



Belfast City Council

Report to: Licensing Committee
Subject: **Application for Additional Hours - Feile An Phobail, Falls Park**
Date: 18 June 2014
Reporting Officer: Trevor Martin, Head of Building Control, ext. 2450
Contact Officer: Stephen Hewitt, Building Control Manager, ext. 2435

| 1.0 | Relevant Background Information |
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| 1.1 | A request has been received from the organisers of Féile an Phobail to hold a 10 day music event at Falls Park, to be held within a marquee, running from Thursday 1 st to Sunday 10 th August. |
| 1.2 | The event is promoted as a celebration of community, creativity, arts and sports. It has operated from different venues in West Belfast since 1988 but has been established in Falls Park for the last 3 years. |
| 1.3 | Falls Park currently has a Seven-day Annual Outdoor Entertainments Licence and a Fourteen-day Occasional Licence for a marquee and both have been used to hold numerous types of events. The Licences are held by the Parks and Leisure Department of the Council and are transferred to the promoter for the duration of their event. |
| 1.4 | The days and hours during which entertainment may be provided both outdoors and in a marquee are:- <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Monday to Sunday: 11.30 a m to 11.00 p m. |
| 1.5 | In addition, the following special conditions are attached to both the Marquee and Outdoor licences: <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Maximum numbers will be agreed at the discretion of the Building Control Service and will vary depending upon individual concert set up proposals2. 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 Council3. Any requests to provide entertainment later than 23:00 hrs must be considered by the Licensing Committee and therefore must be made at least 3 months in advance of the proposed event.4. Should the Council receive a significant number of noise complaints for any event which has successive nights of entertainment permitted beyond 23:00hrs or if a complaint about an event beyond 23:00hrs is of major concern, then those successive nights with later hours may be subject to reduction and the promoter should have appropriate arrangements in place should this occur. |

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| 2.0 | Key Issues |
| 2.1 | A range of events will be held in the marquee providing a variety of music such as Irish traditional, rock, indie rock, folk and ska music and will include well known performers such as Kaiser Chiefs, Frances Black and Boyzone. |
| 2.2 | The organisers have requested that the Committee give consideration to permitting five nights of entertainment to run beyond 11.00 pm to 12.00 am on 1 st , 2 nd , 7 th , 8 th and 9 th August. This is materially less additional hours than the licence as granted for in relation to last year's event. |
| 2.3 | A copy of the events running order is attached. |
| 2.4 | As this is not an application to vary the terms of the 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. |
| 2.5 | Members may recall that last year you agreed to grant the organisers permission to operate on 7 nights beyond the standard hours of 11.00 pm to 1.00 am, in addition to two Sunday nights when entertainment was extended to 12.00 am. |
| 2.6 | The Service has received a copy of the Event Management Plan and other relevant event details. Officers are currently liaising with the organisers to ensure that all technical requirements will be met and work is ongoing in this regard. |
| 2.7 | Members are also advised that, through a series of meetings, the organisers have consulted with residents in the vicinity of the Park and the Service has not received any objection from them. The organisers have also stated that residents have shown no concerns about the event as part of their consultations with them. |
| 2.8 | Representatives of Féile an Phobail will be available at your meeting should you wish to seek further information on their proposals. |
| | PSNI |
| 2.9 | The PSNI have been consulted in relation to the event and they have confirmed that the organisers have been in contact with them about it. The police have also been informed of the proposed extension of hours. |
| 2.10 | Members are advised that, as with all such events, a series of detailed planning meetings will be held, some of which have begun, to look at traffic management, transport and any wider operational policing issues. |
| | NIFRS |
| 2.11 | The Northern Ireland Fire and Rescue Service have also been consulted about the application. As with other similar events they will be invited to a pre-event meeting and provided with relevant documentation in advance of that meeting. |
| | Health, safety and welfare issues |
| 2.12 | Officers from the Service have previously carried out during performance inspections over the duration of other events organised by Féile An Phobail and have always found the organisers to be professional in their approach and have had no issues with the health, safety and welfare management of the events during that time. |

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| | Noise issues |
| 2.13 | The Environmental Protection Unit (EPU) has been consulted in relation to the request for late night entertainment to run to 12.00 am on 5 occasions for the event at Falls Park. |
| 2.14 | The Unit is supportive of all events aimed at improving the attractiveness and diversity of the City. They are committed to working with licensees to ensure these events are successful and to achieve a balance between the rights of residents, the event, the promotion of the city and the wider benefits to the local economy. |
| 2.15 | Given the cumulative impact of several late consecutive nights and potential sleep disturbance to nearby residents, Officers are concerned that there is a greater potential for complaints after 11.00pm. Members are reminded that the Clean Neighbourhood And Environment Act 2011 gives councils additional powers in relation to entertainment noise after 11.00pm. |
| 2.16 | Last year the Noise Team received 22 noise complaints over the course of the 10 day festival. No complaint resulted in any formal action being taken by the Council. |
| 2.17 | Officers are currently working with the organisers and their representatives regarding a suitable noise assessment and noise management plan for the festival. The noise assessment must demonstrate that noise from the event will not cause unreasonable disturbance to commercial and residential premises. |
| 2.18 | Officers will consider all reports and supporting information to ensure the technical requirements are in accordance with all the relevant legislation and guidance |
| 2.19 | An officer from EPU will be available at your meeting to advise on any concerns regarding the proposed event and any potential noise impact it may have on nearby residents. |

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| 3.0 | Resource Implications |
| 3.1 | Financial Officers will be required to carry out inspections at the event but this is catered for within existing budgets. |
| 3.2 | Human Resources None. |
| 3.3 | Asset and Other Implications None. |

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| 4.0 | Equality and Good Relations Considerations |
| 4.1 | There are no equality or good relations issues. |

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| 5.0 | Recommendations |
| 5.1 | 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: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Agree that the proposed events on 1st, 2nd, 7th, 8th and 9th August 2014 should be permitted to take place beyond the standard hours of Licence to 12:00 am, or 2. Refuse to extend any or all of the hours as requested. |

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| 6.0 | Decision Tracking |
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Any approval is subject to the applicant fully complying with any technical requirements to the satisfaction of the Officers of the Council, including the submission of the necessary certificates, insurances and other documents in relation to the event. The person responsible for this action is Trevor Martin, Head of Building Control.

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| 7.0 | Documents Attached |
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Location map

Event running order