



<b>Subject:</b>	Request for the use of Alexandra Park for the North Belfast Lantern Parade
<b>Date:</b>	9 August 2022
<b>Reporting Officer:</b>	David Sales, Director of Neighbourhood Services
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	Cate Taggart, Neighbourhood Services Manager

<b>Restricted Reports</b>	
<b>Is this report restricted?</b>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<b>If Yes, when will the report become unrestricted?</b>	
<b>After Committee Decision</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>After Council Decision</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Some time in the future</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Never</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>

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

<b>1.0</b>	<b>Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues</b>
1.1	Committee is asked to note that Council has received a request from New Lodge Arts for free use of Alexandra Park to host the North Belfast Lantern Parade.
1.2	This will be the 6 <sup>th</sup> year that the festival will take place in Alexandra Park and the event is scheduled to take place on Saturday 29 <sup>th</sup> October 2022.
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Recommendations</b>
2.1	The Committee is asked to grant authority to the applicant for the proposed event on the dates noted and to delegate authority to the Director of Neighbourhood Services to ensure the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Where appropriate negotiate an appropriate fee which recognises the costs to Council, minimises negative impact on the immediate area and takes account of the</li></ul>

2.2	<p>potential wider benefit to the city economy, in conjunction with the Councils Commercial Manager;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Negotiate satisfactory terms and conditions of use via an appropriate legal agreement prepared by the City Solicitor, including managing final booking confirmation dates and flexibility around 'set up' &amp; take down' periods, and booking amendments, subject to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The promoter resolving any operational issues to the Council's satisfaction;</li> <li>- Compliance with Coronavirus restrictions in place at the time of the event;</li> <li>- The promoter meeting all the statutory requirements of the Planning and Building Control Service including the terms and conditions of the Park's Entertainment Licence</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p>Please note that the above recommendations are taken as pre-policy position, in advance of the Council agreeing a more structured framework and policy for 'Events', which is currently being taken forward in conjunction with the Councils Commercial team.</p>
<b>3.0</b>	<b>Main report</b>
3.1	<p>The North Belfast Lantern Festival is an event led by New Lodge Arts attracting up to 5,000 people drawn from the local communities</p>
3.2	<p>The event is aimed at families and will include the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Art Workshops and street performers</li> <li>• Lantern Parade that makes its way from Cliftonpark Avenue to Alexandra Park</li> <li>• Evening event that will include outdoor performances</li> <li>• Stage entertainment</li> <li>• Inflatables</li> <li>• Petting farm</li> <li>• Firework display that closes event</li> </ul>
3.3	<p>The event is a project of the Ashton Community Trust and is managed by New Lodge Arts, a voluntary arts organisation that has successfully worked across communities in North Belfast for the past twenty years.</p>

3.4	The event is ticketed with wristbands costing £2. The ticketed system has been used to date to manage attendance numbers. This is not for profit and all proceeds go towards covering the cost of the wrist band or activity delivered as part of the event.
3.5	An advisory group is established to provide advice and guidance on the community outreach and event elements of the programme.
3.6	This year the event will take place on Saturday 29 <sup>th</sup> Oct from 2.00pm – 8.30pm. Site build for the event will begin on Friday 28 October from 10.00am and deconstruction will be completed on Sunday 31 October 2022 by 2.00pm.
3.7	<p>The event organisers have confirmed that they will undertake to do the following in order to ensure the event is both a success and safe.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Employ a security firm to safeguard participants and equipment</li> <li>▪ Employ reputable contractors to ensure a safe and professional event</li> <li>▪ Put a ticketing system in place</li> <li>▪ Ensure that a one-way system traffic system for the park is in place</li> <li>▪ Ensure residents are informed about the event 7 days prior to the event and ensure that there is no inconvenience or nuisance caused to the residents on the day of the event.</li> <li>▪ Work with the relevant council departments to ensure effective management of the park and the event.</li> </ul>
3.8	<p>In order to build the site safely and in a timely fashion, organisers have requested that the park might be closed to members of the public for a period of time on Friday 28 October and that only members of the public with tickets, can access the park on Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> from 2.00pm until the event ends at 8.30pm.</p> <p><u>Financial &amp; Resource Implications</u></p>
3.9	<p>The request is for free use of Alexandra Park and facilities including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The lower and upper areas of the park</li> <li>▪ The sports pitch located in the lower area of the park</li> </ul>

<p>3.10</p> <p>3.11</p>	<p><u>Asset and Other Implications</u></p> <p>There are no known implications.</p> <p><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u></p> <p>The overall aim of the event and the associated project elements are to build and sustain good relations and trust within the communities in North Belfast.</p>
<p><b>4.0</b></p>	<p><b>Appendices – Documents Attached</b></p>
	<p>None</p>