



Subject:	Application for Extended Hours - Wilgar Rock and Blues Festival and Community Fun Day, Blanchflower Playing Fields
Date:	21st June, 2017
Reporting Officer:	Stephen Hewitt, Building Control Manager, ext. 2435
Contact Officer:	Patrick Cunningham, Assistant Building Control Manager, ext. 6446

Restricted Reports	
Is this report restricted?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
If Yes, when will the report become unrestricted?	
After Committee Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>
After Council Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>
Some time in the future	<input type="checkbox"/>
Never	<input type="checkbox"/>

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

1.0	Purpose of Report/Summary of Main Issues
1.1	To consider a request from the Wilgar Community Forum, organisers of the 6 th Annual Wilgar Rock and Blues Festival and Community Fun Day, to permit entertainment to run to 1:00 am on Friday 4 th and Saturday 5 th August and to 12.00 am on Sunday 6 th August, 2017.
2.0	Recommendations
2.1	Taking into account the information presented and any representations received you are required to consider the request to extend the hours of entertainment and, subject to all technical requirements being met, either: 1. agree if any or all of the three days should be permitted to take place beyond the standard hours of licence of 11:00 pm, or 2. refuse to extend any or all of the hours as requested.

3.0	Main Report
	<p data-bbox="272 226 427 255"><u>Key Issues</u></p> <p data-bbox="165 282 1469 412">3.1 Members are advised that a Seven-Day Annual Licence for a Marquee has been granted for Blanchflower Playing Fields. No musical events have ever been held at the venue. The licence is held by the Parks Service of the City and Neighbourhood Services Department and is transferred to the organisers for the duration of their event.</p> <p data-bbox="165 443 1362 472">3.2 The days and hours during which entertainment may be provided in a marquee are:</p> <ul data-bbox="325 510 986 539" style="list-style-type: none"> • Monday to Sunday from 11.30 am to 11.00 pm. <p data-bbox="165 568 1469 629">3.3 In addition, the following special conditions are attached to the Marquee Entertainments Licence:</p> <ol data-bbox="293 674 1390 1099" style="list-style-type: none"> 1. maximum numbers will be agreed at the discretion of the Building Control Service and will vary depending upon individual concert set up proposals. 2. prior to any event taking place the promoters are required to demonstrate evidence of early consultation and have in place a robust system of dealing with any complaints, which has been agreed in advance with the Council. 3. any requests to provide entertainment later than 23:00hrs must be considered by the Licensing Committee and therefore must be made at least 3 months in advance of the proposed event. 4. should the Council receive a significant number of noise complaints for any event which has successive nights of entertainment permitted beyond 23:00hrs or if a complaint about an event beyond 23:00hrs is of major concern, then those successive nights with later hours may be subject to reduction and the promoter should have appropriate arrangements in place should this occur. <p data-bbox="165 1128 1469 1323">3.4 The organisers have confirmed the artists to perform at this year's event will be popular local acts, performing rock and blues music, including a Thin Lizzy tribute band, Kenny McDowell Project, Albert Mills, Rab McCullough Band, Mac Fleetwood and Bob Strong. A copy of the proposed running order is attached at Appendix 1. The Parks Service has sought permission from the People and Communities Committee for the use of the venue for the event. This was granted approval on 5th May 2017.</p> <p data-bbox="165 1352 1469 1451">3.5 It is a standard condition of the Marquee Entertainments Licence that all requests to operate beyond the permitted hours of entertainment must be considered by the Licensing Committee.</p> <p data-bbox="165 1480 1469 1579">3.6 As this is not an application to vary the terms of the marquee licence, but a request for Council's permission to extend the hours under an existing licence condition, there is no requirement for public advertisement in this case.</p> <p data-bbox="165 1608 1469 1803">3.7 Members will be aware that the Committee has previously granted extensions beyond the standard hours of 11.00 pm for other events and festivals, most recently for the FOCAL Festival at Lower Crescent Park at your May meeting; the Belfast City Blues Festival at your April Meeting, the Cathedral Quarter Arts Festival at your March meeting and the Belfast Beer Festival at your February meeting, with the latter three events all being held at Custom House Square.</p> <p data-bbox="272 1839 699 1868">Rationale for Additional Hours</p> <p data-bbox="165 1899 1469 1995">3.8 The organisers have confirmed that this is the 6th year of the Wilgar Rock & Blues Festival and Community Fun Day. Members may be aware that the event was previously held within the grounds of Dundela Football, Athletic and Social Club in Wilgar Street. However, they</p>

decided to move it to another venue in order to try and increase the capacity of the event which has always been well attended.

3.9 The event is staged as a community event, held over a number of days, and includes a mixture of entertainments, artistic performances and children's fun day activities.

3.10 The ability to operate beyond the permitted hours to 1.00 am on Friday 4th and Saturday 5th August and to 12.00 am on Sunday 6th August allows the organiser's to offer a good experience for the community and its members as many of those attending do not have the opportunity to attend other events or festivals of this kind.

3.11 Officers have engaged with the organisers and Officers of the Parks Service and the organisers are currently compiling event documentation including a site layout plan and an Event Management Plan.

3.12 The organisers will also be required to produce a suitable resident's notification letter and we will agree the extent of its distribution prior to the event taking place.

3.13 A representative of the Parks Service will be available at your meeting should you wish to seek further information about the event.

3.14 A copy of the letter from the organisers outlining the background to the festival and reasons for requesting the extended hours to 1.00 am is attached at Appendix 2.

3.15 A location map is attached at Appendix 3.

PSNI

3.16 The PSNI has been consulted in relation to the event and has confirmed that it has no objection to the event or request to operate the event to 1.00 am.

3.17 It has also confirmed that it has made contact with the organisers regarding their application for an Occasional Liquor Licence. A copy of its comments is attached at Appendix 4.

NIFRS

3.18 The Northern Ireland Fire and Rescue Service has also been consulted about the application and has confirmed that it has no concerns about the event and request to operate to 1.00 am. It has requested to be kept involved with the planning for the event and will attend meetings, if required.

3.19 As with all such events, a planning meeting will be held in due course, to be attended by officers of the PSNI and NIFRS, to look at public safety, traffic management, transport and any wider operational issues.

Health, Safety and Welfare Issues

3.20 Officers from the Service have carried out during performance inspections at previous events organised by the Wilgar Community Forum and have found them to be professional in their approach and have had no issues with the health, safety and welfare management of events during that time.

3.21 Officers will continue to work with the organisers of the event and coordinate the relevant agencies required to be involved in any pre-event planning meetings.

	<p><u>Noise issues</u></p>
3.22	The Environmental Protection Unit (EPU) has been consulted in relation to the request for late night entertainment to run to 1:00am on each night of the event at Blanchflower Playing Fields.
3.23	Given the cumulative impact of several late consecutive nights and potential sleep disturbance to nearby residents, officers are concerned that there is a greater potential for complaints after 11.00 pm. Members are reminded that the Clean Neighbourhood and Environment Act (Northern Ireland) 2011 gives councils additional powers in relation to entertainment noise after 11.00 pm.
3.24	However, officers will work with the organisers and their representatives regarding a suitable noise assessment and noise management plan for the festival. The noise assessment must demonstrate that noise from the event will not cause unreasonable disturbance to commercial and residential premises.
3.25	Officers will consider all reports and supporting information to ensure the technical requirements are in accordance with relevant legislation and guidance.
	<p><u>Financial and Resource Implications</u></p>
3.26	Officers will be required to carry out inspections at the event but this is catered for within existing Service budgets.
	<p><u>Equality and Good Relations Implications</u></p>
3.27	There are no equality or good relations issues associated with this report
4.0	Documents Attached
	<p>Appendix 1 – Festival Running Order</p> <p>Appendix 2 – Rationale for requesting extended hours</p> <p>Appendix 3 – Location Map</p> <p>Appendix 4 – PSNI Correspondence</p>