



Subject:	Request for use of Alexandra Park for the North Belfast Magical Festival
Date:	12 th September 2017
Reporting Officer:	Nigel Grimshaw, Director City & Neighbourhood Services Department
Contact Officer:	Rose Crozier, Assistant Director City & Neighbourhood Services Department Mark Turner Community Outreach Manager, North

Restricted Reports	
Is this report restricted?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
If Yes, when will the report become unrestricted?	
After Committee Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>
After Council Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>
Some time 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 or Summary of main Issues
1.1	This paper seeks approval for the City and Neighbourhood Services department to approve the free use of Alexandra Park for this year's event, known as the North Belfast Magical Festival. Last year was the first year that the event had been staged in Alexandra Park and it was a great success.
1.2	The event is scheduled to take place on Sunday 29 th Oct and Mon 30 th Oct 2017.
2.0	Recommendations
	The Committee is asked to; <ul style="list-style-type: none">Grant free use of Alexandra Park for the North Belfast Magical Festival on condition that:<ul style="list-style-type: none">The event organisers liaise with Council Officers and ensure that all Health

	<p>and Safety requirements are adhered to and produce an event management plan and risk assessment to the satisfaction of Council officers.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Complete an appropriate legal agreement and meet all statutory requirements including entertainment and fireworks licensing.
3.0	Main report
3.1	This event was held for the first time in Alexandra Park in 2016, previously for seven years in the Waterworks and was a great success. The move was encouraged with the support of public opinion with the purpose of broadening local cross community participation.
3.2	<p>This community event is aimed at families and will consist of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Art Workshops and street performers • Outdoor cinema • Lantern Parade that makes its way from Cliftonpark Avenue to Alexandra Park • Magical evening event that will include outdoor performances • Stage entertainment • Fireworks display that closes the event.
3.3	The event is a project of the Ashton Community Trust and is managed by New Lodge Arts, a voluntary arts organisation working across communities in North Belfast for the past 14 years.
3.4	The event will be a ticketed event with tickets costing £1. This has been used in previous years and has been a great success in managing numbers within the park. This is not for profit and all proceeds go towards the cost of the event.
3.5	An advisory group has been established to provide advice and guidance on the community outreach and event elements of the programme. The advisory group consists of representatives from a number of community organisations in North Belfast including groups from Tigers Bay, Mount Vernon, Skegoneill/Glandore, Lower Shankill, Cliftonville ,Lower Oldpark, Oldpark/Marrowbone, Whitecity, Greencastle and New Lodge.
3.6	This year the event will take place on Sunday 29 th Oct from 11.30am to 8.00pm and on Monday 30 th Oct, from 11.30 am to 9.00pm.
3.7	<p>The event organisers have confirmed that they will undertake to do the following in order to ensure delivery of a safe and successful event.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Employ a security firm to safeguard participants and equipment

3.8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Employ reputable contractors to ensure a safe and professional event • Put a ticketing system in place • Ensure that a one-way system for the park is in place • Ensure local residents are informed about the event 7 days prior to the event and ensure that there is no inconvenience or nuisance caused to the residents on the day of the event. • Work with the relevant council departments to ensure effective management of the park and the event.
	<p>In order to build the site safely and in a timely fashion, organisers have requested that the park is closed to members of the public from 4pm to 6pm on the 30th October and that only members of the public with tickets are permitted entry, from 6pm until the event is over. This closure is required to set up the trial throughout the park and does not apply on the 29th October.</p>
3.9	<p><u>Financial & Resource Implications</u></p>
	<p>The request is for free use of Alexandra Park and facilities including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The lower and upper areas of the park The sports pitch located in the lower area of the park
3.10	<p>In the past departmental budgets have funded elements of the event such as the outreach budget and antisocial behaviour budget. It is estimated that support this year will not exceed £3000 which has been accounted for within existing budgets. Parks staff will be required to assist with the set up and take down.</p>
3.11	<p><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications</u></p> <p>The overall aim of the event and the associated project elements are to build and sustain good relations and trust within the communities in North Belfast.</p>
4.0	Appendices – Documents Attached
	None