



Subject:	Request for use of Alexandra Park for the North Belfast Magical Festival
Date:	7 th August 2018
Reporting Officer:	Nigel Grimshaw Strategic Director of City and Neighbourhood Services
Contact Officer:	Rose Crozier Director of Neighbourhood Services 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. This will be the third year that the festival will take place in Alexandra Park and the event is scheduled to take place on Monday 29 th Oct and Tuesday 30 th Oct 2018.
2.0	Recommendations
2.1	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, ensure that all Health and Safety requirements are adhered to and produce an event management plan and risk assessment that the Council is satisfied with. ▪ Complete an appropriate legal agreement and meet all statutory requirements including entertainment and fireworks licensing. ▪ Work in partnership with Parks staff.
3.0	Main report
3.1	This event, which has been held in Alexandra Park for the last two years and for seven years previously in the Waterworks, has been a great success. The move was encouraged with the support of public opinion to broaden the local cross community initiatives and encourage the use of the park.
3.2	<p>This 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 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 15 years.
3.4	The event will be a ticketed event with tickets costing £2. This is an increase from previous years, which has been £1, but due to cuts in funding, this increase is necessary to maintain the quality of the event and to incorporate all of the park. The ticketed system was 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/Bone, Whitecity, Greencastle and New Lodge.

3.6	This year the event will take place on Monday 29 th Oct from 11.30am to 8.00pm and on Tuesday 30 th Oct, from 11.30am to 9.00pm. The site build for the event will begin on 29 th October and deconstruction will be completed on 31 st October 2018.
3.7	<p>The event organisers have confirmed that they will undertake to do the following in order to ensure the event is both a success and safe.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Employ a security firm to safeguard participants and equipment ▪ Employ reputable contractors to ensure a safe and professional event ▪ Put a ticketing system in place ▪ Ensure that a one-way system traffic 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.
3.8	<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 4.00pm to 6.00pm on 30th October and that only members of the public with tickets, can access the park from 6.00pm until the event is over.</p> <p><u>Financial & Resource Implications</u></p>
3.9	<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>Previously, Outreach and Antisocial behaviour budgets have funded elements of the event. It is anticipated that support this year will not exceed £3000 which has been profiled in the Outreach Budget for this event. Parks staff will be required to assist with the set up and take down.</p> <p><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u></p>
3.11	<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