

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



**Belfast
City Council**

12th June, 2025

MEETING OF THE LICENSING COMMITTEE

Dear Alderman/Councillor,

The above-named Committee will meet in the Lavery Room, City Hall and remotely, via Microsoft Teams, on Wednesday, 18th June, 2025 at 5.15 pm, for the transaction of the business noted below.

You are requested to attend.

Yours faithfully,

John Walsh

Chief Executive

AGENDA:

1. Routine Matters

- (a) Apologies
- (b) Minutes
- (c) Declarations of Interest

2. Delegated Matters

- (a) Licences Issued Under Delegated Authority (Pages 1 - 4)
- (b) Houses in Multiple Occupation (HMO) Licences Issued Under Delegated Authority (Pages 5 - 8)
- (c) Application for the Provisional Grant of an Amusement Permit for Players Amusements, Shaftesbury Square (Pages 9 - 60)
- (d) Application to provide outdoor musical entertainment beyond 11.00 pm at Falls Park - Feile an Phobail 2025 (Pages 61 - 70)
- (e) Application for the Grant of a 14-Day Occasional Outdoor Entertainments Licence for 352-358 Shankill Road (Pages 71 - 82)

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Subject:	Licences Issued Under Delegated Authority
Date:	18 June 2025
Reporting Officer:	Kate Bentley, Director of Planning & Building Control, ext. 2300
Contact Officer:	Laura Hillis, Principal Building Control Surveyor, Ext. 2469

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 <input style="width: 40px; height: 25px;" type="checkbox"/> <input style="width: 40px; height: 25px;" type="checkbox"/> <input style="width: 40px; height: 25px;" type="checkbox"/> <input style="width: 40px; height: 25px;" type="checkbox"/>	

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

1.0	Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues																					
1.1	Under the Scheme of Delegation, the Director of Planning and Building Control is responsible for exercising all powers in relation to the issue, but not refusal, of Permits and Licences, excluding provisions relating to the issue of Licences where adverse representations have been made.																					
2.0	Recommendations																					
2.1	The Committee is requested to note the applications that have been issued under the Scheme of Delegation.																					
3.0	Main report																					
3.1	<u>Key Issues</u> Under the terms of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) (Northern Ireland) Order 1985 the following Entertainments Licences were issued since your last meeting. <table><tr><th>Premises and Location</th><th>Type of Application</th><th>Applicant</th></tr><tr><td>Lagan Village Rangers Supporter Club, 30-40 Castlereagh Place, Belfast BT5 4NN.</td><td>Renewal</td><td>Mr William Ferguson Lagan Valley Supporters Club</td></tr><tr><td>National Football Stadium, Windsor Park, Donegall Avenue, Belfast BT12 6LU</td><td>Renewal</td><td>Ms Anita Hamilton, National Football Stadium, Windsor Park,</td></tr><tr><td>Belfast Stories Site, 92-100 Royal Avenue, Belfast BT1 1DL</td><td>Renewal (Outdoor)</td><td>Ms Wendy Langham, Place & Economy Dept Belfast City Council</td></tr><tr><td>Belfast Stories Site, 92-100 Royal Avenue, Belfast BT1 1DL</td><td>Renewal (Marquee)</td><td>Ms Wendy Langham, Place & Economy Dept Belfast City Council</td></tr><tr><td>Royal British Legion, 30 Montgomery Road, Belfast BT6 9HL</td><td>Renewal</td><td>Mr Paul Telford Royal British Legion</td></tr><tr><td>The Points, 44 Dublin Road, Belfast BT2 7HN</td><td>Renewal</td><td>Ms Catherine McCrory, The Corick Facilities Management Ltd</td></tr></table>	Premises and Location	Type of Application	Applicant	Lagan Village Rangers Supporter Club, 30-40 Castlereagh Place, Belfast BT5 4NN.	Renewal	Mr William Ferguson Lagan Valley Supporters Club	National Football Stadium, Windsor Park, Donegall Avenue, Belfast BT12 6LU	Renewal	Ms Anita Hamilton, National Football Stadium, Windsor Park,	Belfast Stories Site, 92-100 Royal Avenue, Belfast BT1 1DL	Renewal (Outdoor)	Ms Wendy Langham, Place & Economy Dept Belfast City Council	Belfast Stories Site, 92-100 Royal Avenue, Belfast BT1 1DL	Renewal (Marquee)	Ms Wendy Langham, Place & Economy Dept Belfast City Council	Royal British Legion, 30 Montgomery Road, Belfast BT6 9HL	Renewal	Mr Paul Telford Royal British Legion	The Points, 44 Dublin Road, Belfast BT2 7HN	Renewal	Ms Catherine McCrory, The Corick Facilities Management Ltd
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The Points, 44 Dublin Road, Belfast BT2 7HN	Renewal	Ms Catherine McCrory, The Corick Facilities Management Ltd																				
3.2	Under the terms of the Betting, Gaming, Lotteries and Amusements (Northern Ireland) Order 1985 no Amusement Permits were issued since your last meeting.																					
3.3	Under the terms of the Cinemas (Northern Ireland) Order 1991 no Cinema Licences were issued since your last meeting.																					
3.4	Under the terms of the Petroleum Consolidation Act 1929 the following Petroleum Licences were issued since your last meeting.																					

		Premises and Location	Type of Application	Applicant
		GO, 409-419 Antrim Road, Belfast, BT15 3BJ	Renewal Application	Daniel Loughran, LCC Group Ltd
		GO Grand Parade, 77 Grand Parade, Belfast, Down, BT5 5HG	Renewal Application	Daniel Loughran, LCC Group Ltd
		Go GVS, 112-114 Great Victoria Street, Belfast, Antrim, BT2 7BG	Renewal Application	Daniel Loughran, LCC Group Ltd
		Go Twin Spires, 5 Falls Road, Belfast, BT13 2JF	Renewal Application	Daniel Loughran, LCC Group Ltd
		Go Yorkgate, 1 Brougham Street, Belfast, Antrim, BT15 1JQ	Renewal Application	Daniel Loughran, LCC Group Ltd
		Mace Mount Alverno, 703-705 Springfield Road, Belfast, Antrim, BT12 7FP	Renewal Application	Brendan Nugent, BN HIRE LTD
		Centra Foxes Glen Service Station, 228-232 Stewartstown Road, Dunmurry, Belfast, BT17 0LB	Renewal Application	Mr Conor Fitzgerald Musgrave Retail Stores NI Ltd
3.5	Under the terms of the Street Trading Act (Northern Ireland) 2001 no Street Trading Licences were issued since your last meeting.			
3.6	Under the terms of the Road Traffic Regulation (Northern Ireland) Order 1997 no Road Closure Orders were issued since your last meeting.			
3.7	Under the terms of the Licensing of Pavement Cafés Act (Northern Ireland) 2014 no Pavement Café Licences were issued since your last meeting.			
	<u>Financial & Resource Implications</u>			
3.8	None.			
	<u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u>			
3.9	There are no issues associated with this report.			

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Belfast
City Council

LICENSING COMMITTEE

Subject:	Houses in Multiple Occupation (HMO) Licenses Issued Under Delegated Authority
Date:	18 June 2025
Reporting Officer:	Kevin Bloomfield, NIHMO Manager
Contact Officers:	Kevin Bloomfield, NIHMO Manager Helen Morrissey, City Protection Manager

Restricted Reports	
Is this report restricted?	Yes ☐ No ☒
If Yes, when will the report become unrestricted?	
After Committee Decision	☐
After Council Decision	☐
Some time in the future	☐
Never	☐

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

1.0	Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues
1.1	Under the Scheme of Delegation, the Director of City & Neighbourhood Services Department is responsible for exercising all powers in relation to the issue and variation, but not refusal, of HMO Licences, excluding provisions relating to the issue of HMO Licences where adverse representations have been made. Those applications which were dealt with under the Scheme are listed below.
2.0	Recommendations
2.1	The Committee is requested to note the applications that have been issued under the Scheme of Delegation during May 2025.

3.0	Main report				
	<u>Key Issues</u>				
3.1	Under the terms of the Houses in Multiple Occupation Act (Northern Ireland) 2016 the following HMO Licences were issued during May 2025.				
	Premise Name	Licensee	Ward	Housing Management Areas (HMAs)	Licence type
	2 Ulsterville Drive	Quest Verification Services Limited	WINDSOR	ULSTERVILLE HMA 2/21	Renewal Application
	5 Sandymount Street	Ms Vivienne Mallon	STRANMILLIS	SANDYMOUNT HMA 2/17	Renewal Application
	87 University Avenue	Mr John Mellotte	CENTRAL	HOLYLAND HMA 2/22	Renewal Application
	Flat 1, 24 Ireton Street	Mr Anthony Curry	CENTRAL	HOLYLAND HMA 2/22	Renewal Application
	65 Jerusalem Street	Mr Conor McCloskey	CENTRAL	HOLYLAND HMA 2/22	Renewal Application
	Flat 2 ,24 Ireton Street	Mr Anthony Curry	CENTRAL	HOLYLAND HMA 2/22	Renewal Application
	74 Sandymount Street	HANNIGANS DEVELOPMENTS LIMITED	STRANMILLIS	SANDYMOUNT HMA 2/17	New Application
	48 Carmel Street	PMEM INVESTMENTS LTD	CENTRAL	HOLYLAND HMA 2/22	New Application
	7 Pretoria Street	Mr Thomas Muldoon	CENTRAL	STRANMILLIS HMA 2/19	Renewal Application
	46 Elaine Street	Mr Stephen Henderson	CENTRAL	STRANMILLIS HMA 2/19	Renewal Application
	Flat 2, 37 Wellesley Avenue	DGC Homes Ltd	WINDSOR	EGLANTINE HMA 2/09	New Application
	23 Riverview Street	Garbhaig Limited	STRANMILLIS	STRANMILLIS HMA 2/19	Renewal Application
	22 Thorndyke Street	EDEN PROPERTY SERVICES LTD	BEERSBRIDGE	NONE	Renewal Application
	86 Dunluce Avenue	Mrs Mary McIntyre	WINDSOR	ULSTERVILLE HMA 2/21	Renewal Application
	8 Cairo Street	Miss SORCHA TIPPING	CENTRAL	HOLYLAND HMA 2/22	New Application
	10 Cadogan Street	Mr Fraser Graham	CENTRAL	HOLYLAND HMA 2/22	Renewal Application
	108 University Avenue	M&J HOLLYMOUNT PROPERTIES LLP	CENTRAL	HOLYLAND HMA 2/22	Renewal Application
	21 Cameron Street	Outback Investments Limited	CENTRAL	HOLYLAND HMA 2/22	Renewal Application
	15 Deramore Avenue	ARDMORE RENTALS LIMITED	ORMEAU	BALLYNAFEIGH HMA 2/03	Renewal Application
	319 Donegall Road	Mrs Deborah McConaghie	BLACKSTAFF	NONE	Renewal Application

	4 Lothair Avenue	JJT RENTALS & DEVELOPMENTS LTD	DUNCAIRN	NONE	New Application
	17 Deramore Avenue	Mr Cormac Dynan	ORMEAU	BALLYNAFEIGH HMA 2/03	Renewal Application
	173 Dunluce Avenue	Ms Joanne Mahaffy	WINDSOR	ULSTERVILLE HMA 2/21	Renewal Application
	13 Lothair Avenue	Ashley Crooks Properties Ltd	DUNCAIRN	NONE	New Application
	5 Stranmillis Street	Mr Nathan Oliver	STRANMILLIS	STRANMILLIS HMA 2/19	Renewal Application
	36 Magdala Street	Mrs Gemma Stokes	CENTRAL	HOLYLAND HMA 2/22	Renewal Application
	19 Belgravia Avenue	Mr Peter Grant	WINDSOR	ULSTERVILLE HMA 2/21	Renewal Application
	60 Ulsterville Gardens	Dr Clare Kettle	WINDSOR	ULSTERVILLE HMA 2/21	Renewal Application
	47 Sandhurst Gardens	Mrs Caitriona McCluggage	STRANMILLIS	STRANMILLIS HMA 2/19	Renewal Application
	14 Chlorine Gardens	Mrs Caitriona McCluggage	CENTRAL	NONE	Renewal Application
	145 Ulsterville Avenue	Dr Joseph Devlin	WINDSOR	ULSTERVILLE HMA 2/21	Renewal Application
	5 Chadwick Street	ELLAROSE HOLDINGS (NORTHERN IRELAND) LTD	WINDSOR	MEADOWBANK HMA 2/15	New Application
	138 Fitzroy Avenue	Mr Colin Quinn	CENTRAL	HOLYLAND HMA 2/22	Renewal Application
	35 Elaine Street	Mrs Mary McIntyre	CENTRAL	STRANMILLIS HMA 2/19	Renewal Application
	86 Cromwell Road	Mr William Walsh	CENTRAL	HOLYLAND HMA 2/22	Renewal Application
	96 Stranmillis Road	Mr Paul Stewart	STRANMILLIS	STRANMILLIS HMA 2/19	Renewal Application
	6 Harrow Street	KSCD Properties Limited	CENTRAL	HOLYLAND HMA 2/22	New Application
	43 Sandymount Street	Mr Jonathan Forbes	STRANMILLIS	SANDYMOUNT HMA 2/17	New Application
	Flat 2, 55 Fitzwilliam Street	A-ONE SHUTTERING LIMITED	WINDSOR	FITZWILLIAM HMA 2/10	Renewal Application
	39 Lower Windsor Avenue	Norma Chambers Trust	WINDSOR	MEADOWBANK HMA 2/15	Renewal Application
	1 Brookvale Drive	Mr Stephen McCloskey	WATER WORKS	NONE	Renewal Application
	15 The Cloisters	Mr Seamus Gillan	CENTRAL	HOLYLAND HMA 2/22	Renewal Application
	67 Melrose Street	Ms Margaret Mary Higgins	WINDSOR	EDINBURGH ST HMA 2/08	New Application
	Apartment 4, 100 Fitzroy Avenue	SOBE Developments Limited	CENTRAL	HOLYLAND HMA 2/22	Renewal Application
	Apartment 3, 100 Fitzroy Avenue	SOBE Developments Limited	CENTRAL	HOLYLAND HMA 2/22	Renewal Application
	Flat 4, 126-128 Fitzroy Avenue	Mr Brian Fox	CENTRAL	HOLYLAND HMA 2/22	Renewal Application

	Flat 1, 126-128 Fitzroy Avenue	Mr Brian Fox	CENTRAL	HOLYLAND HMA 2/22	Renewal Application
	Flat 2, 126-128 Fitzroy Avenue	Mr Brian Fox	CENTRAL	HOLYLAND HMA 2/22	Renewal Application
	Flat 6, 126-128 Fitzroy Avenue	Mr Brian Fox	CENTRAL	HOLYLAND HMA 2/22	Renewal Application
	Flat 3, 126-128 Fitzroy Avenue	Mr Brian Fox	CENTRAL	HOLYLAND HMA 2/22	Renewal Application
	Flat 5, 126-128 Fitzroy Avenue	Mr Brian Fox	CENTRAL	HOLYLAND HMA 2/22	Renewal Application
	38 Elaine Street	Mrs Mary McIntyre	CENTRAL	STRANMILLIS HMA 2/19	Renewal Application
	21a Chlorine Gardens	Sultan Developments Ltd	STRANMILLIS	NONE	Renewal Application
	11 Chadwick Street	BLUE BRIDGE LTD	WINDSOR	MEADOWBANK HMA 2/15	New Application
	85 Upper Newtownards Road	RECOZ HOLDING LIMITED	BLOOMFIELD	NONE	New Application
	157 Dunluce Avenue	Mr Paul McGreevy	WINDSOR	ULSTERVILLE HMA 2/21	Renewal Application
	27 Sandymount Street	Mr John Leo McGurk	STRANMILLIS	SANDYMOUNT HMA 2/17	Renewal Application
	57 Rugby Avenue	Mr Anthony Fitzgerald	CENTRAL	HOLYLAND HMA 2/22	Renewal Application
	31 Magdala Street	MACLEOD PROPERTIES (NI) LIMITED	CENTRAL	HOLYLAND HMA 2/22	Renewal Application
	27 The Cloisters	Mr Raymond McFarland	CENTRAL	HOLYLAND HMA 2/22	Renewal Application
8 Artana Street	Parkvue Ltd	CENTRAL	LOWER ORMEAU HMA 2/13	New Application	
<u>Financial & Resource Implications</u>					
3.2	None				
<u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u>					
3.3	There are no issues associated with this report.				



Subject:	Application for the Provisional Grant of an Amusement Permit for Players Amusements, Shaftesbury Square
Date:	18 June 2025
Reporting Officer:	Kate Bentley, Director of Planning and Building Control, Ext. 2300
Contact Officer:	Moira Dougherty, Senior Building Control Surveyor, Ext: 2458

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 or Summary of main Issues		
1.1	To consider an application for the Provisional Grant of an Amusement Permit under the Betting, Gaming, Lotteries and Amusements (Northern Ireland) Order 1985 (the Order).		
	Premises and Location Players Amusements 22 and to the rear of 23 Shaftesbury Square Belfast, BT2 7DB	Ref. No. WK/2020/02428	Applicant Leanne McGivern Play SS Limited 22 Shaftesbury Square Belfast, BT2 7DB
1.2	A location map is attached as Appendix 1.		
1.3	Layout plans of the premises are included as Appendix 2.		
	Recommendations		
2.1	In considering the application for the Provisional Grant or Grant of an Amusement Permit, the Committee shall have regard to the Order and to Belfast City Council’s Amusement Permit Policy, as follows:		
	a) The fitness of the applicant to hold a Permit having regard to his character, reputation and financial standing, and b) The fitness of any other person by whom the business is to be carried on under the Permit would be managed, or for whose benefit that business would be carried on, c) In considering the fitness of a body corporate to hold an amusement permit, the Council shall also have regard to the character, reputation and financial standing of the directors of the body corporate and any other persons who have executive control of it and who have a financial interest in it, as if the permit were, or were proposed to be, held by them jointly d) Representation, if any, from the sub-divisional commander of the Police Service of Northern Ireland in whose sub-division the premises are situated, and e) Representation, if any, as a result of the public notices of advertisement.		
2.2	You are then required to make a decision based on the following options set out under the Order.		
	You must refuse the application unless satisfied that:		
	a) The applicant is a fit person to hold an Amusement Permit; and b) The applicant will not allow the business proposed to be carried on under the Amusement Permit to be managed by, or carried on for the benefit of, a person other than the applicant who would himself be refused the grant of an Amusement Permit.		
2.3	Thereafter:-		
	1) You may refuse the application after hearing any representations from third parties, or		

2.4 2.5	2) You may grant the application, subject to the mandatory condition that the premises are not to be used for an unlawful purpose or as a resort of persons of known bad character, and 3) You may also grant the application subject to discretionary conditions outlined in the Order relating to the illumination of the premises, advertising of, and window displays on the premises and the display of information notices. Should you be minded to refuse the application for the Provisional Grant of an Amusement Permit, or grant the Permit, subject to any discretionary conditions, you are required to advise the applicant of your intention to do so and you must afford the applicant the opportunity to make representations at a specified Licensing Committee meeting on the matter before making a final determination on the application. If, upon hearing the applicant, you refuse the application for the Provisional Grant of an Amusement Permit or decide to grant the application subject to discretionary conditions, the applicant may, within 21 days from the date on which notice of the decision is served on him, appeal to the county court.
3.0	Background
3.1 3.2 3.3 3.4 3.5 3.6 3.7 3.9	Members are reminded that the Licensing Committee is responsible for determining all applications relating to the grant and provisional grant of Amusement Permits. An existing amusement arcade, Players, on the ground floor of 22 Shaftesbury Square has been operated by the applicant company since 2018. The amusement permit for it was renewed on 1 June 2025. The applicant company now wishes to extend this existing amusement arcade into the rear ground floor of the neighbouring unit at 23 Shaftesbury Square, which has been vacant for some years, but has been recently provided with a shop frontage sign for 'Great Expectations, Regenerating Great Victoria Street'. As there is no mechanism within the Order to allow for a variation of an existing Amusement Permit to cater for the extension of an existing premises, an application must be made for the Grant or Provisional Grant of an Amusement Permit for the proposed extended amusement arcade. <u>Provisional Grant of an Amusement Permit</u> There is scope within the Order to make application for the provisional grant of an amusement permit in respect of premises which are about to be, or are in the course of being, constructed, extended or altered. If the Council is satisfied that the premises would, if completed in accordance with plans deposited, be such that it would grant the permit, the Council may grant a provisional amusement permit. However, a provisional permit does not authorise the use of gaming machines until the permit is declared final. The Order stipulates that the Council, upon application by the permit holder, must declare the permit final when it is satisfied that the premises have been completed in accordance with the plans deposited with the council. Should Members be of a mind to grant the permit provisionally, Committee is requested to consider delegating authority to the Director of Planning and Building Control in consultation

	with the City Solicitor to issue the permit once all necessary technical requirements relating to health, safety, welfare and amenity have been completed to the satisfaction of the Building Control Service. <u>Application details</u>
3.10	The applicant has requested to operate the proposed premises 7 days per week, Monday to Sunday, 00:00 to 24:00hrs. The applicant has confirmed that the requested hours are those the current premises operate.
3.11	The application is for a total of 69 gaming machines, giving an increase of 15 machines over the existing arcade; all of which are to pay out a maximum all cash prize of £500 in accordance with the Gaming (Variation of Monetary Limits) Order (NI) 2025 which came into force on 29 January 2025. Admission to the arcade is restricted to persons aged 18 or over.
3.12	The applicant has submitted a statement in support of the application that is included as Appendix 3.
3.13	The applicant and/or her representatives will be available at your meeting to address the Committee and to answer any questions Members may have about the application.
	<u>Health, Safety, Welfare and Technical requirements</u>
3.14	Officers from the Service have met with the applicant to discuss the application and status of the premises. The applicant has confirmed that a Building Regulations application will be made to the Service for building work that will be required to create the new arcade layout.
3.15	<u>NIFRS</u> : The Northern Ireland Fire and Rescue Service has been consulted and confirmed that they have no objections to the application.
	<u>Planning matters</u>
3.16	Planning permission for change of use of ground floor of 23 Shaftesbury Square to an amusement arcade was granted on the 20 April 2023.
3.17	The Amusement Permit application involves the extension of the existing amusement arcade into the rear half of the adjoining property, with the front portion being retained as a retail unit.
3.18	This proposal therefore constitutes a partial implementation of the related planning permission which allows for the entire unit to be converted into an amusement arcade, which the Planning Service has confirmed is lawful from a planning perspective.
3.19	In an important Court of Appeal decision in June 1999, it was confirmed that the Council, in determining applications for Amusement Permits, may take into account planning considerations but should be slow to differ from the views of the Planning Authority.
3.20	The Court also confirmed that the Council can take into account matters such as location, structure, character and impact on neighbours and the surrounding area.
3.21	A copy of the planning permission is attached as Appendix 4.

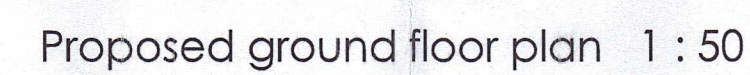
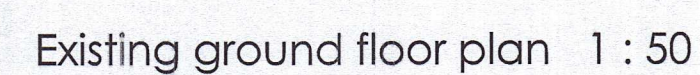
4.0	Main Report - Key issues
	<u>Amusement Permit Policy</u>
4.1	Members are advised that the Council's Amusement Permit Policy was ratified at Council on 1 May 2013. The policy outlines those matters which may be taken into account in determining any amusement permit application and indicates that each application must be assessed on its own merits.
4.2	All applications for the grant of an amusement permit are assessed against the Amusement Permit Policy.
4.3	The key objectives of this policy are to:- 1. Promote the retail vibrancy and regeneration of Belfast; 2. Enhance the tourism and cultural appeal of Belfast by protecting its image and built heritage; 3. Support and safeguard residential communities in Belfast; 4. Protect children and vulnerable persons from being harmed or exploited by gambling; 5. Respect the need to prevent gambling from being a source of crime and disorder.
4.4	The Policy consists of two components which are considered below: <u>1. Legal requirements under the 1985 Order</u>
4.5	Members must have regard to the legal requirements under the 1985 Order relating to: (a) The character, reputation and financial standing of the applicant:
4.6	References and additional supporting information for those associated with the application are attached as Appendix 5 to the report for consideration. (b) The nature of the premises and activity proposed:
4.7	To ensure that the nature of the premises proposed is suitable for this location Members may consider how the premises are illuminated, the form of advertising and window display, and how notices are displayed on the premises. Whilst the appearance of amusement arcades is considered a Planning matter, Members may still wish to be satisfied that the facade integrates with adjacent frontages.
4.8	(c) Opinions of the Police: The PSNI has been consulted and have confirmed that they have no objections to the application. A copy of their response is attached as Appendix 6.
4.9	(d) Submissions from the general public: No objections were received as a result of the public notices placed in the three local newspapers.
	<u>2. Assessment criteria for suitability of a location</u>
4.10	There are five criteria set out in the Policy which should typically be considered when assessing the suitability of a location for an amusement arcade. These are detailed below as they relate to this application. a) Impact on the retail and viability of Belfast City:

4.11	The application site is located within the City Centre, but outside its Retail Core, as defined in the draft Belfast Metropolitan Area Plan 2015 (draft BMAP). The premises are bordered by the South Belfast Northern Ireland Supporters Club on one side and by a barbers shop on the other side. The proposed extension does not therefore break up a continuous retail frontage. b) Cumulative build-up of amusement arcades in a particular location:
4.12	In addition to the existing arcade at No. 22 Shaftesbury Square, which this application seeks to extend, there is another property on this commercial frontage assigned to amusement arcade use, Oasis at 14 Shaftesbury Square & 1-7 Donegall Road. Furthermore, there are two other amusement arcades operating nearby within approximately 200m walking distance of the application premises. These are: • Onassis Amusements, Second floor, 25-41 Botanic Avenue, and • Playland, 24-28 Bradbury Place
4.13	In the desire to promote retailing and regeneration in the City Centre, as per the first key objective of the Amusement Permit Policy, the Council is keen to avoid a clustering of Amusement Centres at a given location. One means by which to avoid clustering is a permit policy restriction on ground floor extensions/mergers of existing establishments into adjoining units.
4.14	This application seeks a permit for the rear half of the adjoining property and proposes to retain the front half as a retail unit. While this technically constitutes a partial merger, and therefore contrary to this aspect of the permit policy, consideration must be given to the fact that the extension of the amusement arcade will not affect the street frontage. In so doing, it will contribute to the maintenance of an active street frontage at ground floor level on this part of Shaftesbury Square.
4.15	The above notwithstanding, the Committee may wish to consider that there may be an issue in relation to the cumulative build-up of arcades and an increase in the number of gaming machines at this location which might impact upon the character and amenity of the area.
4.16	Photographs of the street frontage are attached as Appendix 7. c) Impact on the image and profile of Belfast
4.17	The application premises is not a listed building and has no neighbouring property which is a tourism asset. The application premises is located at a key entrance junction (Gateway) to the City Centre, as identified in draft BMAP 2015. This is one of 11 Gateway locations at the edge of Belfast City Centre which presents the visitor with an initial impression that can influence their overall perception of the City Centre. By retaining the front portion of the property for retail use the proposal is not considered to undermine the image and profile of Belfast (d) Proximity to residential use: (i) - predominantly residential in character
4.18	The City Centre premises are located at ground-floor level, along the commercial frontage of Shaftesbury Square, where there is a mix of non-residential uses including offices, other amusement arcades, betting office and a social club. The application location can therefore be viewed as a 'mixed use' area and not one that is predominantly residential in character.

	(ii) – non-residential property that is immediately adjacent to residential property
4.19	The residential properties located nearest to the application premises are St. George's Gardens, which are situated to the rear of the commercial frontage on the which the application site is located. They are approximately 20m to the rear of the application site and separated from it by Stroud Street. These residential properties are facing the rear of the application premises but are not immediately adjacent to it. (e) Proximity to schools, youth centres, and residential institutions for vulnerable people
4.20	There are no schools, youth centres, or residential institutions for vulnerable people within 200m of the application premises. Conclusion
4.21	Members are reminded that the Committee refused an application, from a different applicant, to extend the amusement permit for the premises at 22 Shaftesbury Square into the adjoining vacant building at its meeting on 21st September 2016. This was on the basis that the application failed to comply with two of the five criteria set out within the Council's Amusement Permit Policy in terms of (i) the cumulative build-up of amusement arcades in a particular location and (ii) the impact of the arcade upon the image and profile of Belfast.
4.22	However, this permit application is different in that it is proposed to extend only to the rear of the adjoining unit for use as an amusement arcade. Accordingly, it may be considered to comply with all the permit policy criteria with the possible exception of the cumulative build-up of amusement arcades in a particular location. The Committee may wish to consider whether there is an issue in relation to the cumulative build-up of arcades and increase in the number of gaming machines at this location which might impact upon the character and amenity of the area.
4.23	Members will be aware that councils cannot impose a restriction on the number of gaming machines under amusement permit legislation.
4.24	In considering any application it is the case that Members may take into account any matter which is deemed relevant. Members may also depart from the Policy where it is appropriate to do so, although it is envisaged that this should only happen in exceptional circumstances.
4.25	Members are reminded that at their meeting of 19 Oct 2022 they approved the Provisional Grant of an Amusement Permit for the nearby Playland, 24-28 Bradbury Place for the extension of the existing ground floor amusement arcade into the front of the premises to incorporate what was a small coffee shop area.
4.26	A copy of the Council's Amusement Permit Policy is attached for your information and reference as Appendix 8.
	<u>Financial & Resource Implications</u>
5.1	None. Administration of Amusement Permit applications is included in current budgetary estimates.

	<u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u>
6.1	None.
7.0	Appendices – Documents Attached • Appendix 1 - Location Map • Appendix 2 - Ground Floor Layout Plan • Appendix 3 - Applicant's statement in support of application • Appendix 4 - Copy of the Planning Permission • Appendix 5 – References (Restricted) • Appendix 6 - PSNI Consultation Response • Appendix 7 - Street frontage photographs • Appendix 8 - Belfast City Council's Amusement Permit Policy

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draft

revision	description			date
project	Amusement licence application at 22 - 23 Shaftsbury Square Belfast			
 da architects ltd a. Unit 4, Armagh Business Park Moorlambstown Road Armagh, Co. Armagh, BT60 1HW Unit 11a, Port of Larne Business Park Roslindens Road, Larne, BT40 1AX t. (028) 3751 2271 f. (028) 3751 7590 e. mark@daarchitects.com w. www.daarchitects.com	client	Liam Boyle		
	title	Existing & proposed ground floor		
	scale	1:50	date	05/04/2023
	drawing no.		checked	G.H.F.
	drawn	SN		2309 - 10
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Supporting statement for extension of existing amusement permit

Premises : 23 Shaftsbury Square Belfast BT 7DB

Applicant : Play SS Ltd

Permit type : Amusement permit (extension application)

Council : Belfast City Council

This statement is prepared by da architects ltd on behalf of the applicant Play SS Ltd in support of their application for the extension of and existing amusement permit for Play SS Ltd which is located at 23 Shaftsbury Square Belfast BT 7DB. The statement is intended to be read in conjunction with the associated licence drawings and application forms also being prepared by da architects ltd. This statement:

1. Provides a description of the context of the application.
2. Health & safety
3. Planning

1. Context

Play SS Ltd has run and operated a successful licenced amusement arcade with Belfast City for several years now. Its Modus Operandi has always been to uphold the highest standards of operation and service with a safe, well maintained, well managed and socially responsible environment for their customers, staff and the wider community.

The existing premises are currently adequate, but they are not up to the high standards that Play SS Ltd aim to provide to their customers.

The proposed extension to the premises will allow Play SS Ltd to improve the services they are able to provide and offer more variety to their customer in a more comfortable environment. In addition, it will allow them to:

- (i) Provide an improved safe recreational space for their customers and staff.
- (ii) Maintain the employment of the local staff and contributing to the local economy.
- (iii) Enhance the current facilities in line with modern industry standards
- (iv) Continue to operate and fully compliant amusements business in accordance with all relevant statutory and Council regulations, including compliance with the Councils Amusement Permit Policy.
- (v) Future proof the business for any future regulation amendments etc....

Play SS Ltd operate with a strong emphasis on responsible gambling and community safety, including :

- (i) Age-restriction enforcement by trained staff
- (ii) CCTV coverage, recording and monitoring within the premises
- (iii) Clearly displayed information on responsible gaming and details of support services.

- ## 2. Health and safety and risk management

- (i) The internal layout will be improved creating a more spacious environment with walkways and 'open space' all of which will reduce congestion and improve access to the emergency exit routes in the case of an emergency.
- (ii) The premises will be fully compliant with current fire regulations with all exits illuminated and clearly marked, fire extinguisher positions, adequate emergency lighting and interlinked fire alarm installation.
- (iii) The new interior will have new LED low energy lighting throughout, enhanced natural lighting and a new mechanical ventilation system to create a safer and more comfortable interior environment.
- (iv) All flooring provided will be slip resistant providing a level of resistance that will help reduce the risks of trips, slips and falls.

Unit 6 Armagh Business Park Hamiltonsbawn Road Armagh BT60 1HW



3. Planning

A planning application was made to Planning Service for the ' Change of use of ground floor of no. 23 to amusement arcade including extension and frontage alterations to allow amalgamation with no. 22.

These proposals were granted full planning permission ref LA04/ 2021/2846/F on the 20th April 2023.

A key consideration within the proposal is that it complies with Planning Policy R1 of BMAP Plan Strategy as it retains the front retail unit and therefore the frontage is not affected by this proposal. This leaves this space available for future retail use or other use provided planning permission is granted.

Figure (ii) Copy of full planning approval



PLANNING PERMISSION

Planning Act (Northern Ireland) 2011

Application No: LA04/2021/2846/F

Date of Application: 1 December 2021

Site of Proposed Development: 22/23 Shaftesbury Square
Belfast
BT2 7DB.

Description of Proposal: **Change of use of ground floor of No. 23 to amusement arcade including extension and frontage alterations to allow for amalgamation with No22.**

Applicant: KB Shaft Limited
Address: 3 Forest Hills
Newry
BT34 2FI

Agent: Conor Byrne
Address: 17 The Esplanade
Holywood
BT18 9JP

The Council in pursuance of its powers under the above-mentioned Act hereby

GRANTS PLANNING PERMISSION

for the above mentioned development in accordance with your application subject to compliance with the following conditions which are imposed for the reasons stated:

1. The development hereby permitted must be begun within five years from the date of this permission.
Reason: As required by Section 61 of the Planning Act (Northern Ireland) 2011.
2. The extended amusement arcade hereby approved shall at all times remain part of the same planning unit as the amusement arcade at No. 22 Shaftesbury Square

In determining these proposals the planning department assessed the application under several criteria including the acceptability of an amusement/gaming centre extension in this

location, loss of ground floor retail floor space, impact on the surrounding properties, impact on neighbouring amenity and impact on traffic flow etc....

In addition to the criteria above a planning precedence was already in place as the Planning department had already approved a similar project lodged by Oasis Retail Services Ltd at 7 & 9 Wellington Place Belfast BT1 6GB ref LA04/2018/0095/F

4. Conclusion

For the reasons above, we contend that the proposal is in accordance with the application for the Provisional Grant of an Amusement Permit for Play SS Ltd, 23 Shaftesbury Square Belfast



PLANNING PERMISSION

Planning Act (Northern Ireland) 2011

Application No: **LA04/2021/2846/F**

Date of Application: **1 December 2021**

Site of Proposed
Development:

**22/23 Shaftesbury Square
Belfast
BT2 7DB.**

Description of Proposal:

Change of use of ground floor of No. 23 to amusement arcade including extension and frontage alterations to allow for amalgamation with No22.

Applicant: KB Shaft Limited
Address: 3 Forest Hills
Newry
BT34 2FI

Agent: Conor Byrne
Address: 17 The Esplanade
Holywood
BT18 9JP

The Council in pursuance of its powers under the above-mentioned Act hereby

GRANTS PLANNING PERMISSION

for the above mentioned development in accordance with your application subject to compliance with the following conditions which are imposed for the reasons stated:

1. The development hereby permitted must be begun within five years from the date of this permission.

Reason: As required by Section 61 of the Planning Act (Northern Ireland) 2011.

2. The extended amusement arcade hereby approved shall at all times remain part of the same planning unit as the amusement arcade at No. 22 Shaftesbury Square

and shall not be sub-divided or operated as a separate amusement arcade.

Reason: To prevent proliferation of amusement arcades in the locality, which would be detrimental to the amenities and character of the area.

Informatives

1. This decision relates to the following approved drawing numbers: 01 02



Authorised Officer

Dated: 20th April 2023

Belfast City Council

Document is Restricted

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Building Control Service
Ground Floor
Cecil Ward Building
4-10 Linenhall Street
Belfast
BT2 8BP

20th May 2025

Dear [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Players, 22 Shaftesbury Square, Belfast, BT2 7DB.
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Players, 22 Shaftesbury Square, Belfast, BT2 7DB.
[REDACTED]

Please note there are no current grounds for PSNI objections to the above amusement permit applications being further considered by Belfast City Council, residents, other local business and NIFRS.

The Gaming (Variation of Monetary Limits) Order (Northern Ireland) 2025 became law on 29th January 2025.

This Order makes provision for increasing the maximum amounts that may be paid by any one person for a chance to win a prize and further provision for increasing the maximum entitlement to prizes for gaming on a bingo club premises, gaming by means of a gaming machine in a registered club, on licensed premises within the meaning of the Licensing (Northern Ireland) Order 1996, any licensed office and machines installed on premises where an amusement permit is in force. The changes are outlined below: -

For Gaming (other than by means of a machine) increase

- the maximum amount that may be paid by any one person for any one chance to win a prize in gaming on bingo club premises, other than by means of a machine, from £0.50 to £1;
- the limit on the maximum aggregate amount that may be taken by way of the sale of chances in any single determination of prize winners in gaming on bingo club premises, other than by means of a gaming machine from £120 to £500;
- the maximum money prize which can be distributed or offered in any single determination of prize winners in gaming on bingo club premises, other than by means of a gaming machine from £25 to £100; and
- the maximum permitted aggregate amount or value of prizes in any single determination of prize winners in gaming on bingo club premises, other than by means of a gaming machine, from £120 to £500.

For Machine Gaming increase

- the maximum permitted charge in respect of playing one game by means of a gaming machine in a registered club from £0.50 to £2. A separate Statutory Rule has also been introduced (on 4 March 2025) which increases the maximum prize to £400;
- the maximum charge in respect of playing any one game by means of a gaming machine installed in a licensed premises within the meaning of The Licensing (Northern Ireland) Order 1996 from £0.30 to £1;
- the maximum charge in respect of playing any one game by means of a gaming machine installed on a bingo club premises, licensed office or on a premises for which there is an amusement permit from £0.30 to £2;
- the maximum entitlement to a money prize in respect of any one game played by means of a gaming machine installed in a licensed premises from £25 to £100; and
- the maximum entitlement to prizes in respect of any one game played by means of a gaming machine installed on a bingo club

premises, licensed office or on a premises for which there is an amusement permit in force from £25 to £500.

[REDACTED]

Licensing Constable

Belfast City

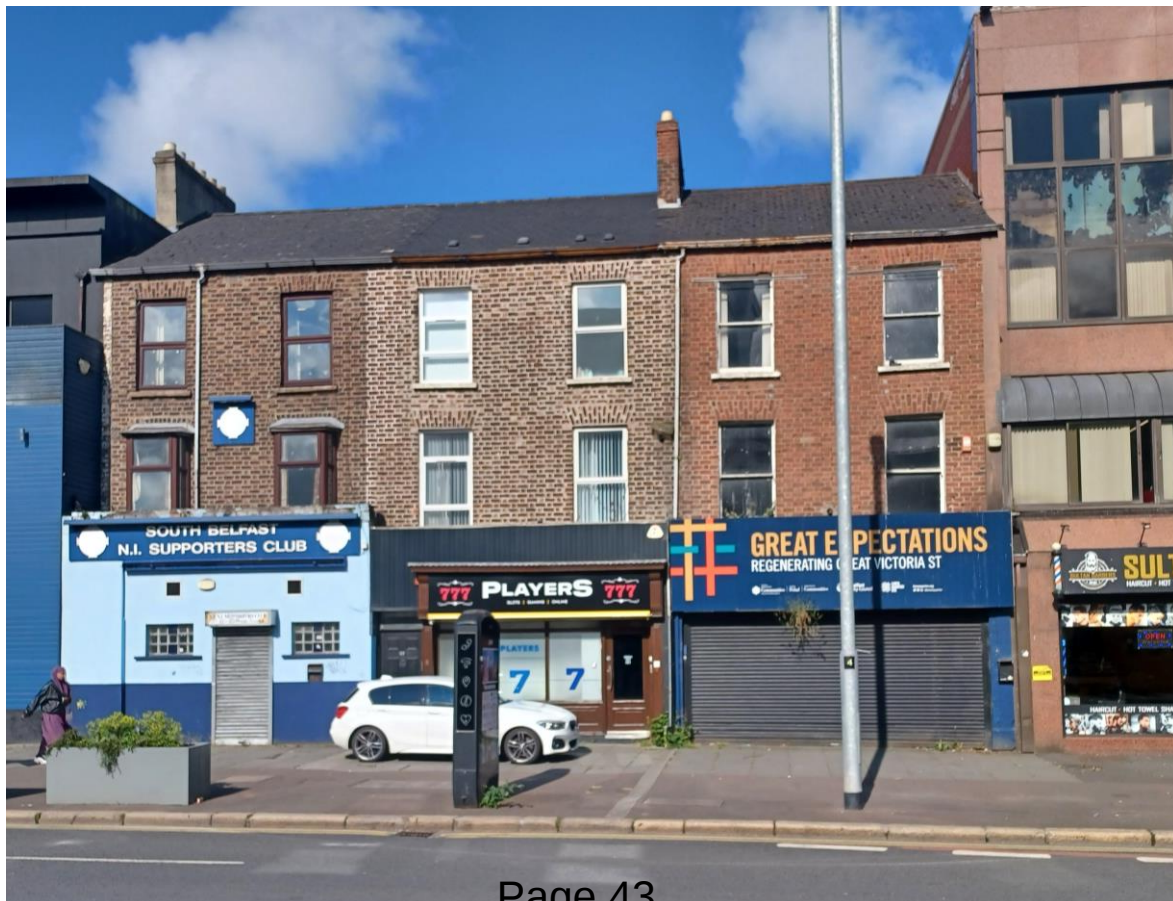
Extension: 21812

Mobile: [REDACTED]

Email: [REDACTED] [@psni.police.uk](mailto:[REDACTED]@psni.police.uk) Musgrave Police Station • 60

Victoria Street • Belfast • BT1 3GL

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Amusement Permit Policy





Introduction

To operate an amusement arcade a person must apply to Belfast City Council ('the Council') for an amusement permit. The Council is directly empowered to grant or refuse amusement permits in Belfast under the Betting, Gaming, Lotteries and Amusements (Northern Ireland) Order 1985 as amended, ('the 1985 Order').

This means that the Council issue amusement permits to premises, typically described as amusement arcades, which have 'amusement with prizes machines'. These types of machines are normally known as gaming machines. Except in the case of renewing amusement permits, applicants are normally required to first obtain planning permission for an amusement arcade before applying for an amusement permit.

What are gaming machines and amusement arcades?

A gaming machine (or amusement with prizes machine) means any machine which is used for playing a game of chance, by the insertion of money into it, with the aim of winning money. There are lower prize gaming machines and higher prize gaming machines. Use of the higher prize gaming machines is restricted to adults only (i.e. persons aged 18 or over). In Belfast, admittance to amusement arcades is usually restricted to adults because many premises only operate higher prize machines.

An amusement arcade is defined as premises which are being used wholly or mainly for amusement by gaming machines. The Council will normally deem this to be the case when there is at least one more gaming machine than the total number of all other types of machines or otherwise when it can be reasonably viewed that a substantial proportion of the business relates to the provision of gaming machines (more than de minimus)

Registered Clubs, bookmaking offices, commercial bingo clubs, public houses and licensed hotels are not required to have an amusement permit in order to have gaming machines, though other aspects of gambling legislation in Northern Ireland may apply to gaming machines in these establishments.

Aim and scope of policy –why does the Council need an amusement permit policy?

The overall aim of the amusement permit policy is to serve as a guide for Elected Members, Council officers, applicants and the wider public on applications for amusement permits in the Belfast City Council area. By outlining those matters which may be taken into account in determining an application for an amusement permit this policy has been developed to introduce greater clarity, transparency and consistency to the decision-making process.

The need for this policy was highlighted by previous Court decisions on amusement permit applications. These demonstrated the need for the Council to make its position clear on the issues to be considered when deciding to grant or refuse an amusement permit application under the 1985 Order. Some of these issues, such as location, structure, character and impact on neighbours and the surrounding area overlap with planning considerations. While the Council should be slow to differ from the views of the planning



authority, it is entitled to do so. In coming to its own decision, the Council is not bound to accept in its entirety the decision of the planning authority.

This policy is framed to be broadly consistent with regional planning guidance on amusement arcades and, at the same time, it is tailored to take into account local considerations particular to Belfast, including the location of existing amusement arcades in the City.

Whilst this policy strives to introduce greater certainty into decision-making on amusement permit applications, its contents do not prejudice the statutory power of the Council, under Article 111 of the 1985 Order, to consider any ground it deems reasonable to refuse to grant an amusement permit. The Council will therefore take into account a change in circumstances that may influence the Amusement Permit Policy and any criteria set out within it.

Although the policy is primarily intended to serve as a guide for assessing applications for amusement permits by the Council's Licensing Committee, given its interrelationship with planning considerations the policy will also be a material consideration to related applications for planning permission by the Council's Town Planning Committee. This is because applicants are usually required (except in the case of renewing amusement permits) to first obtain planning permission for the proposed amusement arcade before applying for an amusement permit.

At present, the Council is consulted on planning applications and DOE (NI) Planning makes the final decision on all planning applications, including those for amusement arcades. However, this arrangement is set to change and the Council will become the statutory planning authority for planning applications of this type in 2015. Until this transfer of power takes place, this amusement permit policy will be a material consideration for DOE (NI) Planning in determining planning applications for amusement arcades in Belfast.

This policy outlines five criteria that the Council will typically consider when assessing the suitability of a location for a proposed amusement arcade. As these criteria largely overlap with planning considerations, reference to them by DOE (NI) Planning is intended to reduce the likelihood of conflicts arising on issues that are common to both planning applications and respective permit applications.

Notwithstanding those considerations or criteria expressly outlined in this policy, the Council will take into account any matter which it deems relevant. The Council may also depart from the policy where it appears appropriate or necessary, although it is envisaged that this will only happen in exceptional circumstances.

In exercising its duties and responsibilities under this policy, the Council has been, and will continue to be, mindful of its obligations under the Human Rights Act 1998. The Council will endeavour to ensure that all action taken on foot of this policy is lawful, reasonable and proportionate.

It is anticipated that the policy will be reviewed every three years so that it can remain abreast of the dynamics of the gambling industry and any changes in legislation.



Objectives of the Policy

The key objectives of this policy can be largely linked to the Council's overarching strategic goal of improving the quality of life for present and future generations in Belfast by making it a better place in which to live, work, visit and invest. Against this background and in light of the research carried out, the interrelated key policy objectives are to:

1. promote the retail vibrancy and regeneration of Belfast;
2. enhance the tourism and cultural appeal of Belfast by protecting its image and built heritage;
3. support and safeguard residential communities in Belfast;
4. protect children and vulnerable persons from being harmed or exploited by gambling;
5. respect the need to prevent gambling from being a source of crime and disorder.

The first two policy objectives are in line with our key strategic objectives to support the local economy, including through the development and promotion of tourism. The third objective ties in with the 'support people, communities and neighbourhoods' aspect of our Investment Programme. The final two objectives are consistent with the core objectives of the Gambling Act 2005, which at present only applies to Great Britain but is currently being considered by the Department of Social Development (NI) in the context of the review of gambling legislation in Northern Ireland. .

Assessing amusement permit applications

To meet these policy objectives when determining amusement permit applications the Council will **assess each application on its own merits** and will:

1. have regard to the requirements set out in the 1985 Order; and will
2. assess the suitability of the location for a proposed amusement arcade, which will typically be based on a number of assessment criteria set out in this policy. These reflect, inter alia, the key objectives of the policy and in light of all research findings, together with a comparative analysis with Great Britain (GB) and the Republic of Ireland (ROI).

The Council will consider both these components of policy when deciding on **new** amusement permit applications. When determining an application for **renewal** of an amusement permit, the primary focus will be on the requirements set out in the 1985 Order, and this policy will only be applied in very exceptional circumstances.

Also, prior to granting or renewing any amusement permit the Council will have regard to comments received from any relevant statutory agency in relation to fire or other safety matters.



Legal requirements under the 1985 Order

In accordance with the 1985 Order, the Council will have regard to the following statutory requirements:

- 1. The character, reputation and financial standing of the applicant;**
- 2. The nature of the premises and activity proposed;**
- 3. Opinion of the Police; and**
- 4. Submissions from the general public.**

Each of these requirements is outlined below.

1. The character, reputation and financial standing of the applicant

In considering the fitness of an applicant to hold an amusement permit, the Council will take into account:

- *the character and reputation of the applicant, as corroborated by references from impartial and reliable sources, including the Police; and*
- *the financial standing of the applicant, as verified by independent credit check organisations and financial references.*

Justification and clarification

Taking on board the prevailing statutory desire by government to make gambling fair and crime-free, this policy aims to ensure that players are protected from illegal or unscrupulous operators.

Under the 1985 Order, the Council is obliged to consider the fitness of a person who is, or proposes to be, the occupier of the premises. Accordingly, the Council will consider the character, reputation and financial standing of the applicant and any person appointed to manage the business. The applicant can be an individual, a company or a partnership. In the case of the latter two, the fitness of the corporate organisation is relevant, together with the character of the directors and people with executive control.

As well as taking into account the considered views of the Police (see No.3 below), the Council will require the reputation of the applicant to be endorsed by references from sources such as bank managers, accountants and elected representatives. In order to testify to their financial standing, applicants will be asked to provide a credit report from an independent credit rating agency, together with financial references.

2. The nature of the premises proposed

The Council will aim to ensure that the nature of the premises proposed is appropriate for the location in question. This will involve careful consideration of the following matters: how premises are illuminated; the form of advertising and window display; and how notices are displayed on the premises.

Guidance in respect of the above 3 considerations can be found in Appendix A to this policy.

Justification and clarification

As far as amusement arcades and gaming machines are concerned, legislation exists to regulate rather than promote this form of gambling. Accordingly, the Council are keen to ensure that the premises do not openly encourage gambling.



3. Opinion of the Police

The Council will attach significant weight to the opinion of the Police when assessing an application, in relation to their views on the character and reputation of the applicant, as well as the location of the premises.

Justification and clarification

Under the 1985 Order, the Council must consult with the Police on amusement permit applications. It is important to ascertain the views of the Police, not only in respect of the character of the applicant but also the suitability of the area for an amusement arcade. For example, it may be relevant to the assessment of the application if the Police indicate that the vicinity of the proposed amusement centre is associated with abnormal levels of antisocial behaviour, or has been the subject of police intervention in the past. To this end, the Council will request that the Police complete a short questionnaire on the applicant and premises, a sample copy of which is contained in Appendix B.

4. Submissions from the general public

The Council will take into account the number and nature of submissions received from the general public when determining an amusement permit application, particularly those from persons or representatives of persons in neighbouring properties.

Justification and clarification

Within seven days of making an amusement permit application the applicant must place amusement permit advertisements in three out of four newspapers named by the Council. This public advertisement allows objections and submissions to be made by any person. All applications for amusement permits are referred to the Council's Licensing Committee who will take into account all submissions, whether they are made in opposition to an amusement permit, in support of a permit, or submitted as observations only.

Bearing in mind the key objectives of this policy, particularly those relating to support for retailing and residential communities, the Council will carefully consider submissions received from neighbouring properties and will consider them whether they are made by residents, businesses or any other interested party.

Belfast City Council's criteria for assessing the suitability of a location

The Council will objectively assess each application on its own merits.

Five criteria will typically be used when assessing the suitability of a location for a proposed amusement arcade:

- 1. Impact on the retail vitality and viability of Belfast City;**
- 2. Cumulative build-up of amusement arcades in a particular location;**
- 3. Impact on the image and profile of Belfast;**
- 4. Proximity to residential use; and**
- 5. Proximity to schools, youth centres and residential institutions for vulnerable people.**

Clarifications:

Before we look at these in detail, we must first make a number of clarifications on the use of these assessment criteria:



- While it is acknowledged that the existing use of the proposed premises will be a material consideration in the assessment of an amusement permit application, we may not accord substantial weight to the fact that the property (unless it was previously an amusement arcade) is vacant or used for non-shopping purposes, for example, a fast-food outlet or other licensed business. In other words, while every application will be carefully considered the Council will not allow the non-shopping use of a property or the fact that it is vacant to overshadow all other considerations to the detriment of reaching a balanced decision.
- An amusement arcade accommodates a particular type of gambling activity and should not be generalised as another form of non-shopping use or licensed activity. It is a sui generis development (of its own kind) that has its own matters to address under the 1985 Order.

Each of the 5 criteria is now explained.

1. Impact on the retail vitality and viability of Belfast City

While an application for an amusement permit in Belfast City Centre will be assessed on its merits, it will only be granted in the retail core of Belfast City Centre if it is:

- *A renewal of an existing amusement permit; or*
- *Part of a major, retail-led mixed use development; or*
- *An upper storey development.*

In addition, the Council will not grant an amusement permit in any part of the Belfast City Council area where an amusement arcade would break up an otherwise continuous shopping frontage.

Justification and clarification

In line with the objective to promote the retail vibrancy and regeneration of Belfast, the Council is keen to promote pedestrian flows in Belfast's busiest shopping streets by supporting retailers and retail development.

In stark contrast to shop units, amusement arcades are commercial leisure venues which do not have a general appeal for visitors and only have a small customer base. Only 6 per cent of people surveyed in NI in 2010 stated that they used fruit or slot machines. Viewed in this context, the opening of amusement arcades in the retail core of Belfast can be considered incompatible with the Council's aim to promote shopping in the main shopping streets of Belfast City Centre. The extent of the retail core within Belfast City Centre is shown in Appendix C.

Encouraging retailing in the retail core is in accordance with retail planning policy outlined in the DOE's Planning Policy Statement 5 on Retailing and Town Centres (PPS 5, paragraphs 11, 23 and 25).

The Council's aim of maintaining a continuous shopping frontage in all parts of Belfast is in keeping with DOE (NI) Planning's 'Development Control Advice Note 1' (DCAN 1). An application for an amusement arcade is deemed to break up a continuous shopping frontage where it proposes to replace a shop unit that is bordered by an adjacent shop unit either side of it. This may also apply to situations when one or more of the shops are vacant at the time. For the purposes of this policy a shop unit can be defined as one belonging to Class A1 of the Planning (Use Classes) Order (Northern Ireland) 2004. A copy of this use class is contained in Appendix D.

2. Cumulative build-up of amusement arcades in a particular location

The Council will limit the number of amusement permits it grants to one per shopping or commercial frontage and one per shopping centre. Where this number of permits has already been granted, or exceeded, no more amusement permits will be considered.



Under this criterion, 2 or more amusement arcades in adjacent ground-floor units will not be allowed (except for those already existing), including the ground-floor extension or merger of an existing establishment into an adjoining unit.

Justification and clarification

As the Council want to promote retailing, it is anxious to avoid a cumulative build-up or clustering of amusement arcades in a particular location. This approach is also supported by the research finding that there are twice as many machines per person in Belfast than in GB as a whole.

Unlike betting offices and bingo clubs, where licensing is a matter for the courts in Northern Ireland, there is no legal requirement by the applicant to demonstrate that a demand exists for an amusement arcade in a particular area. However, DOE (NI) Planning does consider the cumulative impact of these forms of developments. (DCAN 1) refers to the need to '*take into account the effect of larger numbers on the character of a neighbourhood*'. Likewise, Planning Policy Statement 5 on Retailing and Town Centres (PPS 5) highlights the requirement to avoid a '*clustering*' of non-retail uses, a term which is inclusive of amusement arcades, in Retail Cores and District Centres.

For the purposes of this amusement permit policy, a shopping or commercial frontage can be defined as a group of mainly ground-floor businesses that shares a continuous frontage and which is usually separated from other frontages by a different road or street name. A shopping centre refers to a group of retail and non-retail uses that is usually anchored by a large store. Beyond Belfast City Centre, shopping centres are referred to as District Centres and are located off Arterial Routes, which are the major transport thoroughfares into the City Centre.

3. Impact on the image and profile of Belfast

Amusement permits will not be granted at locations that are regarded as tourism assets, and at Gateway locations in Belfast City Centre.

Justification and clarification

In keeping with one of the key objectives of this policy, namely to enhance the tourism and cultural appeal of Belfast by protecting its image and built heritage, the Council will not grant amusement permits at locations regarded as tourism assets and at key entrance junctions (Gateways) into Belfast City Centre.

The Council will protect those areas, buildings and their settings (if appropriate) that are inherently linked to the image and tourist profile of the City. As far as this policy is concerned, the setting of a tourist asset relates to the neighbouring property either side of its main entrance, whether or not this neighbouring property is adjacent to it, or separated from it by a road or street.

A tourism asset is any feature associated with the built or natural environment that is of intrinsic interest to tourists. Most of the tourism assets in Belfast are listed buildings. These often feature in the historical database of the Northern Ireland Environment Agency and as tourist attractions in Visitor Guides for Belfast. If you need clarification on what is considered a tourist asset you can contact us.

Under this criterion, the Council will also protect the Gateway locations at the edge of Belfast City Centre which are considered suitable for landmark development capable of raising the profile of Belfast. These Gateway locations are key entrance points into the City Centre, where visitors form their first overall impression of the city centre. Viewed in this context, it is considered that granting amusement permits for new premises at ground-floor level is inappropriate for these locations. If you need clarification on what is considered a Gateway location you can contact us.



4. Proximity to residential use

Amusement permits will not be granted in areas that are predominantly residential in character, including local centres located within these areas. They will also not be granted in non-residential property that is immediately adjacent to residential property.

Justification and clarification

Bearing in mind that one of the Council's corporate objectives is to 'support people, communities and neighbourhoods' and that this is also a key objective of this policy, the Council will seek to prevent amusement arcades opening in predominantly residential areas.

Residential areas commonly have a local centre. PPS 5 describes a local centre as:

'Small groupings of shops, typically comprising a general grocery store, a sub-post office, occasionally a pharmacy and other small shops of a local nature.'

Clearly, a local centre in a predominantly residential area should provide local shops and services that cater for the daily needs of the wider community, as opposed to accommodating an amusement arcade which provides a non-essential, gambling-based leisure activity for a small number of people.

This criterion is also consistent with DOE (NI) planning policy guidance. DCAN 1, states that amusement arcades *'are not normally acceptable near residential property'*.

Areas that are predominantly residential in character obviously exclude extensive industrial or business areas which are clearly distinct from housing. Predominantly residential areas also exclude shopping and commercial areas located along Belfast's Arterial Routes.

Arterial routes are the major access roads and public transport corridors into the City Centre. They typically accommodate the greatest mix of uses outside of the City Centre, including shopping, commercial, social, leisure, community and other uses. There are 18 of these arterial routes in Belfast.

5. Proximity to schools, youth centres and residential institutions for vulnerable people

The Council will not grant amusement permits in locations near schools, youth centres and residential institutions for vulnerable people, including children's care homes and hostels for the homeless.

Justification and clarification

The protection of children and vulnerable people from gambling is a key objective of this policy. Vulnerable people are those persons who gamble more than they want to, persons who gamble beyond their means and persons who may not be able to make informed or balanced decisions about gambling perhaps due to a mental impairment, alcohol or drugs.

This component of the policy is in keeping with the prevailing gambling legislation in Great Britain, where Councils have embodied it as a core objective of their licensing policies, and is in line with similar legislative proposals being considered by the Department for Social Development (Northern Ireland) and the Department of Justice & Law Reform in the Republic of Ireland.

While the Council acknowledges that amusement arcades restrict admittance to underage persons and that the 1985 Order does not specifically refer to the need to consider the effects on persons attending schools or youth clubs, the Council believes that a precautionary approach is required for applications made near locations where children, young persons and vulnerable



people congregate. Accordingly, the Council will not permit amusement arcades within 200metres of a school, youth centre or a residential institution. This distance has regard to regional planning policy guidance, which recognises it as '*a location within easy walking distance*'.

Conclusion

Overall, this policy is intended to strike a balance between safeguarding the concerns of the wider public on the one hand and respecting an applicant's desire to obtain an amusement permit on the other. From an operational perspective, it is hoped that the policy will help to clarify the Council's position on amusement permit applications and allow for greater coherence and consistency in decision-making.

The Council has broad discretion in the range of matters it may consider in the determination of applications. This policy establishes, for all interested parties, the matters which are likely to be taken into consideration. This does not prevent the Council from departing from this policy where it is appropriate to do so.



Appendix A

Guidance for premises (as per 1985 Order & amendments thereof)

In terms of the actual premises used wholly or mainly for the provision of amusements by gaming machines, Belfast City Council has powers, under Article 111, paragraph 6b of the 1985 Order, to specify:

- how premises are illuminated;
- the form of advertising and window display; and
- how notices are displayed on the premises.

Addressing each of the above matters in turn, the following points should be noted by applicants:

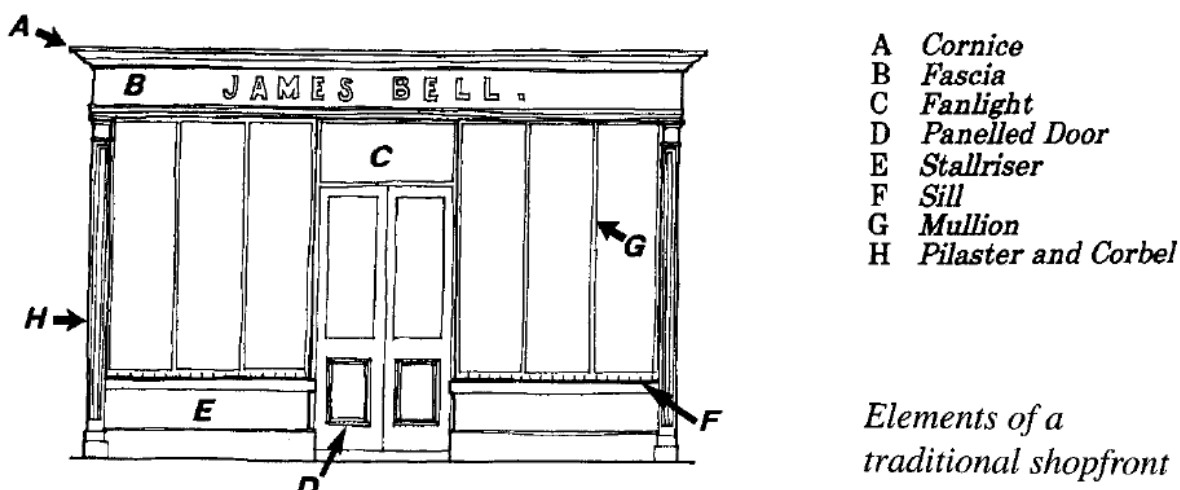
- **Illumination** – as a general rule illumination should be kept to a minimum and no floodlighting of premises will be permitted, save for trough/spot lighting over the fascia.
- **Form of advertising and window displays** – the name of the business should be clearly advertised in the window. Legislation in Northern Ireland restricts access to higher prize machines by people under eighteen. Notification of this restriction should be clearly displayed on the exterior of the premises and ideally a proof-of-age scheme should be implemented by the operator. The windows should be designed so as to shield the interior (and machines) from public view. This could involve the use of fixed screening inside the windows, opaque fenestration or a combination of both. Projecting signs that advertise the presence of the establishment are not considered suitable for amusement arcades.
- **Notices on premises** - advertising in amusement arcades should be legal, socially responsible and not construed to exploit or specifically target the young and other vulnerable persons through style, presentation or content. Interior notices indicating that access is prohibited to persons aged under eighteen should be prominently



displayed. Notices containing helpline numbers for organisations such as GamCare, Gamblers Anonymous, Gambleaware, etc. should also be displayed within the premises. Applicants may also wish to consider providing information leaflets with helpline numbers near gaming machines.

Guidance on the content of Notices is available in the rule book known as the Code of Non-broadcast Advertising, Sales Promotion and Direct Marketing (the Code). The Committee of Advertising Practice (CAP) is the self-regulatory body that creates and enforces this Code. The latest version of the CAP CODE is available online at <http://www. www.cap.org.uk/Advertising-Codes/Non-broadcast-HTML.aspx>

The requirement to regulate illumination, advertising and window displays on an amusement arcade has to be balanced against a wider planning desire to avoid the creation of an unsightly facade that could undermine the visual amenity of the streetscape. Therefore, in order to promote their integration, some policies in Britain cite the need for amusement arcades to respect elements of the traditional shop-front design (see illustration below).



Reference to the traditional shop-front design is intended to alert applicants to the key features of a retail façade. It is submitted as information only and is not intended to be read as a rigid template for the frontage design of premises.



Appendix B Police Questionnaire

The Betting, Gaming, Lotteries and Amusements (Northern Ireland) Order 1985 (as amended)

In accordance with the above legislation, relating to Amusement Permits, the Police Service of Northern Ireland (PSNI) is duly requested to give its considered opinion in respect of the fitness of the applicant to hold an amusement permit and the location of the application premises.

Applicant details:

Premises' details:

Application for Amusement Permit (including renewal of Permits)				
Question	Y	N	Don't Know	If 'Y' please provide details including dates
Has the applicant ever been convicted of a criminal offence?				
Has the Police ever received complaints about the applicant or premises?				
Has the Police ever been called to intervene in disturbances in the vicinity of the premises?				
Has the Police ever objected to an amusement permit application for these premises in the past, or to an application made by the same applicant elsewhere?				
Overall, does the Police have any objections to this applicant being granted an amusement permit?				
Overall, in the opinion of the Police, is the location of the premises considered suitable for an amusement arcade? For example its suitability in terms of its proximity to residential institutions that are used for bail or probation purposes.				If 'N' please give reasons



Appendix C: Belfast City Centre Retail Core





Appendix D: Definition of a shop
- extract from The Planning (Use Classes) Order (Northern Ireland) 2004

SCHEDULE

PART A

SHOPPING AND FINANCIAL & PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

Class A1: Shops

Use for all or any of the following purposes –

- (a) for the retail sale of goods other than hot food;
- (b) as a post office;
- (c) for the sale of tickets or as a travel agency;
- (d) for hairdressing;
- (e) for the display of goods for retail sale;
- (f) for the hiring out of domestic or personal goods or articles; or
- (g) for the reception of goods including clothes or fabrics to be washed, cleaned or repaired either on or off the premises

where the sale, display or service is to visiting members of the public.

Amusement Permit Policy

The policy was ratified by Belfast City Council on 1 May 2013.

Building Control Service
Health & Environmental Services Department
Belfast City Council
5th Floor
9 Lanyon Place
Belfast
BT1 3LP

Tel: (028) 9027 0650
buildingcontrol@belfastcity.gov.uk

Additional copies available on request or from our webpage.

Copies are also available in alternative formats on request from our Building Control Service.



Subject:	Application to provide outdoor musical entertainment beyond 11.00 pm at Falls Park
Date:	18 June 2025
Reporting Officer:	Kate Bentley, Director of Planning & Building Control, ext. 2300
Contact Officer:	Darren McCamphill, Lead Building Control Surveyor, ext. 2444

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 <input style="width: 40px; height: 20px;" type="checkbox"/> <input style="width: 40px; height: 20px;" type="checkbox"/> <input style="width: 40px; height: 20px;" type="checkbox"/> <input style="width: 40px; height: 20px;" type="checkbox"/>	
Call-in	
Is the decision eligible for Call-in?	Yes ☒ No ☐

1.0	Purpose of Report
1.1	To consider a request from the organisers of Féile an Phobail to permit the planned entertainment to run beyond 11.00 pm on up to 6 nights during the festival event within Falls Park, running from Friday 1 st August to Sunday 10 th August 2024.
2.0	Recommendations
2.1	Taking into account the information presented and any representations received you are required to consider the request to extend the hours of entertainment and, subject to all technical requirements being met, either: 1. Agree that all 6 of the events should be permitted to take place beyond the standard hours of licence to 1.00 am; or 2. Agree that only on specified nights will entertainment be permitted to take place beyond the standard hours of licence to 1.00am and that the other requested nights be permitted to take place to an earlier specified extended hour; or 3. Refuse to extend all of the hours as requested.
3.0	Main Report
	<u>Key Issues</u>
3.1	Falls Park has a 7-Day Annual Outdoor Entertainments Licence and a 7-Day Annual Indoor Entertainments Licence for a Marquee and both have been used to hold events in the past, primarily for this event. The Licences are held by the City and Neighbourhood Services Department and are transferred to the organisers for the duration of their event.
3.2	A Site Location Map is attached as Appendix 1.
3.3	The days and standard hours during which entertainment may be provided both outdoors and in a marquee are Monday to Sunday from 11.30 am to 11.00 pm.
3.4	In addition, 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.

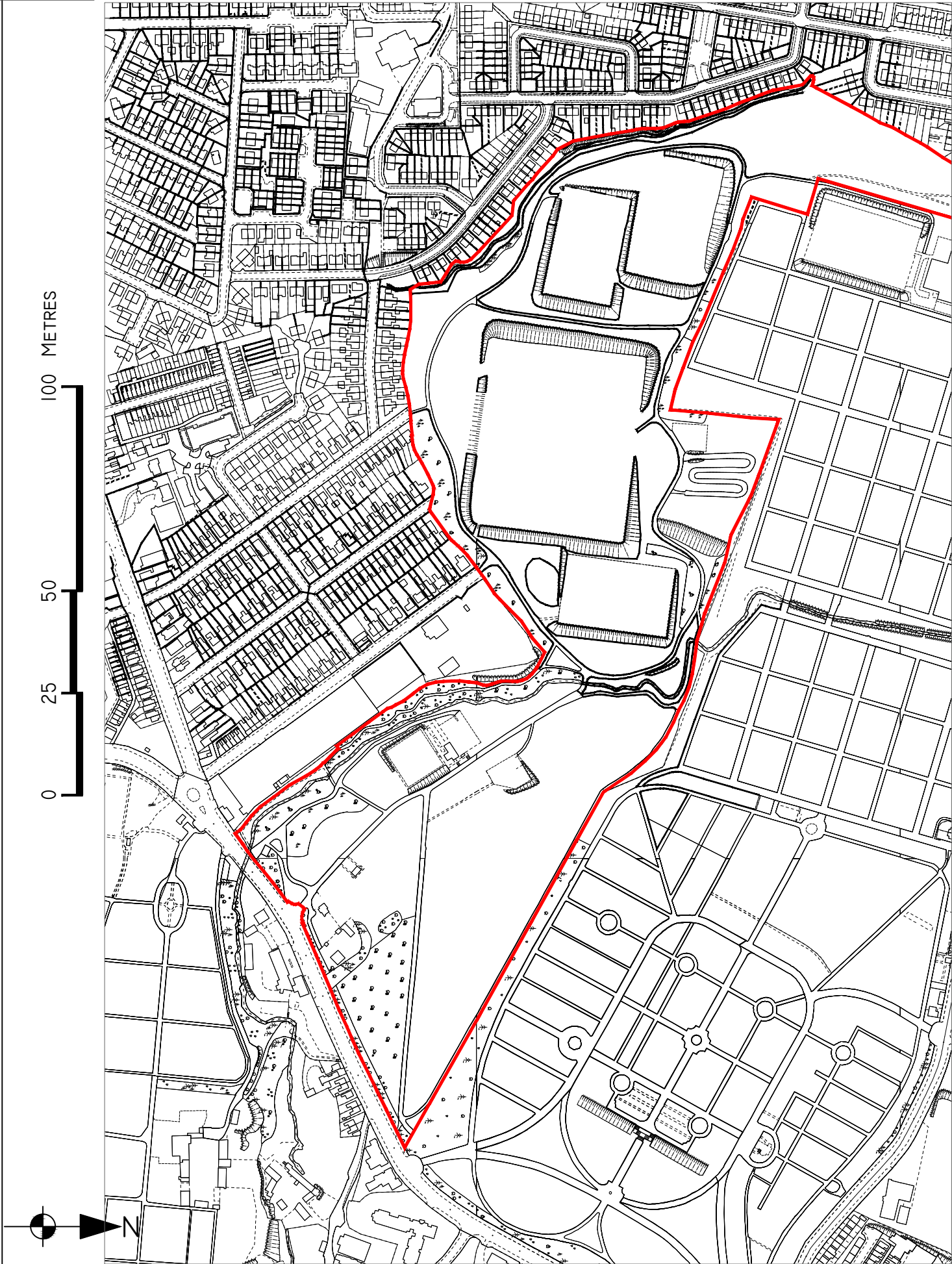
3.5	Therefore, this is a request to provide entertainment later than 11pm must be considered by the Licensing Committee.
3.6	As this is not an application to vary the terms of the Outdoor licence, but a request for Council's permission to extend the hours under an existing Licence Condition, there is no requirement for public advertisement in this case.
3.7	The event organiser has indicated that outdoor music events are scheduled for two sets of three consecutive nights, Friday 1 st , Saturday 2 nd and Sunday 3 rd August, and on Friday 8 th , Saturday 9 th and Sunday 10 th August 2025. The request is to provide entertainment beyond 11.00 pm on these six nights.
3.8	The event organiser has indicated that it is intended only to operate to 1.00 am on 2 occasions. These dates have been identified as Saturday 2nd August and Friday 8th August.
3.9	The Service await confirmation from the organisers on actual finish time of the 4 remaining events for which extension beyond standard hours has also been requested.
3.10	<u>Rationale for extended hours:</u> A rationale for extended hours beyond 11pm has been provided by the event organiser and is attached as Appendix 2.
3.11	The event has been running for over 30 years as a community festival and in recent years organisers have consolidated the music events hosted at Falls Park to 6 nights. This decision was motivated by a desire to limit disruption to the community in close proximity to Falls Park.
3.12	The applicant has indicated that it is intended that entertainment will go on no later than 1.00 am for the events on Saturday 2nd August and Friday 8th August, with this request for extended hours on these nights being due to the diversionary nature of the events.
3.13	Members are reminded that in 2024 the Committee agreed to grant the organisers permission to operate on 7 nights of the event beyond the standard hours of 11.00 pm to 1.00 am and on all these nights entertainment did continue beyond 11pm.
3.14	A representative of the event organiser has been invited to attend your meeting.
3.15	<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.
3.16	Should Members be minded approve the extended hours requested, this should be subject to a satisfactory response from the PSNI on the matter.
3.17	<u>Health, safety and welfare issues:</u> Officers have engaged with the event organisers and colleagues in City & Neighbourhood Services in relation to the festival and will participate in the multi-agency meeting to be held in advance of the event with the event organisers.
3.18	An Event Management Plan in support of the event has been received and is being evaluated by the Service and shared with other colleagues.
3.19	Officers from the Service have carried out during performance inspections at previous events organised by Féile an Phobail and found that the organisers have adhered to the health, safety and welfare management requirements during that time.
3.20	<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.
3.21	In 2024, 76 noise complaints were received over the period of the festival, a reduction from the approx. 120 noise complaints received in 2023.
3.22	Complaints received during the course of the festival in 2024 were brought to the attention of the event organisers and following conclusion of the festival a summary of all noise complaints was provided for their consideration. No formal action was undertaken in respect of the noise complaints received.
3.23	During this year's festival there will be 3 consecutive nights (Friday 1 st – Sunday 3 rd August) and followed by 3 further consecutive nights (Friday 8 th – Sunday 10 th August) of musical entertainment which will potentially run beyond 11.00pm. The cumulative impact of disturbance resulting from this musical entertainment and congregation of large numbers of patrons attending the park has the potential to give rise to community annoyance.
3.24	The event organisers will, as for last year, again be required to engage with an acoustic consultant and requested to document a noise mitigation strategy for each night of entertainment. The purpose of the strategy will be to demonstrate that noise from the event will not cause unreasonable disturbance to commercial and residential premises. Once received by the Service this strategy will be provided to EPU for appraisal.
3.25	The noise mitigation strategy will be discussed at the pre-event multi-agency meeting. Last year Members requested the sound consultant had a site presence on the nights of entertainment to carry out sound testing, and this again be a beneficial mitigation this year.
3.26	The organisers will also be required to produce a suitable residents pre-notification letter containing a nominated event organiser contact that that residents may refer concerns or make complaints to. The extent of the letter's distribution, which will take place prior to the event will be agreed with the event organiser by the Service in consultation with EPU officers.
3.27	The event organisers will be reminded of the standard licence condition that receipt of significant complaints may lead to further late nights being curtailed. However, it can be impracticable during the festival to curtail further nights at short notice, and as complaints are not all received on the nights that are the subject of the complaint a full picture does not emerge until all complaints are collated, by which time the events can be concluded.
3.28	Members may therefore wish to consider the number of complaints received last year in making a decision on whether to grant or refuse the request for extended hours to 1am for some or all of the six nights requested, or in specifying an earlier extended hour for all or some of the nights.
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 • Appendix 2 – Applicant's rationale for extended hours



Building Control Service

Belfast Mapping Data v3.0
Prepared by I.S.B.
Based upon the Ordnance Survey
Of Northern Ireland map with the
permission of the Director & Chief Executive.
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21st May 2025

Dear members,

Féile an Phobail is Irelands biggest community arts festival and summer school, holding 3 festivals a year as well as a range of year-round community engagement and youth arts events. Our August Féile is our flagship international festival, attracting upwards of 80,000 to Belfast each year, and includes:

- approximately 600 events in 30+ venues citywide, including iconic venues such as Clonard Monastery An Chulturlann, Shankill Road, East Belfast, Duncairn Arts Centre, Linen Hall Library, PRONI, Ulster Museum, Belfast City Hall, St Marys University College, Conway Mill, Milltown and City Cemeteries and the Falls Park.
- 18 music concerts, including 5-6 12,000 capacity concerts in the Falls Park
- Féile Dance night (2024) resulted in NO Bonfires across the entire City– a significant achievement
- 4 International comedy concerts,
- 40+ exhibitions from artists worldwide,
- 70+ discussions and debates events as part of ‘Irelands biggest Summer School’,
- 24 youth events,
- 12 literary events,
- 9 drama / theatre productions,
- over 100 family, outdoor and community events, street performances,
- an internationally themed carnival parade,
- international food fayre,
- an event celebrating Pride week,
- 30+ sporting events, and,
- 20 various tours and walks
- A Health and Well Being Festival (Sat 26th July)
- Approximately £4m contributed to local business as a result of August Féile events!

Féile an Phobail, literally means Festival of the People, and really is a festival for all the people of the City and beyond, with a community ethos at the heart of our events. The event has grown over the years from being held for 2-3 days to a full 11 day internationally acclaimed festival offering an eclectic mix of arts and cultural events, ranging from headline music concerts, comedy, tours and walks, debates and discussions, exhibitions / visual arts, theatre, youth and community and sporting events.

This year’s festival will run from Thursday 31st July to Sunday 10th August, with preliminary events, including a new initiative ‘HappyFest’ being included in this years programme and held in the Falls Park on Saturday 26th July, with a dfocus on health and wellbeing events and activities.

In previous years, we had requested a license for, and operated between 8 and 11 headline music concerts in the Falls Park. Following significant consultation with the local community,

and with our main stakeholders, and having successfully operated on the new event space since 2018, we are maintaining this year's headline events to 5 - 6.

This year we would request that the Committee consider permitting us to operate this year's headline music events in the Falls Park from Thursday 1st August to Sunday 11th, with events taking place on the 1st 2nd, 3rd, 8th, 9th, 10th August.

We would request that entertainment license be granted to 1am. It is envisaged that only one/two of these nights, Saturday 2nd August & Friday 8th August will go to 1am, due to the diversionary nature of the event, which receives the support of the wider community and statutory agencies, including the PSNI and is funded by Belfast City Council. Féile has also agreed to limit / mitigate against any sound issues on this evening by introducing the main acts on stage at an earlier time, an initiative that has been well received in previous years.

This will allow us to develop our plans around some of the diversionary activities we are proposing to do to help with the ongoing antisocial behavior issues that exist within the Falls Park and surrounding areas.

This year Féile will also act as a lead partner for diversionary events on the 8th August (and the lead up the 8th) right across the City, with events taking place and partnering with Féile in Ardoyne, New Lodge, the Market, Short Strand and the Ormeau Road, a significant cross City project aimed at reducing intra and inter community tension, not to mention the anti-social behavior on this date often associated with 'unwanted' bonfires.

Féile has committed alongside local political and community reps to conduct a number of community consultations around this year's events in the park, specifically engaging with local residents and addressing any issues / concerns. Indeed, we have already engaged in meetings with BCC Officers, the PSNI and local residents. We will continue to work alongside the park team and building control in this respect in the lead up to and throughout the festival.

We are currently finalising the acts for this year but have already lined up a range of headline artists that will appeal to all age groups. We would hope to have the running order completed in the next couple of weeks and will forward this to Building Control when completed.

As well as holding two operational meetings already with stakeholders, we've provided a draft copy of our proposed Event Management Plan and Site Plan but wish to highlight that these are subject to change but can assure the Committee that we will continue to work with Building Control and provide them with regular updates as work progresses in this regard.

As in recent year's we have been in regular contact with the PSNI regarding the event to agree the policing, traffic and transport measures, including parking. The PSNI have always been very helpful and are happy with the plans we have discussed with them. The PSNI are also involved with the diversionary activities we are implementing for the event and the

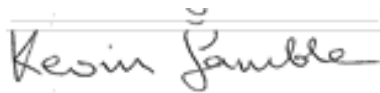
underage activities to resolve the issues of anti-social behavior, etc. currently being experienced in the area.

We've also been held discussion with the Council's Parks Unit regarding the event and the relevant access and egress arrangements along with the timeframe available in order to gain access to start the site build.

If you require any additional information in relation to this year's events, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours Sincerely

Kevin Gamble Director
Féile an Phobail

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kevin Gamble". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned below the printed name and title.

Address: St Comgalls, Divis Street, BT12 4AQ. Tel: 02895609984. Email:
info@feilebelfast.com. Web www.feilebelfast.com

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Belfast
City Council

LICENSING COMMITTEE

Subject:	Application for the Grant of a 14-Day Occasional Outdoor Entertainments Licence for 352-358 Shankill Road
Date:	18 June 2025
Reporting Officer:	Kate Bentley, Director of Planning & Building Control, ext. 2300
Contact Officer:	James Carruthers, Building Control Surveyor, ext. 2452

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

☒

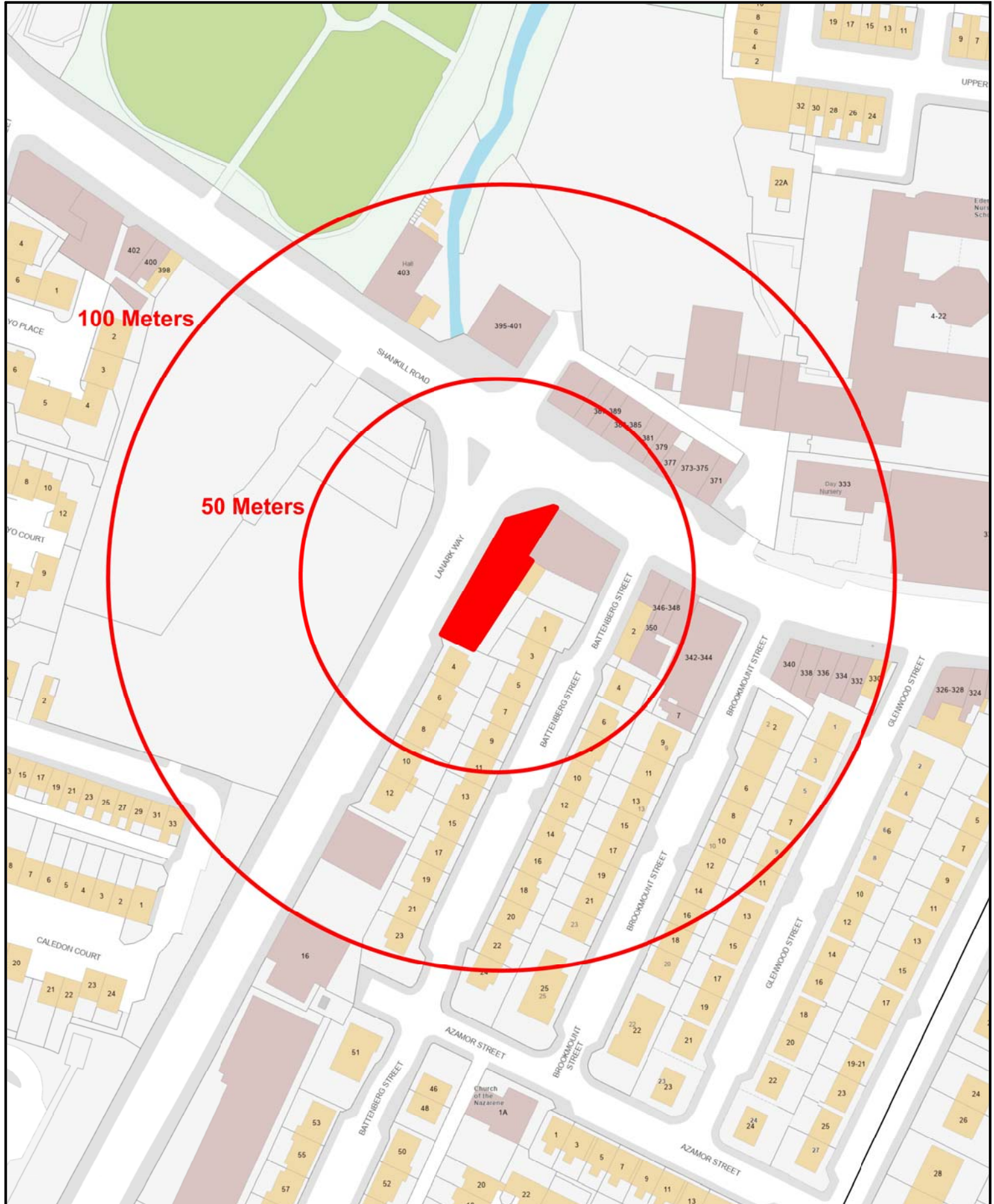
No

☐

1.0	Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues		
1.1	To consider an application for the grant of a 14-Day Occasional Outdoor Entertainments Licence based on the Council's standard conditions, to provide outdoor musical entertainment for: Area and Location Land adjacent to 352-358 Shankill Road (former 1st Shankill NI Supporters Club) Belfast, BT13 3AD Ref. No. WK/202205503 Applicant Mr Warren McAdam		
1.2	A location map is attached as Appendix 1		
2.0	Recommendations		
2.1	Taking into account the information presented and any representations made in respect of the application you are required to make a decision to either: a) Approve the application for the grant of the 14-Day Occasional Outdoor Entertainments Licence, or b) Approve the application for the grant with special conditions, or c) Refuse the application for the grant of the 14-Day Occasional Outdoor Entertainments Licence.		
2.2	If an application is refused, 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, outdoor entertainment may not be provided until any such appeal is determined.		
3.0	Main Report – Key issues		
3.1	The applicant has applied to provide entertainment in the form of live music, within an outdoor area. The site is adjacent to the former 1 st Shankill NI Supporters Club, part of which has been demolished, creating additional outside space. Planning permission has recently been granted for refurbishment of the remaining building and a two storey side and rear extension to provide an upgraded bar, function room and restaurant (LA04/2022/1450/F). Therefore, it is envisaged that use of the site for outdoor entertainment will be for a limited timeframe.		
3.2	The applicant has confirmed that the intention is to provide local, all age/family one day events, probably on a Saturday and running from approximately 13:00 – 23:00.		
3.3	The day and hours proposed to allow entertainment to be provided are the standard outdoor entertainment hours of: Monday to Sunday: 12:00 pm to 11.00pm		
3.3	A layout plan is attached as Appendix 2.		
3.4	Members are reminded that all applications for the grant of Outdoor Entertainments Licences must be brought before Committee for consideration.		
	Representations		

3.5	Public notice of the application has been placed in the newspaper and no written representation has been lodged as a result of the advertisement. <u>PSNI</u>
3.6	The Police have been consulted and have confirmed that they have no objection to the application. However, they request consideration of the following conditions being placed on the licence: • The licence holder to take positive steps to manage the premises / area responsibly in a peaceful and orderly manner. • Robust complaints procedure in place for dealing with residents' concerns expeditiously.
3.7	The Service considers that these are covered in the conditions attached to Outdoor Entertainment Licences.
3.8	A copy of the PSNI response is attached as Appendix 3. <u>NIFRS</u>
3.9	The NIFRS have been consulted by the Service in relation to the application, however, a response has not yet been received. We will update the Committee at your meeting. <u>Health, safety and welfare</u>
3.10	The proposed event space has been assessed and inspected by the Service and is considered suitable for the event type proposed. An Event Management Plan for the proposed events has been requested, which will be evaluated and shared with other colleagues. <u>Noise</u>
3.11	The applicant has provided the Service with a noise impact assessment report from an acoustic consultant for the outdoor area. This has been evaluated by our Environmental Protection Unit (EPU).
3.12	The outcome of the evaluation has been a requirement that the applicant provide advanced notification to residents in the vicinity of the site when entertainment is to be provided. Such neighbourhood notification is a usual requirement for outdoor music events.
3.13	A Neighbourhood Notification letter has been developed by the applicant and agreement has been reached on properties to receive this notification.
3.14	The applicant, and/or their representative will be available at your meeting to answer any queries you may have in relation to the application.
4.0	Financial & Resource Implications None. Officers will carry out inspections before and during events which will be catered for within existing Service budgets.
5.0	Equality or 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 – Layout plan • Appendix 3 – PSNI Comments



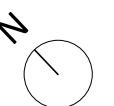
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SHANKILL ROAD



1 Proposed Block Plan
1 : 200

	Site Boundary	x 00.00m	Existing Spot Level
	Previously Demolished		
	Area out of bounds		



Dr	Ap	Rev	Date	Description
AN	RS	A	24/03/2025	First Issue
IT	RS	B	06/05/2025	Amendments

FOR PLANNING

PROJECT
Shankill Road

CLIENT
Elite Fit Out Ltd

DRAWING

Proposed Block Plan

SCALE @A3
1 : 200

STAGE
64

JOB	DWG No	Rev
21075	(P-)1	B

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Building Control Service
Ground Floor
Cecil Ward Building
4-10 Linenhall Street
Belfast
BT2 8BP

6th June 2025

Dear James

352 Shankill Road, Belfast - Outdoor Entertainment Licence Grant

Please note that District Councils are the lead organisation for Entertainment Licensing and the provisions of the Order under Schedule 1 allows for the application, regulation and restriction following consideration by the licensing authority.

The Order allows for the granting of a licence with conditions with the overarching aim of maximising safety and minimise risk and impact that may result from the granting of a licence.

The role of the Police Service in consideration of entertainment licences is limited however I would highlight current regulatory practice:

- Private Security Industry Act 2001 – covers the requirement for the provision of licensed activities that may impact this application.
- Responsible retailing code (NI) – covers the responsible promotion and retail of alcohol.
- The Registration of Clubs (NI) Order 1996
- The Licensing (NI) Order 1996
- The Licensing and Registration of Clubs (amendment) Act (Northern Ireland) 2021.

There are no current grounds for PSNI objections to the grant of the above entertainment licence application for a 14 day occasional (unspecified days) being further considered by Belfast City Council, residents, other local business and NIFRS.

Police note there is no current liquor licence in place to sell alcohol at this location and we are unaware of any community engagement with the local residents to date.

Police would further request the following special conditions be considered for inclusion on the licence to ensure the peaceful and orderly conduct of the area and that the appropriate number of SIA approved only doorstaff be deployed within the area if required.

- The licence holder to take positive steps to manage the premises / area responsibly in a peaceful and orderly manor
- Robust complaints procedure in place for dealing with residents' concerns expeditiously.

If granted in due course please forward police a copy of the above Entertainment Licence with any special conditions or restrictions with confirmation that all Belfast City Council requirements and conditions including all Building Regulations approvals have been adhered to and that the Licensing (NI) Order 1996 will be adhered to by the licence holder.

Can you further ensure that the applicant has registered the premises / area with the ongoing 'Ask for Angela' campaign as we continue to raise awareness for this simple, yet effective initiative that allows those who may find themselves in a vulnerable situation, with a quick and discreet way to access the help they need. Please feel free to share and encourage your applicants to register and appear on the province wide map.



The Police Service of Northern Ireland has developed a short training package, in partnership with Hospitality Ulster for the 'Ask for Angela' safeguarding initiative across Northern Ireland. People who feel unsafe, vulnerable or

threatened can discreetly seek help by approaching venue staff. Asking for 'Angela' will indicate to trained staff that this person requires help in the form of; reuniting them with a friend, seeing them to a taxi, or by calling venue security and/or Police. The training package for the scheme is now available to access on the Hospitality Ulster website here: <https://hospitalityulster.org/askforangela> or on the Northern Ireland Hotel Federation website here: <https://www.nihf.co.uk/ask-for-angela/> Any venue that wishes to take part must **first register via the link** above to sign up to the scheme and then they will be given access

to the bespoke training package for their staff and promotional materials for their venue.

Once venues / managed areas / spaces have signed up they will be added to a map that has been designed to make the public aware of what once venues have signed up they will be added to a map that has been designed to make the public aware of what venues are involved.

[REDACTED]
Licensing Constable
Belfast City

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