

Title of Report:	Land and Property Report
Committee Report Submitted To:	Council Meeting
Date of Meeting:	2nd June 2020
For Decision or For Information	For Decision

Linkage to Council Strategy (2019-23)	
Strategic Theme	Leader and Champion
Outcome	
Lead Officer	Director of Corporate Services

Budgetary Considerations	
Cost of Proposal	To be confirmed
Included in Current Year Estimates	YES/NO
Capital/Revenue	
Code	
Staffing Costs	To be confirmed

Screening Requirements	Required for new or revised Policies, Plans, Strategies or Service Delivery Proposals.		
Section 75 Screening	Screening Completed:	Yes/No	Date:
	EQIA Required and Completed:	Yes/No	Date:
Rural Needs Assessment (RNA)	Screening Completed	Yes/No	Date:
	RNA Required and Completed:	Yes/No	Date:
Data Protection Impact Assessment (DPIA)	Screening Completed:	Yes/No	Date:
	DPIA Required and Completed:	Yes/No	Date:

1.0 Purpose of Report

- 1.1 To consider requests made to use Council owned car parks for drive in church services due to the current restrictions of COVID 19.

2.0 Background

- 2.1 As a result of the COVID 19 pandemic event applications to use Council land for events from external organisations have been suspended. Council has also recently decided to cancel Council managed events in July, August and September 2020.

- 2.2 The Northern Ireland Executive recovery plan (<https://www.nidirect.gov.uk/articles/coronavirus-recovery-plan>) published on 12th May 2020 states the following:

“Family and community

As of 18th May 2020 the current position for family and community is step 1 (with the exception of visits to immediate family indoors where social distancing is possible).

Step 1 Groups of 4-6 people who do not share a household can meet outdoors maintaining social distancing.....Drive through church services and churches open for private prayer with appropriate social distancing and cleaning of shared contact hard surfaces.”

3.0 Issue for Consideration

- 3.1 A number of requests have been received from local churches who wish to hold drive in services during this time and have requested the use of Council owned car parks for this purpose

Garvagh – A request to hold a weekly drive in church on Sunday evenings for 1 hour at 7.00pm in the Town Centre Car Park.

Limavady – A request to hold a drive in service on a Sunday evening from approximately 5.30 to 6.30 pm in Connell Street Car Park.

Ballymoney - A request to hold a drive in service on Sunday afternoons for approximately 25-30 minutes (time TBC) in Townhead Street Car Park.

- 3.2 Requests to use Council land are considered in accordance with Council’s Land and Property Policy and as such those requesting the use will be required to provide all relevant documentation relating to Risk Assessments

including Health and Safety considerations, impact on surrounding area, noise and all appropriate safety measures in accordance with public health advice in light of the COVID 19 pandemic and Public Liability Insurance among the conditions of approval. Organisers will be advised to encourage vehicle drivers to park within the marking of a bay and not cause any obstruction. Only those who possess a valid disabled badge should be using the disabled bays.

- 3.3 In future Council could receive requests for other drive in events, for example, drive in cinemas and/or requests from other groups for drive in church services. This may be an appropriate time to give consideration to delegating authority for these type of requests and bring to the Land and Property Sub-Committee for retrospective approval.

4.0 Financial Considerations

4.1 Garvagh Bridge Street Car Park

Adjacent to the MUGA and the public toilets, This is a free car park and would have no loss of revenue. This car park was highlighted for some repairs to the surface.

4.2 Limavady Connell Street Car Park

This is a charged car park Monday to Saturday and free on Sunday so would have no loss of revenue.

4.3 Ballymoney Townhead Street Car Park

Charging will be introduced in this car park when members take the decision to resume normal service Monday to Saturday, free on Sunday therefore no loss of revenue.

At such time as Council introduce charges in East Strand/Dunluce Avenue/Harbour Road car parks it will be Monday to Sunday inclusive. Free car parks remain in Portrush on a Sunday, i.e. Sandhill Drive, West Strand and Lansdowne Road car park.

5.0 Recommendation

- 5.1 It is recommended that approval is granted to the requests made to hold weekly drive in church services in Council owned car parks in Ballymoney,

Garvagh and Limavady and to delegate authority for any further similar requests received by Council for drive in events on Council owned land as a result of the restrictions of the COVID 19 pandemic, subject to Council's conditions of approval and to review on a rolling basis and in line with the NI Executive's Recovery Plan and on the future needs of Council services.