



Belfast City Council

Report to:	Strategic Policy & Resources Committee
Subject:	Passchendaele Commemoration Event
Date:	8 June 2012
Reporting Officer:	G Millar, Director of Property & Projects, ext 3526
Contact Officer:	George Wright, Head of Facilities Management, ext 6232/5206

Relevant Background Information

A request has been received from the Laganvillage Somme Society seeking permission to organise a short Lambeg drum and fife whistle demonstration following a wreath-laying event at the City Hall on Saturday 28 July 2012.

The wreath-laying service to commemorate the battle of Passchendaele has been taking place at the Cenotaph for a number of years. This service, which normally takes place on the last Saturday of July, commemorates the role played by the 36th Ulster Division and the 16th Irish at Passchendaele.

The Passchendaele battle was one of the bloodiest of the 1st World War; it lasted from 31st July to the 7th November 1916 and thousands of people from regiments across the world lost their lives.

This year, following on from the wreath-laying ceremony, the organisers would also wish to organize a short concert-type demonstration on the front lawns. The concert is aimed mainly at local and tourist visitors who in the past have commented about the colour and pageantry of the wreath-laying event.

Key Issues

The Lambeg drum and fife whistle demonstration would last about 30 minutes from 11.00am to 11.30am. A number of old traditional military tunes would be played and leaflets giving information about Passchendaele would be available on request.

Approximately 200 people normally take part in the wreath-laying ceremony, and the number of other visitors present will vary depending on the weather.

No formal set-ups are required as the demonstration is done from a standing position and no specific parts of the lawns need to be cordoned off. The organisers will also provide their own staff to steward the event.

The City Events Unit has been contacted and has confirmed that, although the Olympic Games commence on the 27th July 2012, nothing specific has been planned around the Big Screen on the 28th July.

The PSNI are also aware of the proposed event and the Laganvillage Somme Society may be contacting the Parades Commission to seek approval for a possible parade to and from the City Hall.

Resource Implications

There are no additional security or other costs associated with this event, and no access is required to the main building.

Decision (s) required

The committee is asked to consider and agree the request from the Laganvillage Somme Society to have a short Lambeg Drum and Fyfe Whistle demonstration in the grounds of the City Hall on the 28th July 2012.

Key to Abbreviations

None

Documents Attached

None