



Subject:	Application to provide indoor musical entertainment beyond 11.00pm in marquees in temporary campsites for Fleadh Cheoil na hEireann.
Date:	17 th June 2026
Reporting Officer:	Kate Bentley, Director of Planning & Building Control, Ext. 2300
Contact Officer:	Stephen Hipkins, Building Control Manager, Ext. 2435

Restricted Reports

Is this report restricted? Yes No

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

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	<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 No

1.0	Purpose of Report
1.1	<p>The Fleadh Cheoil na hEireann campsites at Ormeau Park and Falls Park will run for eight nights from Sunday 2 August to Sunday 9 August 2026.</p> <p>This report is to consider a request from Belfast City Council to permit entertainment to be provided beyond 11.00pm to midnight, within a marquee at the two campsite locations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • South Belfast – Ormeau Park – Tented Site (Nord Events) • West Belfast – Falls Park – Tented Site (Féile an Phobail)
2.0	Recommendations
2.1	<p>Taking into account the information presented and any representations received you are required to consider the request to extend the hours of entertainment and, subject to all technical requirements being met, either:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Agree that entertainment should be permitted to take place beyond the standard hours of licence to midnight on all eight nights of the Fleadh campsite; or 2. Agree that only on specified nights will entertainment be permitted to take place beyond the standard hours of licence to midnight and that the other requested nights be permitted to take place to an earlier specified extended hour; or 3. Refuse to extend hours on any night requested.
3.0	Main Report
3.1	<p><u>Key Issues</u></p> <p>Both Ormeau Park and Falls Park have 7-Day Annual Outdoor Entertainments Licences and 7-Day Annual Indoor (Marquee) Entertainments Licences which have been used to hold events in the past. The Licences for both parks are held by Mr Stephen Leonard, Belfast City Council.</p> <p>3.2 A Site Location Map for Ormeau Park is attached as Appendix 1.</p> <p>3.3 A Site Location Map for Falls Park is attached as Appendix 2.</p> <p>3.4 The days and standard hours during which entertainment may be provided both outdoors and in a marquee are Monday to Sunday from 11.30 am to 11.00 pm.</p> <p>3.5 In addition, the following Special Conditions are attached to both the Marquee and Outdoor Entertainments Licences:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maximum numbers will be agreed at the discretion of the Building Control Service and will vary depending upon individual concert set up proposals. • Prior to any event taking place the promoters are required to demonstrate evidence of early consultation and have in place a robust system of dealing with any complaints, which has been agreed in advance with the Council. • Any requests to provide entertainment later than 11.00 pm must be considered by the Licensing Committee and therefore must be made at least 3 months in advance of the proposed event.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Should an application to provide entertainment beyond 11.00 pm be granted and the Council then receive a significant number of complaints regarding noise or the complaint is of such significant impact, authority is granted to the Director of Planning and Building Control, in consultation with the City Solicitor, to reduce the finishing time for any subsequent nights of the event, in which case the promoter will be required to make contingency arrangements.
3.6	Given the special conditions, this request to provide entertainment later than 11pm must be considered by the Licensing Committee.
3.7	As this is not an application to vary the terms of the Indoor (Marquee) licence, but a request for Council's permission to extend the hours under an existing Licence Condition, there is no requirement for public advertisement in this case.
3.8	The event organiser has indicated that Indoor (Marquee) music events are scheduled for the nights of Sunday 2 August to Sunday 9 August inclusive. The request is to provide entertainment to midnight on these eight nights.
3.9	It should be noted that there will be no amplified entertainment at campsites.
3.10	<u>Rationale for extended hours:</u> A rationale for extended hours beyond 11pm has been provided by the event organiser and is attached as Appendix 3.
3.11	A representative of the event organiser has been invited to attend your meeting.
3.12	<u>PSNI:</u> The Police have been contacted by the Service in relation to the event, however, a response has not yet been received.
3.13	Should Members be minded to approve the extended hours requested, this should be subject to a satisfactory response from the PSNI on the matter.
3.14	<u>NIFRS:</u> The NIFRS have been consulted by the Service in relation to the application, however, a response has not yet been received.
3.15	<u>Health, safety and welfare issues:</u> Officers have engaged with the event organisers and colleagues in the Fleadh events team in relation to the events and will participate in pre-event meetings.
3.16	An Event Management Plan for the Fleadh has been received and is being evaluated by the Service and shared with other colleagues.
3.17	<u>Noise issues:</u> A significant consideration for Environmental Protection Unit (EPU) will be the proposal to provide outdoor entertainment after 11.00 pm. Members are reminded that the Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act (Northern Ireland) 2011 gives councils additional powers in relation to entertainment noise after 11.00 pm.
3.18	The organisers have confirmed Noise mitigations with regards to generator use have been established on all campsites. Ormeau Park BCC has carried out two stakeholder engagement sessions and Féile have confirmed they are currently carrying out engagement with residents with regards to Falls Park.
3.19	The organisers will also be required to produce a suitable residents pre-notification letter containing a nominated event organiser contact that that residents may refer concerns or make complaints to. The extent of the letter's distribution, which will take place prior to the event will be agreed with the event organiser by the Service in consultation with EPU officers.

	<p>The event organisers will be reminded of the standard licence condition that receipt of significant complaints may lead to further late nights being curtailed. However, it can be impracticable during the festival to curtail further nights at short notice, and as complaints are not all received on the nights that are the subject of the complaint a full picture does not emerge until all complaints are collated, by which time the events can be concluded.</p>
4.0	<p>Financial and Resource Implications</p> <p>None. Officers will carry out inspections before and during the events which will be catered for within existing Service budgets.</p>
5.0	<p>Equality and Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</p> <p>There are no issues associated with this report.</p>
6.0	<p>Appendices – Documents Attached</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Appendix 1 – Site Location Map Ormeau Park • Appendix 2 – Site Location Map Falls Park • Appendix 3 – Applicant’s rationale for extended hours