



Subject:	Grounds Maintenance & Petanque Installation at Ormeau Park
Date:	10 th October 2017
Reporting Officer:	Nigel Grimshaw, Director City & Neighbourhood Services Department
Contact Officer:	Noel Munnis, Partnership Manager

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	To inform members of plans to repair and upgrade an overgrown community garden installation at Ormeau Park and install a Petanque practice/competition area at the site.
2.0	Recommendations
2.1	The Committee is asked; <ul style="list-style-type: none">To note the contents of the report. No decision required.
3.0	Main report
	<u>Key Issues</u>
3.1	There is an area adjacent to the Indoor Tennis/Ozone Leisure Centre in Ormeau Park currently laid out as a community garden. The area, which is in front of the changing

pavilion and directly in view from the leisure centre car park, consists of approximately twelve raised beds. Since installation in 2011 the raised beds have been underused, and in recent years unused, resulting in the area becoming overgrown and very unsightly to users of the park and in particular the leisure facility.

3.2 The area is due to be refurbished/tidied within existing parks maintenance programmes. Following recent discussions with the Northern Ireland Petanque Association the area has been identified as an ideal location to site 3 – 4 dedicated 'Petanque pistes'. Background information:

1. Petanque is more commonly known as French Boules. The game is widely played in Europe in open parks and public spaces. Like most other games the playing area dimensions and surface is specified by the sport's governing body.
2. Petanque is an international, competitive sport played in over seventy countries. Competition is in both individual and team formats. Most commonly 'triples' involving six competitors in two teams. The nature of the sport makes it ideal as an inclusive activity appropriate for all ages, genders, fitness levels and many disabilities.
3. There is an enthusiastic and growing Petanque following in Northern Ireland and particularly in Belfast.
4. The playing court/space is correctly referred to as a 'piste' or 'terrain'.
5. There is currently no dedicated Petanque pistes in Belfast despite the existence of a number of active clubs, including one based at Ormeau Park. The club currently plays on the disused all weather pitch area. The area is in poor condition and subject to ongoing degradation and flooding.
6. The sport in Northern Ireland has ambitious development plans which will be substantially enhanced by this development.

3.3 The development will greatly improve the aesthetic appearance of the leisure facility and the car park in general. The area was due for an extensive tidy up project and the proposed Petanque installation is an add on to the existing plans within the same space.

3.4 From a sports development perspective, the area will provide an ideal 'shop window' for Petanque as it will be on prominent display for a broad range of park users. The area will not be enclosed and will be easily and immediately accessible from the car park. This will be particularly welcomed by those with restricted mobility.

The overall scheme includes for the retention of 3 – 4 raised growing beds alongside 3 – 4

<p>3.5</p> <p>3.6</p> <p>3.7</p> <p>3.8</p>	<p>competition standard petanque pistes. The overall scheme will be low maintenance and is designed to be a tidy, attractive and interesting addition to the park.</p> <p><u>Financial & Resource Implications</u></p> <p>A maximum cost of £5,000 has been allocated to the project. Designs will be developed and adapted to ensure that final costs are within the maximum allowance.</p> <p>The scheme will be funded from the existing 2017/18 budget and is scheduled for completion by December 2017.</p> <p><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications</u></p> <p>Petanque is a suitable activity at either recreational or competitive level for a broad range of participants. This facility will create opportunities to engage with traditionally underrepresented groups, including those with disabilities, and encourage participation in a new and healthy outdoor activity.</p>
<p>4.0</p>	<p>Appendices – Documents Attached</p>
	<p>None</p>