

Public Document Pack

**Democratic Services Section
Legal and Civic Services Department
Belfast City Council
City Hall
Belfast
BT1 5GS**

21st July, 2026

SPECIAL MEETING OF LICENSING COMMITTEE

Dear Alderman/Councillor,

In addition to those matters previously notified to you, the following item(s) will also be considered at the meeting to be held at 5.15 pm on Wednesday, 22nd July, 2026.

Yours faithfully,

JOHN WALSH

Chief Executive

AGENDA:

- 2 (f) **Application for the Grant of a 14 day Occasional Outdoor Entertainments Licence for land bounded by 1-7 Fountain Street and 22-40 Castle Street (Pages 1 - 8)**
- (g) **Application for the Grant of a 14-Day Occasional Outdoor Entertainments Licence, to consider a request to provide outdoor entertainment beyond 11.00pm and a request to provide indoor musical entertainment beyond 11.00pm at the former Norwich Union House site, 24-40 Castle Street (Pages 9 - 16)**

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Subject:	Application for the Grant of a 14 day Occasional Outdoor Entertainments Licence for land bounded by 1-7 Fountain Street and 22-40 Castle Street.
Date:	22 July 2026
Reporting Officer:	Kate Bentley, Director of Planning & Building Control, Ext. 2300
Contact Officer:	Stephen Hipkins, Building Control Manager, Ext. 2435

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

☒

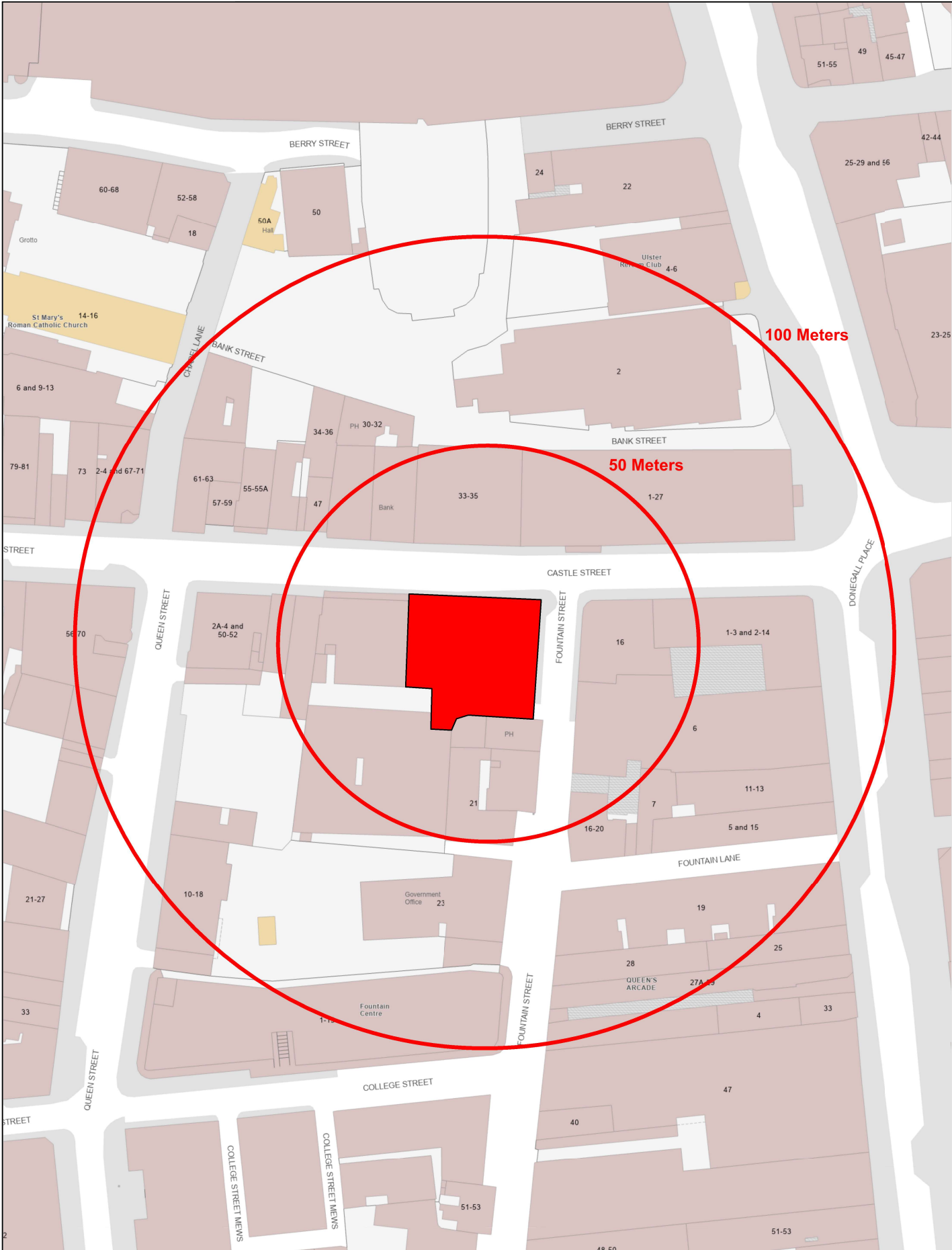
No

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1.0	Purpose of Report				
1.1	To consider an application for the grant of a 14-Day Occasional Outdoor Entertainments Licence to provide outdoor musical entertainment <table> <tr> <td>Area and Location</td><td>Applicant</td></tr> <tr> <td>Land bounded by 1-7 Fountain Street and 22-40 Castle Street Belfast BT1 5EA</td><td>Mr Ciaran Smyth Phoenix Wine & Spirits Limited</td></tr> </table>	Area and Location	Applicant	Land bounded by 1-7 Fountain Street and 22-40 Castle Street Belfast BT1 5EA	Mr Ciaran Smyth Phoenix Wine & Spirits Limited
Area and Location	Applicant				
Land bounded by 1-7 Fountain Street and 22-40 Castle Street Belfast BT1 5EA	Mr Ciaran Smyth Phoenix Wine & Spirits Limited				
1.2	A location map is attached as Appendix 1.				
1.3	Members are reminded that all applications for the grant of Outdoor Entertainments Licences must be brought before Committee for consideration.				
1.4	This report is to consider a request from Ciaran Smyth of Phoenix Wine & Spirit Stores Limited. for the grant of a 14-Day Occasional Outdoor Entertainments Licence for the former Norwich Union House site, accommodating a temporary bar, stage and seating area, based on the Council's Standard Conditions to provide outdoor musical entertainment.				
2.0	Recommendations				
2.1	Taking into account the information presented and any representations made Members are recommended to approve the application for the provisional grant of a 14-Day Occasional Outdoor Entertainments Licence, subject to any special conditions considered necessary by officers and to all technical requirements being met.				
2.2	Should Members be minded to refuse the application grant of a 14-Day Occasional Outdoor Entertainments Licence, or special conditions are attached to the licence to which the applicant does not consent, then the applicant may appeal the Council's decision within 21 days of notification of that decision to the County Court.				
2.3	In the case that the applicant subsequently decides to appeal, entertainment may not be provided until any such appeal is determined. Due to time constraints, it is unlikely that an appeal could be concluded in time for entertainment to be provided during Fleadh 2026.				
3.0	Main Report				
	<u>Key Issues</u>				
3.1	The applicant has submitted a 14-Day Occasional Outdoor Entertainments Licence for land bounded by 1-7 Fountain Street and 22-40 Castle Street. The site is within the road closure pedestrianised area for Fleadh Cheoil na hEireann.				
3.2	The premises will be a temporary outdoor events space formed on land now available following the demolition of a number of buildings on Fountain Street and Castle Street. The site will be bounded by Fountain Street, the existing Voodoo premises, which is owned by the applicant, and the temporary events space operated by TG4 for the period of the Fleadh Cheoil. The maximum numbers within the event space will be agreed by the Building Control Service and may vary depending on individual concert set-up proposals.				

	• The days and hours during which entertainment is proposed to be provided are • Monday to Saturday: 11.30am to 11.00pm and • Sunday: 12.30pm to 11.00pm
3.3	The applicant proposes to provide an area for the consumption of food and alcohol which will include the provision of live music.
3.4	A site location map is attached as Appendix 1. Layout plans of the premises are attached as Appendix 2.
	<u>Representations</u>
3.5	Public notice of the application has been placed in the newspaper, and no representations have been received as a result.
	<u>PSNI</u>
3.6	The Police have been contacted by the Service in relation to the application, however, a response has not yet been received. We will update Committee at your meeting.
3.7	Should Members be minded to approve the application as requested, this should be subject to a satisfactory response from the PSNI on the matter.
	<u>Health, safety and welfare</u>
3.8	Members should note that, if you are minded to provisionally grant the application, it will not be declared final until all works are complete to ensure compliance, amongst other matters, with all fire safety, structural and access requirements.
3.9	All certification pre-requisite to the grant of a licence will also be required before the licence can be confirmed.
	<u>Noise issues</u>
3.10	The applicant proposes to provide non-amplified musical entertainment within the outdoor area in the form of traditional music live bands during the Fleadh. An acoustic report has therefore not been sought for the proposal.
3.11	Members are reminded that the Clean Neighbourhood and Environment Act (Northern Ireland) 2011 gives the Council additional powers in relation to the control of entertainment noise after 11.00 pm.
	<u>Applicant</u>
3.12	The applicant, and/or their representatives, will be available at your meeting to answer any queries you may have in relation to the application.
	<u>Financial & Resource Implications</u>
3.13	None.
	<u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u>
3.14	There are no issues associated with this report.
4.0	Financial and Resource Implications

	None. Officers will carry out inspections before and during the events which will be catered for within existing Service budgets.
5.0	Equality and Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment There are no issues associated with this report.
6.0	Appendices – Documents Attached
	• Appendix 1 – Location map • Appendix 2 – Temporary Events Space



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PORTALOOOS

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Rev no:	Date:	Amendment:	Dwn by:	Chk'd by:	Project No:	Drawing No:	Revision:
P01	26/06/26	Occasional Liquor Licence Issue	DG	JM	23053	NUH-TOD-00-ZZ-DR-A-10-001	P01

Status:	TODD ARCHITECTS
PLANNING	2ND FLOOR TITANIC HOUSE, 6 QUEEN'S ROAD, BELFAST BT3 9DT, T +44 (0) 28 9024 5587, E INFO@TODDARCH.CO.UK
Date:	26/06/2026
Scale:	Client: PHOENIX WINE & SPIRIT STORES LIMITED
1:150	Project Name:
A3	NUH Meanwhile Use
Dwn by: DG	Drawing Title: Occasional Liquor Licence Plan
Chk'd by: JM	

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Subject:	Application for the Grant of a 14-Day Occasional Outdoor Entertainments Licence for the former Norwich Union House site, 24-40 Castle Street BT1 5EA Application also to consider a request to provide outdoor entertainment beyond 11.00pm, and a request to provide indoor musical entertainment beyond 11.00pm within a marquee.
Date:	22 July 2026
Reporting Officer:	Kate Bentley, Director of Planning & Building Control, ext. 2300
Contact Officer:	Stephen Hipkins, Building Control Manager, Ext. 2435

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? <table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="width: 70%;">After Committee Decision</td> <td style="width: 30%; text-align: center;">☐</td> </tr> <tr> <td>After Council Decision</td> <td style="text-align: center;">☐</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Sometime in the future</td> <td style="text-align: center;">☐</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Never</td> <td style="text-align: center;">☐</td> </tr> </table>		After Committee Decision	☐	After Council Decision	☐	Sometime in the future	☐	Never	☐
After Committee Decision	☐								
After Council Decision	☐								
Sometime in the future	☐								
Never	☐								

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

1.0	Purpose of Report			
1.1	Fleadh Cheoil na hEireann will run for 8 nights from Sunday 2nd August to Sunday 9th August 2026. <table><tr><td>Area and Location 24-40 Castle Street/ 7 Fountain Street</td><td>Ref. No. 2993</td><td>Applicant Mr. David Power Power pictures Ltd. Galway H91 VFCZ</td></tr></table> A location map is attached as Appendix 1. Members are reminded that all applications for the grant of Outdoor Entertainments Licences must be brought before Committee for consideration. This report is to consider a request from Power Pictures Limited for the grant of a 14-Day Occasional Outdoor Entertainments Licence for the former Norwich Union House site, accommodating a temporary venue for TV production, based on the Council’s Standard Conditions to provide outdoor musical entertainment. The request by the applicant also seeks permission for planned entertainment to run beyond 11.00pm on up to 4 nights in the outdoor area, and also within a marquee located on the site. The applicant seeks the extension in hours of entertainment to 11.30pm for Thursday 6th, Friday 7th, Saturday 8th and Sunday 9th August.	Area and Location 24-40 Castle Street/ 7 Fountain Street	Ref. No. 2993	Applicant Mr. David Power Power pictures Ltd. Galway H91 VFCZ
Area and Location 24-40 Castle Street/ 7 Fountain Street	Ref. No. 2993	Applicant Mr. David Power Power pictures Ltd. Galway H91 VFCZ		
2.0	Recommendations			
2.1	Taking into account the information presented and any representations made Members are recommended to approve the application for the grant of a 14-Day Occasional Outdoor Entertainments Licence, subject to any special conditions considered necessary by officers and to all technical requirements being met. Should the licence be granted, it is recommended that Members agree to extend the hours of entertainment to 11.30pm on 4 consecutive days between Thursday 6th - Sunday 9th August 2026 inclusive. Alternatively, Members could agree that musical entertainment is permitted to take place to 11.30pm on certain specified nights during that period, or refuse to extend the hours as requested. In relation to the marquee, Members are recommended to approve the request to extend the hours of entertainment to 11.30pm on 4 consecutive days between Thursday 6th - Sunday 9th August 2026 inclusive, subject to all technical requirements being met.			

	Alternatively, Members could agree that musical entertainment is permitted to take place to 11.30pm on certain specified nights during that period, or refuse to extend the hours as requested. Should Members be minded to refuse the application grant of a 14-Day Occasional Outdoor Entertainments Licence, or reuse the request to extend hours of entertainment within the marquee, or special conditions are attached to the licence to which the applicant does not consent, then the applicant may appeal the Council's decision within 21 days of notification of that decision to the County Court. In the case that the applicant subsequently decides to appeal, entertainment may not be provided until any such appeal is determined. Due to time constraints, it is unlikely that an appeal could be concluded in time for entertainment to be provided during Fleadh 2026.
3.0	Main Report
	<u>Key Issues</u> 3.1 The applicant is an independent production company commissioned by Irish language television channel, TG4, with experience in broadcasting live coverage of Fleadh Cheoil na hÉireann events 3.2 The applicant has submitted a 14-Day Occasional Outdoor Entertainments Licence for the former Norwich Union House site located at 24-40 Castle Street. The site is within the road closure pedestrianised area for Fleadh Cheoil na hÉireann. 3.3 The applicant has also proposed to provide entertainment within the new outdoor area beyond 11.00pm. The day and hours proposed are: - Thursday 6th, Friday 7th, Saturday 8th and Sunday 9th August: 11.30 am to 11.30 pm All remaining days of the 14-Day Occasional Licence are to remain as standard hours: 3.4 11.30 am to 11.00 pm 3.5 There will be no entertainment provided on the site on any of the other days of Fleadh Cheoil. 3.6 There will be minimal amplification of music in the outdoor area for the benefit of a small crowd attending. This will be intermittent as the bulk of the performances take place within the marquee and the priority with sound is that which is broadcast. 3.7 In addition, the applicant has requested permission to provide entertainment beyond 11.00pm within a marquee to be located at the site. This particular structure is subject to the conditions of a Marquee Entertainments Licence granted for the site. The day and hours proposed are: - Thursday 6th, Friday 7th, Saturday 8th and Sunday 9th August: 11.30 am to 11.30 pm the following morning 3.8 There will be amplified entertainment in the marquee. 3.9 The following Special Conditions are attached to both the Marquee and Outdoor Entertainments Licences:

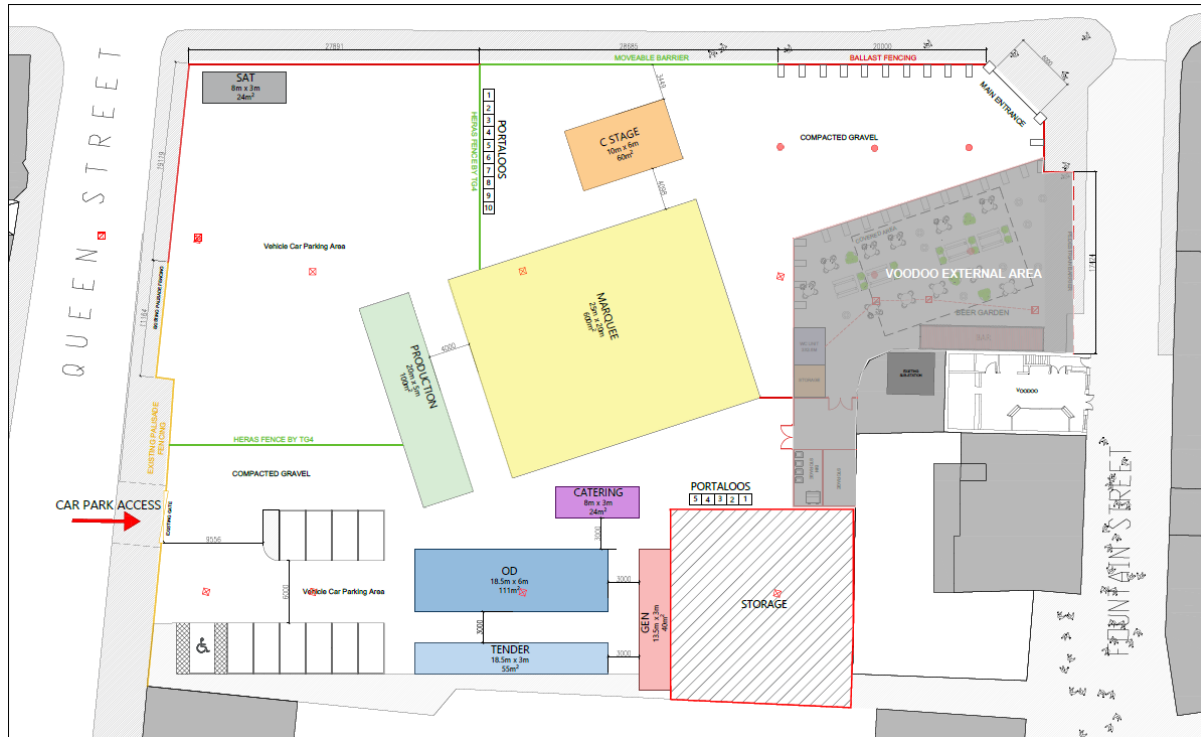
	• Maximum numbers will be agreed at the discretion of the Building Control Service and will vary depending upon individual concert set up proposals. • Prior to any event taking place the promoters are required to demonstrate evidence of early consultation and have in place a robust system of dealing with any complaints, which has been agreed in advance with the Council. • Any requests to provide entertainment later than 11.00 pm must be considered by the Licensing Committee and therefore must be made at least 3 months in advance of the proposed event. • Should an application to provide entertainment beyond 11.00 pm be granted and the Council then receive a significant number of complaints regarding noise or the complaint is of such significant impact, authority is granted to the Director of Planning and Building Control, in consultation with the City Solicitor, to reduce the finishing time for any subsequent nights of the event, in which case the promoter will be required to make contingency arrangements.
3.10	Therefore, this request to provide entertainment later than 11.00 pm must be considered by the Licensing Committee.
3.11	As this is not an application to vary the terms of the Indoor (Marquee) licence, but a request for Council's permission to extend the hours under an existing Licence Condition (if approved) there is no requirement for public advertisement in this case.
3.12	<u>Rationale for extended hours:</u> The applicant has identified the request for extended hours beyond 11.00 pm has been to align coverage of performances with TV scheduling requirements.
3.13	The applicant has been invited to attend your meeting.
3.14	<u>PSNI:</u> The Police have been contacted by the Service in relation to the event, however, a response has not yet been received. We will update Committee at your meeting.
3.15	Should Members be minded to approve the extended hours requested, this should be subject to a satisfactory response from the PSNI on the matter.
3.16	<u>Health, safety and welfare issues:</u> Officers have engaged with the event organisers and colleagues in the Fleadh events team in relation to the events and will participate in pre-event meetings.
3.17	An Event Management Plan for the entertainment offerings at 24-40 Castle Street has been received and is being evaluated by the Service and shared with other colleagues.
3.18	<u>Noise issues:</u> A significant consideration for Environmental Protection Unit (EPU) will be the proposal to provide outdoor entertainment after 11.00 pm. Members are reminded that the Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act (Northern Ireland) 2011 gives councils additional powers in relation to entertainment noise after 11.00 pm.
3.19	Outdoor performances will have minimal amplification of music. It is a requirement of the applicant that the level of noise generated in the outdoor space does not impact on the broadcast of performances filmed within the marquee located on site. An acoustic report has not been sought in this instance for the outdoor application.
3.20	Amplified music will be provided within the marquee located on site. Amplification of music is to solely cater for patrons within the marquee and recording of performances for broadcast

	on TV. The level of amplification is therefore not considered likely to give rise to noise disturbance to residents in the area. An acoustic report has not been sought in this instance.
4.0	Financial and Resource Implications None. Officers will carry out inspections before and during the events which will be catered for within existing Service budgets.
5.0	Equality and Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment There are no issues associated with this report.
6.0	Appendices – Documents Attached
	• Appendix 1 – Site Location Map

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Appendix 1: Site Location Map

Former Norwich Union House Site



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