



Subject:	Request for the use of Parks for 2026 Events
Date:	Tuesday 23 rd June 2026
Reporting Officer:	David Sales, Strategic Director of City and Neighbourhood Services.
Contact Officer:	Stephen Leonard, Director of, Resources, Fleet and Opens Spaces & Streetscene

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 several requests from event organisers to host events across several city park locations in 2026 and these include.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Outdoor Church Service – Waterworks Park, Woodvale Park & Marrowbone • Cedar Foundation – Ormeau Park • Belfast No 6 Royal Black District Chapter- Parade Through Woodvale Park • The Woodvale Muster – Woodvale Park
2.0	Recommendation
2.1	<p>The Committee is asked to grant authority to each of the applicants for the proposed events on the dates noted and to delegate authority to the Director of Neighbourhood Services to ensure the following:</p> <p>2.2 Where appropriate negotiate a fee 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> <p>2.3 Negotiate satisfactory terms and conditions of use via an appropriate legal agreement prepared by the City Solicitor, including managing final booking confirmation dates and flexibility around ‘set up’ & take down’ periods, and booking amendments, ensuring the organisers:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> I. resolve 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. <p>2.4 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> <p>3.2 <u>Outdoor Church Service – Waterworks 5 July, Woodvale 23 July & Marrowbone 19 July 2026</u></p> <p>Belfast City Council has received a request from The Ark Church Belfast to host three separate outdoor services in Belfast parks in the month of July. The locations are Woodvale Park, Marrowbone & Waterworks Park. These services have previously taken place in 2022 & 2024 but had not taken place last year. The group wish to be granted permission to allow them to take place again this year.</p>

3.3	<p>The services are expected to attract around 200 attendees at each service. The service will include live songs of praise that will be played over speakers. They plan on having gazebos in place at each park to use as a cover in the event of bad weather.</p>
3.4	<p>The purpose of their request is to be able to carry out their services outdoors in the hope that it will reach new people. Each event will have stewards at them to ensure no issues occur and the group will be providing their own bins to ensure all litter is removed from the site.</p>
3.5	<p>The Key Dates are as follows.</p> <p>Waterworks Service on Sunday 5 July 2026 Set-up – 6pm Service – 7pm – 8.30pm De-Rig – 9pm</p> <p>Woodvale Service on Sunday 12 July 2026 Set-up – 6pm Service – 7pm – 8.30pm De-Rig – 9pm</p> <p>Marrowbone Service on Sunday 19 July 2026 Set-up – 6pm Service – 7pm – 8.30pm De-Rig – 9pm</p>
3.6	<p><u>Cedar Foundation – Ormeau Park – Thursday 20 August 2026</u></p> <p>Belfast City Council has received a request from the Cedar Foundation, a long-established charity supporting individuals living with disability, autism and brain injury, to host a one-day event at Ormeau Park as part of the organisation’s 85th anniversary celebrations.</p>
3.7	<p>The event is designed as a family-friendly country fun day, bringing together Cedar service users, their families, Cedar staff, volunteers, and the wider community. The event will have carnival stalls, arts & crafts and live background music, with the main fundraising competition at the heart of the day. The event is designed to be accessible and enjoyable for everyone, celebrating what Cedar does every day. Families are at the centre of everything, with activities for all ages and abilities running throughout the day.</p>
3.8	<p>Tickets will be available to purchase online at £5 per person, with under 16s admitted free of charge. They have also requested permission to collect donations in buckets during the event. 100% of all fundraising proceeds will go directly to the Cedar Appeal Fund. Charity number - NIC10112.</p>
3.9	<p>Officer Note: Event Officers have advised all organisers that ground conditions following major events cannot be predicted. Any organiser wishing to use the area must do so with the understanding that conditions may be affected and that they are proceeding at their own risk.</p>
3.10	<p>The Key dates for the request are:</p> <p>Set up – 8am on Thursday 20 August 2026 Main Event – 11.00pm to 4.00pm on Thursday 20 August 2026 De-Rig – 7pm on Thursday 20 August 2026</p>

3.11	<p><u>Belfast No 6 Royal Black District Chapter – Woodvale Parade – Woodvale Park – Sunday 2 August 2026</u></p>
	<p>Belfast City Council has received a request form Belfast No 6 Royal Black District Chapter for a portion of their parade on Sunday 2 August 2026 to passthrough Woodvale Park and lay a poppy wreath at the war memorial in the park.</p>
3.12	<p>The proposed route for the event is as follows:</p>
	<p>10.40am City of Belfast Grand Black Chapter departs from West Belfast Orange Hall, Shankill Road. Approximately 40 participants and the Sons of Ulster Old Boys Flute Band will be attending.</p>
	<p>10.45am (approx.) enters Woodvale Park at Woodvale Road entrance, processes up through park, pausing to lay a poppy wreath at war memorial, exits Park onto Ballygomartin Road by 11.00am.</p>
	<p>The group have confirmed that the return route of the parade will not be passing through Woodvale Park and that the PSNI have been informed along with an 11/1 parade notification being submitted.</p>
	<p>PSNI will manage traffic throughout the parade.</p>
3.13	<p><u>The Woodvale Muster – Woodvale Park 15 and 16 July 2026</u></p>
	<p>Belfast City Council has received a request from Shankill Old Boys Flute Band to host two days of events in Woodvale Park on 15 and 16 July 2026. The Group have received £2,615 form the Parks Events small grant funding to support the delivery of both events.</p>
3.14	<p>Day one 15 July – A community clean-up of the park followed by an historical walking tour where attendees will learn about the history of the park.</p>
3.15	<p>Day two – 16 July will be a musical assemble made up of a few members from the Shankill Old Boys Flute Band with several members from other bands coming together to form a larger band. It is also proposed that there will be a planting and an unveiling of a tree (without railings or markings to distinguish it) that will be called after the organisers – Shankill Old Boys Flute Band, giving ownership of the park to the community. The Horse Chestnut tree is to be informally named only and will not be physically marked.</p>
3.16	<p>Both events are free and open to everyone, with light refreshments available on the lawn afterwards.</p>
3.17	<p><u>Key Dates are as follows</u></p>
	<p>Wednesday 15 July 2026</p>
	<p>Time TBC</p>
	<p>Thursday 16 July 2026</p>
	<p>Set up 5pm</p>
	<p>Main Event 7pm – 9pm</p>
	<p>Derig – 9pm</p>
3.18	<p><u>Financial and Resource Implications</u></p>
	<p>There are no known implications.</p>

3.19	<u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u> There are no known implications.
4.0	Appendices
	None