



<b>Subject:</b>	<b>Engagement Framework for Large Promoter Events at Belfast Park Venues</b>
<b>Date:</b>	12 March 2024
<b>Reporting Officer:</b>	David Sales, Strategic Director of City and Neighbourhood Services
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	Stephen Leonard, Neighbourhood Services Manager

<b>Restricted Reports</b>	
<b>Is this report restricted?</b>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<b>Please indicate the description, as listed in Schedule 6, of the exempt information by virtue of which the council has deemed this report restricted.</b>	
Insert number <input type="checkbox"/>	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Information relating to any individual.</li><li>2. Information likely to reveal the identity of an individual.</li><li>3. Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the council holding that information)</li><li>4. Information in connection with any labour relations matter</li><li>5. Information in relation to which a claim to legal professional privilege could be maintained.</li><li>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.</li><li>7. Information on any action in relation to the prevention, investigation or prosecution of crime</li></ol>	
<b>If Yes, when will the report become unrestricted?</b>	
After Committee Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>
After Council Decision	
Sometime in the future	
Never	

<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/Summary of Main Issues</b>
1.1	Committee are reminded that a number of review papers have been presented to members detailing actions and work carried out by officers to develop an engagement framework to ensure effective resident, community and local business consultation with those who live and work near concert and festival venues.
1.2	At the December meeting of the People and Communities committee a comprehensive review report of all the 2023 large promoter events was presented. Members agreed that a report be submitted to a future meeting on agreeing a more structured approach for large scale city events, including engagement with residents, promoters, and Elected Members.
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Recommendation</b>
2.1	Committee is asked to; <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. endorse the approach currently adopted at Ormeau Park and</li> <li>2. support the continued development of the evolving approach at Boucher Road Playing Fields.</li> </ol>
<b>3.0</b>	<b>Main Report</b>
	<b><u>Key Issues</u></b>
3.1	For the past number of years officers have been working to create a successful model of engagement with regards the large-scale events that gain permission to operate at Belfast Park venues. There are challenges to delivering a consistent approach to engagement due to the diverse nature of event types, participant numbers and venues. Depending on the venue Council can accommodate attendances up to 42,000 people at a single concert. The challenge of adopting a consistent approach is compounded by varied levels of neighbourhood and community development organisation in the areas immediately surrounding our venues.
3.2	In addition to ad hoc requests there are a number of events that reoccur on an annual basis and the promoters responsible for these events apply to the Council for multiple year permissions to use the venues. Securing a venue for several years in advance allows promoters to book headline acts and attract the best artists to Belfast.
3.3	<u>Ormeau Park</u> In 2022 the Parks Events and Outreach Manager in City and Neighbourhood Services supported by colleagues in building control started a multi-agency approach to the pre-event resident and community engagement for a series of events being delivered in Ormeau Park. The senior responsible officer for the ongoing work is the Neighbourhood Services Manager.
3.4	The engagement forum includes attendance from: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The event promoter and their event safety advisor.</li> <li>• Community Provision</li> <li>• Building Control</li> <li>• Community Safety</li> <li>• Regulatory Services</li> <li>• PSNI</li> <li>• Elected representatives from local DEA's</li> <li>• Resident and Community organisations operating in the local area</li> <li>• Local businesses</li> <li>• Youth Practitioner Organisations operating in the local area</li> </ul>

3.5	The community sector organisations, resident groups and businesses have welcomed this approach. They believe that this is the most effective way for them to work with the range of relevant agencies, to have their concerns heard, to contribute ideas and solutions and ultimately to reduce negative impacts on their neighbourhood.
3.6	Post evaluation sessions are conducted by the engagement forums to review the success and impact of the agreed mitigations, with a lessons learned approach.
3.7	<p><u>Boucher Road Playing Fields</u></p> <p>In 2023 officers, supported by elected members, endeavoured to replicate this approach at Boucher Road Playing Fields for the series of August and September festivals. The engagement led to many improvements and was deemed successful by the residents who attended the pre-event session.</p>
3.8	The key challenge at this venue is a lower level of residents, community, and businesses development organisation when compared to the Ormeau and Ravenhill area. The only way to currently engage is to leaflet drop all the residents and try to host a session with a high number of individuals rather than a strong collective voice. It is recognised that attempting to organise effective engagement with a promoter and a large group of dissatisfied individuals would be counterproductive rather than progressive at this stage.
3.9	<p>To support progress a series of meetings have taken place with elected representatives from the Balmoral DEA resulting in a number of agreed actions for developing and growing the capacity of a stakeholder forum specific to large events at Boucher Road. The main actions are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Council officers and elected representatives to meet residents in March/April and draft a list of key issues and mitigations.</li> <li>• Community Services area support team to work with residents and businesses to establish a representative forum which will attend future pre-event and post-event engagement meetings.</li> <li>• Council officers and elected representatives to present the issues and mitigations to the promoter of the first concert in May with the expectation to include the key actions within the site licence between Council and the promoter.</li> <li>• A post event evaluation session to be arranged with residents following the event.</li> </ul>
3.10	It is anticipated that the work, supported by community services, to establish a stakeholder engagement forum will continue throughout the summer months and may be ready to engage with promoters and other agencies for the August and September festivals.
3.11	Once a representative group is established the stakeholder engagement forum for events at Boucher Road will involve attendance by the same agencies as those described in 3.4 above.
3.12	<p><u>Financial implications</u></p> <p>There are no financial implications with this report.</p>
3.13	<p><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications and Rural Needs Assessment</u></p> <p>There are no equality or good relations implications with this report.</p>
4.0	<b>Appendices - Documents Attached</b>
	None