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**DETERMINATION MADE IN RELATION TO THE CAVEHILL TEMPERANCE LOL 1956  
PARADE NOTIFIED TO TAKE PLACE IN BELFAST ON FRIDAY 12<sup>th</sup> JULY 2019**

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**INTRODUCTION**

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1. Section 8(1) of the Public Processions (Northern Ireland) Act 1998, provides that:

“The Commission may issue a determination in respect of a proposed public procession imposing on the persons organising or taking part in it or on any persons supporting it such conditions as the Commission considers necessary.”
2. The Commission has noted the details provided on the Form 11/1 submitted on 7<sup>th</sup> June 2019 concerning the Cavehill Temperance LOL 1956 parade in Belfast on Friday 12<sup>th</sup> July 2019. The Commission has considered whether a determination under Section 8 should be made in respect of this parade.
3. In considering whether to exercise its power under Section 8, the Commission has taken into account its previous determinations in relation to this parade. It has also considered all other aspects of the parade notified by the organisers, including its nature and purpose, and has considered all other information received in relation to it. The Commission has concluded that, in the particular circumstances, it should exercise its power under Section 8 to make a determination in the terms outlined in the following paragraphs.

**BACKGROUND**

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4. The notified purpose is "*Feeder Parade.*"
5. The notified route is "Kilcoole Gardens, Kilcoole Park."
6. The notified number of participants is 70 including 1 band, the Harthill Flute Band from Scotland. There are no supporters notified.
7. The parade is notified to commence at 7.45am from Kilcoole Gardens and to disperse at 8.00am from Kilcoole Park.
8. The parade is one of three notified feeder parades by Cavehill Temperance LOL 1956 on the morning of 12<sup>th</sup> July.
9. This is a new parade which took place for the first time on 12<sup>th</sup> July 2018.

10. Cavehill Temperance LOL No 1956 ('the lodge' or 'the Cavehill lodge') was re-formed in 2018. In its first year as a re-constituted organisation, several parades by this lodge have been contentious, with the Cavehill lodge the source of emerging new sensitive parades in North Belfast. There may in the past have been parades by the lodge with this name, but these pre-date the Commission's records from 1998.
11. The lodge first came to the Commission's attention in June last year when it received substantial objections from residents about the lodge's parade 'to float the banner' to the worshipful master's house in Kilcoole Gardens. Concerted efforts by many individuals and groups, including the lodge, helped alleviate the concerns about the parade.
12. The lodge 'floated the banner' again this year in Kilcoole Park, again with objections from residents in the wider Kilcoole Park mixed neighbourhood. The Commission found that the lodge had made insufficient efforts to avoid a repetition of the tensions last year.
13. Other parades by the lodge include the three feeder parades to the main Belfast 12<sup>th</sup> July parade last year. The lodge has notified the same feeder parades this year, including the parade under consideration.
14. These three feeder parades take place in North Belfast a short distance from each other, with a bus transporting the lodge between each of the parades. The lodge's pattern of parading on the 12<sup>th</sup> morning is as follows:
  - First Feeder - The first ('the Kilcoole feeder') is along Kilcoole Gardens and Kilcoole Park, off the Ballysillan Road. The Commission considered the community relations impacts of this parade last year, but did not impose conditions.
  - Second Feeder - The lodge journeys by bus to Cavehill Road where it parades along a middle section of the Cavehill Road. The Commission received complaints after this parade took place last year.
  - Third Feeder - The third parade North Belfast Orange Hall to Carlisle Circus includes the sensitive parading area at Donegall Street and Clifton Street. The Commission imposed music and supporter conditions this year and last year.
15. Objections to the Commission about the Kilcoole and Cavehill Road 2019 feeders were first received on 3<sup>rd</sup> July this year.
16. Representatives on behalf of residents described the community's understanding of the parades in the following terms:

'on the 12<sup>th</sup> morning, they intend to leave Kilcoole Park at 8 am to get on a bus presumably to the Cavehill Methodist Church on the Cavehill Road to march down to the Cavehill Inn on the Cavehill Road to get on a bus to celebrate the rest of the Twelfth.'

17. The thrust of complaints is that residents do not understand why there are two parades within a short distance of each other, and do not understand why the Cavehill Road parade is taking place at all. There is no tradition of parades on the Cavehill Road (there have been comments about parades there in the 1950s) with the residential area being described as 'mixed' or 'nationalist.' There is scepticism about 'a new lodge getting off a bus to parade for a few minutes along part of the Cavehill Road, up close to what was until recently an interface'. Objectors who linked the two parades argued that neither of them should be happening, that they were disturbing the balance of relationships in settled communities. Other representatives focused solely on the Cavehill Road feeder and the impression amongst residents is that it is 'designed purely to stir up tensions.' There is no 'local community support' for it.
18. Many representatives stressed that their view was not partisan to one side or the other, with representation including that 'parades from either side of the community are not inclusive events.' The area has been described variously to the Commission as 'peaceful', 'quiet', 'mixed', 'residential' and 'where relations between neighbours are excellent'.
19. The Commission's assessment is that perceptions about the Kilcoole feeder parade are negatively affected by the lodge's notification of Cavehill Road, the motives for which are viewed as disingenuous.
20. While the actions of the lodge about a parade in one area impacts upon perceptions of the lodge's parades nearby, there are differences between the two feeders.
21. Differences include that Kilcoole Park, while part of a mixed residential area, is viewed by some as 'overwhelmingly unionist.' The lodge has also set out in some detail, and publicly, that many of its members live in the Kilcoole Park area. There is a limited history of parades in Kilcoole Park – one in 2016 and three in 2013.
22. The Commission recognises that these factors distinguishing the Kilcoole feeder parade from the Cavehill feeder do not automatically confer support for a parade on the morning of 12<sup>th</sup> July 2019 in Kilcoole Park. However, they provide some context for the Commission's findings that there is much less suspicion and distrust about the lodge's

motives for parading in Kilcoole Park than for parading along the Cavehill Road, and that there is less opposition to it.

23. The Commission has considered, on the balance of all the information and evidence available to it, whether it is necessary and proportionate to restrict the route of the parade along Kilcoole Park and Kilcoole Gardens. The Commission has had regard to its statutory Guidelines in its considerations of the parade's potential for public disorder and the potential impacts upon community relations and community life. The Commission has considered all relevant human rights issues.
24. The Commission has determined that, on the balance of all information and evidence, it is neither necessary nor proportionate at this stage to interfere with the proposed route of the parade. The Commission has determined that the parade may proceed along its notified route subject to strict adherence to the Commission's Code of Conduct conditions.
25. As the parade is linked to the Cavehill Road feeder parade, the Commission refers interested parties to the determination available on its website, setting out its considerations, and the rationale for the Commission's decision regarding it.
26. The full determination regarding the Kilcoole Park feeder parade is set out below.

## **LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS**

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27. The Commission has had regard to the Guidelines issued under Section 5 of the Public Processions (Northern Ireland) Act 1998 ("the Guidelines"). The Commission has also been alert to its duties as a public authority under Section 6 of the Human Rights Act 1998. From the perspective of the parade organisers, the Convention rights engaged are those protected by Articles 9 and 10 and, in particular, Article 11. None of these rights is absolute.
28. Those who live, work, shop, trade and carry on business in the affected locality enjoy rights under Article 8 of the Convention and Article 1 of the First Protocol. Again, none of these rights is absolute. The Commission has also been mindful of the provisions of Article 17 and its obligations under Article 2 of the Convention.
29. It is not possible for all of those who would claim the benefit of the Human Rights Act 1998 to exercise and enjoy their Convention rights to the fullest extent where rights are in competition with each other. The Commission has therefore undertaken a balancing

exercise, consistent with its statutory Guidelines, to make a determination that is fair and proportionate in all the circumstances.

30. As required by the statutory Guidelines, the Commission has had regard to the seven North principles. One of the seven fundamental principles identified by the North Report is that all those involved should work towards the resolution of difficulties through local accommodation.
31. As stated in paragraph 4.5 of the Guidelines, the Commission takes into account any communications between parade organisers and the local community or the absence thereof and will assess the measures, if any, offered or taken by parade organisers to address genuinely held relevant concerns of members of the local community.
32. Having considered all the evidence, information and advice available to it, the Commission has determined that conditions should be placed on the parade. In imposing these conditions, the Commission pursues the legitimate aims laid down in the European Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms of seeking to prevent disorder and to protect the rights and freedoms of others. The conditions are not such as to affect significantly the individual's right to assemble.
33. Having regard to the factors set out above the Commission considers that the conditions it now imposes are necessary and proportionate to the aim pursued and strike a fair balance between the needs of the community and the rights of the individual. The legal, factual and human rights issues are of considerable complexity and require, ultimately, the formation of a carefully considered and finely balanced judgement on the part of the Commission.

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## **DETERMINATION**

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**The Parades Commission's determination is that the following conditions are placed on the organiser and participants in the parade by Cavehill Temperance LOL 1956, in Belfast on Friday 12<sup>th</sup> July 2019.**

- A. The parade organisers shall ensure that the parade begins and disperses promptly.**
- B. Only the band notified on the Form 11/1 shall participate in the parade.**
- C. When the parade is in progress there shall be no undue stoppages or delays.**
- D. The parade organisers shall ensure that all participants including any marshals, band leaders and band members are given written details of the conditions.**
- E. The organisers and all participants in the parade shall comply with the conditions set out in the Code of Conduct. For ease of reference, these are reproduced below.**
- F. As shown at Appendix A of the Code of Conduct, the Commission re-affirms that all participants in this parade must behave with due regard for the rights, traditions and feelings of others in the vicinity; refrain from using words or behaviour which could reasonably be perceived as intentionally sectarian, provocative, threatening, abusive, insulting or lewd; obey the lawful directions of parade organisers and stewards at all times, from assembly to dispersal and comply with police directions and in accordance with legislation.**
- G. The Commission further re-affirms the importance of respectful behaviour in the vicinity of interface areas, namely that there shall be no singing, chanting, or loud drumming and that marching should be dignified. More generally, no paramilitary-style clothing is to be worn at any time during the parade and flags, bannerettes and symbols relating to a proscribed organisation shall in no circumstances be displayed.**
- H. The parade organisers shall arrange for the presence of an adequate number of stewards to ensure that all parade participants act in an orderly manner.**

I. The parade organisers shall ensure that all stewards and participants obey any direction given by the police in relation to this parade.

Signed:           Ane Henderson            
(On behalf of the Commission)

Date:           8/7/19

## **APPENDIX A**

### **Guidance for Anyone Participating in Parades**

#### **A Behaviour**

All participants in parades should:

- behave with due regard for the rights, traditions and feeling of others in the vicinity,
- refrain from using words or behaviour which could reasonably be perceived as being intentionally sectarian, provocative, threatening, abusive, insulting or lewd,
- obey the lawful directions of parade organisers and stewards at all times, from assembly to dispersal,
- abide by the conditions of this Code of Conduct,
- comply with police directions and in accordance with legislation.

#### **B Dress**

No paramilitary-style clothing is to be worn at any time during a parade.

#### **C Parade**

Whenever possible, the parade should be positioned on one side of the carriageway so as to allow for the free flow of traffic, or as otherwise stipulated by police.

#### **D Route**

Participants should keep to the designated route as directed by the police.

#### **E Alcohol**

Alcohol should not be consumed immediately prior to, or during a parade. An organizer or steward, who believes a participant to be under the influence of alcohol, should take the necessary measures to remove that person from the parade.

#### **F Bands and Music**

Each band must clearly display its name. Restrictions on the playing of music will be in accordance with the conditions as set out in Appendix B of this Code. No musical instrument will bear any inscription or mark of a proscribed organisation.

#### **G Flags etc.**

Flags and other displays often have a legitimate historical significance, but in no circumstances should such items relating to a proscribed organisation be displayed.



## **H Stewards**

The names of stewards will have been notified to the police and the Parades Commission at the time of notifying the proposed parade.

Stewards should:

- be properly trained
- be briefed by the organisers prior to the parade
- carry proof of their status at all times during the event, and provide this information to police on request
- be fully aware of their responsibilities and role
- be highly visible by means of jackets, singlets, armbands, etc.
- not consume alcohol before or during the parade
- co-operate with the police
- be prepared to identify to the police any persons in the parade who may be committing any offence against criminal law.

## **I Policing**

Organisers of parades must co-operate with the police from the time of submission of the notice of intention to parade until the parade disperses.

## **J Dispersal**

When a parade has concluded, all those taking part must disperse immediately. It will be the responsibility of the organisers to ensure compliance with instructions in this regard.

## **K Abiding by Conditions**

Organisers must ensure that all participants in any parade have been informed of any conditions imposed. As a general principle, the organiser is responsible for the behaviour of all participants and for ensuring compliance with the Code of Conduct.

## **APPENDIX B**

### **Guidance for Anyone Participating in Parades in the Vicinity of Sensitive Locations**

#### **A Places of Worship**

Only hymn tunes should be played.

When church services are taking place, no music should be played.

There should be no irreverent behaviour.

Marching should be dignified.

#### **B War Memorials and Cemeteries**

Only hymn tunes should be played.

Behaviour should be respectful.

Marching should be dignified.

#### **C Where the Majority Population of the Vicinity are of a Different Tradition, and in**

##### **Interface Areas.**

Behaviour should be respectful.

There should be no excessively loud drumming.

Participants should refrain from conduct, words, music or behaviour which could reasonably be perceived as intentionally sectarian, provocative, threatening, abusive, insulting or lewd.

Marching should be dignified.