

**Appendix A – Belfast City Council consultation response concerning the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs proposed designation of the Lagan Meadows as a Quiet Area, pursuant to the provisions of The Environmental Noise Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2006.**

Air & Environmental Quality Unit  
Natural Environment Policy Division  
Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs  
1<sup>st</sup> Floor, Clare House  
303 Airport Road West  
Belfast  
BT3 9ED

Via email: [aeqteam@daera-ni.gov.uk](mailto:aeqteam@daera-ni.gov.uk)

Dear Sir / Madam

**Re: Public Consultation on the Designation of Lagan Meadows as a Quiet Area pursuant to The Environmental Noise Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2006.**

- Are you responding on behalf of an organisation? **Yes**
- What is your organisation? **Belfast City Council (Local Government).**
- Do you agree that the Lagan Meadows should be designated as a Quiet Area for the purpose of The Environmental Noise Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2006?  
**Yes**
- Please provide information on any matters that would affect the designation of Lagan Meadows as a Quiet Area.

Belfast City Council would highlight that although the Lagan Meadows are Council owned lands, the Lagan Meadows additionally form a component of the wider Lagan Valley Regional Park, established in 1967, and stretching from the Stranmillis area of Belfast City to Lisburn City.

Belfast City Council notes that the Lagan Valley Regional Park is presently engaged in the implementation of a 5-Year Management Plan (<https://www.laganvalley.co.uk/publications>), covering the period 2023 – 2028. Priority themes identified within the Management Plan include biodiversity, visitors, neighbouring communities, landscape, heritage and health and recreation.

Belfast City Council therefore recommends that the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs should engage directly with the Lagan Valley Regional Park to ensure that the designation of the Lagan Meadows as a Quiet Area is appropriately compatible with the

Park's 5-Year Management Plan and the Lagan Valley Regional Park's stated priority theme of health and recreation. . The Lagan Valley Regional Park have advised that objectives and targets developed to support achievement of the health and recreation priority theme will have consideration of relevant stakeholders within the Lagan Valley Regional Park to ensure maximum physical and mental health benefits to its users.

Belfast City Council additionally notes that George Best Belfast City Airport has recently published a 2040 Masterplan entitled Our Vision for the Future (<https://www.belfastcityairport.com/Vision/home>). The Airport has indicated that its vision is to deliver growth to 7 million passengers per annum by 2040 in a sustainable and responsible way and that to accommodate the projected growth in passenger numbers will require the number of annual air traffic movements (atm) to increase to approximately 61,000; an increase of some 13,000 atms in the current annual cap of 48,000 atms. The Airport Masterplan document states that all growth to 2040 can be delivered within the existing noise contour area limit of 5.2 km<sup>2</sup>.

Notwithstanding, the George Best Belfast City Airport Annual Performance Report for 2024 highlights that the initial departure route over the city passes close to the Lagan Meadows before turning towards the southeast over Belvoir Park Forest.

Accordingly, it is recommended that the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs should engage with George Best Belfast City Airport concerning the Airport's 2040 Masterplan in order to identify and understand any potential implications of the Airport's air traffic movement and passenger growth proposals upon noise levels within the Lagan Meadows and the designation of the Lagan Meadows as a Quiet Area.

Yours sincerely,

Siobhan Toland  
Director of City Services