

Fleadh Cheoil na hÉireann 2026 – Campsite Entertainment Licencing (Extended Licence)

Event Overview

Fleadh Cheoil na hÉireann, the world's largest celebration of Irish traditional music, song, dance and culture, will take place in Belfast from Sunday 2 to Sunday 9 August 2026. This marks the first time the Fleadh has been hosted in the city, representing a landmark cultural moment and a major opportunity for Belfast's communities, economy and international profile.

With an anticipated 800,000 visitors, the Fleadh will deliver a week-long programme of concerts, competitions, sessions, workshops, family activities and community events across the city.

Campsite Provision

To support the scale of visitor demand and to provide a traditional, authentic Fleadh experience, Nord Events, and Féile an Phobail in conjunction with Belfast City Council will deliver community-based campsite facilities across the city. Camping is a core accommodation type at every Fleadh, and the Belfast provision will offer safe, accessible and well-managed facilities for visitors travelling from far and wide.

Currently, there are 3 campsites.

- East Belfast – Titanic Quarter – Caravan/Motorhome Site (Nord Events)
- South Belfast – Ormeau Park – Tented Site (Nord Events)
- West Belfast – Falls Park – Tented Site (Féile an Phobail)

The sites will be operational from Sunday 2nd until Monday 10th August.

Campsite Activities & Programming

In addition to providing essential accommodation, the Campsite will host:

- Evening impromptu entertainment and traditional music sessions
- Family-friendly activities
- Food, bar, welfare and community engagement spaces

This help create a vibrant, welcoming environment that reflects the spirit of the Fleadh and encourages visitors to engage with the local area.

Extended Campsite Entertainment Licence

The operators are committed to delivering a first-class visitor experience and believe that extending onsite entertainment hours will significantly enhance the campsite offer and help achieve this aim. To support this, it is proposed that entertainment be permitted until midnight (00:00 hours) from Sunday 2 August to Sunday 9 August inclusive.

It should be noted that there will be no amplified entertainment at campsites.

Visitor Experience & International Expectations

The Fleadh attracts a significant number of visitors who expect a lively, authentic cultural atmosphere extending into the evening. Allowing entertainment to run slightly later ensures that Belfast delivers a festival experience comparable to other host cities across Ireland, while supporting the city's reputation as a welcoming, world-class cultural destination.

Economic Benefit

Extended evening entertainment will also generate positive economic impacts for the campsite operator and for the food and refreshment vendors trading onsite. Each of these providers are employing local people, meaning the extended hours directly support local jobs and income. The additional trading time increases revenue opportunities, strengthens the commercial viability of the campsite offer, and ensures that more of the economic benefit is retained within our communities.

Safe & Managed Environment

Providing structured, stewarded entertainment within the campsite reduces the likelihood of informal gatherings elsewhere and ensures visitors remain in a controlled, well-managed environment. The campsite management team will work closely with PSNI, Council officers, community representatives and emergency services to minimise disruption and maintain safety.

Contribution to Citywide Regeneration & Legacy

The Fleadh represents a major opportunity for Belfast to showcase its cultural vibrancy and community strengths. Campsite programming, including extended hours on key nights supports the wider ambition of:

- Building long-term cultural tourism.
- Creating new partnerships and community networks.
- Delivering a positive legacy for future events.