



Subject:	Request for the use of Parks for 2026 Events
Date:	Tuesday 12 May 2026
Reporting Officer:	David Sales, Strategic Director of City and Neighbourhood Services.
Contact Officer:	Stephen Leonard, Director of Open Spaces, Resources, Fleet and Transport.

Restricted Reports	
Is this report restricted?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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 <input type="checkbox"/>	
<ol style="list-style-type: none">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 matter5. 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	<input type="checkbox"/>
After Council Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sometime in the future	<input type="checkbox"/>
Never	<input type="checkbox"/>

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

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 and cemeteries.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Friends of Friars Bush – Guided Tours of Friar’s Bush Graveyard • Cairde na Cille CIC – Guided Tours of Friar’s Bush Graveyard • EID Festival – Botanic Gardens
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>Where appropriate a fee will be negotiated which recognises the costs to Council, minimises negative impact on the immediate area and takes account of the potential wider benefit to the city economy, in conjunction with the Councils Commercial Manager.</p>
2.3	<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	<p><u>Key Issues</u></p> <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>
3.2	<p><u>‘Friends of Friars Bush’ - Guided Tours of Friar’s Bush Graveyard</u></p> <p>Belfast Council has received a request from ‘Friends of Friars Bush’, who are an informal group of independent professional tour guides. ‘Friends of Friar’s Bush’ are proposing to host a series of tours at Friar’s Bush Graveyard from May 2026 to April 2027.</p>
3.3	<p>The group consists of local guides with extensive knowledge of Friar’s Bush and has been carrying out tours at the site for several years.</p>
3.4	<p>A standard tour will last 1.15 hours and is scripted, agreed and shared between all guides. The context of the tour is an impartial factual tour, suitable for all audiences and uses primary historical sources as much as possible.</p>
3.5	<p>Following a review by Bereavement Services, Committee approval is sought for these ongoing tours subject to compliance with requirements of use set out by Council. This</p>

	approval is annual and is subject to change depending on operational requirements. If approved the 'Friends of Friar's Bush' will have access on the dates below.
3.6	<p>The Key Dates for the request are:</p> <p>Main Event – Each Saturday, Monday, Wednesday and Friday for a period of 1 year, times to be agreed in advance with Bereavement Services.</p>
3.7	<p><u>Cairde na Cille CIC – Guided Tours of Friars Bush Graveyard</u> Council has received a request from Cairde na Cille CIC to host regular tours in Friar's Bush Graveyard. The purpose of the tours is to promote community relations, share heritage and to animate built and open spaces in Belfast.</p>
3.8	Cairde na Cille CIC consists of local guides with extensive knowledge of Friar's Bush. The group provide some free events for economically deprived communities and has been carrying out tours at the site for several years.
3.9	Following a recent review by Bereavement Services, Committee approval is sought for these ongoing tours subject to compliance with requirements of use set out by Council. This approval is annual and is subject to change depending on operational requirements. If approved the 'Cairde na Cille CIC' will have access on dates below.
3.10	<p>The Key Dates for the request are:</p> <p>Main Event – Each Sunday, Tuesday and Thursday for a period of 1 year, times to be agreed in advance by Bereavement Services.</p>
3.11	<p><u>EID Festival – Botanic Gardens Saturday 20 June 2026</u> Belfast City Council has received a request from Wasif Naeem to host the EID Festival in Botanic Gardens on Saturday 20 June 2026. The event is aimed at celebrating the Muslim Community in Northern Ireland but is open to the wider public to promote diversity and integration.</p>
3.12	The event will have number of food stalls providing hot and cold options with an ethnic flavour attached. There will be no charge for the event, and it will be free to attend. All children's rides will be free to use. The event is designed to help and support families who cannot afford days out with the events Motto being "How We Gather, Is How We Live"!
3.13	<p>The Key Dates for the request are:</p> <p>Set Up – Saturday 20 June 2026, 9am Main Event – Saturday 20 June 2026, 11am to 5pm De-Rig – Saturday 20 June 2026 6pm</p>
3.14	<p><u>Financial and Resource Implications</u></p> <p>There are no known implications.</p>
3.15	<p><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u></p> <p>There are no known implications</p>
4.0	Appendices
	None