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Subject:	Request for the use of Parks for 2025 Events
Date:	Tuesday 2 September 2025
Reporting Officer:	David Sales, Strategic Director of City and Neighbourhood Services.
Contact Officer:	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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1.0	Purpose of Report/Summary of Main Issues
1.1	<p>The Committee is asked to note that Council has received a number of requests to hold events across Belfast parks.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Row on Row Remembrance 2025 – Pitt Park. • Sound of Belfast & Factory sessions – Tropical Ravine. • 5KM Autism NI Walk – Ormeau Park. • Darkness into Light – Ormeau Park. • Darkness into Light - Waterworks. • Wellfest – Ormeau Park • VC Glendale - Falling Leaves – Irish National League Race – Falls Park • CIYMS - Orange Grove Athletics – Boxing Day Run – Belmont Park
2.0	Recommendation
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 & Neighbourhood Services and on the condition that the Event Organisers:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> I. resolves all operational issues to the Council's satisfaction; II. meets all statutory requirements including Public Liability Insurance cover, Health and Safety, and licensing responsibilities; and III. shall consult with adjoining public bodies and local communities as necessary.
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', which is currently being taken forward in conjunction with the Councils Commercial team.</p>
3.0	Main Report
3.1	<u>Key Issues</u>
3.2	<p>If agreed, the event organiser 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>
3.3	<u>Row on Row Remembrance 2025 – Pitt Park</u>
3.4	<p>Belfast City Council has received a formal request from the Pitt Park Residents Association to host a weeklong remembrance event at Dr Pitt Memorial Park. The purpose of the event is to provide an opportunity for local residents to honour and commemorate those who have lost their lives in defence of the nation.</p>
3.5	<p>The event will take place over several days.</p>
3.6	<p>As part of the proposal, the association seeks permission for residents to place personal tributes such as poppy crosses or wreaths in memory of fallen relatives throughout the</p>

	<p>duration of the week. Additionally, they have requested authorisation to conduct a daily remembrance service at the site, scheduled to take place from 7:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. The event organiser has confirmed that all displays and materials associated with the commemoration will be respectfully removed from the site upon conclusion of the event.</p>
3.7	<p>Key Dates for the event are:</p>
3.8	<p>Set Up – 12.00pm on Monday 3 November 2025 Main Event – 24/7 commencing on Monday 3 November 2025 & ending on Tuesday 11 November 2025.</p> <p>Remembrance service – Daily, 7.00pm – 8.00pm, Monday 3 November 2025 to Tuesday 11 November 2025</p> <p>De Rig – 12.00pm on Wednesday 12 November 2025</p>
3.9	<p><u>Sound of Belfast & The Factory Sessions -Tropical Ravine</u></p>
3.10	<p>Belfast City Council has received a request from Factory 61 to host their Sound of Belfast & The Factory Sessions in Botanic Gardens Tropical Ravine on Thursday 6 November 2025. Factory 61 was originally set up in collaboration with South Regional college to create a pathway for students into the music industry. Their mission is to incubate upcoming talent in the local area by offering professional music and audio services while helping artists create a career in music.</p>
3.11	<p>The event will take place outside normal park and Tropical Ravine opening hours and there will be associated resource implications.</p>
3.12	<p>The event is a music gig for local up and coming artists and is designed to be a unique experience for those in attendance as it is designed to an intimate experience for a maximum of 120 people. There will be a charge of between £10-15 per ticket for those who wish to attend the event. This event took place last year at the Tropical Ravine with no issues arising.</p>
3.13	<p>Members should also be aware that the normal park closing time for November is 5pm therefore this event will take place after hours when the park is closed to the public and the park will need to be opened for those who are attending the event only.</p>
3.14	<p>Key Dates for the event are:</p>
3.15	<p>Set Up – Thursday 6 November 2025, 12.00pm to 5.00pm Event – Thursday 6 November 2025, 6.00pm to 9.00pm De-Rig – Thursday 6 November, 10.00pm</p>
3.16	<p><u>5KM Run – Autism NI – Ormeau Park</u></p> <p>Belfast City Council has received a request from Autism NI to host a charity 5km run in Ormeau Park. The purpose of the event is to raise funds in support of Autism NI, a registered charity and the leading organisation in Northern Ireland dedicated to autism advocacy and support. The charity is registered under number XR22944, and it has been confirmed that 100% of the proceeds raised will be donated directly to the charity.</p>

3.17	The event organiser has requested permission to conduct on-site fundraising activities during the event, including bucket collections, with all donations to be submitted on the day. The run will follow a clearly marked 5km route within the park, and volunteer stewards will be stationed along the course to guide and assist participants.
3.18	<p>Key Dates for the event are:</p> <p>Set Up – 9.00am, Sunday 18 January 2026 Main Event – 11.00am to 12.30pm on Sunday 18 January 2025 De Rig – 1.00pm on Sunday 18 January 2025</p>
3.19	<p><u>Darkness into Light – Ormeau Park</u></p> <p>Belfast City Council has received a request from PIPS Suicide Prevention for use of Ormeau Park for the organisation's annual "Darkness into Light" walk. This event is a pre-dawn 5-kilometre walk around the designated track within the park, hosted to bring the community in support and connection offering hope to individuals and families affected by suicide.</p>
3.20	The event will take place outside normal park opening hours.
3.21	The walk, which takes place each year, is an opportunity for participants to unite in solidarity and raise awareness around mental health and suicide prevention. PIPS Suicide Prevention is a locally based charity providing vital support services, including counselling and crisis intervention, to individuals impacted by mental ill-health, suicide, and self-harm.
3.22	Key Dates for the event are:
3.23	<p>Set-up – Friday 8 May 2025 – 9.00am Main Event – Saturday 9 May 2025, 4.00am to 9.00am De-Rig – Saturday 9 May – 11.00am</p>
3.24	The event is due to take place out of hours and will use the main paths around the park for the 5km walk. No money will be collected on site as registration is completed online prior to the event. It is anticipated that there will be between 500 and 1000 people attending.
3.25	<p><u>Darkness into Light – Waterworks Park</u></p> <p>Belfast City Council has received a request from PIPS Suicide Prevention for use of Waterworks Park for the organisation's annual "Darkness into Light" walk. This event is a pre-dawn 5-kilometre walk around the designated track within the park, hosted to bring the community in support and connection offering hope to individuals and families affected by suicide.</p>
3.26	The event will take place outside normal park opening hours.
3.27	The walk, which takes place each year, is an opportunity for participants to unite in solidarity and raise awareness around mental health and suicide prevention. PIPS Suicide Prevention is a locally based charity providing vital support services, including counselling and crisis intervention, to individuals impacted by mental ill-health, suicide, and self-harm.
3.28	Key Dates for the event are:
3.29	<p>Set-up – Friday 8 May 2025, 9.00am Main Event – Saturday 9 May 2025 – 4.00am to 9.00am De-Rig – Saturday 9 May – 11.00am</p>

3.30	The event is due to take place out of hours and will use the main paths around the park for the 5km walk. No money will be collected on site as registration is completed online prior to the event. It is anticipated that there will be between 500 and 1000 people attending
3.31	<p><u>Wellfest – Ormeau Park</u></p> <p>Council has received a request from Wellfest to bring their Wellness event to Ormeau Park 12th and 13th September 2026. Wellfest is an alcohol-free festival that is designed to inspire those who attend to better their own health and wellbeing. The event brings together leading names in health, fitness and wellness to deliver live workouts, educational talks and create memories that will inspire those who attend for the long term. The event is a two-day event will open at 9am and close at 6.30pm. The event will have five different designated areas within the event space.</p>
3.32	There will be a charge for those who are attending the event with the price of tickets being set at the following:
3.33	<p>Weekend early bird - £68</p> <p>Saturday/Sunday early bird - £47</p> <p>Weekend final release - £75</p> <p>Saturday/Sunday final release - £58</p>
3.34	The Key Dates for the event are:
3.35	<p>Set Up -Tuesday 8th – Friday 11th September 2026</p> <p>Main Event – Saturday 12th and Sunday 13th September 2026 - 9.30am to 6pm</p> <p>De-Rig – Monday 14th - Tuesday 16th September 2026</p>
3.36	<u>VC Glendale – Falling Leaves Irish National League Race – Falls Park – Saturday 11th October – Sunday 12th October 2025</u>
3.37	Belfast City Council has received a request from VC Glendale to host their annual Irish National League Cycling Race at Falls Park in October 2025. The Falling Leaves event has taken place at Falls Park for the last 9 years and has been supported by BCC during its time at the park. Due to the nature of the event, areas of the park will be required to be closed off to members of the public to allow the race to proceed safely and to ensure that no park users or participants are injured. There are expected to be around 500 people in attendance with participants and spectators attending from across the UK & Ireland.
3.38	The areas of the site the organisers plan to use are the grassed area beside the playground leading to the woodland area beside the cemetery; followed by the pathed area along the side of the Falls Road and across the bridge leading to the pitches. Participants will then cycle around the entirety of the parks pitched area.
3.39	The event organiser VC Glendale are a voluntary cycling club who are established as a cross community cycling club with members taking part in races across the UK & Ireland. The club have worked closely with Belfast City Council over the years to run this event with no issues occurring during this time.
3.40	Key Dates for the event are:
3.41	<p>Set Up – Saturday 11th October 11.00am</p> <p>Main Event Day 1 – Saturday 11th October – 12noon to 3.00pm</p> <p>Main Event Day 2 – Sunday 12th October - 8am to 4.30pm</p> <p>De-Rig – Saturday 12th October 6.00pm</p>

3.42	<u>CIYMS Boxing Day Fun Run – Orange Grove Athletics Club – Belmont Park – Friday 26 December 2025</u>
3.43	Belfast City Council have received a request from Orange Grove Athletics Club to host their annual boxing day fun run at Belmont Park on Friday 26 December 2025. The fun run has been running for 40 years and this is the third year it will be hosted by Orange Grove Athletics club. Participants are encouraged to come in fancy dress with prizes being awarded to the best entrants. The number of entrants will be capped at 250 to safely accommodate all runners
3.44	The event is aimed at raising money for Northern Ireland Hospice with the entrance fee being £10 per person. The entrance fee will be used to cover the costs for hosting the event and first aid with all remaining funds being donated to the NI Hospice.
3.45	The event organiser has requested permission to collect money on site during the event. Belfast City Council are in receipt of a letter from NI Hospice authorising Orange Grove to fundraise on their behalf. NI Hospice charity number: NIC102337
3.46	Key Dates for the event are.
3.47	Set Up – Friday 26 December 2025 – 9am Event – Friday 26 December 2025 – 12pm to 2pm De-rig – Friday 26 December 2025 – 2pm
4.0	<p><u>Financial and Resource Implications</u></p> <p>Sound of Belfast & The Factory Sessions -Tropical Ravine.</p> <p>Members of staff will be required to staff the Tropical Ravine during the Sound of Belfast & The Factory Sessions and to secure the park and building when the event has ended. All staff costs will be recovered from the event organiser.</p> <p>The park wardens will be required to work additional hours to facilitate the closure of the Waterworks and Ormeau Park following the darkness into light events.</p> <p><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u></p> <p>There are no known implications.</p>
	Appendices
	None