of Croke Park and Aviva Stadia.

3.6 The organisers will be required to carry out proper reinstatement of the grounds therefore a bond of reinstatement will be paid by them prior to the event taking place.

3.7 As it is estimated that each concert will have a capacity of 1,000 plus staff, traffic management and flow of people to and from the concert will be a key aspect of planning the event. The event will have an admission fee and alcohol will be on sale.

3.8 The organisers will be required to liaise with the Community Parks Manager, the Building Control Service, PSNI, Transport NI and other emergency services to produce an appropriate Event Management Plan and Traffic Management Plan for council's approval.

3.9 Strict measures will also be arranged and coordinated with the management of the park to ensure that the event and set up does not impact upon the day to day operation of the park. However, Members can be assured that those discussions have already been held with the organisers and they have assured Officers that they will be erecting appropriate screening and fencing to segregate the event and associated traffic so as not to impact on the day to day operation of the park.

3.10	<p>Members can also be assured that discussions have also taken place with the organisers and Officers of the Building Control Service regarding the technical matters of the health, safety and welfare provisions and measures to manage noise from the event to ensure it does not cause undue disturbance to the residents of the area, particularly when proposing to operate at those times.</p> <p><b><u>Bookings and Maintenance</u></b></p> <p>3.11 The event will affect the pitch maintenance reinstatement programme over the summer months, which is to repair worn areas, improve ground levels and ensure that grass is re-established before the start of the new football season in September. Pitch reinstatement normally commences immediately following the winter playing season at the end of April.</p> <p>3.12 Due to the proposed date of the event being in August, it may cause some delay to the pitch reinstatement. Therefore, it's likely that the event will disrupt the booking of pitches and the start of the new football season at Blanchflower Playing Fields would be delayed from September to mid-October. However, it is anticipated that these bookings can be accommodated at other sites.</p> <p><b><u>Financial and Resource Implications</u></b></p> <p>3.13 The organisers will be required to provide</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• full ground reinstatement costs which will be subject to a bond.</li> </ul> <p><b><u>Equality and Good Relations Implications</u></b></p> <p>3.14 There are no equality or good relations issues associated with this report.</p>
<b>4.0</b>	<b>Appendices – Documents Attached</b>
	None