



Subject:	Application for the Grant of a 14-Day Occasional Outdoor Entertainments Licence for St Annes Cathedral Car Park (North) and request to provide entertainment beyond 11pm
Date:	22 July 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

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No

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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

After Council Decision

Sometime in the future

Never

Call-in

Is the decision eligible for Call-in?

Yes

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No

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1.0	Purpose of Report						
1.1	This report is to consider an application for the grant of a 14-Day Occasional Outdoor Entertainments Licence for St Annes Cathedral Car Park North side, based on the Council's standard conditions to provide outdoor musical entertainment, primarily for use during Fleadh Cheoil 2-9 August 2026. <table><tr><td>Area and Location</td><td>Ref. No.</td><td>Applicant</td></tr><tr><td>St Annes Cathedral North</td><td>24934</td><td>Mr Keith Forster, Belfast City Council</td></tr></table>	Area and Location	Ref. No.	Applicant	St Annes Cathedral North	24934	Mr Keith Forster, Belfast City Council
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St Annes Cathedral North	24934	Mr Keith Forster, Belfast City Council					
1.2	The day and hours that outdoor musical entertainment is proposed to be provided are: Monday to Sunday: 11.30 am to 12:00 am						
1.3	A site location map is attached as Appendix 1						
	Recommendations						
2.1	After taking into account the information presented, and any representations made Members are recommended to approve the application for the grant of the 14-Day Occasional Outdoor Entertainments Licence subject any special conditions considered necessary by officers and to all technical requirements being met						
2.2	Should Members be minded to refuse the application, or special conditions are attached to the licence to which the applicant does not consent, then the applicant may appeal the Council's decision within 21 days of notification of that decision to the County Court.						
2.3	In the case that the applicant subsequently decides to appeal, entertainment may not be provided until any such appeal is determined. Due to time constraints, it is unlikely that an appeal could be concluded in time for entertainment to be provided during Fleadh 2026.						
2.4	Should the licence be granted, it is recommended that Members agree to extend the hours of entertainment to 12:00am and agree that musical entertainment is permitted to take place to 12:00am on all nights 2 – 9 August 2026 inclusive.						
2.5	Alternatively, Members could agree that musical entertainment is permitted to take place to 12:00am on certain specified nights during that period or refuse to extend the hours as requested.						
3.0	Main Report						
	Key Issues						
3.1	St Anne's Cathedral is within the road closure pedestrianised area for Fleadh Cheoil na hEireann.						
3.2	The entertainments licence applied for is to facilitate the provision of outdoor entertainment to the North side of St Anne's Cathedral site, the location of the Fleadh Cheoil food and drink market.						
3.3	The applicant wishes to host entertainment in this outdoor area in line with the Fleadh's traditional music entertainment offering.						

3.4	The applicant has requested that outdoor musical entertainment be permitted beyond the standard hour of 11.00pm to 12:00am on all nights of Fleadh Cheoil 2-9 August 2026.
3.5	Members are reminded that the following conditions are attached to Outdoor Entertainments Licences. • Maximum numbers will be agreed at the discretion of the Building Control service and will vary depending on the individual entertainment proposals. • Prior to entertainment taking place, the licensee is required to demonstrate evidence of early consultation with the Building Control service and have in place a robust system for dealing with complaints. This is to be agreed in advance. • 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	Therefore, this request to provide entertainment later than 11.00pm must be considered by the Licensing Committee.
3.7	Public notice of the application has been placed in the newspaper, and no representations have been received as a result.
3.8	PSNI - The Police have been consulted in relation to the application; however, a response has not yet been received.
3.9	Should Members be minded to approve the Grant of the Outdoor Entertainments licence, this should be subject to a satisfactory response from the PSNI on the matter.
3.10	<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 proposed use of this space and will participate in pre-event meetings
3.11	An event management plan has been received.
3.12	<u>Noise issues</u> The applicant proposes to provide non-amplified musical entertainment within the outdoor area in the form of traditional music live bands during the Fleadh.
3.13	As entertainment is proposed to be provided beyond the standard finishing time for outdoor musical entertainment to 12:00 am, if granted, a special condition will be added to the licence relating to the sole provision of non-amplified musical entertainment.
4.0	Financial and Resource Implications None. Officers will carry out inspections before and during the events which will be catered for within existing Service budgets.
5.0	Equality and Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment There are no issues associated with this report.
6.0	Appendices – Documents Attached • Appendix 1 – Site Location Plan