

People and Communities Committee

Tuesday, 12th February, 2019

MEETING OF PEOPLE AND COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE

Members present: Councillor Nicholl (Chairperson);
Aldermen Copeland, McCoubrey, Rodgers, Sandford; and
Councillors Baker, Black, Corr, Corr Johnston, Heading,
Lyons, Magee, Magennis, McAteer, McCusker, McReynolds,
Newton, O'Neill and Pankhurst.

Also attended: Councillor Garrett.

In attendance: Mr. N. Grimshaw, Strategic Director City and
Neighbourhood Services;
Mrs. R. Crozier, Director of Neighbourhood Services;
Mrs. S. Toland, Director of City Services; and
Mrs. S. Steele, Democratic Services Officer.

Apologies

No apologies were recorded.

Minutes

The minutes of the meetings held on 8th and 21st January were taken as read and signed as correct.

Declarations of Interest

Aldermen Copeland, Rodgers and Sandford and Councillors Newton and Pankhurst declared an interest in respect of agenda item 6 (b), Request for use of Barnett's Demesne, in that they were Members of the Orange Order. They remained in the room while the matter was under consideration but took no part in the discussion.

Councillor Black declared an interest in respect of agenda item 2 (a) Community Development Grants Programme 2019/20 in that she was employed by Grosvenor Community Centre which received funding under the Community Development Grants Programme. She remained in the room while the matter was under consideration but took no part in the discussion.

Item Withdrawn from Agenda

Issues Raised in Advance by Members – Request for Regen to Present

The Committee noted that the above item had been withdrawn from the agenda.

Restricted Items

The information contained in the reports associated with the following two items is restricted in accordance with Part 1 of Schedule 6 of the Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 2014.

Resolved – That the Committee agrees to exclude the members of the Press and public from the Committee meeting during discussion on these items as, due to the nature of the items, there would be a disclosure of exempt information as described in Section 42(4) and Section 6 of the Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 2014.

Community Development Grants Programme 2019/20

The Committee considered a report which provided an update in relation to the current situation regarding the Community Development Grants Programme (CDGP) 2019/20. The Committee was asked to consider the following three options and to agree the preferred option:

1. Option 1 – to do nothing until the Council received the CSP Letter of Offer from the Department for Communities;
2. Option 2 – to continue with the current level of funding;
3. Option 3 – to ensure business continuity that the current contract be extended to all groups until 30th September, 2019.

Following consideration of the options, the Committee agreed:

- option 3 as the most appropriate option to mitigate against the delay and/or reduction to the CDGP income from the Department for Communities;
- that to ensure business continuity, to maintain the current allocation of £200,691 for small grants provision; and
- that a report be submitted to a future meeting which would provide further detail in respect of the five consortia and the assessment process.

Request to Place a Memorial at Lisnabreeny Cemetery

The Committee considered a request seeking authority to erect a memorial plaque at the Lisnabreeny US War Memorial Garden in memory of a Belfast woman, Ms. Priscilla Gotto, who died in a B17 air crash in Wales in 1944.

The Committee acceded to the request.

Matters Referred Back from Council/Motions

Motion – Homelessness

**People and Communities Committee,
Tuesday, 12th February, 2019**

The Committee was reminded that, at the meeting of Council on 4th February, the following motion, which had been proposed by Councillor Garrett and seconded by Councillor Magee, had been referred to the Committee for consideration:

“This Council recognises that issues relating to homelessness in the city of Belfast are complex, multi-faceted and that they require interventions and solutions from a wide range of statutory organisations, delivery agents, charities and the community and voluntary sector.

The work that all these organisations carry out is to be welcomed and commended at the highest level, however, no single agency working on its own in isolation, including this Council, will solve the many complex issues relating to homelessness.

Too often, we tragically hear about people dying on our city streets and, as leaders of this city, we must do everything that we can to try to help those who are vulnerable and feeling desolate.

The Council can play a pivotal role to enable partnership action and our City’s Ard Mhéara/Mayor, as first citizen, can be a convener and facilitator in taking decisive action to address these issues in partnership with others.

The Council agrees, through the office of the Mayor, to convene a statutory and non-statutory multi-agency task group that will seek to take further partnership actions in addressing all facets of homelessness. This would include those people who find themselves on the streets with complex needs, those suffering from addiction and mental health issues and those who have no place to call home. The task group should seek to increase support services, scope out available and suitable facilities for extra supported bed provision in the city and any further issues which the task group identifies.”

With the permission of the Chairperson, Councillor Garrett addressed the Committee and outlined his concern regarding the widespread problems associated with homelessness in Belfast. He specifically referred to the recent update that had been received from the Northern Ireland Housing Executive at the special meeting of the People and Communities Committee held on Tuesday, 5th February, which had provided a useful overview of the extent of the current homelessness situation throughout the City. Whilst he commended the good work already being undertaken by the various agencies, he stressed that more needed to be done to develop this interagency approach to help address the many complex issues relating to homelessness.

The Committee agreed that, through the office of the Mayor, a statutory task force group would be formed that would seek to take further partnership actions to address the homelessness problems in the City.

Motion - Recycling in the Colin Neighbourhood

**People and Communities Committee,
Tuesday, 12th February, 2019**

The Committee was reminded that, at the meeting of Council on 4th February, the following motion, which had been proposed by Councillor Walsh and seconded by Councillor Baker, had been referred to the Committee for consideration:

“Noting Belfast City Council’s commitment to waste prevention and minimisation and the resulting benefits to the economy in terms of jobs and investment back into community;

Noting Belfast City Council’s commitment to the exploration of opportunities for further reducing waste including the feasibility of a circular economy approach to generate more value and jobs for the local economy through innovative waste solutions;

Noting the contribution of a circular economy to climate change mitigation and a healthy urban environment;

Noting the absence of any dedicated recycling and associated amenities in the Colin neighbourhood;

The Council agrees to immediately commission a report to examine the following:

- 1. initiate steps to design and procure a circular economy community hub including a repair cafe to facilitate education and participation in a transition to the circular economy in the Colin neighbourhood;*
- 2. incorporate best practice and innovative design principles, including:*
 - circular economy education, and training for citizens and interested organisations/businesses;*
 - a serviced repair café;*
 - a serviced social enterprise business start-up and support hub with a view to enabling and clustering existing eco-enterprises and start-ups (e.g. cycle repair, associated social enterprises linked to greenway/tourism); and*
 - comprehensive recycling, repair and remanufacturing facilities, including incentive schemes;*
- 3. initiate an engagement with Lisburn Castlereagh Council, to investigate the replacement of current facilities in Dunmurry’s Recycling Centre at The Cutts and to investigate the statistics on origin of users of this site; and*
- 4. initiate a multi-agency collaboration, led by Belfast City Council in consultation with community-based organisations in the Colin neighbourhood, to design, commission, build and service Belfast’s first Circular Economy Community Enterprise Hub and Repair Café.”*

**People and Communities Committee,
Tuesday, 12th February, 2019**

The Committee noted the ongoing work and agreed that a report would be submitted to a future meeting which would consider the proposals made in the motion.

Motion - Mental Health

The Committee was reminded that, at the meeting of Council on 4th February, the following motion, which had been proposed by Councillor Pankhurst and seconded by Councillor Murphy, had been referred to the Committee for consideration:

“This Council notes the sterling work conducted by a number of youth organisations across Belfast in attempting to break the stigma around mental health by supporting those suffering from illnesses such as depression and anxiety.

The Council agrees to support and promote these youth organisations through providing events, seminars and funding, when required, in order to help combat mental ill-health in Belfast.

The Council understands that the Department for Education is now considering implementing resilience training as part of the school curriculum. The Council welcomes this and agrees to write to the Department for Education to encourage it to implement this as a matter of urgency.

The Council also calls upon the Belfast Health and Social Care Trust to consider adopting safe spaces in Accident and Emergency centres, including a pathway of care, for those suffering from severe mental health difficulties who feel suicidal and need urgent care.

Finally, the Council agrees to convene a meeting between these youth organisations and other statutory agencies to try and establish a pilot online chat platform operated by trained staff for those suffering from mental ill-health. This platform will also be available in phone applications, should it be successful, making it much more accessible to young people in particular.”

Councillor Pankhurst, the proposer of the motion, addressed the Committee and outlined his concern regarding the need to support people suffering from mental ill health in Belfast. He stated that, whilst he commended the good work already being undertaken by the various agencies, this work needed to be further developed to ensure that the required support was easily accessible, to young people in particular, and to try and break the stigma that was often associated with the illness.

Following discussion, the Committee agreed that the Council would facilitate a workshop, to which other statutory agencies would be invited, which would enable the various stakeholders to consider the options available to assist youth organisations which were trying to provide assistance to those suffering from mental ill-health.

Committee/Strategic Issues

**Minutes of Strategic Cemeteries and
Crematorium Development Working Group**

The Committee was advised that, at the meeting of the Strategic Cemetery and Crematorium Working Group held on 22nd January, the working group had received a comprehensive presentation on the history of Bereavement Legislation from Rev. Dr. Haire, representing the National Association of Funeral Directors.

Rev. Dr. Haire had advised that the current cremation legislation was out of date and this often caused difficulties for bereaved families. He had detailed the need for the legislation in Northern Ireland to be overhauled and streamlined which would include the incorporation of electronic digital technology.

The Working Group had noted that officials from both the Department of Health (DoH) and the Department for Communities (DfC) were working on revised legislation and processes which related to cremation and it had agreed the following actions, subject to the approval of the People and Communities Committee:

- that an invitation be extended to the DoH officials to present on its works in relation to updated processes for cremation;
- that officers would review the processes which had recently been reviewed in Scotland;
- a copy of the revised cremation legislation drafted by the DfC be requested; and
- a letter be forwarded to both the DfC and DoH to highlight the issues raised by the National Association of Funeral Directors in regard to the impact that the outdated legislation was having on bereaved families and Funeral Directors.

The Members were also advised that, at the January meeting of the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee, it had been noted that all political parties would be extremely busy with canvassing in the lead up to polling day for the Local Government Elections, and particularly during the month of April. It had been agreed that it would be necessary to continue with the Standing Committees in that month, however, there were a number of Working Group meetings scheduled to be held in April, including the Strategic Cemeteries and Development Working Group.

The Committee:

- approved and adopted the minutes of the meeting of the Strategic Cemeteries and Crematorium Working Group held on 22nd January, which included the aforementioned actions; and

**People and Communities Committee,
Tuesday, 12th February, 2019**

- agreed that the meeting of the Strategic Cemeteries and Crematorium Development Working Group scheduled for Monday, 15th April would be cancelled.

Community Rescue Service

The Committee considered the undernoted report:

“1.0 Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues

1.1 The purpose of this report is to outline how Belfast City Council currently engages with Community Rescue Service.

2.0 Recommendations

2.1 This Committee is asked to:

- Note the contents of this report.

3.0 Main report

Key Issues

3.1 Members may recall the presentation given by Sean McGarry, Community Rescue Service, to the People and Communities Committee on 21st January 2019. This report briefly outlines how Belfast City Council engages with voluntary search and rescue organisations such as Community Rescue Service.

3.2 Co-ordination of land and inland water rescue is a devolved matter with search and rescue policy the responsibility of the Department of Justice. Co-ordination of land and inland water search and rescue operations falls to the PSNI. Community Rescue Service sit on a Practitioners Group made up of statutory and voluntary organisations which report into the Department of Justice. Community Rescue Service is a declared resource under the NI Search and Rescue agreement.

3.3 Belfast Emergency Preparedness Group (Belfast EPG) is a Multi-Agency partnership involved in preparing and planning for emergencies which would impact on the people and communities of Belfast. Belfast EPG partners may engage the assistance of organisations such as Community Rescue Service during an emergency response situation. In such circumstances a request to Community Rescue Service for search and rescue assistance will come from one of the statutory emergency responder organisations such as the PSNI

or NI Fire and Rescue Service. Belfast City Council would support such efforts where humanitarian assistance is required by activating emergency support centre arrangements and providing buildings for emergency rest centres etc.

3.4 In the past, Belfast City Council's Parks and Warden staff have worked with Community Rescue Service during land based search efforts for missing persons. Community Rescue Service also provide invaluable voluntary search and rescue assistance at events in the City such as Belfast Vital, Belsonic and events around the harbour estate.

3.5 During the presentation on 21st January 2019, Sean McGarry made reference to Community Rescue Service utilising the Lagan lookout building. The Lagan lookout building is currently under the control of the Department for Communities (DfC) and there are no current plans to change this.

3.6 Finance and Resource Implications

None.

3.7 Equality or Good Relations Implications
Rural Needs Assessment

None."

The Committee noted the update provided.

Update on Partnership Working in
Addressing Anti-social Behaviour

The Committee considered the following report:

"1.0 Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues

1.1 Further to previous agreements at People and Communities Committee, this report provides the agreed update on anti-social behaviour in parks and open spaces covering the August - December 2018 period.

1.2 At previous meetings, Members further agreed that initial work would be focussed on Falls Park/City Cemetery, Orangefield Park/Avoniel Park, Marrowbone, Dunville and Ballysillan.

2.0 Recommendations

2.1 The Committee is asked to

- note the progress against these actions and to receive a further progress report in due course.

3.0 Main report

3.1 Current Context

Reported Anti-Social Behaviour To Council

Ongoing analysis of reports from members of the public, along with anti-social behaviour witnessed by Council Officers has identified the following parks/open spaces as having issues with persistent anti-social behaviour.

- 3.2 Please note figures provided below are for the period August – December 2018.**

Park/Open Space	Area	Reported Anti-Social Behaviour Incidents
Falls Park/City Cemetery	West	60
Woodvale	West	26
Lenadoon Park	West	22
Jubilee Gardens	North	22
Marrowbone	North	19
Dunville Park	West	16
Girdwood	North	13

- 3.3 Please also note that the list below only represents the parks/open spaces with the highest numbers of reports of anti-social behaviour. Reports of anti-social behaviour are received for other parks/open spaces across the city but at a much lower level.**

Repairs at Parks/Open Spaces

- 3.4 As indicated above, anti-social behaviour is often under-reported. Officers therefore regularly review requisitions for repairs at parks/open spaces due to vandalism, criminal damage or arson.**

- 3.5 There has been a marked reduction in serious vandalism at the majority of parks/open spaces, however, vandalism remains persistent in many of the parks/open spaces highlighted above.**

Member Feedback

- 3.6 Elected Members engage regularly with Officers articulating concerns about anti-social behaviour in parks/open spaces.**

Officers have reviewed their Elected Members contact on this issue and the following parks/open spaces present most frequently as of concern:

Park/Open Space	Area
Falls Park/City Cemetery	West
Marrowbone	North
Orangefield/Avoniel	East

Animation/Programming

3.7 Progress to Date

- Programmes of animation were undertaken at four locations which had been identified as having persistent challenges with anti-social behaviour. These were Marrowbone Park, Ballysillan Park, Orangefield/Avoniel and Dunville Park.
- Programmes included a range of internal Council services providing in kind assistance (Sports Development and Parks Outreach) as well as working with local youth workers from within their existing budgets.
- Feedback has been gathered from a range of community and voluntary organisations operating around the parks/open spaces (including youth workers) on the programme.

3.8 Next Steps

- Feedback is being reviewed and the next stage of animation is being designed with local partners.
- The focus remains on low cost options and working with existing youth and community resources to sustain the animation for as long a period as possible. The approach being followed is outlined below:
 - Lead Council Officer to work with all existing Council services to align existing service delivery to the priority parks/open spaces.
 - Local engagement with Elected Members, residents, agencies and youth/community groups to agree a programme.
 - Identify and align other existing programmes and initiatives in the area to maximise positive animation within the park/open space.
 - Review with local partners.

Operational Co-ordination

3.9 Progress to Date

- Weekly ASB contact list distributed by BCC containing contact details of Police, BCC Officers, Youth Workers and Translink to share information during weekend operations.
- Weekly operational tasking meetings take place between Council, Police and other statutory agencies as needed to review operational priorities and plan for the week ahead.
- Targeted collaborative operations with Council, PSNI, Youth Workers and Translink resources to disrupt ASB. A mobile lighting tower has been used to illuminate problematic parks during operations to disrupt ASB.

3.10 Next Steps

- Operational tasking meetings to take place between Council, Police and other statutory agencies to plan for mid-term break and St. Patricks Day.
- DPCSP funded Youth Outreach project focusing on Transient Youth starting on 8th February 2019 and covering each Friday and Saturday evening up to and including St. Patricks Day. This project will focus on the Falls Park and City Cemetery and be delivered jointly by 4 different Youth Clubs. A similar project is due to get underway in South Belfast focusing on the Lagan Walkway.

Awareness Raising

3.11 Progress to Date

- Council Anti-Social Behaviour Officers have commenced a process of engaging with post-primary schools to raise awareness of the dangers associated with anti-social behaviour in parks and open spaces.
- Officers have also carried out awareness raising visits to off-sales in the vicinity of parks and open spaces, highlighting concerns raised around proxy buying and under-age drinking.
- PSNI continue to proactively use their social media channels to deter anti-social behaviour around parks and open spaces.

3.12 Next Steps

- Ongoing development of partnerships with post-primary schools across Belfast to take place, seeking co-operation around communication with parents and pupils around wider community impacts and risks of anti-social behaviour. This work will be carried out in conjunction with PSNI, Youth Workers and Translink where appropriate.
- Officers will also continue to carry out visits to off-sales throughout the city to remind retailers of their obligations and to offer support to those retailers.

3.13 Maximising Strategic Opportunities

Officers continue to work to ensure alignment and connectivity between other strategic programmes of work to maximise the potential to positively impact on the ongoing challenges in parks and open spaces:

- PEACE IV Shared Spaces Project and Wider PEACE IV Programme – Officers continue to ensure the capital/programming investment from PEACE IV Programme are aligned to ongoing work aimed at improving safety in parks and open spaces. Contracts for a range of PEACE IV work are in the process of being procured and awarded.
- Small Business Research Initiative (SBRI) – Council was recently successful in securing £100,000 of funding from the Department for Economy to facilitate innovation and technology around how to better encourage positive use and deter negative use of parks/open spaces.
- Fresh Start – Tackling Paramilitarism Action Plan – Officers continue to work with Executive Office Officials and individual lead departments/organisations in maximising the benefit of the following work streams within the action plan for communities in Belfast.

3.14 Financial and Resource Implications

Staff Resources

The above approach continues to support the values and principles of the City and Neighbourhood Services and wider Corporate Change Programme and is delivered within existing staff resource.

Financial Resources

All of the above work continues to be accommodated from within existing Council and (D)PCSP revenue budgets. The

**People and Communities Committee,
Tuesday, 12th February, 2019**

work is intended to maximise existing resources, reduce duplication and facilitate joined up decision making and resource allocation in the identified parks/open spaces.

**3.15 Equality or Good Relations Implications /
Rural Needs Assessments**

There are no equality or Good Relations implication at present, however, this will monitored on an ongoing basis.”

The Members discussed various Council parks and open spaces that were affected by incidents of anti-social behaviour and noted the transient nature of the problem.

A Member reiterated her concern regarding the proposed Small Business Research Initiative and the potential data protection implications regarding the collection of personal data pertaining to youths should the initiative be progressed.

The Committee noted the update provided.

Everybody Active 2020 Strand 1

The Committee considered the following report:

“1.0 Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues

1.1 To advise committee of extended support for delivery of the participation strand of Sport NI’s investment programme called Everybody Active 2020 Strand 1 (EBA2020) into Year 4.

2.0 Recommendations

2.1 The Committee is asked to:

- **Agree to the continuation of the delivery of Everybody Active 2020 Strand 1 programme to 31 March 2020 in partnership with our delivery partners, subject to funding being approved for release from Sport NI.**
- **To agree to some additional programming to be coordinated by BCC officers (Programme Manager and Coordinator) where there is identified any potential underspend in budget or underperformance against any of the KPIS by our delivery Partners.**

3.0 Main report

3.1 Sport NI programme

Sport NI commissioned Belfast City Council, along with other Council areas, to deliver the participation strand of Everybody 2020. The aim of the programme is to increase quality opportunities for targeted groups to develop and sustain participation in sport across key life-course transitions.

- 3.2 Belfast's programme has specific targets which identify women and girls, people with a disability and people living in areas of high social need as priority. Participation evidence highlights disparities and inequalities within those sectors. Committee authorised officers to develop and commission a blend of providers through a public process to deliver Belfast's Everybody Active 2020 targets. Officers have once again commissioned a diverse range of partners with consideration to developing programmes which prioritise participation for women/girls in the 14-25 age group, during which drop off levels are greatest.

3.3 Participation Targets 2019-2020

AREA	Total participants	women/girls	People with a disability	high social need	Sustained participants
Belfast	22,512	13,282	4,052	7,878	7,204

- 3.4 Programme delivery will be linked to other investments including workforce development, outdoor recreation infrastructure, small grants and Peace IV to improve the outcomes from EBA2020.

- 3.5 Sport NI has recently indicated a budget of £468,074 for delivery of EBA2020 in Belfast for Year 4 (2019/20). Sport NI have indicated that a letter of offer will be received by Belfast City Council by early March 2019.

Partner Organisation	Main Target Group
Ulster Rugby-Disability Participation	Disability
Ulster Rugby-Female Participation	Women and Girls - Areas of High Social Need
Colin Glen Trust	Areas of High Social Need - Disability
Irish Football Association	Women and Girls - Areas of High Social Need
Ulster Branch Tennis Ireland	Women and Girls - Disability Inclusion
Ulster Squash	Women and Girls

**People and Communities Committee,
Tuesday, 12th February, 2019**

Athletics Northern Ireland	Women and Girls - Areas of High Social Need - Disability Inclusion
Live Active/Disability Sport Northern Ireland (North and West)	Disability - Areas of High Social Need
Live Active/Disability Sport Northern Ireland (South and East)	Disability - Areas of High Social Need
Irish Athletic Boxing Association	Women and Girls - Areas of High Social Need
Netball Northern Ireland	Women and Girls - Areas of High Social Need
Basketball Northern Ireland	Women and Girls - Areas of High Social Need
Irish Bowls Federation	Women and Girls – Areas of High Social Need
Ulster Badminton	Women and Girls - Areas of High Social Need
Disability Sport NI- Girdwood Sports Hub	Disability - Areas of High Social Need

3.6 Current position

EBA2020 Strand 1 provides Council with a resource to support the physical activity and health outcomes throughout the City and within the Belfast Agenda framework.

3.7 Financial and Resource Implications

Sport NI has recently given an indicative budget of £468,074 for delivery of EBA2020 Strand 1 in Belfast for Year 4 (2019/2020).

**3.8 Equality or Good Relations Implications/
Rural Needs Assessment**

The programme is an opportunity for the Council to deliver against its equality and good relations objectives. These would be integrated into the performance frameworks for providers.”

The Committee adopted the recommendations.

Finance, Procurement and Performance

Cavehill Adventurous Playground Pricing

The Committee agreed that the matter be deferred to enable officers to submit an options paper to a future meeting which would include consideration of reducing the entrance fee charge to the Adventurous Playground.

**Request for the use of Council Facilities and
Additional Funding to Support Events**

**People and Communities Committee,
Tuesday, 12th February, 2019**

(Mr. R. Cregan, Director of Finance and Resources, attended in connection with this item).

The Director of Neighbourhood Services advised that requests had been received from the New Lodge Arts seeking support for its annual Spring Festivals event and also from the Families at the Waterworks Fishing Club to support the fourth year of the Celtic World Spey Casting Invitational Challenge Event at the Waterworks Park.

The Director advised that the Spring Festival, which had been successfully held for the last five years, was a cross community event with activities held throughout the park. New Lodge Arts had obtained funding for the event but it was seeking up to £3,000 financial support from the Council to assist with the overall cost of the event.

The World Spey Casting event would bring world class fishermen from all over the globe to Belfast, with over fifty competitors and 250 spectators estimated daily. The group had requested a funding contribution of £12,500.

The Committee noted that both events would greatly enhance cross community relations and promote the City as a shared space.

Following a query as to whether some level of funding could be allocated to support the two events, the Strategic Director of Neighbourhood Services referred to the decision of the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee, at its meeting held on 23rd November 2018, where it had been agreed that no discretionary payments would be considered and no further re-allocation of money permitted until the year-end position had been considered by that Committee in June. Therefore, he advised that the request for financial support for both events fell outside the available funding within the existing revenue budgets.

Detailed discussion ensued, following which the Director of Finance provided the Committee with a detailed overview of the Council's current financial position and reiterated that there could be no further discretionary payments or re-allocation of money until the year-end position had been considered in June.

Following discussion, it was suggested that officers from the Council would, if possible, provide assistance to the organisations in identifying other funding streams.

The Committee:

- granted authority for the free use of Alexandra Park on 30th March to hold a Spring Festival, subject to completion of the appropriate Event Management Plans and on condition that the Event Organisers meet all statutory requirements, including Public Liability Insurance and provide the relevant Health and Safety documentation and Risk Assessments;
- granted authority for the free use of the Waterworks Park from 17th – 19th May to hold the World Celtic Spey Casting Event, subject to completion of the appropriate Event Management Plans and on condition that the Event Organisers meet all statutory requirements,

**People and Communities Committee,
Tuesday, 12th February, 2019**

including Public Liability Insurance and provided relevant Health and Safety documentation and Risk Assessments; and

- agreed that, as the request for financial support for both events fell outside of available funding within the existing revenue budgets, and as per the decision of the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee decision of 23rd November 2018, there would be no further discretionary payments considered at this time or no further re-allocation of money until the year end position had been considered in June.

Operational Issues

Dual Language

The Committee approved the applications to erect second nameplates in Irish at Madrid Street, Springhill Rise, Glen Grove and Ardmonagh Gardens.

Request use of Barnetts Demesne - 12th July, 2019

The Director of Neighbourhood Services reported that the County Grand Orange Lodge of Belfast had written to the Council regarding the use of the Barnett's Demesne for its Belfast demonstrations on 12th July.

The Committee acceded to the request from the County Grand Lodge for the use of Barnett Demesne on the 12th July, subject to an appropriate legal agreement being prepared by Legal Services and also granted permission for use of the Cenotaph at City Hall for the Service of Remembrance and wreath laying.

Provision of Salt for Communities During Extreme Weather Conditions

The Committee considered the undernoted report:

“1.0 Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues

1.1 To identify proposals for a way forward on the supply and accessibility of salt for local communities during prolonged extreme weather conditions.

2.0 Recommendations

2.1 The Committee is asked to

- **Note the issues set out in this report and agree the interim arrangements and proposal for a more sustainable solution.**

3.0 Main report

**People and Communities Committee,
Tuesday, 12th February, 2019**

- 3.1 Further to a report to Committee in March 2018 regarding the provision of grit for communities during prolonged severe weather conditions Members requested a legal opinion on the Council's position on supplying grit boxes for community use.**
- 3.2 The report from Legal Services in December 2018 states that the statutory duty to treat roads and public places in snow and ice conditions falls to the Department for Infrastructure (DfI). The legislation provides DfI with an immunity if it fails to take action under the relevant statutory order. However, as there is no statutory requirement for the Council to treat roads or to provide grit boxes for public use, the Council would not have similar immunity.**
- 3.3 The provision of grit boxes had been suggested as a means of improving resilience in local areas during prolonged extreme weather conditions, but as this is not a viable option. Officers are continuing to liaise with DfI to consider alternative solutions.**
- 3.4 Consideration was given to storing bags of salt in some of the sandbag containers located throughout the City. However, these containers, supplied by DfI, are primarily for flood risk and resilience; they are made of steel and any leakage of salt would cause serious, corrosive damage rendering the containers useless for sandbag storage. There would also be an issue of managing the logistics of two different products out of the one container.**
- 3.5 The current proposal under consideration is to store the salt in council owned premises giving priority to high risk locations, i.e. elevated areas more prone to snow and ice. Given the legal opinion we are not considering public access, these resources would be for Members to direct for use in the community. There are a number of options to be considered, for example, suitable locations, space, cost, weight of the bags, access arrangements, etc. However, Members are asked to agree the direction of travel and the interim arrangements set out below.**
- 3.6 It is proposed that in the meantime during prolonged severe, high impact cold weather, existing stocks of salt (25kg bags) are made available for Members' use in the community, at appropriate council community/leisure centres or other council Sites. Higher elevation residential areas would be prioritised where icy conditions are more prevalent and there's more impact. Additional lower lying areas can also receive stocks of salt as appropriate depending on severity and impact.**
- 3.7 Suggested higher elevation areas and centres for salt bags could include:**

People and Communities Committee,
Tuesday, 12th February, 2019

- Whitewell – Salt bags delivered to Finlay Park, Whitewell Road (*storage container required*)
- Ballysillan - Salt bags delivered to Ballysillan Leisure Centre
- Ligoniel - Salt bags delivered to Ligoniel Community Centre
- Glencairn/Highfield - Salt bags delivered to Highfield Community Centre
- Whiterock - Salt bags delivered to Whiterock Community Centre
- Lenadoon - Salt bags delivered to Glen Community Centre
- Lagmore/Mount Eagles - Salt bags delivered to store at Mount Eagles Playground

3.8 Suggested salt bag centres for lower elevation areas could include:

East Belfast

- Short Strand Community Centre (*not a Council Centre but would likely be needed – perhaps an agreement around liability could be provided*)
- Avoniel Leisure Centre (*closing Sep/Oct 2019*)
- Dee Street Community Centre
- Cregagh Community Centre
- Braniel Community Centre

South Belfast

- Olympia Leisure Centre
- Malone House
- Markets Community Centre
- Belvoir Activity Centre

North Belfast

- Ardoyne Community Centre
- Loughside Leisure Centre
- plus continued deliveries to Finlay Park, Ballysillan, Ligoniel, Highfield (as above)

West Belfast

- Suffolk Community Centre
- Sally Gardens Community Centre (*owned by the Council but independently managed*)
- Brook Activity Centre
- Hammer Community Centre
- plus continued deliveries to Whiterock, Glen, Lagmore/Mount Eagles (as above)

3.9 These are only suggested locations and other options will be considered. If Members agree, salt could be delivered to these locations in advance of further severe weather.

3.10 Financial and Resource Implications

We currently have sufficient stocks of 25Kg bags to cover this winter but should we move to a more permanent solution we would consider purchasing 20Kg bags, which are much easier and safer to handle. For twenty-two sites the cost of this would work out at approximately £3,300 per delivery. DfI cannot provide bagged salt but we are exploring the possibility of getting some of the costs covered through the Regional Community Resilience work.

The cost of deliveries of salt to the various locations could be absorbed within existing budgets.

3.11 Equality or Good Relations Implications/
Rural Needs Assessment

None.”

The Committee agreed to the interim arrangements and proposals for a more sustainable solution and agreed to give consideration to making salt available in the following suggested Council facilities and areas:

- Drumglass Park;
- Gilnahirk Bowling Club;
- Belmont Place;
- Inverary Community Centre; and
- the Knocknagoney area.

The Committee also agreed that any further suggestions be forwarded to the City Services Manager.

Partner Agreements Quarterly Update

The Director of Neighbourhood Services reminded the Committee that the Council had previously agreed to enter into Partner Agreements at seven sites and she then provided an update on the progress in relation to the Agreements for October – December 2018.

She explained that, in line with the Council’s objectives, all Partners had been compliant on reporting matters with the exception of two reports. Both Partners had confirmed that the reports would be forwarded, but as a result, the quarter four payments had been held from these two Partners until the respective reports had been received.

**People and Communities Committee,
Tuesday, 12th February, 2019**

She explained that, in line with the Council's objectives, the diversification of use and improved sports development impact were priorities at the partner agreement sites and she advised that so far the programme delivery had led to significant positive achievements across the sites. She then drew the Members' attention to a table which indicated the outputs at the sites as reported by all seven partners up to the end of December 2018.

The Committee noted the quarterly progress update report regarding the Partner Agreement sites.

**Request to Plant a Tree as Part of the
Queen's Commonwealth Tree Canopy Project**

The Committee agreed to defer consideration of the matter enable a report to be submitted to a future meeting which would detail the policy for such requests.

**Request for events in Botanic Gardens,
Lower Botanic Gardens and Victoria Park**

The Committee considered the following combined report which detailed requests to hold events in a number of Council parks and open spaces:

"1.0 Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues

1.1 The purpose of this report is to seek approval from Members to host events in our parks across the city, namely:

I. Request for The Use of Lower Botanic Gardens for "Circus Extreme" event.

The Committee is asked to approve a request from The Great Russian Circus Ltd. for the use of Lower Botanic Gardens from 19th August 2019 to 2nd September 2019 for a series of Circus Extreme performances.

The performances will take place each day between 22nd August and 1st September 2019, 2-10pm.

Circus Extreme is an international non-animal circus which features modern, traditional and speciality acts from all over the world.

The show is suitable for people of all ages and backgrounds.

- **The event will require the closure of part of the facility and will have alcohol on sale during the events**
- **The organisers will sell tickets on site for the event**
- **Alcohol will be on sale subject to appropriate licensing application**
- **The organisers expect crowds of up to 1,200 per performance.**

1.2 II. Request use of Botanic Gardens for the Belfast Mela

The Committee is asked to approve a request from ArtsEkta to deliver an outdoor event, Belfast Mela, a multicultural festival for approximately 20,000 people, in Botanic Gardens.

The event will take place on 25 August, 2019, from 12 noon – 7.00pm and will require the closure of all or a substantial proportion of the facility.

1.3 III. Belfast International Arts Festival in Botanic Gardens

Belfast International Arts Festival, has requested the use of Botanic Gardens for the delivery of an event as part of the Belfast International Arts Festival on Saturday 19th October and Sunday 20th October 2019. The event will require the closure of a proportion of the facility.

1.4 IV. 1 Day Music Festival in Lower Botanic Gardens

The purpose of the report is to obtain permission from Members for a 1 day music festival in lower Botanic Gardens on 27th July 2019.

1.5 V. Request for The Use of Victoria Park

The Committee is asked to note that the Council has received a request from Left Field to host their annual 'Energia 24 Hour International Race' at Victoria Park from Friday 21st to Sunday 23rd June 2019. Race to start on Saturday 22nd June at noon.

- The event will result in the partial closure of Victoria Park.

2.0 Recommendations

2.1 I. Request for The Use of Lower Botanic Gardens for "Circus Extreme" event.

The Committee is asked to:

- A. Grant authority to Great Russian circus Ltd for the use and hire of the facilities at Lower Botanic Gardens for a series of circus performances between 22 August 2019 and 1 September 2019 with set up and take down before and afterwards.
- B. Grant authority to the Strategic Director of City and Neighbourhood Services subject to satisfactory terms being agreed and on condition that:

**People and Communities Committee,
Tuesday, 12th February, 2019**

- The promoter resolves all operational issues to the councils' satisfaction;
- An appropriate legal agreement is completed, to be prepared by the City Solicitor; and
- The promoter meets all statutory requirements of the Building Control Service including the terms and conditions of the Parks Entertainments Licence.
- Grant authority to the Strategic Director of City and Neighbourhood Services to
- negotiate an appropriate fee for use of Lower Botanic Gardens taking into account costs to the Council, minimising negative impact on the immediate area but also the potential wider benefit to the city economy.
- to write to the promoters and advise that Council reserves the right to introduce a 'social clause' into any future legal agreements at any time (subject to Council approval of such a policy).
- Agree that Event Organisers shall consult with public bodies and local communities as necessary.

2.2 II. Request use of Botanic Gardens for the Belfast Mela

The Committee is asked to:

- A. Approve this proposal from ArtsEkta to deliver an outdoor event, Called Belfast Mela, in Botanic Gardens.
- B. The event will take place on 25 August, 2019, from 12noon – 7.00pm and will require the closure of all or a substantial proportion of the facility.
- C. Agree that the appropriate legal agreements for each programme, including bond arrangements are prepared to the satisfaction of the City Solicitor;
- D. Agree that Event Organisers are required to meet all statutory requirements and responsibilities including Public Liability Insurance cover, Health and Safety, Food Safety and licensing (including for the sale of alcohol, where required);
- E. Agree the timely payment of the agreed charges and bonds as required in the legal agreements; and
- F. Agree that Event Organisers shall consult with public bodies and local communities as necessary.

2.3 III. Belfast International Arts Festival in Botanic Gardens

The Committee is asked to:

- A. Approve the use of Botanic Gardens including the closure of facilities as required for the set-up, delivery and take-down of the events, resolving all operational issues to the Council's satisfaction and subject to an agreed programme;

**People and Communities Committee,
Tuesday, 12th February, 2019**

- B. Agree that legal services prepares appropriate legal agreements for the event;**
- C. Agree that Event Organisers are required to meet all statutory requirements including Public Liability Insurance cover, Health and Safety, Food Safety and licensing responsibilities; and**
- D. Agree that Event Organisers shall consult with public bodies and local communities as necessary.**

2.4 IV. 1 Day Music Festival in Lower Botanic Gardens

The Committee is asked to:

- A. Grant authority to Digital Nation for the use and hire of the facilities at Lower Botanic Gardens for a 1 day musical event on 27th July 2019 with set up and take down before and afterwards.**
- B. Grant authority to the Strategic Director of City and Neighbourhood Services subject to satisfactory terms being agreed and on condition that:**
 - **The promoter resolves all operational issues to the councils' satisfaction;**
 - **An appropriate legal agreement is completed, to be prepared by the City Solicitor; and**
 - **The use of the site on this date will be subject to licence and a report will be taken to Licensing committee for them to consider.**
 - **The promoter meets all statutory requirements of the Building Control Service including the terms and conditions of the Parks Entertainments Licence.**
 - **Grant authority to the Strategic Director of City and Neighbourhood Services to**
 - **Negotiate an appropriate fee for use of Lower Botanic Gardens taking into account costs to the Council, minimising negative impact on the immediate area but also the potential wider benefit to the city economy.**
 - **To write to the promoters and advise that Council reserves the right to introduce a 'social clause' into any future legal agreements at any time (subject to Council approval of such a policy).**

2.5 V. Request for the Use of Victoria Park

The Committee is asked to approve use of Victoria Park and its facilities for the Left Field's annual 'Energia 24 Hour International Race' at Victoria Park from Friday 21 June to Sunday 23 June 2019, and all subsequent annual 'Energia 24 Hour International Race' events at this location, subject to the completion of the appropriate Event Management Plans and

satisfactory terms being agreed by the Strategic Director of City and Neighbourhood Services and on the condition that the Event Organiser:

- resolves all operational issues to the Council's satisfaction;
- meets all statutory requirements including Public Liability Insurance cover, Health and Safety, and licensing responsibilities; and
- shall consult with adjoining public bodies and local communities as necessary.

3.0 Main report

Key Issues

3.1 I. Request for The Use of Lower Botanic Gardens for "Circus Extreme" event.

Circus Extreme is an International non-animal circus which features modern, traditional and speciality acts from all over the world. The show is suitable for people of all ages and backgrounds.

Circus Extreme is an international non-animal circus which features modern, traditional and speciality acts from all over the world.

The show is suitable for people of all ages and backgrounds.

In relation to facilitating the event itself, the key issues are:

- a. The event will require the closure of part of the facility, and restricted access to the general public;
- b. The proposed timescale from set up to take down of the event is from 15th August to 8th September 2019 in Lower Botanic Gardens, however the performances are from 22nd August to 1st September starting at 2pm and finishing at 10pm with 2 performances per day; The organisers expect crowds of up to 1,200 per performance.
- c. Circus Extreme has requested permission to collect an entrance fee;
- d. The event shall be subject to the preparation of an event management plan which shall cover all aspects of management including health and safety, access and will comply with the current events policy;
- e. A legal agreement will be provided by Legal Services which due to the nature of the events will include a bond for reinstatement costs.
- f. Alcohol will be on sale subject to appropriate licensing application.

3.2 II. Request use of Botanic Gardens for the Belfast Mela

Over the past number of years, the Council has established a successful partnership with the organisers of Belfast Mela. This type of event is well-received by audiences and significantly add to the attractiveness of the Council's parks and open spaces. The partnership has delivered a diverse range of events which have had wide appeal for local communities, as well as attracting significant numbers of tourists and visitors to Council assets.

This year the Council has received a request from the Director of ArtsEkta to use Botanic Gardens for the Belfast Mela on 25th August 2019.

As a condition to funding, it is recommended that ArtsEkta is requested to facilitate community engagement and taster events in other local neighbourhoods, to build the audience from across the city. Specific locations could be identified in conjunction with the Community Parks Outreach team, ensuring a spread across the city.

In relation to facilitating the event itself, the key issues are:

- a. The event will require the closure of all or a substantial proportion of the facility, and restricted access to the general public;
- b. The proposed timescale from set up to take down of the event is from 20th August to 27th August 2019 inclusive in Botanic Gardens;
- c. ArtsEkta has requested permission to collect an entrance fee in the region of £5 per adult / child and access will be restricted to ticket holders only;
- d. The event shall be subject to the preparation of an event management plan which shall cover all aspects of management including health and safety, access and will comply with the current events policy;
- e. A legal agreement will be provided by Legal Services which due to the nature of the events will include a bond for reinstatement costs.

Consultation by ArtsEkta will be undertaken with other local stakeholders such as Queens University, Lyric Theatre, local residents groups and the Friends of Botanic Gardens, in addition:

- a. An entertainment licence for the period of the event;
- b. This application will be supported by an Event Management Plan and will be subject to the organisers liaising with

Council officers and meeting all statutory, legal and Health and safety requirements;

- c. Organisers will also be required to reinstate all Council property to its original condition after use. Organisers will be reminded that the current ground conditions and location of this event may have to change due to adverse weather conditions.
- d. A legal agreement will be provided by Legal Services which, due to the nature of the events, will include a bond for reinstatement costs.

3.3 III. Belfast International Arts Festival in Botanic Gardens

Following discussions with officers a 2 day event has been proposed for 19 and 20 October 2019 with Belfast International Arts Festival.

To mark the UK's planned departure from the European Union at the end of March 2019, Festival will present a series of new contemporary works for its 57th edition in October 2019, that illustrate our shared European heritage and values. The centrepiece of this programme will be a series of stage and outdoor works from France, part funded by the Institute Francais as part of a UK wide programme curated with a small select group of partners including Sadlers Wells, London; The Hippodrome, Birmingham; The Lowry, Manchester; Edinburgh International Festival and the Belfast International Arts Festival.

Belfast has been chosen for the UK and Ireland premiere of *La Spire* from Chloé Moglia / Rhizome. A 45 minute aerial ballet by six women on spirals of fine steel wire, forming three loops of seven meters in diameter and over eighteen meters in length. Conceived as a drawing traced in space, *La Spire* contrasts the urban environment in which it sits with a sense of surrounding emptiness. The six performers perform astonishing acrobatics, high up in the air, above a mesmerized audience. A memorable acrobatic performance for all the family.

Subject to location and schedule, the artists behind *La Spire*, are also willing to give free and complimentary workshops to the public around acrobatics, suspension and movement as part of the Festival's accompanying and customary outreach and education programme.

Schedule and Locations

Performances are proposed for Saturday 19th and Sunday 20th October 2019 in Botanic Gardens. Given that the artists are performing off the ground and at height, health and safety will be of paramount importance and will largely dictate the location

of the work, which the artists will have final say on. An initial assessment suggests that the most suitable surface and location is Botanic Gardens, which last saw a project of this nature by Festival with BCC support 5 years ago in 2014.

Performances would take place either in the afternoon or subject to external lighting, at twilight and be free of charge to all audiences.

3.4 IV. 1 Day Music Festival in Lower Botanic Gardens

Tomorrowland is a globally recognised and respected brand, known for putting on unique, high quality events. As part of their 15 year anniversary celebrations, Tomorrowland have expressed particular interest in hosting one of their satellite 'UNITE' parties, which bring together countries from all over the world for one Saturday evening at the end of July.

The event will host international DJ's and performers, and the event is also 'live streamed' in both directions, from Belfast, out to the main show in Belgium, along with multiple other countries worldwide, and the show's from Belgium and the other countries also are 'streamed in' for the audience in Belfast. All global shows are fully synchronised with one another. An event like this in terms of this scale and nature has not been done on the island before.

Tomorrowland propose to start the event in the afternoon of 27 July until 11pm or possibly midnight, to tie in with the live stream from the show in Belgium. The venue they have requested to use for the event is Botanic Gardens – lower section nearby the Queens PEC. The space is very much in fitting with the core Tomorrowland brand values in relation to being 'in nature'. The event would be held on Saturday 27th July and they would require two weeks prior and after for build and take down. The event will have a licensed bar, food stalls, drinks and pyrotechnics.

They anticipate an audience of 12,000- 15,000.

3.5 V. Request The Use of Victoria Park

The organisers are a not-for-profit group who by organising this event will showcase Belfast to an international audience and provide a platform for emerging local talent. This will be the 10th anniversary of the Energia 24 Hour International Race, and the fifth year in a row that it will be staged in Victoria Park. Given this is an established annual event with a successful track record, Committee are asked to agree the request for 2019 and all subsequent annual 'Energia 24 Hour International Race'

events at this location. Any request will be subject to the completion of the necessary documentation and their meeting compliance requirements as detailed in paragraph 2.1 above.

The event includes use of the park and free use of the Bowling Pavilion for administration and access to toilets.

Each entrant will be required to pay a registration fee of £80 and the proceeds will be used to cover the cost of managing and facilitating the race. Entrants can raise sponsorship for their nominated charity.

The organisers intend to bring food vendors and marquees to the event and they estimate that 400 people will be in attendance. The Organisers will provide additional toilets, first aid cover and stewards for the event. Set up will commence at 8am on Friday 21 June, with the main event taking place on Saturday 22nd June, 12 noon to Sunday 23rd June, 12 noon. The event will be dismantled and the site will be cleared on Monday 24th June.

The event will result in the partial closure of Victoria Park.

Due to the scale of the event there will be some minor disruption to existing activities. The event organisers would require Belfast City Council to assist with the following:-

- Close the car park for the setup of Race HQ, marquees etc. in advance of and during the event;
- Request that the bowlers arrange no 'home matches' that weekend;
- Close the tunnel to the park to prevent access for vehicles, bicycles, pedestrians onto the race circuit and impede the event;
- Provide alternative 'through' access across the Park to Sam Thompson Bridge (if required)
- The parkrun have been informed of the event and the parkrun will go ahead at 9.30am with the race starting at 1pm on the Saturday afternoon;
- Ensure no other event bookings take place in the park during that weekend.

3.6 Financial and Resource Implications

There are significant benefits for the City of Belfast in terms of income generated from events such as these in terms of income from shops, hotels, restaurants, coffee shops, taxi companies, tourist venues, public transport, air, bus and rail companies.

I. Request for The Use of Lower Botanic Gardens for “Circus Extreme” event

An appropriate fee will be negotiated for use of Lower Botanic Gardens taking into account costs to the Council, minimising negative impact on the immediate area but also the potential wider benefit to the city economy.

II. Request use of Botanic Gardens for the Belfast Mela

Funding for this event has been budgeted in 2019/20 estimates at £20k.

III. Belfast International Arts Festival in Botanic Gardens

Funding for the programme has been budgeted for in the 2019/20 estimates at £20k. Staff may be required to work additional hours to cover the events outside normal hours and this will be charged to the hirer, in line with the process adopted in previous years.

IV. 1 Day Music Festival in Lower Botanic Gardens

An appropriate fee will be negotiated for use of Lower Botanic Gardens taking into account costs to the Council, minimising negative impact on the immediate area but also the potential wider benefit to the city economy.

V. Request The Use of Victoria Park

There is no financial or resource implications.

3.7 Asset and Other Implications

Council officers will liaise with organisers in relation to the potential environmental impact of these events, and ensure that the legal agreements appropriately reflect the level of risk to Council.

**3.8 Equality or Good Relations Implications/
Rural Needs Assessment**

It is anticipated that these events will deliver a positive impact for equality and good relations.”

The Committee adopted the recommendations.

Chairperson