

<b>Report on</b>	Parks Service Progress/Update Report
<b>Reporting Officer</b>	Head of Parks
<b>Contact Officer</b>	Nigel Hill

<b>Is this report restricted for confidential business?</b>	Yes	
If 'Yes', confirm below the exempt information category relied upon	No	x

<b>1.0</b>	<b>Purpose of Report</b>
1.1	To update Members of the progress being made regarding activities and associated to Parks Services and highlight events or consultations that will be occurring in the future.
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Background</b>
2.1	Mid Ulster District Council recognises the important role that Parks, Countryside recreation and play has in today's society and the ease of accessible, open space can have on basis quality of life issues and the health and wellbeing of the local community. The facilities and programmes provided in Mid Ulster are designed to maximise participation from all sections of the community and provide opportunities to maximise quality outdoor experiences for our residents across the District.
<b>3.0</b>	<b>Main Report</b>
3.1	<p>Round Six of the Ulster Cyclo-Cross event hosted by Island Wheelers with the assistance of Mid-Ulster Council's Parks Service. This annual event was held in Windmill Wood on the 5th of November. This is the 6th year that host club Island Wheelers has run this event.</p> <p>The first race of the day was for the Under 6s, known as the 'fun' race where all competitors receive a goodie bag at the finish. The 9 boys and 7 girls had one lap to complete to the delight of the large crowd of supporters. Next up were the Under 8s who had 3 laps of their own course to complete.</p> <p>The Under 10s course was held over 5 laps of a slightly extended course. Looking at the girls' results first it was Emer Heverin (Kinning Cycles) who took her second win of the series as she finished ahead of Aisling Smyth (Apollo Cycling Team) with Cara Suckling (Maryland Wheelers) third. Curtis McKee (Maryland Wheelers) won the boys' race as he held off Rhys Hepburn (Island Wheelers) with James Armstrong (Dromara Cycling Club) completing the podium.</p>



Reuben Maitland (Killinchy Cycling Club) took the chequered flag in the Under 12 boys' race with Conor Murphy (Rostrevor Mountain Bike Club) second and Karl Rockett (Ards CC) third. Aine Doherty (VC Glendale) had another terrific race taking the win in the U12 girls' race (and finishing third overall). Aliyah Rafferty (Island Wheelers) had another great second place with Cara Moffitt (Phoenix CC) third. After the first of 3 podium ceremonies the next races got underway at 11:45. This was the Women's cyclo-cross and mountain bike support race, the Under 14s (boys and girls) and the Under 16s (boys and girls). Making her first appearance at the Ulster Cyclo-cross series this year, visitor Michelle Geoghegan (Team Jadan-Weldtite) taking the winners spot.



The final races of the day were for the cyclo-cross men's B' race and the men's mountain bike support race. Dean Lockhart (Carn Wheelers) took the win in the men's XC B' race with Barry Kirkland (Island Wheelers) taking second and Chris Cameron (Kinning Cycles) third. Fourth was Ryan Rainey (Keevan CC) with Peter Campbell (Kilbride Cyclists) 5th and Colm Watson (VC Glendale) 6th. In the MTB support race Scott Maitland (Killinchy Cycling Club) took his 3 win of the series with Dean Burnside (Island Wheelers) second and Tony O'Doherty (Carn Wheelers) third.



### 3.2

#### **Commissioners of Irish Lights**

The Commissioners of Irish Lights are the General Lighthouse Authority for the whole of Ireland, both the republic of Ireland, and Northern Ireland. They are one of three lighting authorities with the British Isles and Ireland. They are responsible for lighthouses, buoys, and the other various navigation, warning and direction finding items associated with the sea, and marking of wrecks and the like.

The Commissioners are responsible for the superintendence and management of the Aids to Navigation around the coast of all of Ireland, its adjacent seas and islands. This includes:-

- Provision and maintenance of lighthouses and aids to marine navigation.
- Sanctioning the establishment, alteration, or discontinuation of local aids to marine navigation in ports, harbours and on coastlines which are within the jurisdiction of a local lighthouse authority.
- The periodic inspection of local Aids to Navigation to ensure they comply with International standards and the statutory sanction granted.

Parks Service hosts a meeting with Captain Harry Dougan from the Irish Lights Commission to discuss the inspection and maintenance of the marine lights at Ballyronan Marina & the Battery Harbour. Irish Lights are a maritime organisation delivering an

	<p>essential safety service around the coast of Ireland, protecting the marine environment, and supporting the marine industry and coastal communities. In recent years they have transformed how they deliver their services, putting the emphasis on efficiency, cost-effectiveness and sustainability, while exploiting new technology and new opportunities wherever possible.</p> <p>They are responsible for providing marine aids to navigation (AtoN) under the Safety of Life at Sea (SOLAS) convention.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• they provide and maintain over 300 general aids to navigation</li> <li>• They manage about 4,000 local aids to navigation and</li> <li>• They mark or remove dangerous wrecks outside harbour areas around Ireland</li> </ul> <p>Mid Ulster district Council will ensure compliance with current regulatory requirements associated to navigational equipment and schooled inspections/records.</p>
3.3	<p><b>Blue Flag Application 2018</b></p> <p>The application for the 2018 Blue Flag awards are to be completed and returned to Keep NI Beautiful by the 16th December. The Blue Flag Award is the definitive international beach award recognised in 49 countries, owned and run by the independent non-profit organisation Foundation for Environmental Education. The programme is designed to raise environmental awareness and increase good environmental practice amongst tourists, local communities and beach and marina operators. With its emphasis on improving environmental impacts, Blue Flags can now be awarded to marinas and even individual boats. The Blue Flag works towards sustainable development of beaches and marinas through strict criteria dealing with Water Quality, Environmental Education and Information, Environmental Management, and Safety and Other Services.</p>
4.0	<b>Other Considerations</b>
4.1	<p><b><u>Financial &amp; Human Resources Implications</u></b></p> <p>Financial: The cost of the Blue Flag Marina application is £422 plus VAT.</p> <p>Human: Existing staff resources sufficient to coordinate project support.</p>
4.2	<p><b><u>Equality and Good Relations Implications</u></b></p> <p>N/A</p>
4.3	<p><b><u>Risk Management Implications</u></b></p> <p>N/A</p>
5.0	<b>Recommendation(s)</b>
	Members are asked to note the above report.

<b>6.0</b>	<b>Documents Attached &amp; References</b>
	N/A