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

7 September 2026

MEETING OF PEOPLE AND COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE

Dear Alderman/Councillor,

In addition to those matters previously notified to you, the following item will also be considered at the meeting to be held at 5.15 pm on Tuesday, 8th September, 2026.

Yours faithfully,

John Walsh

Chief Executive

AGENDA:

- (f) Request for the Use of Parks (Pages 1 - 4)

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Belfast
City Council

PEOPLE AND COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE

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Subject:	Request for the use of Parks for 2026 Events
Date:	Tuesday 8 September 2026
Reporting Officer:	David Sales, Strategic Director of City and Neighbourhood Services.
Contact Officer:	Stephen Leonard, Director of Resources, Fleet and OSS.

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	Committee is asked to note that the Council has received the following requests from event organisers to host annual events over a three-year period 2026, 2027 and 2028 • Pitt Park Residents Association – Row on Row Remembrance – Pitt Park - November 2026, 2027 and 2028. • VC Glendale – Falling Leaves Irish National League Race – Falls Park – October 2026, 2027 and 2028). The report seeks multiple year approval for the above events to take place annually over the three-year period from 2026 to 2028
2.0	Recommendation
2.1	The Committee is asked to grant authority to the applicants for the proposed events 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: 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.
2.2	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.
2.3	Please note that those events that have sought multiply years approval will be subject to an annual review. The Director of Neighbourhood Services will liaise with relevant officers and take advice on appropriate changes to event management were necessary and this would include the removal of permission if required.
3.0	Main Report
3.1	<u>Key Issues</u> If agreed, the event organisers 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>Row on Row Remembrance 2026 2028 – Pitt Park</u> Belfast City Council has received a formal request from the Pitt Park Residents Association who are seeking multiple year approval to host a weeklong remembrance event at Dr Pitt Memorial Park. The purpose of the event is to provide an opportunity for local residents to honour and commemorate those who have lost their lives in defence of the nation.
3.3	The event will take place over several days.

3.4	As part of the proposal, the Association seeks permission for residents to place personal tributes such as poppy crosses or wreaths in memory of fallen relatives throughout the duration of the week. Additionally, they have requested authorisation to conduct a daily remembrance service at the site, scheduled to take place from 7:00pm to 8:00 pm. The event organiser has confirmed that all displays and materials associated with the commemoration will be respectfully removed from the site upon conclusion of the event.
3.5	Key Dates for the event are:
3.6	Set Up – 12.00pm on Friday 6 November 2026 Main Event – Commencing on Friday 6 November 2026 & ending on Friday 13 November 2026. Remembrance service – Daily, 7.00pm – 8.00pm, Friday 6 November 2026 to Friday 13 November 2026 De Rig – 12.00pm on Saturday 14 November 2026.
3.7	<u>VC Glendale – Falling Leaves Irish National League Race – Falls Park - Saturday 10 & Sunday 11 October 2026</u>
3.8	Belfast City Council has received a request from VC Glendale to host their annual Irish National League Cycling Race at Falls Park in October 2026. The falling leaves event has taken place at Falls Park for the last 8 years and has been supported by BCC during its time at the park. Due to the nature of the event, areas of the park will be required to be closed off to members of the public to allow the race to proceed safely and to ensure that no park users or participants are injured. There are expected to be around 500 people in attendance with participants and spectators attending from across the UK & Ireland.
3.9	The event organiser VC Glendale are a voluntary cycling club who are established as a cross community cycling club with members taking part in races across the UK & Ireland.
3.10	The areas of the site the organisers plan to use are the grassed area beside the playground leading to the woodland area beside the cemetery; followed by the pathed area along the side of the Falls Road and across the bridge leading to the pitches. Participants will then cycle around the entirety of the parks pitched area.
3.11	Key Dates for the event are. Set Up – 11am Main Event Day 1 – Saturday 10 October – 12pm to 3pm Main Event Day 2 – Sunday 11 October - 8am to 4.30pm De-Rig – by 6pm
3.12	<u>Financial and Resource Implications</u> There are no known implications.

3.13	<u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u> There are no known implications
4.00	Appendices
	None