



<b>Subject:</b>	Request for the hire of Botanic Gardens for a series of music events
<b>Date:</b>	6th August 2019
<b>Reporting Officer:</b>	Nigel Grimshaw, Strategic Director of City and Neighbourhood Services
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	Stephen Leonard , Neighbourhood Services Manager, South Belfast

<b>Restricted Reports</b>	
<b>Is this report restricted?</b>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<b>If Yes, when will the report become unrestricted?</b>	
After Committee Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>
After Council Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>
Some time in the future	<input type="checkbox"/>
Never	<input type="checkbox"/>

<b>Call-in</b>	
<b>Is the decision eligible for Call-in?</b>	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>

<b>1.0</b>	<b>Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues</b>
1.1	Members are reminded that on 4 <sup>th</sup> June 2019 a formal request was received by Aiken Promotions to host a series of music events during the month of June in the years 2020, 2021 and 2022 in Botanic Gardens
1.2	Members agreed to defer a decision and await a report concerning the music events in Botanic Gardens in June 2019.

<b>2.0</b>	<b>Recommendation</b>
2.1	<p>The Committee is asked to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Grant authority to Aiken Promotion request: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• for use of the great lawn at Botanic Gardens for a series of music events with attendances under 5,000 persons in the years 2020, 2021 and 2022; and</li> <li>• to include set up and take down.</li> </ul> </li> <li>2. Grant authority to the Strategic Director of City and Neighbourhood Services, subject to satisfactory terms being agreed and on condition that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• the promoter resolves all operational issues to the Council's satisfaction;</li> <li>• an appropriate legal agreement is completed, to be prepared by the City Solicitor; and</li> <li>• the promoter meets all the statutory requirements of the Planning and Building Control Service including the terms and conditions of the Park's Entertainment Licence</li> </ul> </li> <li>3. Grant authority to the Strategic Director of City and Neighbourhood Services to negotiate an appropriate fee for the use of the facility taking into account the costs to Council, minimising negative impact on the immediate area but also the potential wider benefit to the City economy.</li> </ol>
<b>3.0</b>	<b>Key Issues</b>
3.1	<p>In November 2018, Committee approved five music events in Botanic Gardens over the period 21<sup>st</sup>- 28<sup>th</sup> June 2019, hosted by Aiken Promotions. This was subject to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• the promoter resolving all operational issues to the satisfaction of the Council;</li> <li>• an appropriate legal agreement was put in place between the Council and the promoter; and</li> <li>• the promoter meeting all the statutory requirements of the Planning and Building Control Service including the terms and conditions of the Parks Entertainment licence.</li> </ul>
3.2	<p>All of the above were completed to the satisfaction of the Council and the promoter complied with all aspects of the legal agreement and the entertainment licence.</p>

3.3	Approximately 20,000 people attended Botanic Gardens over the five days. There were six noise complaints received in total before, during and after; one pre-event enquiry. Only one complaint relating to music noise levels was received on the first day during sound checking. Officers monitored levels at front of house and spot checks were carried out at locations close to the venue. The noise conditions included in the licence agreement were adhered to throughout the event.
3.4	Events of this nature add to the profile of the city. There are also significant benefits to the City in terms of income generated from a series of events such as this in terms of income for shops, taxi companies, tourist venues, public transport, air, bus and rail companies.
3.5	There were two corporate complaints regarding the closure of the park during set up. Both complaints were responded to by email and after a satisfactory resolution, the cases were closed.
3.6	Corporate Communications considered social media feedback on the event. This suggested there was concern from regular users of the Gardens in relation to the Gardens being closed for set up during each event, the number of events and the timeframe of engagement. Positive elements of written feedback included better use of the park for everyone across the City to enjoy, good “buzz” about Botanic Avenue and fabulous venue.
3.7	In terms of public consultation, the Promoter attended the Holyland Pact meeting on 28 <sup>th</sup> May 2019. In addition, 1000 letters were distributed to households in the surrounding area ( <b>See Appendix 1</b> ). The Gardens were closed to the public at 3.00pm to allow for preparation for each music event.
3.8	The Gardens were cleared of litter every evening and were open to the public every morning at 7.30am, including the lawn area where the concerts were taking place. Lower Botanic Gardens was not affected by the events and remained opened throughout the period.
3.9	There were no incidences reported by the PSNI over the course of the events.
3.10	Members will also be aware that residents can raise concerns when the entertainment license is advertised for renewal. Any concerns would be considered by our Licensing Committee, should this be required.
3.11	The Promoter – Aiken Promotions is aware of concerns raised by local residents and would

<p>3.12</p> <p>3.13</p>	<p>be happy to attend Committee to discuss any concerns members may have. They have indicated that they would be willing to consider a clause in any future licence agreement that would require the genre of music event offered to be suitable to the urban environment.</p> <p><u>Financial &amp; Resource Implications</u></p> <p>An appropriate fee was negotiated for the use of the facility taking into account the costs to Council and minimising the negative impact on the immediate area.</p> <p><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u></p> <p>There are no equality, good relations or rural needs assessments associated with this report.</p>
<p><b>4.0</b></p>	<p><b>Appendices – Documents Attached</b></p>
	<p>Appendix 1 –List of Concerts in Botanic Gardens</p>