

Parks and Leisure Committee

Thursday, 12th June, 2014

MEETING OF PARKS AND LEISURE COMMITTEE

Members present: Councillor McKee (Chairman);
The Deputy Lord Mayor (Councillor Hendron);
Alderman Rodgers; Councillors Convery,
Corr, Cunningham, Hanna,
Kyle, Mullan, McCabe, McNamee,
Ó Donnghaile, Thompson and Verner.

In attendance: Mr. A. Hassard, Director of Parks and Leisure;
Mrs. R. Crozier, Assistant Director of Parks
and Leisure; and
Mr. B. Flynn, Democratic Services Officer.

Apologies

Apologies were reported from Alderman Robinson and Councillors Beattie, Haire and Mac Giolla Mhín.

Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of 10th April were taken as read and signed as correct. It was reported that those minutes had been adopted by the Council at its meeting on 1st May.

Declarations of Interest

No declarations of interest were reported.

Mrs. Dianne Leeman

The Chairman referred to the death of the former Council employee Mrs. Dianne Leeman and it was agreed that a letter of condolence be forwarded on behalf of the Committee to the family of the late Mrs. Leeman.

Potential New Burial Ground at Dundrod

In accordance with the Committee's decision of 10th April, the Chairman welcomed Mr. I. Lees, Mr. R. Bowman, Mr. S. Hood and Mr. R. Angus, who were acting as consultants on behalf of Carston Holdings, which had an option on land at Dundrod in respect of the possible development of a new burial ground at the site. The Council was currently considering the potential of that site to meet future burial needs.

The Committee was updated on the consultant's findings to date in respect of the Dundrod site, particularly regarding planning, traffic and access issues. The

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Committee was provided also with an overview of the range of environmental issues which would be pertinent in the development of the site and the consultants presented a range of schematic designs which might be considered in the provision of a new cemetery at the site. The members of the deputation responded to a range of questions which related to overall costs, the extent of consultation required and the timescale for the development of the cemetery. They then retired from the meeting.

The Director advised the Committee that that a report in respect of the Council's options for the future development of the Dundrod site would be submitted to its meeting in August, together with a report which would seek the Members' approval to undertake a Strategic Outline Case for the refurbishment of the City of Belfast Crematorium.

Noted.

Support for Sport

The Committee noted a schedule of Support for Sport applications which related to development and hospitality grants and which had been approved by the Director in accordance with the authority delegated to him, information on which was available on the Council's Mod.gov website.

Year-end Finance Report

The Committee noted the contents of a report which provided an update in respect of the Department's year-end finance performance for 2013/2014, a copy of which was published on the Council's Mod.gov website. The Committee welcomed the fact that the Department had operated within its financial targets throughout the year.

Departmental Plan - Year-end Update 2013/2014

The Committee noted the contents of a report which provided an overview of the progress which had been achieved in respect of the Departmental Plan for 2013/2014.

Antisocial Behaviour – Quarterly Update

The Committee considered the undernoted report:

“1. Background Information

The objectives of the ASB programme are to:

- **enhance the environment around Parks and Leisure facilities;**
- **develop education initiatives involving creative or supportive interventions to model acceptable behaviour around facilities;**
- **define enforcement as a deterrent against infraction of bye-laws or legislation; and**

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- develop sustainable interagency and inter-departmental networks and leading a partnership approach to reducing antisocial behaviour.

2. Key Issues

The ASB Coordinator prioritises action and expenditure by collating evidence gathered through ASB incident reports.

Below in Table 1, illustrates the comparative data of the number of incident reports of ASB in parks between December 2012 to April 2013 and December 2013 to April 2014. It shows an increase in the four electoral areas of Laganbank, Pottinger, Upper Falls and Victoria. This trend can be attributed to the ASB occurring during the darker winter nights. This involves reports of trespass when drinkers enter parks creating damage by lighting fires. The data specifically highlights an increase in the following types of ASB; Criminal Damage; increased reports of fire setting etc, Drinking, Trespass, and Vehicle nuisance.

It also shows a downward trend in parks within Balmoral, Castle, Court, Lower Falls and Oldpark electoral areas.

Table 1: Comparison between December 2012 to April 2013 and December 2013 to April 2014			
December 2012 to April 2013		December 2013 to April 2014	
Electoral Area	Total ASB	Electoral Area	Total ASB
Balmoral	23	Balmoral	19
Castle	34	Castle	18
Court	35	Court	7
Laganbank	16	Laganbank	77
Lower Falls	14	Lower Falls	8
Oldpark	85	Oldpark	32
Pottinger	40	Pottinger	104
Upper Falls	28	Upper Falls	142
Victoria	6	Victoria	34
Total	281	Total	441

ASB in park and leisure facilities

The data details the three parks with the most incidents of ASB in each electoral area, the hotspot categories of ASB and where there were more than 20 incidents (these locations appear in bold type).

Planned Interventions

Planned intensive interventions are designed and introduced for parks that have more than 20 ASB incidents. The planned

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interventions span across all 4 objectives of the ASB programme: education, enforcement, environment and partnership. Interventions will resource and schedule enforcement operations in partnership with existing council services or PSNI and interventions also involve the environmental and physical development of a site.

Table 2 outlines the parks that have had more than 20 incidents during December 2013 and April 2014 and the specific interventions planned for the coming months.

Table 2: Specific interventions planned to tackle ASB in Parks with more than 20 ASB incidents	
Laganbank	
Botanic	A series of family fun days have been planned to draw in more legitimate users. A programme of enforcement operations is ongoing during the spring and summer to address reports of rowdy behaviour and drinking.
Pottinger	
Ormeau	Park Wardens will issue fixed penalty notices for dog control and dog fouling offences. They will work with Community Safety officers and PSNI to tackle scramblers and drinking. Individuals reported for drinking will face prosecution and if they are under 18 they will be reported to the Community safety ASB forum.
Orangefield Playing Fields	The Park manager will ensure damage is repaired and Park Wardens will work with Community Safety officers and PSNI to tackle inappropriate vehicle use and drinking. Individuals reported for drinking will face prosecution and if they are under 18 they will be reported to the Community safety ASB forum.
Upper Falls	
Falls Park	The Park manager will ensure damage is repaired and Park Wardens will work with Community Safety officers and PSNI to tackle drinking. Individuals reported for drinking will face prosecution and if under 18 will be reported to the Community safety ASB forum.
City Cemetery	A decorative arts project has been initiated to address graffiti in the cemetery. Park Wardens will work with Community Safety officers and PSNI to tackle drinking. Individuals reported for drinking will face prosecution and if under 18 will be reported to the Community safety ASB forum.

Citywide ASB programme development

Alongside the intensive and citywide interventions planned to tackle reported incidents of ASB, a number of citywide ASB programme developments will be implemented during the coming months:

- Development of family friendly activity programmes. These programmes are designed to draw in legitimate park users and displace rowdy groups.
- Support to the Bonfire management programme to reduce fly tipping and accumulation of hazardous materials in parks.

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- **Park Wardens are currently deployed in parks as part of an ongoing enforcement programme. They will issue fixed penalties in relation to litter and dog fouling offences.**
- **Park Wardens will also work in close partnership with PSNI and Community safety officers during planned operations to tackle alcohol consumption in parks.**
- **Park Warden operations planning will support the ongoing Community safety joint operations with PSNI. It is intended that the opportunities for joint working in Park areas will also be shared with the DPCSP.**

Strategic alignment with Health and Environmental Services

At Committee's request, both Health and Environmental Services and the Parks and Leisure Department have successfully adopted a joint approach in planning and implementing high visibility and discrete operations. There have also been a number of operational meetings for BCC staff to ensure better co-ordination of resources. Park Wardens operations are regularly requested to tackle issues of litter, dog fouling and drinking; and it will be necessary to coordinate with a number of PSNI neighbourhood teams and the DPCSP.

Health and Environmental Services Committee has requested a strategic review of ASB interventions. The expansion of the Council boundaries during Local Government Reform will require greater coordination of Council and Police services to provide the high quality partnership work required to reduce antisocial behaviour in a variety of 'new' Belfast neighbourhoods.

Parks officers will participate fully in the review in order to further improve Council practices to tackle ASB. It is anticipated that the review will report to Health and Environmental Services Committee in late 2014 and the Parks and Leisure Committee will be kept fully informed of the implications arising for its services and assets.

3. Resource Implications

The development of the programme will be facilitated through the agreed ASB budget 2014-2015 which is approximately £250,000.

In response to Members' queries, the Director undertook to provide information in respect of the number of cases of antisocial behaviour which had been reported within the vicinity of the Knocknagoney Linear Park. In addition, he outlined the steps which the Department had taken - and which were proposed to be taken - in

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conjunction with a range of bodies and agencies to address disorder involving teenagers which had been reported within the vicinity of both the Ormeau Park and the Avoniel Leisure Centre.

Arising from discussion, the Assistant Director outlined the measures which the Department was considering to address the issue of dog fouling within parks and indicated that an evaluation report would be submitted to a future meeting in respect of the trial dog control enclosure which had been established within the Grove Park in June, 2013. Concern was expressed also regarding the practice which had been adopted by individuals of discarding bags containing dog waste within parks. Members pointed out that such a practice posed a serious health risk, especially to children, and that it would be prudent for the Council to seek to address that issue as a matter of urgency.

After discussion, the Committee noted the information which had been provided and noted further that the Chairman would seek to convene a meeting with the Chairman of the Health and Environmental Services Committee, together with relevant officers, to discuss the control of dog fouling within parks and open spaces.

Amateur Boxing Strategy

The Committee considered the undernoted report:

“1 Background Information

1.1 At Committee on 11th October 2012 Members approved the draft budget and work plan for the Amateur Boxing Strategy 2012-2022. The implementation of the Strategy is overseen by a Steering Group, comprising of representatives from IABA, Ulster Council, Antrim Boxing, Sport NI and Council officers.

1.2 Members will be aware that within the Strategy two Casual Boxing Coaches posts and a Sports Development Officer post were to be implemented to deliver the strategic plan in partnership with key stakeholders IABA, UBC and SNI.

2. Key Issues and Update

2.1 Work is ongoing on the four key areas of the Strategy namely Pathways, Coach Education, Club support and development and Governance which aim to increase participation; develop and train coaches, volunteers and officials; support club development and improving governance.

2.2 Two casual coaches and a Sports Development Officer have been appointed and are currently delivering the work plan. To date community and schools programmes have introduced boxing sessions and related activities to 1500 participants over 40 locations citywide since April 2014. The programme

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includes cross-community workshops and special needs sessions citywide.

- 2.3 Events have also been funded as part of the Strategy with Co Antrim Boxing organising four events to date in Belfast with the latest the Box Belfast Cup at Shankill LC on 30-31st May 2014. A Day of Boxing was held for the first time involving 8 clubs and over 500 youths in March 2014.
- 2.4 To date 35 coaches and officials have been upskilled via the Strategy and partnership work has secured £25,000 from Active Belfast for Midnight Boxing to involve all clubs during July and August 2014.

3 Programme Plan and Resource Implications

- 3.1 Members should note that spending was limited in Year 1 (2013/4) due to Sports Development Officer only taking post in December 2013 and Coaches (x2) employed from March 2014.

Action plans

The Steering Group has adopted a three year work-plan annually as follows for the development of Belfast Boxing:

Pathways

- Events budget £50,000 minimum of 7 local and international Belfast events.
- Try it Participation events and Day of Boxing in Belfast £20,000.

Coach Education

- Coach Education programme £15,000 including level 2 / 1 Star and Disability courses and workshops.

Club Support and Development

- Staffing £75,000 (SDO and x2 Coaches)
- Good relations workshops £10,000
- Volunteer and club resources and support £10,000
- New start-ups and club support £10,000

Governance

- No action in 2014/5 as we await IABA programme of activities.

3.2 Financial

The table below indicates the spending to date from the 2013/2014 and based on the programme of work outlined in 3.1

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a budget for 2014/2015 under the four strategic areas. The agreed budget of £200,000 remains unchanged

Area	Total available (£200,000)	Spend Yr 1 2013/4	Spend Yr 2 2014/5 to date	2014/5 Proposed budget
Pathways (includes events)	£37,000	£23,462.35	£15,026.36	£72,000 (+£35,000) Events -£50k
Coach Education	£20,000	£0	£4,026	£15,000 (-£5,000)
Club Support (includes salaries)	£115,000	£6443.06	£10,000 est	£105,000 (-10,000)
Governance	£20,000	£0	£0	£0 (-£20,000)
Total	£192k	£29,905.41	£ 29,052.36	£200k

3.3 The Steering Group is recommending the budgetary changes as indicated above for the 2014/5 budget owing to an increase in the budget required to support the schedule of 2014/5 Belfast based Boxing events. The Steering group have indicated that the changes to be made will not impact negatively on any other provision within the strategy.

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Governance

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3.4 Club Support

New clubs are to be encouraged under the Strategy (Club Support and Development) as such funding has been ratified by the Steering Group of £10,000 per annum to support this aim. A process on guidelines is under development to provide access to this fund. A further report will be brought to Committee in August to agree the mechanism and support guidelines.

4 Equality and Good Relations Considerations

- 4.1 The Amateur Boxing Strategy was equality screened in line with the Council's equality process. The screening showed that there were potential adverse impacts on a number of groups including females and people with a disability and mitigating actions were added to the strategy to address these.

5 Recommendations

- 5.1 To agree to the revisions in the budget areas within the Strategy as recommended by the Strategy Steering Group."

The Committee adopted the recommendation.

Connswater Community Greenway – Engagement Feedback

The Committee considered the undernoted report, together with a stakeholder engagement report, a copy of which was published on the Council's Mod.gov website:

"1. Background Information

At the Committee meeting on 14th February it was noted that proposals regarding opening and closing of gates and lighting of the Connswater Community Greenway (CCG) will be

brought forward to Committee after the completion of the proposed 'Connswater Community and Stakeholder Engagement Approach and Plan'. The community and stakeholder engagement has now been completed and a report submitted for review and analysis.

Meaningful engagement has been one of the principles of the Greenway from its initiation to the current development stage. The main issue to be addressed by the engagement was to identify if the community were supportive of the spine of the Greenway remaining open and lit at night.

Members are reminded that the Connswater Community Greenway is an investment to create a continuous and connected 9km linear park from the hills to the lough, following the courses of the rivers, connecting the green and open spaces. Included in the partnership funding was the funding for lighting to enable the main greenway route to remain open and lit, with bridges, crossings and pathways lit to facilitate increased accessibility.

The benefits of the engagement work already undertaken is reflected in the high level of awareness of the project and in a desire for those consulted to continue to be informed and engaged - 68% of residents said they are 'very interested' or 'interested' in the CCG, with this rising to 97% for stakeholders.

2. Key Issues

Arising from the report and analysis, key issues have been identified below: There was overwhelming support for the key principles of access and lighting. Both the resident (94%) and stakeholder (88%) surveys recorded overwhelming support for the proposal to have the Greenway open 24 hours a day with it being lit during the hours of darkness along the main spine and throughout general areas of the Greenway;

Open Access along the Spine

There was a very positive response to the issue of increased access opening up the linear park. Approximately nine out of ten (91%) respondents in the resident survey are either 'very supportive' or 'supportive' of the Greenway being open 24 hours a day, with 10% either 'unsupportive' or 'very unsupportive'. Overall 87% of stakeholders are either 'very supportive' or 'supportive' of the Greenway being open 24 hours a day. The vast majority 75% of residents believe that opening the Greenway 24 hours a day will help promote positive use (70% of stakeholders shared this view).

Lighting

Providing lighting from dusk to dawn again received a very positive response from those consulted. It was seen as a cornerstone of increased access and contributing to a greater sense of personal safety and security. More than nine out of ten (94%) survey respondents are supportive of the main spine and general areas of the Greenway being lit 24 hours a day, with 6% unsupportive.

Respondents living beside or a few streets from the Greenway recorded a significantly higher level of support (97%) for this proposal compared with those living further from the Greenway.

More than nine out of ten (94%) stakeholders are supportive of the main spine and general areas of the Greenway being lit from dusk to dawn. A large majority - 85% of residents believe that if the Greenway is lit 24 hours a day that this will improve people's sense of personal safety (82% of stakeholders shared this view).

Anti Social Behaviour

This was identified as a potential area of concern. Not specifically linked to the Greenway or additional access rather to existing concerns with activities in specific locations which give rise to concerns. To address this provision of additional lighting, improved access and mitigating actions by PSNI and Council were identified as offering potential solutions.

Environmental Concerns

The Greenway is perceived as offering positive benefits to the local environment and as an opportunity to improve access to and awareness of the local environment within Parks. Related to this the Greenway is perceived as offering a great resource to be exploited by local schools, clubs and societies.

Health and Safety Concerns

While the Greenway will offer additional access to lakes and rivers, this is not perceived as being a major source of concern. There was a view expressed that the normal health and safety checks would be put in place prior to and following the development phase.

3. Resource Implications

Financial

The cost of the providing lights to be lit during the hours of darkness along the spine is included in the planned capital and revenue costs for the Greenway.

Human Resources

If gates along the main spine of the Greenway are not to be open and closed there is a saving in resources of Warden time, which can be reallocated to other priorities e.g. anti social behaviour.

Assets

The provision of lights and gates along the spine has already been planned. These issues only affect how these assets are utilised.

4. Recommendations

It is recommended that Committee give approval for the spine of the Connswater Greenway to have open access for pedestrians and cyclists 24 hours a day and that it is lit from dusk to dawn.”

In response to a Member’s query relating to an access gate to the Greenway which was situated at Orby Mews, the Assistant Director confirmed that the gate would be opened and closed in line with normal park opening hours.

The Committee adopted the recommendation and noted that an evaluation report would be submitted after a three-month period.

Connswater Community Greenway – Orangefield Park

The Committee agreed, in accordance with Standing Orders 46 and 60, to recommend to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee that it authorise the commencement of a process to vest, under the Recreation and Youth Services (Northern Ireland) Order 1986, an area of land adjacent to the Orangefield Park which had been created through the relocation of the Knock River as part of the Connswater Community Greenway’s Flood Alleviation Scheme.

Falls Park – Consultation re: 3G Pitch

The Committee considered the undernoted report:

“1. Background Information

The Committee is reminded that it is intended to provide a 3rd generation artificial turf pitch and changing pavilion at Falls Park as part of the £14.1m investment in pitches in the city. Planning approval for this project is expected shortly. During the engagement with local residents a number of concerns were raised, some of which were of a planning nature whilst others expressed concern over what could be termed management or operational issues.

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These latter issues such as opening and closing times and street car parking have been raised with the Director and Assistant Director at a recent meeting with an Elected Representative from the area. It has been requested that the Council undertake a consultation process with residents to establish in more detail their concerns and to seek where possible, to put in place measures which would mitigate the concerns raised.

2. Key Issues

The Committee is asked to consider the request to undertake this piece of work and in doing so to take into account the following issues:

1. Officers have previously met with residents from the immediate vicinity of the Park on a number of occasions to provide information on the reason for the proposed location, in particular concerns were raised about the impact parking might have on parking in the adjoining streets;
2. The proposal has been through the planning process and has been recommended for approval;
3. At this point it is intended to proceed to tender and to commence work as soon as possible;
4. In the interim there is a window of opportunity to further engage with those residents who have concerns regarding the management and operation of the pitch post completion
5. Some of the concerns voiced are outside of the Council's powers, such as on street parking;
6. Members are asked to be mindful that this may set a precedent for other projects being undertaken by the Council and that a wider consultation and engagement framework is being developed and will be brought to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee.

In addition the Chairman of the Committee has received a written request from a group of residents from the Norfolk Drive area to brief Members of the Committee in relation to their concerns. The Committee is asked to consider the request from residents to brief the Committee.

3. Resource Implications

Financial Implications

There will be an additional cost in the commissioning of an independent piece of work to establish the issues, it is anticipated that this will cost in the region of £10,000, no provision has been made for this work within the current estimates. Upon completion of the consultation there may be further resource implications.

Resource Implications

The work will be carried out by an independent consultant, but will require input from Council Officers, including out of hours work.

4. Recommendations

The Committee is asked to consider whether it wishes to authorise expenditure in the region of £10,000 to undertake a consultation exercise to establish the concerns of residents in the streets adjoining Falls Park and to bring Council proposals to address these issues.”

After discussion, during which the Committee expressed concern regarding the cost of hiring external consultants to undertake a consultation exercise on behalf of the Council, it was agreed that an invitation be extended to representatives of the residents' group to attend the August monthly meeting in order to outline their concerns in respect of the proposed development, after which the Committee would give consideration to the best manner in which to undertake future consultation.

Community Garden at River Terrace – Proposed Licence

The Director reminded the Committee that, at its meeting on 5th December, 2013, it had agreed to authorise officers from within the Department to investigate further the potential for the development of a community garden at River Terrace with a further report to be submitted to the Committee in due course. It was reported that the Department for Social Development had agreed, in principle, to grant to the Council a licence to develop the land as a community garden. Such a licence would remain in place until the land was transferred formally into the Council's ownership on 1st April, 2015, as part of Local Government Reform.

The Committee agreed that the Department would accept the licence subject to the approval of the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee to enable officers to investigate further the feasibility of establishing a community garden at River Terrace, subject to the completion of a legal agreement between the Council and the Department for Social Development.

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It was noted that the acquisition of the licence would be at no cost to the Council.

Suffolk Playing Fields – Management Agreement

The Committee was reminded that, in April, 2011, the Council had entered into a seven-year Facilities Management Agreement with Suffolk Football Club to oversee arrangements for the management and use of a soccer pitch at the Suffolk Playing Fields. The Director pointed out that, as part of the Council's Capital Programme, work on the construction of a new changing pavilion at the playing fields had commenced in early June and was due to be completed in the autumn. That facility would be maintained by the Council but managed by the football club as part of the original agreement. Accordingly, he requested the Committee's permission to amend the original agreement to enable the granting of key-holding privileges to the club which would be bound by a legal agreement and subject to satisfactory terms being agreed with the Director.

The Committee adopted the recommendation.

Horses on the Cavehill

The Director informed the Committee that an agreement had been entered into with Crosskennan Lane Animal Sanctuary for the removal of feral horses from the Cavehill Country Park during 2013. He reported that, to date, the Council had paid for the work which it had specified. However, the Animal Sanctuary had made a case to the Council for additional payment based on their understanding of the Council's requirements. Officers had since met with representatives of the Animal Sanctuary to establish how the amount owed had increased within the context of the work originally specified by the Council. The Director indicated that further investigation would be required to establish the actual amount which was owed to the Animal Sanctuary.

After discussion, the Committee granted delegated authority to the Director, in conjunction with the Director of Finance and Resources and the Town Solicitor, to negotiate a settlement figure with the Crosskennan Lane Animal Sanctuary and that a report on the outcome of that process would be submitted to the Committee in due course.

Landslide at the Cavehill Country Park

The Director informed the Committee that a landslide had occurred within the Hazelwood Nature Reserve between the 10th and 11th May which had blocked one of the public paths. That incident had followed a previous landslide which had occurred in November 2013. He indicated that contractors had moved on to site to address the matter, however, the path had since been closed given the risk to the public. He outlined the principal findings of a civil engineer's report in respect of the landslide and indicated that management were in the process of investigating the options available in order to address the matter and that a further report in this regard would be submitted in due course.

Noted.

Parks Events – Small Grants Scheme

The Committee noted a list of Small Grants which had been authorised by the Director in accordance with the authority which had been delegated to him, information on which was available on the Council's Mod.gov website.

Parklife Educational Programme

The Committee considered the undernoted report:

“1. Background Information

- 1.1 The Committee is reminded that at its meeting on 15 September 2011, it had approved the future direction for the Parks' Educational Programme -'Watch This Space', subject to a tender exercise being undertaken. The tender was awarded to the Ulster Wildlife Trust (now called Ulster Wildlife) for a three year period which is due to end on 31 March 2015.**

The purpose of this report is to:

- **update Members on the progress of Parklife;**
- **seek approval of a tender exercise for 3 years (with an option to extend for a further 2 years) for the delivery of the Parklife programme, to include extension into the transition areas following Local Government Reform;**
- **seek approval to organise a 'Green Teenz' pilot project.**

1.2 Existing Programme

The Parklife programme is designed to establish the Council's parks as a valuable teaching resource and encourage greater use of parks for outdoor learning. It has 3 elements:

- i. co-ordinated education programme of supervised and unsupervised visits;**
- ii. A The establishment and management of a resource bank;**
- iii. The agreement, development and delivery of a capacity building plan for Parks' staff over the lifespan of the contract.**

It was considered an opportune time during the contract to rebrand 'Watch This Space' to Parklife Education Programme as this name was more appropriate.

- i. Parklife is delivered to 24 schools and 6 community groups on a city-wide basis. Five supervised sessions are provided to schools and topics covered range from park history and bird identification to tree**

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maths and healthy parks. Saturday Clubs are organised on a monthly basis in Falls, Ormeau, Victoria and Woodvale Parks and are mainly attended by families. Interactive activities are also organised at various Parks' events throughout the year including the Spring Fair, Rose Week and Summer Fun Days. In the first two years of the programme, a total of 6,501 school children participated in Parklife and 3,334 of these children visited their local park during that time.

- ii. A resource bank is being developed to facilitate unsupervised visits to parks. The resources have clear links to the curriculum such as science, literacy and numeracy. They are themed around the seasons, link in with the school terms and are generic for use in most of the parks throughout the year. The resources are clearly structured and include learning objectives, preparation required, park activities, helpful hints and suggested follow-up activities either in the classroom or school grounds. The games and interactive activities are designed to get children learning in a practical and fun way whilst encouraging physical activity in parks. The resources will soon be made available to the public through the Council's website.

- iii. As part of Parklife, six Parks' Staff have been trained as Educational Facilitators which has involved shadowing Ulster Wildlife's staff during school sessions and then developing, leading and delivering one session to a school group in a park. Each of the Facilitators was required to plan and develop a topic in their individual area of expertise which included making/ planting window boxes, a demonstration of garden tools/equipment and pond dipping. It is intended to build on this going into year 2 of their training so that the Facilitators will work alongside Ulster Wildlife's staff and carry out some of the practical delivery of the programme and Ulster Wildlife will undertake the support work. A further six Parks' staff have started their training to become Educational Facilitators. Notwithstanding the need to ensure normal operational cover, the involvement of staff is a very positive contribution to Parklife.

2. Key Issues

2.1 Future Delivery of Parklife

The use of an external provider such as Ulster Wildlife has demonstrated the added value that the Trust has brought to Parklife through their wealth of experience in delivering environmental education, their network of other Trusts and their ability to use additional guides to support the programme.

It is proposed to establish a contract for 3 years (with an option to extend for a further 2 years) for the delivery of the programme and Parks and Leisure Committee in April 2014 gave approval for the director to go out to tender for this programme. It is proposed that the Parklife tender will build on the existing programme and have 3 elements:

- a co-ordinated education programme of supervised and supervised visits;
- development of the resource bank to facilitate unsupervised visits;
- capacity building of Parks' staff, in particular new Parks Wardens.

The involvement of Parks' staff in the delivery of Parklife and the proposed Green Teenz project will be facilitated through time off in lieu arrangements.

2.2 'Green Teenz'

As the Parks Section has been delivering an educational programme since 2007, it has become apparent that there is an opportunity for our Outreach Managers to engage with those older children mainly the 12 – 14 age group, who have been involved in or have left Parklife/Saturday Clubs. It is proposed that for this age group, a pilot project 'Green Teenz' is set up which will be a natural progression from Parklife and will build on the knowledge and experience they have already gained from it.

Green Teenz will be a city wide project which will commence in September 2014, offering 12 places to this age group, to meet on a monthly basis, for a ten month period. The project will be managed by the Community Parks Outreach Manager (S/West), will require assistance from the Park Wardens involved in Parklife and Environmental Experts will be employed to deliver specialist training.

Preference will be given to children who are or have been involved in Parklife and remaining places will be filled on a

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first come, first served basis, advertised through social media and existing networks. Topics covered will include wildlife recording, management of invasive alien species, hedgerow management and trail maintenance etc.

The Outreach Manager will compile a detailed project schedule which will be designed to provide participants with an insight into environmental conservation and habitat management within our parks and open spaces.

The cost of the project is envisaged to be £3,500 to cover delivery of specialist training and bus hire to transport children to various parks throughout the city. The pilot project will be internally evaluated in June 2015.

3. Resource Implications

Financial

Parklife – Up to £80,000 per annum is allocated in the revenue estimates to include transferring areas under LGR.

Green Teenz - £3,500 is budgeted across three operational areas.

Human Resources

Parklife is managed by staff from the Open Spaces & Active Living Unit and Parks' staff will be involved in the delivery of the programme. Green Teenz will be managed by the Community Park Outreach Manager (S/West) and will require assistance from the Park Wardens and other Officers to deliver the project.

5. Recommendations

It is recommended that Committee approve the proposed Green Teenz project for a ten month period from September 2014. A report will be brought back to Committee in August 2015 to update members on the progress of the pilot project.”

The Committee adopted the recommendation.

Westland Community Group - Lease

The Committee agreed to request that, under Standing Orders 46 and 60, the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee agree to endorse a proposal to extend a lease for a portion of land within the Upper Waterworks Park to the Westland Community Group for a period of 5 years to enable the erection of a community centre, subject to the drawing-up of an appropriate legal agreement.

Brown Square – Proposal

The Committee considered the undernoted report:

“1. Background Information

The layout of the Brown Square site contains a play area and an open green space. The boundary between the park and the Belfast Met estate is marked with two fences, a metal panelled ‘tin’ fence owned by the Council, shows a solid face into the park. It is approximately 210cm high. That fence is topped with a paladin style of fence panel, measuring approximately a further 210cm in height. The paladin section on that fence line is the fence controlled by DOJ.

Proposals emerging from these discussions include the replacement of the tin fence and DOJ fence at the peace line with a more appropriate and aesthetically pleasing fence, a general improvement of the park area and the installation of a number of anti-social behaviour measures such as defensive planting to improve security.

The community group has requested that the metal removed from the Peace line should be retained in storage for its use in a community artwork project to commemorate the former inhabitants of the area and its history.

2. Key Issues

- Brown Square is an interface which is abounded by fencing on three sides. The proposal refers to the removal of the fence at the back of the site adjoining the Belfast Met campus. The interface is not a live interface.
- The current tin fencing provides a canvas for graffiti and is unsightly.
- A perimeter fence of expanded metal weld mesh paladin to a minimum height of 2.4 meters is proposed as a fit for purpose boundary fence.
- The works will improve both security and the aesthetics of the Park.
- Community and key stakeholder engagement has taken place and there is support for the development.
- Further community engagement is required to fully develop the scheme.

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3. Resource Implications

The cost for the removal of the existing fence will be borne by DoJ. The estimated cost of the enhancement of the open space including the cost of the new fence is estimated to be in the region of £10,000 which will be accommodated from the Grounds Maintenance budget over two years.

4. Recommendation

To authorise the scheme to develop Brown Square.”

The Committee adopted the recommendation.

Park at Black’s Road – Naming Proposal

The Committee was reminded that the Council, at its meeting on 1st July, 2013, had agreed to acquire land at Black’s Road for the purposes of developing a public park. The Director reported that the Department had received a request proposing that the park, on completion, be named the ‘Black’s Road Park’. He reminded the Committee that in August, 2008, it had adopted a policy to oversee the naming of parks and leisure facilities within the City. He outlined the principal aspects of that policy and recommended that, having considered the relevant criteria and that the proposed name for the park would not be considered to be contentious and was in adherence with the criteria, the Committee exercise its discretion and accede to the request to name the park ‘Black’s Road Park’.

The Committee acceded to the request.

Proposed Summer Camps – Update

The Committee considered the undernoted report:

“1. Background Information

A trial Youth Development Project was held last year which was based on an environmental theme for youths. The aim was to provide youths with an opportunity to learn new skills and knowledge in an outdoor environment.

The project included organised visits to various BCC Parks properties, River Lagan, Bog Meadows and the Colin Glen Forest. Parks staff, along with various community partners delivered two separate weeks of summer camps. Each camp lasted for five days and each day had a different environmental or geographical learning theme relating, for example, to the environmental aspects of the Lagan Valley Regional Park. The project was very favourably received by both parents and youths who stated it was a very enjoyable

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and challenging week. Committee in April 2014 agreed in principle to grant approval subject to a re- evaluation of the costs involved and clarification of the selection procedure and age range.

The camps will last for five days and will be aimed at various age groups with a maximum of 15 per camp. Each camp will have the following objectives:

- To develop skills and knowledge of the local environment
- To develop personal skills and complete different adventurous activities
- To build new relationships, both within a team environment and across the City.

Each camp will have different aspects and projects based both on local opportunities and options to visit and experience other parts of the City and develop and learn new skills.

A typical day of activity may include a walk through a forest or up a glen or mountain and an opportunity to learn new skills such as compass reading, basic navigation, lunch on a mountainside, learning about the local fauna and the natural local history.

The benefits of the youth development camp will be:

- Increased participation in leisure activities and assist in reducing childhood obesity.
- Reduced potential of anti social/community behaviour by engaging and educating the youths of Belfast on the positives that our parks and open spaces have to offer.
- Increased awareness of our youth on the importance of enhancing biodiversity in our city and surrounding area.
- Increased capacity for participants as 'Young leaders' by developing leadership skills, decision making skills, team working skills and hazard awareness/avoidance skills.

The camps would be subject to the preparation of an in depth event management plan including health and safety, child protection and relevant risk assessments.

2. Key Issues

Age range and selection process

Outreach Officers have built up relationships across the city with different age ranges of youths. On this basis the proposed age range of 10 years – 17 years is suitable, based on consultation with various existing youth groups. However, it is not intended that each camp will cover this complete age range, due to child protection issues.

In order to facilitate an effective recruitment process, with the appropriate checks in place, it is recommended that the existing Youth Development Forums which are linked to Belfast Education and Library Board (BELB), be involved in the selection process. The Youth Development Forums have the relevant experience and knowledge of the local needs of youths. Outreach managers will work with the Forums to ensure that there is a broad representation of local young people in each environmental based youth camp and will ensure there is a balanced selection process, based on, for example, gender and background.

The Outreach Managers will seek nominations from the Youth Development Forums and their associated local youth groups to determine the final group of fifteen. By working with the Forums, Council will be given assurance regarding the suitability of the young people to participate in this pilot programme, as well as ensuring that there is appropriate support for the young people pre and post-camp.

An evaluation report on the programme will be brought to Committee in the autumn.

3. Resource Implications

Re-evaluation of costs

The April 2014 committee report indicated that costs will be in the region of £9,000 per camp. This estimate of cost was considered to be the maximum cost and after further review it is likely the cost will be reduced to £7,190. See attached table of costs. Each camp will have different requirements based on local requirements and a typical environmental based camp will include the following;

As previously stated, this cost is planned within Parks Area and Outreach budgets. The ratio of leaders to young people is determined by good practice guidelines.

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4. Equality Implications

Hire of 3 approved child protection youth leaders	£450 per day	£2,250 for 5 days
Hire of bus	£200 per day	£1,000 for 5 days
Hire of any facilities, for example, Belfast activity centre for 15 youths.	£300 per day	£900 for 3 days
Hire of specialist environmental consultant	£300 per day	£1,500 for 5 days
One off purchase of camp equipment, pond dipping kits, maps, compasses, utensils and uniforms	£1,500	£1,500
Total for one week		£7,190 per week

As previously stated, this cost is planned within Parks Area and Outreach budgets. The ratio of leaders to young people is determined by good practice guidelines.

4. Recommendations

To grant approval for officers to proceed and organise four summer camps during period July and August 2014 in East, North, South and West Belfast.”

The Committee granted the authority sought.

Centenary Fields Programme

The Committee considered the undernoted report:

“1. Background Information

The Royal British Legion and Fields in Trust have written to the Council inviting it to join in the Centenary Fields Programme. The stated objective of this new programme is ‘to encourage every council in the UK to nominate at least one recreational space to be dedicated as a Centenary Field to commemorate this significant milestone in our shared history and to create a tangible local legacy that will be valued by your local community for generation to come.’

The Royal British Legion as the UK’s largest armed forces charity and the Custodian of Remembrance will be leading the nation in respecting the sacrifices made during World War 1.

Fields in Trust is the operating name of the National Playing Fields Association who have been the leading independent charity campaigning to secure and improve playing fields for more than 85 years. The charity works with councils to safeguard a number of sites including the King George V Playing Field (protected 1956) and is currently in the process of protecting Orangefield Park as part of the Queen Elizabeth II campaign.

Both organisations are working together to deliver the Centenary Fields programme which aims to create a living UK-wide legacy and at the same time commemorate the sacrifice made by those who gave their lives in the conflict. The protected sites could be sites that contain war memorials or other valued green spaces. All first tier local authorities across the UK have been invited to participate. The programme will run over the four years of the centenary commemorations to establish the legacy by November 2018 to mark the centenary of the end of World War 1.

The programme will be launched officially in November 2014 and in 2015 Centenary Have a Field Day will be launched where local communities will be invited to participate in activities that their ancestors would have enjoyed at the beginning of the last century. Fields in Trust will provide support for Councils wishing to hold a local event to mark the site's dedication and will be working to raise funds to provide occasional improvement grants to sites protected as part of the Centenary Fields programme.

2. Key Issues

Many of the Council's properties have already been gifted to the council with restrictive use clauses contained within the title deeds to those properties which effectively create a trust which the council is required to adhere to. There are many other Council properties held under deeds of dedication with the Millennium Commission signed in 2000 for a period of 99 years and these could not be nominated.

Other properties gifted to the Council such as Dunville Park and Sir Thomas and Lady Dixon Park were named after their benefactor(s), in accordance with specific requests by those benefactors.

If the Council chooses to nominate any of its properties the title would first need to be examined to ensure that the property is not already subject to a Deed of Dedication, or to alienation provisions within the title (i.e. restrictions on

assignment, or parting with possession) or certain use covenants.

The Deeds of Dedication issued by the Fields in Trust and which the Council would be required to sign are stringent and constrain what the Council can do in terms of disposal or any building works/changes of use affecting any nominated property. A Burden is required to be registered against the title of the nominated property. Any dealings with the property or works to same in the future would require the consent of Fields in Trust, and once successfully nominated this remains the case in perpetuity.

Proposed Approach

The Council has previously participated in the Fields in Trust Queen Elizabeth II campaign. The approach identified possible sites and subsequently assessed their feasibility including an examination of title.

In this case it is proposed that officers liaise with Party Group Leaders to receive site nominations and that an assessment of feasibility is carried out by Legal Services and Estates Unit with proposals brought to a future committee for approval.

Asset and Other Implications

The title of nominated properties would need to be examined to ensure that they are not already subject to deeds of dedication or subject to alienation provisions or certain use covenants. The chosen site would be subject to a deed of dedication which would constrain Council's use of the property in the future.

3. Recommendations

The Committee is asked to agree participation in the Centenary Fields Programme and to the proposed approach to nominating sites.”

The Committee adopted the recommendation.

Roselawn Cemetery – Request from Northern Ireland Electricity

The Committee considered the undernoted report:

“1. Background Information

Within the grounds of Roselawn Cemetery are 13,000 trees which have been planted since the introduction of the

memorial tree scheme in 1977. Every tree is owned by a specific person and over 95% of the memorial trees have at least one set of cremated remains buried around their base.

In March 2014 Northern Ireland Electricity arranged a site visit with the Cemeteries and Crematorium Manager and the Woodland Officer. During this site visit it was established that approximately 50 Memorial Trees had been planted directly under overhead electricity cables and that their branches were now growing up to and through the overhead cables causing problems to the wires and electric supply. Pruning of these trees could be carried out by the NIE, however it would not be sufficient to entirely eliminate the problems and re-pruning would be required every 5 years. Also of concern is a risk to the public of shorting across the wires and trees e.g. if trees are climbed there would be a serious risk of electrocution. Warning signs have now been erected by the Department informing the public of the danger of overhead live electricity cables and instructing them not to climb the trees.

In addition during periods of high winds and rain the trees pose the threat of loss of supply and shorting. In February 2014 a tree came down at Roselawn resulting in loss of power for 4 hours. The trees concerned are Memorial Trees and therefore there is a need for great sensitivity around their existence and location. NIE recognise this and have suggested a permanent resolution; namely that the overhead cables are re-laid underground.

2. Key Issues

NIE have offered to be responsible for both the works and cost of re-laying the overhead cables underground. The location of the areas affected is from Ryan Park to the gas tanks and in Section W the dump area alongside Lake 2.

NIE are proposing the following works:

- Terminating the existing overhead line at a revised position for HV pole 15/225 on the cemetery's border
- The supply and installation of an 11KV underground cable system from this point, to run south to a new pole position
- The removal of the existing overhead line between HV poles 15/225 to 12/225
- The erection of a new pole at position (B)

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- **The termination of the existing overhead line at HV pole location 9A/225 (with necessary stay wire arrangements)**
- **The installation of an 11kV underground cable system from this point to a new HV pole at location (C) (with necessary stay wire arrangements).**
- **The removal of the existing overhead line between HV poles 9a/225 to C.**

NIE are requesting that Belfast City Council Parks and Leisure Department accept responsibility for providing suitable trenches for the underground cabling. The depth and width of the cable trenches must be a minimum 750mm deep x 600mm wide, any bends not exceeding 45 degrees.

NIE are asking that the Parks and Leisure Department accept responsibility for the provision of all joint holes together with the provision of soft bedding (quarry dust), quarry blinding and backfilling. The trench should be fully excavated ahead of the agreed date of the installation of the underground cable. Re-instatement of the trench must immediately follow installation of the underground cable.

NIE and the Council Contractor will be required to submit the following information on the work proposed to the Memorial Tree areas concerned

- **Details of the exact route of the trenches in the areas involved - NIE**
- **Proof of relevant permissions and authorisations including Wayleaves - NIE**
- **Details for a legal permit to work on site - NIE**
- **Appropriate HAS information and risk assessments – NIE and Contractor**
- **Approved working methods and schedule of works – NIE and Contractor**
- **Insurance information including public liability – NIE and Contractor**
- **Timing of works – NIE and Contractor**
- **Erection of information signage for the visiting public – NIE**
- **Public liability insurance – NIE and Contractor**
- **That NIE supply suitable warning tape at the time of installation of the underground cable**

The NIE will be reminded that Roselawn Cemetery is a very busy site and an open Cemetery and the works scheduled will have to accommodate adjacent earth burials, burial of cremated remains at memorial trees and respect for the

privacy of the visiting public to nearby graves and Memorial Trees. Similarly the closing down of the electricity to the site will also need to be planned so as not to infringe on the working hours of the cemetery and crematorium.

There are a few trees in the Lake 2 area beside and under the overhead cables which are not Memorial Trees and these may be pruned/felled by NIE once the bird nesting season is over.

3. Resource Implications

Financial

The costs to Belfast City Council will be for the provision of a mechanical digger and driver and the purchase of the quarry dust, quarry blinding and the provision of all joint holes. Costs to the Council are estimated to be in the region of £10,000 and will be accommodated in the budget for the department. There are no additional costs identified at this time, and NIE are not proposing to charge the Council any fees.

Human Resources

Council officers from the Property and Projects Department (Estates Management Unit), and Parks and Leisure Department will liaise with the NIE organisers in relation to the proposed works and the planned closure of supply to the site and the completion of appropriate Wayleave Agreements.

Assets

The work will reduce the risk to the public of electrocution as a result of the re-laying of the overhead live cables to some memorial trees, and reduce the risk of trees causing power supply failure during periods of strong winds. The visual amenity of the site will be improved by the removal of some runs of overhead cables and poles and the locations of the proposed underground cables and associated Wayleave Agreements result in no greater impact on the property asset than presently exists.

4. Equality Implications

There are no equality or good relations issues at present

5. Recommendations

Members are asked to approve the request from NIE to carry out the realignment/re-engineering of the overhead electricity line crossing Roselawn Cemetery subject to:

- 1. That NIE works organisers resolve all operational and other issues to the Council's satisfaction including the impact of temporary power loss upon operation of the plant and equipment within the crematorium and retention of sufficient electricity supply capacity to the site following completion of the works.**
- 2. That NIE take in to account the roots of the adjacent Memorial Trees when planning the trench route so that they are not damaged during any excavation works**
- 3. The appropriate Wayleave Agreements are in place prior to commencement of site works.**
- 4. That NIE meets all the statutory requirements including Health and Safety and licensing.**
- 5. Sensitivities and respect for burials, graves, memorial trees and the visiting public are observed.”**

The Committee adopted the recommendation.

Woodvale Park – Proposed European War Memorial

The Director reported that the Department had received a request from the Army Benevolent Fund to erect a memorial within the Woodvale Park to commemorate all of the victims of the First World War. He outlined the aims and objectives of the Army Benevolent Fund and explained that it was a registered charity which provided support to both serving and retired soldiers. The Committee was provided with drawings of the proposed memorial, together with copies of the inscriptions which would be detailed on it. He added that work on the design and commissioning of the memorial had been undertaken by the applicants and it was anticipated that, if approved, the installation of the stone would take place prior to 23rd August.

The Committee acceded to the request to erect the war memorial subject to the following conditions:

- the drawing up of an appropriate legal agreement;
- the application meeting with all planning approval requirements; and
- the receipt by the Department of the structural engineer's design drawings.

In addition, the Committee authorised expenditure in the sum of £7,500 to assist in the undertaking of associated landscaping work to coincide with the erection of the memorial.

Cultural Celebrations at the Woodvale Park

The Committee considered the undernoted report:

“1. Background Information

The Committee will be aware of the ongoing work of the Council led Bonfire Programme which has developed into a successful programme of cultural networks. This year the scheme has seen applications from approximately 43 bonfire groups across the City. The bonfire scheme this year will be funded by the Council, OFMDFM, DPCSP and the NI Housing executive.

The Woodvale and Cambrai Youth and Community Association have been an active participant on the programme for a number of years. In 2007 they were involved in the design of the Bonfire Beacon as an alternative to the traditional 11 July bonfire. They have run successful events since 2008 with around 1,000 people attending these events annually. For the past several years the group has successfully used a bonfire frame as opposed to a beacon. The staging of these events was approved by the Parks Committee on each occasion.

This group are again intending to design and deliver a cultural event in Woodvale Park on the 11 and 12 July 2014. They are seeking permission to construct a bonfire within the park and to stage associated community activities as part of their ongoing efforts to transform bonfires within the wider locality.

2. Key Issues

Positioning of the bonfire

Last year it was proposed not to use the frame unlike in recent years, this was owing to the poor condition of the frame. It was instead proposed that crowd control barriers were used to contain the bonfire and to provide a safe area within which the fire could be managed. The fire was positioned on a six inch bed of sand to prevent damage to the ground surface.

Developments within Woodvale Park

The £2m development of Woodvale Park is now completed. Prior to the redevelopment of the park the bonfire had been constructed on the site of the old cinder pitch in Woodvale Park. However, the refurbishment scheme has seen the removal of this pitch and its replacement with a modern polymeric surfaced multi user games area. The option

therefore of locating the bonfire at this spot is no longer a viable option. As reported in previous years there are limited options for a bonfire on the site. Last year following discussions with community representatives a decision was agreed to locate the bonfire on the site of the former tennis courts and for the accompanying celebratory activity to take place throughout the park in agreement with Council staff. The positioning and management of the fire last year was successful with minimal to no damage caused to the surface. It is therefore proposed that the same methods are used again this year.

Risk Management

As reported in previous years there are issues of risk with such an event that will be carefully reviewed. The organisers of the proposed event at Woodvale Park will be required to liaise closely with the Council and the Northern Ireland Fire and Rescue Service. The work of the Council in relation to the transformation of bonfires continues to be supported by the inter-agency group who assist the Council with the Programme. The Fire and Rescue Service, the PSNI, DRD (Roads Service), NIHE, NIEA and the Community Relations Unit of OFM/DFM have all supported developments thus far.

As with all such events, health and safety issues with regard to the holding of the event will be addressed through the preparation of an event management plan by the organisers to the satisfaction of Council officers. The event organisers will be required to undertake all the necessary risk assessments and to ensure that all health and safety requirements are met. There is local support for the proposal to host this event, with a commitment of up to 50 local volunteers to supervise the event. These volunteers are trained in stewarding techniques and officially accredited by the Open College Network.

3. Resource Implications

Financial

Currently there are no financial implications for the department, however as in previous years there may be a requirement for some expenditure to minimise the impact on the park and to ensure that the event runs to the Council's satisfaction.

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Human Resources

There are no significant Human Resource implications, however some resources will be deployed during the event to ensure it is organised and runs to the Council's satisfaction.

4. Equality Implications

Local communities and agencies have been consulted on the proposals

5. Recommendations

It is recommended that the committee grant authority for this event to take place in Woodvale Park in July 2014, subject to satisfactory terms agreed with the Director of Parks and leisure and on the condition that:

- 1. The event organiser ensures that all health and safety requirements are met to the council's satisfaction, including an event management plan, risk assessments and public liability insurance.**
- 2. The event organisers meet all statutory requirements including entertainments licensing."**

The Committee adopted the recommendations.

Circle of Life – Statue Proposal at the Botanic Gardens

The Director reported that a request had been received from the Northern Ireland Transplant Forum for permission to install a 'Circle of Life' statue and associated legend board within the Botanic Gardens. He explained that the granite statue would be approximately two metres in height and would symbolise 'the light of humanity' as personified through organ donation. He added that the stone would provide a focus for a commemorative garden and the costs associated with the statue would be met by the Northern Ireland Kidney Patients Association, the Northern Ireland Transplant Forum and the Giving of Life Foundation.

The Committee granted permission for the erection of the Circle of Life statue within the Botanic Gardens, subject to satisfactory terms being agreed by the Director and to the drawing-up of an appropriate legal agreement by the Town Solicitor. It was noted also that the statue would be erected at no cost to the Council.

Woodvale Park - Allotments

The Committee considered the undernoted report:

“1. Background Information

In the context of the ‘Growing Communities’ Strategy, Committee will be aware that it recommended that a review of the allocation of allotments was undertaken. An operational management group is currently developing an allocation process, updating management and inspection guidelines and compiling an up-to-date, accurate database. This will be presented to Committee in early autumn, to be in place by the growing season in Spring 2015.

2. Key Issues

Members will be aware that DSD co-funded the re-development and refurbishment of Woodvale Park, re-opened in 2013. DSD funded the re-development project within the context of Neighbourhood Renewal, under the local area action plan, with the aim of improving the quality of life of those within the catchment of the Neighbourhood Renewal Area. As part of the community engagement programme, there are currently facilitated growing sessions taking place. These have been enthusiastically received by the local community, delivered by the Conservation Volunteers.

In this context, a request has been made that an allocation of allotments at Woodvale Park is made available to local groups. While this would be outside of the current city-wide process, a precedent has already been established at Whiterock and Musgrave, as required by funders’ conditions of offer. There are advantages to plots being ring-fenced for local groups in the Woodvale area, most notably, developing local ownership and frequent use of the site to protect it from potential vandalism and/or dereliction, as well as the normal health and well-being benefits.

It is therefore requested that Committee considers the request to allocate the plots to residents/ community groups/ schools from the local residential area i.e. within 1.5km mile radius catchment area/ approx 10/15 min walk. This is similar to the criterion agreed for the Whiterock allotments. On this basis it is proposed that we undertake an exercise to identify current interest among local residents within the catchment area, using the existing list as a starting point. If there are a greater number of names than plots available, these will be added to the city master list. Officers will ensure that these types of local arrangements are ‘regularised’ within the strategy to come to Committee in autumn.

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3. Resource Implications

Human Resources

Officer support and support from the Conservation Volunteers, as per existing contract

4. Equality Implications

A full equality screening will be undertaken for the city-wide allotments strategy when it is presented to Committee in September.

5. Recommendations

It is recommended that Committee authorise officers to undertake an immediate local allocation process, as outlined above.”

The Committee adopted the recommendations.

Tennents Vital – Use of Musgrave Park

The Committee agreed to grant the use of the Musgrave Park Playing Fields to MCD Promotions for the purposes of a drop off and collection point for coaches conveying patrons to and from Tennents Vital on 21st and 24th August. That agreement would be subject to the completion of a legal agreement between the Council and MCD Promotions.

Chairman