

| REPORT TO | DATE OF MEETING |
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| Cabinet | 7 th September 2011 |

Report template revised June 2008



| SUBJECT | PORTFOLIO | AUTHOR | ITEM |
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| Queen Elizabeth II Playing Field Challenge | Neighbourhoods & Streetscene | Andrew Richardson | 9 |

SUMMARY AND LINK TO CORPORATE PRIORITIES

This report requests approval to take part in the scheme and agreement to nominate three playing fields for dedication under this challenge.

The proposals in the report link directly to all of the Council's corporate priorities but especially "Clean, Green & Safe".

RECOMMENDATIONS

That Cabinet:

1. Consider whether the Council should take part in the scheme and nominate sites.
2. Subject to 1) above consider and agree the sites to be nominated.
3. A further report will be presented following the notification of the success of our nominations.

DETAILS AND REASONING

Background

The Fields in Trust (FIT), formally The Playing Field Association, is promoting a scheme to recognise the Queens Diamond Jubilee and the 2012 London Olympics. Their challenge is to achieve dedicated status for 2012 playing fields / open spaces across the country.

A similar scheme in recognition of King George V took place many years ago which resulted in a number of sites across the borough being named King George V Playing Field and achieving dedicated status.

Criteria for a site to be nominated

For a site to be nominated a number of criteria must be met.

- Area must be a minimum of 0.2 hectare (0.5 acre).
- A local authority can only nominate a site which it owns.

- Principal use must be outdoor sport, play or recreation, although village halls, indoor leisure, heritage, and cultural facilities that promote community recreation will be considered.
- Site must be open to the public and either held as public open space, established charitably or a sports club held under the CASC regime (Community Amateur Sports Club status which enables a sports club to receive tax relief, rate relief and gift aid etc).
- Submissions must be carried out before the end of September 2011, once nominated signing of the deed of dedication will take place in early 2012.

Benefits / Restrictions of Achieving Dedicated Status

Once a nominated site has been accepted and achieves dedicated status there are a number of benefits but also restrictions which will apply.

- Dedicated status land cannot be sold, unless replaced with area of greater value and with the prior agreement of FIT.
- Part of a high profile national campaign which will bring promotional opportunities.
- Supports celebrating the Queens Diamond Jubilee and the London 2012 Olympics.
- FIT has indicated that in the future they may have funding streams which would be made available for Queen Elizabeth II Fields only.
- Sita has donated £1 million to create a national fund for community groups associated with dedicated fields which would be subject to a bidding process for grants of between £5,000 and £25,000.

Proposed Sites

Should the Council take part in the scheme, consideration needs to be given to the restrictions which would apply to a site with dedicated status. Consideration also needs to be given to the establishment of community or friends groups which would enable funding bids to be submitted to the Sita fund.

Proposed sites have been identified which fit the application criteria, although these sites do not currently have established community groups, efforts are being made to establish groups on these sites.

Proposed sites therefore are:

Much Hoole Playing Field
Farington Park
Gregson Lane

WIDER IMPLICATIONS

In the preparation of this report, consideration has been given to the impact of its proposals in all the areas listed below, and the table shows any implications in respect of each of these.

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| FINANCIAL | <p>The proposed three sites are currently maintained within the existing annual revenue budgets and there will be no additional revenue costs as a result of this report.</p> <p>The Gregson Lane and Farington Park playground sites are in the 2011/12 capital programme and the future maintenance of these sites is also contained within the future revenue budgets.</p> <p>Any potential future grants awarded / income from the Sita fund is subject to the establishment of a community or friends group and the submission of a viable bid. Any grants awarded would be used by the community groups in providing additional works and contribute towards future maintenance.</p> |
| LEGAL | <p>Nominated sites will be subject to a deed of dedication which requires the Council to continue to use the facilities for recreational use and places restrictions on their disposal.</p> <p>Legal title will need to be checked to make sure there are no restrictive covenants preventing the land being dedicated.</p> <p>Consent to grant any leases in the future to community groups will need to be obtained from FIT.</p> |
| RISK | <p>Dedication of these sites will guarantee their future use for recreation purposes. Disposal is not permitted unless sites are replaced with sites of equal or greater recreational value and with the permission of FIT.</p> |

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| OTHER (see below) | |
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| <i>Asset Management</i> | <i>Corporate Plans and Policies</i> | <i>Crime and Disorder</i> | <i>Efficiency Savings/Value for Money</i> |
| <i>Equality, Diversity and Community Cohesion</i> | <i>Freedom of Information/ Data Protection</i> | <i>Health and Safety</i> | <i>Health Inequalities</i> |
| <i>Human Rights Act 1998</i> | <i>Implementing Electronic Government</i> | <i>Staffing, Training and Development</i> | <i>Sustainability</i> |

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

None