



Subject:	Request for the use of Alexandra Park for the North Belfast Lantern Parade.
Date:	Tuesday 10 September 2024
Reporting Officer:	David Sales, Strategic Director of City and Neighbourhood Services.
Contact Officer:	Stephen Leonard, Director of Neighbourhood Services.

Restricted Reports	
Is this report restricted?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Please indicate the description, as listed in Schedule 6, of the exempt information by virtue of which the council has deemed this report restricted.	
Insert number <input type="checkbox"/>	
<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Information relating to any individual.2. Information likely to reveal the identity of an individual.3. Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the council holding that information)4. Information in connection with any labour relations matter5. Information in relation to which a claim to legal professional privilege could be maintained.6. Information showing that the council proposes to (a) to give a notice imposing restrictions on a person; or (b) to make an order or direction.7. Information on any action in relation to the prevention, investigation or prosecution of crime	
If Yes, when will the report become unrestricted?	
After Committee Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>
After Council Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sometime in the future	<input type="checkbox"/>
Never	<input type="checkbox"/>

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

1.0	Purpose of Report/Summary of Main Issues
1.1	The Committee is asked to note that Council has received a request from New Lodge Arts to host the North Belfast Lantern Parade in Alexandra Park. This is the 14 year of this event taking place at a Belfast Park. The event is scheduled to take place on Tuesday 29 th Oct and Wednesday 30 th Oct 2024.
2.0	Recommendation
2.1	<p>The Committee is asked to grant authority to the applicant for the proposed event on the dates noted; subject to the completion of the appropriate event management plans and satisfactory terms being agreed by the Director of City & Neighbourhood Services and on the condition that the Event Organisers:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> I. resolves all operational issues to the Council's satisfaction. II. meets all statutory requirements including Public Liability Insurance cover, Health and Safety, and licensing responsibilities; and III. shall consult with adjoining public bodies and local communities as necessary. <p>Please note that the above recommendations are taken as a pre-policy position in advance of the Council agreeing a more structured framework and policy for 'Events', which is currently being taken forward in conjunction with the Councils Commercial team.</p>
3.0	Main Report
3.1	<p><u>Key Issues</u></p> <p>If agreed, the event organiser or promoters will be required in advance of the event to submit an event management plan for approval by the Council and all relevant statutory bodies. This will include an assessment of how the event will impact upon the surrounding area and measures to mitigate these impacts.</p> <p>This event has been held in Alexandra Park for the past seven years and previously for seven years in the Waterworks. The event is being organised to link the Waterworks and Alexandra Park, which is consistent with the Peace Plus proposed schemes for both parks. New Lodge Arts is one of the key stakeholders in both parks.</p> <p>This event is aimed at families and will consist of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A Lantern Parade that makes its way from Girdwood Community Hub in Cliftonpark Avenue to Alexandra Park • Art Workshops and street performers • Outdoor cinema • Magical evening event that will include outdoor performances. • Stage entertainment • Fireworks display that closes event. <p>The event is a project of the Ashton Community Trust and is managed by New Lodge Arts, a voluntary arts organisation working across communities in North Belfast for over 20 years.</p>

3.6	The event will be a ticketed event with tickets costing £2 as in previous years and is necessary to maintain the quality of the event and to incorporate all of the park. The ticketed system was used in previous years and has been a great success in managing numbers within the park. This is not for profit and all proceeds go towards the cost of the event.
3.7	An advisory group has been established to provide advice and guidance on the community outreach and event elements of the programme. The advisory group consists of representatives from a number of community organisations in North Belfast including groups from Tigers Bay, Mount Vernon, Skegoneill/Glandore, Lower Shankill, Cliftonville, Lower Oldpark, Oldpark/Bone, Whitecity, Greencastle and New Lodge and BCC Community Outreach department.
3.8	This year the event will take place on Tuesday 29 th Oct from 11.30 to 8.00pm and on Tuesday 30 th Oct, from 12pm to 9.00pm. The site build for the event will begin on the 29 th of October and deconstruction will be completed on the 31 st of October 2024.
3.9	<p>The event organisers have confirmed that they will undertake to do the following in order to ensure the event is both a success and safe:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Employ a security firm to safeguard participants and equipment. • Employ reputable contractors to ensure a safe and professional event. • Put a ticketing system in place. • Ensure that a one-way system for the park is in place during the event. • Ensure local residents are informed about the event 7 days prior and to ensure that there is no inconvenience or nuisance caused to the residents on the day of the event. • Work with the relevant council departments to ensure effective management of the park and the event.
3.10	<p>In order to build the site safely and in a timely fashion, organisers have requested that the park is closed to members of the public from 4pm to 6pm on the 30th of October and that only members of the public with tickets, can access the park from 6pm until the event is over.</p> <p><u>Financial and Resource Implications</u></p>
3.11	<p>There is no financial or resource implications with this event</p> <p><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u></p>
3.12	<p>The overall aim of the event and the associated project elements are to build and sustain good relations and trust within all the communities in North Belfast</p>
4.0	Appendices
	None