



<b>Subject:</b>	<b>Application for Extended Hours - Belfast Oktoberfest, Custom House Square</b>
<b>Date:</b>	21st June, 2017
<b>Reporting Officer:</b>	Stephen Hewitt, Building Control Manager, ext. 2435
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	Patrick Cunningham, Assistant Building Control Manager, ext. 6446

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

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

<b>1.0</b>	<b>Purpose of Report/Summary of Main Issues</b>
1.1	To consider a request from the organisers of the Belfast Oktoberfest to operate their event over ten nights within a marquee at Custom House Square, running from Thursday 19th to Saturday 28th October 2017, and to permit the entertainment to operate to 12.00 am on six of those nights.
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Recommendations</b>
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 six proposed nights should be permitted to take place beyond the standard hours of licence or;  2. refuse to extend any or all of the hours as requested.

<b>3.0</b>	<b>Main Report</b>
	<b><u>Key Issues</u></b>
3.1	Custom House Square is the responsibility of the Department for Communities and they currently hold both a Seven-Day Annual Outdoor Entertainments Licence and a Seven-Day Annual Marquee Entertainments Licence for the Square.
3.2	The standard days and hours during which the marquee is currently licensed to provide entertainment are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Monday to Sunday: 11.30 am to 11.00 pm.</li> </ul>
3.3	In addition, the following conditions are attached to the Entertainments Licence: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Maximum numbers will be agreed at the discretion of the Building Control Service and will vary depending upon individual concert set up proposals.</li> <li>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.</li> <li>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.</li> <li>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.</li> </ol>
3.4	Belfast Oktoberfest is a new festival for Belfast, which the organisers hope will become a regular event in the city's social calendar.
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.
3.6	Members will also be aware that the Committee has previously granted extensions beyond the standard hours of 11.00 pm for other events and festivals at Custom House Square, most recently for the Belfast City Blues Festival, Cathedral Quarter Arts Festival and the Belfast Beer Festival. You also granted an extension for the FOCAL Festival at Lower Crescent Park at your May meeting.
3.7	Whilst recognising that such music events contribute to the overall 'vibrancy' of the City it is also the case that noise from these events has the potential to cause disturbance to those living and working in the vicinity.
3.8	Before granting any extension, the Committee has always carefully considered the financial and commercial benefits of such events against the interests of residents within the area and has, on occasions, agreed with respective promoters to reduce the number of nights they had originally intended to go beyond the standard hours of 11.00 pm in order to reduce the impact the event may have upon them.
	<b>Rationale for additional hours</b>
3.9	The organisers has not yet provided the event documentation but are currently working on it in conjunction with their marketing material. Details of the event programme and running order is also being developed.

3.10	They have requested that their application to operate six nights beyond the standard hours be presented to this month's Committee meeting in order that they can have appropriate time to plan and organise for the event and engage with residents.
3.11	The organisers have advised that Belfast Oktoberfest is a beer festival celebrated the world over and is an important part of Bavarian culture, having been held since the middle ages. Many cities across the world hold Oktoberfest celebrations that are modelled after the original Munich event.
3.12	Their intention is to create a vibrant, interactive festival which will showcase a range of German beer and other drinks, with Bavarian style food and live music to create a truly memorable experience for locals and visitors alike.
3.13	They have also advised that they wish to extend the entertainment beyond the permitted hours to help promote and compliment the festival and to maximise the experience that patrons will have when attending. They hope it will provide visitors with a memorable festival experience, value for money and will let those attending avail of the services of other bars and restaurants in the surrounding area both before and after the event.
3.14	As this is not an application to vary the terms of the Marquee Entertainments Licence but a request for Council's permission to extend the hours under an existing licence condition there is no requirement to advertise the application.
3.15	Officers will work with the organisers to agree a suitable occupancy and develop their event documentation to manage the event safely. Officers will also ensure the organiser produces a suitable resident's notification letter and that it is distributed to the correct addresses prior to the event taking place.
3.16	The organiser for the Belfast Oktoberfest will be available at your meeting should you wish to seek further information about the festival. A copy of the letter from the organisers outlining the background to the festival and reasons for requesting the extended hours to 12.00 am is attached at Appendix 1.
3.17	A Location Map is attached at Appendix 2.
	<b><u>PSNI</u></b>
3.18	The PSNI has been consulted regarding the festival and their request to operate six nights of the event to 12.00 am. It has confirmed that it has no objections to this proposal. A copy of its correspondence is attached at Appendix 3.
	<b><u>NIFRS</u></b>
3.19	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. It has requested to be kept involved with the planning for the event and will attend meetings, if required.
3.20	Members are advised that, as with all such events, planning meetings will be held in due course, and attended by officers of the PSNI and NIFRS to look at public safety, traffic management, transport and any wider operational issues.

	<p><b><u>Health, Safety and Welfare Issues</u></b></p> <p>3.21 Officers from the Service have had discussions with the organisers and representatives from the Department for Communities about the event. We have advised them of what is required by way of event documentation and explained the terms and conditions of the Entertainments Licences.</p> <p>3.22 No pre-event meetings have yet been held but officers will continue to work with the organisers and other relevant parties to ensure that measures are taken to protect public safety and reduce the potential for noise disturbance and general nuisance from the event.</p> <p><b><u>Noise issues</u></b></p> <p>3.23 The Environmental Protection Unit (EPU) has been advised of the request for late night entertainment to run beyond 11.00 pm to 12.00 am on six of the ten nights at the venue.</p> <p>3.24 A Noise Management Plan has not yet been completed but is currently being put together by the organiser in conjunction with other event documentation. As per all events at the venue the noise management plan must demonstrate that noise from the event will not cause unreasonable disturbance to both the commercial and residential premises of the area.</p> <p>3.25 Officers are concerned that there is a greater potential for complaints after 11.00 pm given the cumulative impact of the consecutive nights proposed. 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.</p> <p>3.26 Officers will assess the report and supporting information to ensure the technical requirements are in accordance with all the relevant legislation and guidance.</p> <p><b><u>Financial and Resource Implications</u></b></p> <p>3.27 Officers will be required to carry out inspections at the event but this is catered for within existing Service budgets.</p> <p><b><u>Equality and Good Relations Implications</u></b></p> <p>3.28 There are no equality or good relations issues associated with this report.</p>
<p><b>4.0</b></p>	<p><b>Documents Attached</b></p>
	<p>Appendix 1- Rationale for extended hours</p> <p>Appendix 2 – Location Map</p> <p>Appendix 3 – PSNI Correspondence</p>