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<b>Subject:</b>	Request for the use of Parks for 2025 Events
<b>Date:</b>	3 <sup>rd</sup> June 2025
<b>Reporting Officer:</b>	David Sales, Strategic Director of City and Neighbourhood Services.
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	Stephen Leonard, Director of Resources, Fleet and OSS

### Restricted Reports

Is this report restricted?

Yes

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No

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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

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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

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### Call-in

Is the decision eligible for Call-in?

Yes

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No

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<b>1.0</b>	<b>Purpose of Report/Summary of Main Issues</b>
1.1	<p>The Committee is asked to note that Council has received a number of requests to hold events across our parks.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lyndon Fest – Ormeau Park</li> <li>• East Belfast Night Market – CS Lewis Square</li> <li>• Twilight Walk - Barnetts Demesne</li> </ul>
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Recommendation</b>
2.1	<p>The Committee is asked to grant authority to the applicants for the proposed events on the dates noted; subject to the completion of the appropriate event management plans and satisfactory terms being agreed by the Director of City &amp; Neighbourhood Services and on the condition that the Event Organisers:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>resolves all operational issues to the Council's satisfaction;</li> <li>meets all statutory requirements including Public Liability Insurance cover, Health and Safety, and licensing responsibilities; and</li> <li>shall consult with adjoining public bodies and local communities as necessary.</li> </ol>
2.2	<p>Please note that the above recommendations are taken as a pre-policy position in advance of the Council agreeing a more structured framework and policy for 'Events'.</p>
<b>3.0</b>	<b>Main Report</b>
	<b><u>Key Issues</u></b>
3.1	<p>If agreed, the event organiser or promoters will be required in advance of the event to submit an event management plan for approval by the Council and all relevant statutory bodies. This will include an assessment of how the event will impact upon the surrounding area and measures to mitigate these impacts.</p> <p><b><u>Lyndon Fest – Ormeau Park – Friday 12 September 2025</u></b></p>
3.2	<p>A one-day community music event celebrating the life and legacy of Lyndon Stephens, a significant Belfast music champion, record label owner and music manager who passed away in January 2020. In recognition of the work he committed to the Belfast music sector this event will bring together artists he supported throughout his life to perform across one day in Ormeau Park, with the majority of the day's events taking place in the park's bandstand that faces Lyndon's memorial bench.</p>
3.3	<p>This event is being supported by Belfast City Council with funding provided through the Culture team's Music Matters strategy fulfilment budget. This will provide a feel-good factor for the Belfast community to come together in celebration of not only a local legend's life, but also the vibrancy of the music of Belfast, across all genres and ages.</p>
3.4	<p>All artists that will perform throughout the day will be homegrown talent with links to Lyndon Stephens' legacy, including several Northern Ireland Music Prize winners such as Ryan Vail, Ciaran Lavery and Esmeralda Road.</p>

3.5	<p>The is no charge to attend the event. The event is Not For Profit with any charitable collections going to Marie Curie to thank them for their care for Lyndon Stephens. All external service providers have full liability insurance and full risk assessments are to follow.</p> <p><b><u>The Key Dates are as follows.</u></b></p>
3.6	<p>Set up by 10am on Friday 12 September 2025 Main Event – 11am to 7pm – Friday 12 September 2025 De Rig by 7.30pm on Friday 12 September 2025</p> <p><b><u>East Belfast Night Market – CS Lewis Square Thursday 3 &amp; Friday 4 July 2025</u></b></p>
3.7	Belfast City council has received a request from Night Market events to host their event at CS Lewis Square.
3.8	Night Market is a vibrant, open-air market concept that blends high-quality street food, local makers and live entertainment into an evening social experience. It's designed not just as a marketplace — but as an alternative kind of night out.
3.9	This event marks the first edition of the Night Market, and, if successful, the organiser would hope to deliver further events in the future. The format includes stalls selling ambient food, craft, art, jewellery, clothing, and vintage goods, alongside up hot food vendors. These stalls will be complemented by street musicians, creating a laid-back, enjoyable setting that appeals to people looking for something different.
3.10	<p>Night Market has a clear set of principles that guide where and how they operate:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Support the night-time economy in the host area.</li> <li>2. Collaborate with local businesses — encouraging later opening hours and involvement wherever possible.</li> <li>3. Offer an alternative evening experience.</li> <li>4. Avoid conflicts with other markets — respecting existing initiatives and bringing something new to the table.</li> </ol>
3.11	They have engaged early with the Hollywood Arches Business Association and EastSide Partnership to ensure local alignment and support. Dates have been carefully selected to avoid clashes with other markets or community events in the area.
3.12	At its core, Night Market is about creating moments — connecting people with local makers, supporting small businesses, and breathing new life into public space after hours.
3.13	<p>Their goal is to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Encourage footfall for local shops, cafés, and services, helping them stay open later and reach new customers.</li> <li>● Offer a sensory, in-person alternative to online shopping.</li> <li>● Support small-scale makers and traders, giving them a professional and exciting platform.</li> <li>● Create space for performers and artists to connect with local audiences.</li> <li>● Foster a social experience that's friendly, safe, and genuinely enjoyable.</li> </ul>
3.14	<p>Night Market Events will oversee all elements of event delivery and ensure full compliance with licensing, health and safety, and environmental regulations.</p> <p>All traders will be vetted to ensure they:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Hold relevant insurance (Public Liability)</li> <li>● Comply with Trading Standards (including IP, counterfeiting, and quality)</li> <li>● Hold up-to-date food hygiene ratings (minimum 4-star)</li> <li>● Provide PAT testing and LPG certification where applicable</li> </ul>

3.15	Alcohol serving is subject to license and will be provided by Bullhouse East - a business alongside the square. The appropriate level of stewards and SIA-accredited staff will be in place to ensure the event is safe and managed.
3.16	<p>A comprehensive waste management plan is in place, delivered in partnership with River ridge Recycling. Waste will be sorted on-site into appropriate streams and disposed of responsibly, with a strict zero single-use plastic policy enforced throughout the event.</p> <p><b><u>The Key Dates are as follows.</u></b></p>
3.17	<p>Set Up – 10am to 4pm – Thursday 3 July 2025  Main Event – 4pm to 10pm – Thursday 3 July &amp; Friday 4 July 2025  De Rig – 10pm to 11pm – Friday 4 July 2025</p> <p><b><u>Twilight Walk – Barnetts Demesne – Saturday 27 September 2025</u></b></p>
3.18	Belfast City Council has received a request from 26 extreme to host their annual Twilight Walk at Barnetts Demesne on Saturday 27 September 2024. The walk will be a circular route, starting and ending at the Belfast Activity Centre. After the walk ends, there will be music with food available to buy for the participants, the radio station U105 will be in attendance and a gazebo, all within the grounds of the Belfast Activity Centre. At the end of the evening there will be a speech by a Marie Curie nurse, and a firework display the fire work display will go over the grounds of Barnetts Demesne with the event coming to a close at 10pm.
3.19	The event organisers are anticipating around 1000-1500 walkers for this event, passing down past Malone House to the Lagan towpath, then back towards Mary Peters' Track, up around Queens' University's playing fields and back to the Belfast Activity Centre.
3.20	<p>There is no formal charity collection on site, but Marie Curie will put out collection buckets should participants want to donate on the night. There is also a fee of £20 per person for participants in the walk. Marie Curie will pre-register participants for the walk, and registration will also be available on the night. This event has happened in previous years with no issues occurring due to this.</p> <p><b><u>The Key Dates are as follows.</u></b></p>
3.21	<p>Set up– Saturday 27 September– 8am to 4pm  Event– Saturday 27 September – 5pm to 10.30pm  De-Rig– Saturday 27 September – 10.30pm to 11.55pm</p> <p><b><u>Financial and Resource Implications</u></b></p>
3.22	There are no known implications.
	<b><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u></b>
3.33	There are no known implications.
<b>4.0</b>	<b>Appendices</b>
	None