

Ref: FOI / 6355

29th April 2026

Freedom of Information Act 2000 Request - Leafair Football Pitch

Thank you for your enquiry regarding traffic and parking arrangements at the football pitches at Leafair. Your request has been considered under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 and the Environmental Information Regulations 2004. Please see responses to each of your requests below:

I am getting in touch because of ongoing problems related to traffic associated with the football pitches at Leafair. My elderly relatives live in Leafair Gardens and regularly find cars blocking access to their house when football is on at the pitches. On some occasions, when drivers have been asked to move, people have become abusive, which is quite upsetting and worrying for them.

The situation also feels quite dangerous at certain times, particularly around the changeover between sessions, when parents are rushing to get to the pitches and others are leaving in a hurry. I am genuinely amazed that there has not been a child injured already. On one occasion, I witnessed a girl using a powered wheelchair having to turn back because the footpath was completely blocked by parked cars.

This used to be mainly an issue on Saturdays, although mid-afternoon on a Saturday is still particularly bad. More recently, however, it has started to happen on weekday evenings as well as Sunday. I have seen someone standing at the entrance trying to manage cars, mind you, only on Saturdays, and I know this is not his fault, but it does feel like the parking problems are simply being pushed onto the nearby residents.

- 1. For that reason, I am trying to understand how traffic and parking are meant to be managed at the football pitches at Leafair and what arrangements are meant to be in place. I understand that some of this may fall under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 or the Environmental Information Regulations 2004, so I hope this email is sent to the right place.**

Derry

C/o Council Offices
98 Strand Road
Derry
BT48 7NN

Strabane

C/o Council Offices
47 Derry Road
Strabane
BT82 8DY

+44 (0) 2871 253 253
info@derrystrabane.com
www.derrystrabane.com

f Derry City & Strabane District Council
@dcsdcouncil

Derry City and Strabane District Council has a Shared Management Agreement in place with Leafair Community Association, the Community Association is responsible for the day-to-day operations of the Leafair Well-Being Facility and the 3G Pitch, this includes the booking arrangements and management of the facilities.

- 2. I am not sure what documents exist, but I am looking for any parking or traffic management arrangements/plans that are currently in place for the entire facility. If the day-to-day running of the site is handled by a community group or another organisation rather than the Council directly, I would also like whatever information the Council holds about who is responsible for managing traffic, parking, or any impacts on nearby residents.**

Derry City Strabane District Council has a Shared Management Agreement in place with Leafair Community Association. The group manages the day-to-day operations of the 3G pitch and the Leafair Well-Being Facility.

- 3. I would also appreciate copies of any traffic-related assessments or parking information that were submitted as part of the planning application for the entire facility. This might include reports, surveys, or travel or parking plans if those exist. If there was a specific parking requirement set as part of the planning permission, I would be grateful if you could let me know what that was. Considering cars are lined both sides of Lenamore Road and throughout both Leafair Park and Gardens, the small facility carpark is obviously inadequate.**

Council does not hold this information.

- 4. In addition, I am trying to understand whether any public money has been used to deal with traffic or parking issues at the site. I would therefore like a breakdown of annual expenditure for the last three financial years, including any direct Council spend or any grants or funding provided to a third-party,**

where this was specifically earmarked for, or used for, stewarding, traffic management, or parking.

- In the past twelve months Council has provided:
 - 24 traffic cones @ £13:95 +vat each =£465.36
 - External signage 10 A3 Signs @ £13.00 =£130.00
- Funding provided to third parties for purposes such as stewarding, traffic control, or parking management
- Leafair Community Association keyholding fees (Traffic management only)
 - 2023-24 financial year of £4,000
 - 2024-25 financial year of £4,000
 - 2025-26 financial year of £4,000
 - 2026 -27 financial year of £4,000
- Foyle Cup (2023-2025): £1,500 has been paid to Leafair Community association each year for stewarding and car-parking during the Foyle Cup.

If you are dissatisfied with our response, you have rights of review and appeal; these rights consist of two review processes.

Firstly, our internal review procedure is available by contacting:

John Kelpie
Chief Executive
Derry City and Strabane District Council
98 Strand Road
Derry BT48 7NN
Tel: 028 71253253 or email: john.kelpie@derrystrabane.com

Secondly, you can appeal directly by contacting the Information Commissioner at:

Information Commissioner

Wycliffe House

Water Lane

Wilmslow

CHESHIRE SK9 5AF

Tel: 0303 123 1113 (local rate) or email: casework@ico.org.uk

I would however advise that the Information Commissioner has indicated that a review will not be undertaken unless the Council has first had an opportunity to re-consider its decision.

Yours sincerely

Barry O'Hagan

Head of Community Development & Leisure