



Subject:	Proposal to mark out a temporary pitch at Stranmillis Embankment
Date:	6 th March 2018
Reporting Officer:	Nigel Grimshaw, Director of City and Neighbourhood Services
Contact Officer:	Rose Crozier, Assistant Director of City and Neighbourhood Services Stephen Walker, Portfolio and Programme 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	The purpose of this report is to update Members on the proposal to provide a temporary playing pitch on Council land at Stranmillis Embankment.
2.0	Recommendations
2.1	The Committee is asked to note the report.

3.0	Main report
3.1	<p>Members are reminded that the meeting of the People and Communities Committee in November 2017 considered a report regarding a request to provide a temporary GAA playing pitch at Stranmillis Embankment. The Committee agreed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · ‘in principle’, to mark out the pitch, subject to discussion with the local Residents Association and the Friends of Botanic Gardens, for the period up to the end of September 2018 and subject also to favourable site conditions to be determined by the Community Park Manager; · that the cost would be met by the Council from existing budgets, if available; and · to a key holding agreement with the 2 GACs to allow access to the woodland area for ball retrieval as necessary.
3.2	<p>Owing to Christmas holiday period and the necessity to provide notice to residents, an information event was deferred until January 2018 to provide residents with an opportunity to comment on the proposal. A report was presented to the South Area Working Group at its meeting on 26th February 2018, a copy of which is attached as Appendix A. In essence while residents had reservations about the proposal, given that it was a temporary solution, there was no significant objection to it.</p>
3.3	<p>It is therefore proposed to convey the Council’s approval to the request; to erect the posts; to prepare and mark out a pitch area, subject to ground conditions; to engage with the 2 Clubs regarding booking requirements and to enter into a key holding agreement as necessary. The situation will be kept under review.</p>
3.4	<p><u>Financial and other implications</u></p> <p>The cost of the marking out of the temporary pitch and the erection of the posts is estimated to be in the region of £5,000 which will be met from existing budgets. The Council will gain some incomes from the use of the pitch. The adult charge is £20.50 per hour and the concessionary rate is £10.25 per hour.</p>
3.5	<p><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications</u></p> <p>None</p>
	<p>Appendices- Documents attached</p> <p>Appendix A – Copy of Report to South Area Working Group</p>