

## Screening Form - Equality

- 1. Is this a** Policy
- 2. Name of Policy/Strategy/Plan/Public Service** Parks and Cemeteries Friends Group Policy
- 3. Reference** 283
- 4. Category of Policy/Strategy/Plan/Public Service** New

**5. Please provide a description of the Policy/Strategy/Plan/Public Service**

The purpose of this policy is to provide clarity for council officers and Friends Groups around the setting up and effective running of such groups. The policy is supported by a handbook for Friends Groups.

It is widely accepted that Volunteering and 'Friends' Groups are beneficial to a Parks or Cemeteries Service and experience from across Northern Ireland and the UK suggests that they play a vital role in protecting and enhancing local parks, woodlands and greenspaces. The setting up of a group gives the local community and other interested parties the chance to develop their Park or Open Space in partnership with Council and in line with the needs of the community.

**6. Please provide details of the aims and/or objectives of the Policy, Strategy, Plan or Public Service.**

The main objectives of this policy are to ensure that:

- there is clear guidance around the establishment and management of a Friends Group;
- there is clear guidance around the support that will be provided by the Council;
- there is clear guidance around the role of a Friends Group in the development of a park or open space and the type of activities they are permitted to undertake.

**7. Who initiated or wrote the Policy/Strategy/Plan/Public Service?** Jonny Bettes - Parks and Cemeteries Officer

**8. Who is responsible for the implementation of the Policy/Strategy/Plan/Public Service?** Stephen Daye, Head of Parks and Cemeteries

**9. Is this policy affected by timetables established by other relevant Public Authorities?** No

# Equality

**1. Are there any Section 75 categories which might be expected to benefit from the intended policy?**

No

**2. Are there any factors which could contribute to/detract from the intended aim/outcome of the policy/decision?**

Yes

**2a. If yes, are they:**

Financial - is it dependent on financial support of Council or another named Body or Organisation?

**3. Who are the internal/external stakeholders (actual or potential) that the policy will impact upon?**

Staff, Service Users, Voluntary/Community/Trade Unions, Potential Visitors

**4. Is this policy associated with any other Council Policy (or Policies)?**

Yes

**4a. If yes, please state the related Policy (or Policies)**

Volunteer Policy  
Corporate Plan  
The Big Plan

**5. Does this policy affect Internal or External users?**

Both

Evidence to help inform the Section 75 screening process may take many forms. Public authorities should ensure that their screening decision is informed by relevant data.

**6. What evidence/information (both qualitative and quantitative) have you gathered to inform this policy?**

All

## **Religious belief evidence**

Membership of the 'Friends of' group is open to any person who is interested in helping the group to achieve its aims and with a local interest in the Park or Open Space. The membership structure allows groups to be formed that are reflective of the local demographic.

Establishment of Friends groups create better places to live, drawing on the skills and knowledge of local people, to achieve goals which so many groups, organisations and communities are striving for each and every day. Participants benefit from,

Increased community cohesion – making friends and getting to know people from a wide demographic.  
Opportunities to keep fit and get fresh air.  
Help relieve stress and improve mental health.  
Increased appreciation & respect for a site among the local community  
Nurturing specialised skills, teaching others and learning new skills.

<b>Political opinion evidence</b>	As above with Religious belief
<b>Racial group evidence</b>	As above with Religious belief
<b>Age evidence</b>	As above with Religious belief
<b>Marital status evidence</b>	As above with Religious belief
<b>Sexual orientation evidence</b>	As above with Religious belief
<b>Men and women generally evidence</b>	As above with Religious belief
<b>Disability evidence</b>	As above with Religious belief
<b>Dependants evidence</b>	As above with Religious belief

Taking into account the information referred to above, what are the different needs, experiences and priorities for each of the following categories, in relation to the particular policy / decision?

**8. What is the likely impact on equality of opportunity for those affected by this policy, in relation to Religious belief?**

None

**9. What is the likely impact on equality of opportunity for those affected by this policy, in relation to Political opinion?**

None

**10. What is the likely impact on equality of opportunity for those affected by this policy, in relation to Racial group?**

None

**11. What is the likely impact on equality of opportunity for those affected by this policy, in relation to Age?**

None

**12. What is the likely impact on equality of opportunity for those affected by this policy, in relation to Marital status?**

None

**13. What is the likely impact on equality of opportunity for those affected by this policy, in relation to Sexual orientation?**

None

**14. What is the likely impact on equality of opportunity for those affected by this policy, in relation to Men and women generally?**

None

**15. What is the likely impact on equality of opportunity for those affected by this policy, in relation to Disability?**

None

**16. What is the likely impact on equality of opportunity for those affected by this policy, in relation to Dependants?**

None

**17. Are there opportunities to better promote equality of opportunity for people within the Section**

**75 equalities categories? If Yes, provide details. If No, provide reasons.**

<b>Religious belief</b>	'Friends of' groups provide opportunity for partnership working with third sector organisations such as Churches, Charities, Voluntary and Community organisations, Social Enterprises and Cooperatives. Opportunities to promote equality and opportunity for people within Section 75 equalities categories can be provided through organised events and associated media promotions and interactions with local communities.
<b>Political opinion</b>	As with religious belief above.
<b>Racial group</b>	As with religious belief above.
<b>Age</b>	As with religious belief above.
<b>Marital Status</b>	As with religious belief above.
<b>Sexual orientation</b>	As with religious belief above.
<b>Men and women generally</b>	As with religious belief above.
<b>Disability</b>	As with religious belief above.
<b>Dependants</b>	As with religious belief above.

**18. To what extent is the policy likely to impact on good relations between people of different religious belief, political opinion and/or racial group?**

None

**19. Are there opportunities to better promote good relations between people of different religious belief, political opinion and/or racial group?**

Yes

**19a. Please provide your reasons below**

Friends Groups are local partnership structures and members can give representation from multiple business sectors, schools, colleges and further education establishments, the voluntary sector, community groups and faith groups, among others.

Smaller community organisations, such as Friends Groups, operating at the local level can play an integral part in community development. A key strength is their sensitivity to local issues and culture, and knowledge of their specific areas. Their organised events and activities may attract groups from different backgrounds.

Friends Groups working at the neighbourhood level can offer a unique insight into the perceptions of local people about their community and provides opportunity to involve people from groups who are otherwise hard to reach. This connectivity and cohesion gives opportunity to better promote good relations between people of different religious belief, political opinion and/or racial group.

## **Disability Discrimination Order (NI) 2006**

**20. Is there evidence to suggest that this policy would promote positive attitudes towards people with a disability?**

No

**21. Is there evidence to suggest that this policy would encourage the participation of people with a disability in public life?**

No

## **Additional Considerations**

**22. Are there any potential impacts of the policy / decision (positive or negative) on people with multiple identities?**

No

## **Monitoring Arrangements**

**23. Outline what data you could collect in the future to monitor the impact of this policy / decision on equality, good relations and disability duties**

Data on activities and membership demographic possible.

**25. On the basis of the answers to the screening questions, I recommend that this policy/decision is**

Screened Out - No negative impacts

**Please upload any supporting documents for review**



PCA111 Appendix One - Sta... .docx



PCA111 School Growing Cl... .docx

**Email:**

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## **Screening Panel Comments**

# Appendix - Religious Belief

## Religious belief (Internal)

\* Small numbers removed as individuals could be identifiable

	Catholic	Protestant & other Christian	Other religions	Total
<b>Males F/T</b>	33	388	34	425
	8%	84%	8%	100%
<b>Males P/T</b>	*	*	*	8
	25%	63%	13%	100%
<b>Females F/T</b>	58	223	6	287
	20%	78%	2%	100%
<b>Females P/T</b>	12	20	5	35
	32%	54%	14%	100%
<b>Total</b>	105	606	46	757
	14%	80%	6%	100%

## Religious belief (External)

The Northern Ireland Census 2011 (NISRA) statistics for the Borough area showed that 75% are or have been brought up in Protestant and Other Christian (including Christian related) religions. While this varied across the borough from 17% in Portaferry ward to 87% in Carrowdore ward this does not have any relation to this policy. These compared to 48% for Northern Ireland as a whole.

LGD	All usual residents	Catholic	Protestant & other Christian	Other religions	None
<b>Northern Ireland</b>	1,810,863	817,385	875,717	16,592	101,169
		-45.14%	-48.36%	-0.92%	-5.59%
<b>Ards and North Down</b>	156,672	20,550	117,589	1,729	16,804
		13%	75%	1%	11%

## Appendix - Political Opinion

### Political opinion (External)

Electoral Office data from recent Local Government elections detail the political representation on Ards and North Down Council, The Stormont Executive for this electoral area and Westminster election. This data is an approximate measure of political opinion of the voting electorate within the Borough. Turnout to vote in North Down and Strangford constituencies tend to be lower than the rest of NI suggesting less strong political opinions. Of those who do turn out, the results show preferences for voting Unionist parties.

Political Party	Seats Held
Alliance	10
DUP	14
Green	3
Independants	3
SDLP	1
Sinn Féin	0
TUV	1
UUP	8



# Appendix - Racial Group

## Racial group (Internal)

\* Small numbers removed as individuals could be identifiable

Racial Group	Total	Percentage
White	682	78.66%
Black	*	*
Chinese	*	*
Other	*	*
Did not want to answer	*	*
Left Black	176	20.30%

## Racial group (External)

NISRA, NINIS and Northern Ireland Strategic Migration Partnership data provide up to date data. The 2011 census showed that 32,000 (1.8%) of the usually resident population in Northern Ireland is from a minority ethnic background. Within the borough, the 2011 Census showed that 1.5% (2,300) were from a minority ethnic background. Across the borough this ranged from 5.2% in Loughview ward to 0.3% in Lisbane ward.

Total Usual Residents	156,672
White	154,365
Chinese	406
Irish Traveller	0
Indian	283
Pakistani	0
Bangladeshi	177
Other Asian	415
Black Caribbean	0
Black African	139
Black Other	132
Mixed	556
Other	199

## Appendix - Age

### Age (Internal)

Age Profile	Female	Female %	Male	Male %
16 to 29	20	6%	26	65%
30 to 39	75	23%	83	19%
40 to 49	105	33%	121	27%
50 to 59	80	25%	176	39%
65+	42	13%	41	9%
<b>Total</b>	<b>322</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>447</b>	<b>100%</b>

### Age (External)

NISRA have published population projections for the Borough which show that the proportion of those aged 85 and over are expected to more than double within the next 25 years. ANDBC has the highest % population of older people in Northern Ireland.

Age Profile	Northern Ireland	Ards and North Down
0 to 15	385,200	29,801
16 to 39	583,116	43,239
40 to 64	591,481	54,094
65+	291,824	31,663

<b>Total</b>	1,851,621	158,797
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# Appendix - Marital Status

## Marital Status (Internal)

\* Small numbers removed as individuals could be identifiable

Marital Status	Total	Percentage
Single	180	20.76%
Married	405	46.71%
Divorced	35	4.04%
Co Habiting	14	1.61%
Separated	25	2.88%
Civil Partnership	*	*
Left Blank	207	23.88%

## Marital Status (External)

The 2011 Northern Ireland Census showed that 48% of adults (those aged over 16 years of age) in Northern Ireland were either married or in a registered same-sex civil partnership. Within the borough, 54% of adults fell into this category. This varies across the borough from 36% in Central (Ards) ward to 64% in Lisbane ward. See

Marital Status	Northern Ireland	Ards and North Down
All usual residents: Aged 16+ years	<b>1,431,540</b>	<b>126,945</b>
Single (never married or never registered a same-sex civil partnership): Aged 16+ years	<b>517,393</b>	<b>36,730</b>
	36.14%	29%
Married: Aged 16+ years	<b>680,831</b>	<b>67,866</b>
	47.56%	53%
In a registered same-sex civil partnership: Aged 16+ years	<b>1243</b>	<b>123</b>
	0.09%	0.09%
Separated (but still legally married or still legally in a same-sex civil partnership): Aged 16+ years	<b>56,911</b>	<b>4,328</b>
	3.98%	3%
Divorced or formerly in a same-sex civil partnership which is now legally dissolved:	<b>78,074</b>	<b>8,548</b>
	5.45%	7%
Widowed or surviving partner from a same-sex civil partnership: Aged 16+ years	<b>97,088</b>	<b>9,350</b>
	6.78%	7%

# Appendix - Sexual Orientation

## Sexual Orientation

It should be noted that no reliable data is available on sexual orientation-NISRA are currently examining methodology on how to measure this. However, the 2011 census indicates that less than 1% of the Northern Ireland adult population (those aged 16 years and over) were in a registered same-sex civil partnership. This was similar to the borough as a whole. The Continuous Household Survey in Northern Ireland estimated this figure between 0.9% and 1.9% in 2015-2016. The Office for National Statistics estimates a similar range for the United Kingdom (1.7%).

## Appendix - Men and Women Generally

### Men and women generally (Internal)

Male	Female	Total
511	356	867
58.94%	41.06%	100%

### Men and women generally (External)

According to census (NISRA) almost half of the population of Northern Ireland were male (49%) and this was similar throughout Ards and North Down Borough Council (48%).

LGD	Male	Female	Total
Northern Ireland	887,323	923,540	1,810,863
Ards and North Down	75,920	80,752	156,672

## Appendix - Disability

### Disability (External)

The 2011 Census (NISRA) showed that 20% of the population in Ards and North Down area had a health issue or disability (including those related to old age) which has lasted or expected to last at least 12 months. (This was similar to the Northern Ireland figure of 21%.)

<b>LGD</b>	<b>All usual residents</b>	<b>Long-term health problems or disability: Day-to-day activities limited a lot</b>	<b>Long-term health problems or disability: Day-to-day activities limited a little</b>	<b>Long-term health problems or disability: Day-to-day activities not limited</b>
<b>Northern Ireland</b>	1,810,863	215,232	159,414	1,436,217
<b>Ards and North Down</b>	156,672	16,696	14,808	187,141

## Appendix - Dependants

### Dependants (External)

In considering this dimension the following have been included: persons with responsibility for the care of a child, children, a person with a disability and or an older person. According to the Continuous Household Survey, 2013-2016, 37% of Ards and North Down claimed to have a dependent (This did not differentiate on the type of dependent).

According to the 2011 Census, 7,474 households in Ards and North Down had a dependent child under the age of 4 (This might give an indication on the numbers who would have buggies or prams).

	<b>All households</b>	<b>Dependent children in household: All ages</b>	<b>Dependent children in household: Aged 0-4 years</b>
<b>Northern Ireland</b>	703,275	238,904	96,030
<b>Ards and North Down</b>	156,672	19,520	7,474