



Subject:	Request for the use of Parks for 2026 Events
Date:	11 August 2026
Reporting Officer:	David Sales, Strategic Director of City and Neighbourhood Services.
Contact Officer:	Stephen Leonard, Director Resources, Fleet, Open Space & Streetscene

Restricted Reports	
Is this report restricted?	Yes ☐ No ☒
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 ☐	
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 matter 5. 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	☐
After Council Decision	☐
Sometime in the future	☐
Never	☐



Call-in	
Is the decision eligible for Call-in?	Yes ☒ No

1.0	Purpose of Report/Summary of Main Issues
1.1	The Committee is asked to note that Council has received a number of requests to hold events across Belfast Parks. • North Belfast Lantern Parade – Alexandra Park • Tiny Lights Walk - Sir Thomas & Lady Dixon Park • Twilight Walk – Barnetts Demesne
2.0	Recommendation
2.1	The Committee is asked to grant authority to each of the applicants for the proposed events on the dates noted and to delegate authority to the Director of Neighbourhood Services to ensure the following:
2.2	Where appropriate negotiate a fee which recognises the costs to Council, minimises negative impact on the immediate area and takes account of the potential wider benefit to the city economy, in conjunction with the Councils Commercial Manager.
2.3	Negotiate satisfactory terms and conditions of use via an appropriate legal agreement prepared by the City Solicitor, including managing final booking confirmation dates and flexibility around 'set up' & take down' periods, and booking amendments, ensuring the organisers: I. resolve 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.
2.4	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.
3.0	Main Report

3.1	<u>Key Issues</u> If agreed, the event organiser 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.
3.2	<u>North Belfast Lantern Festival – Alexandra Park – Friday 30 October 2026</u>
3.3	Belfast City Council has received a request from New Lodge Arts to host their Annual Lantern Parade. The event is designed to promote good relations in the shared space of Alexandra Park with a fee of £2 per person being charged for those wishing to attend.
3.4	The event will include art and crafts workshops, interactive music, dance and theatre show, inflatables, walk about acts and an interactive bubble show. The event will then finish with a live Firework display taking place in the park. New Lodge Arts will be responsible for providing all necessary documentation for the firework display to go ahead.
3.5	The event organiser has been advised that, should Alexandra Park be closed to facilitate the planned refurbishment works, the venue will not be available for the proposed event. In those circumstances, the organiser would be required either to cancel the event or relocate it to an alternative suitable park.
3.6	The Key Dates are as follows.
3.7	Set up – Thursday 29 October 2026 – 8am onwards Events – Friday 30 October 2026 – 12pm to 3pm & 5pm to 8.30pm De Rig – Saturday 31 October 2026 – 3pm
3.8	<u>TinyLights for Baby Loss Awareness Week - Sir Thomas & Lady Park</u>
3.9	Belfast City Council has received a request from Tiny Life to host their annual Tiny Lights walk at Sir Thomas and Lady Dixon Park to light up little lives lost during Baby Loss Awareness Week and is designed to provide a safe and supportive opportunity for families who have experienced the loss of a baby to come together, reflect, and remember their babies alongside others with similar experiences.

3.10	The event is expected to attract approximately 30 participants who will walk a designated route through the park carrying battery operated lights in memory of babies who have been lost. The walk aims to provide comfort and support bereaved families during baby loss awareness week. Attendance at the event will be managed through a ticket registration process. A registration fee of £10 will be charged to participants, with all proceeds being retained by Tiny Life to support its charitable activities.
3.11	The Key dates for the request are: Main Event – 6.30pm pm to 9.00pm on Thursday 15 October 2026
3.12	<u>Twilight Walk – Barnetts Demesne – Saturday 26 September 2026</u>
3.13	Belfast City Council has received a request from 26 extreme to host their annual Twilight Walk at Barnetts Demesne on Saturday 26 th September 2026. The walk will be a circular route, starting and ending at the Belfast Activity Centre. After the walk ends, there will be music with food available to buy for the participants, the radio station U105 will be in attendance and a gazebo, all within the grounds of the Belfast Activity Centre. At the end of the evening there will be a speech by a Marie Curie nurse, and a firework display the fire work display will go over the grounds of Barnetts Demesne with the event coming to a close at 10pm.
3.14	The event organisers are anticipating around 1000-1500 walkers for this event, passing down past Malone House to the Lagan towpath, then back towards Mary Peters' Track, up around Queens' University's playing fields and back to the Belfast Activity Centre.
3.15	There is no formal charity collection on site, but Marie Curie will put out collection buckets should participants want to donate on the night. There is also a fee of £20 per person for participants in the walk. Marie Curie will pre-register participants for the walk, and registration will also be available on the night. This event has happened in previous years with no issues occurring due to this.
3.16	The Key Dates are as follows. Set up– Saturday 26 September– 8am Event– Friday 27 September – 5pm to 10.00pm De-Rig– Friday 27 September – 11pm

3.17	<u>Financial and Resources Implications</u> There are no known implications.
3.18	<u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u> There are no known implications.
4.0	Appendices
	None