

REPORT TO	DATE OF MEETING
Cabinet	5 th September 2012

Report template revised June 2008



SUBJECT	PORTFOLIO	AUTHOR	ITEM
Queen Elizabeth II Playing Field Challenge	Neighbourhoods and Streetscene	Andrew Richardson	7

SUMMARY AND LINK TO CORPORATE PRIORITIES

This report requests approval to sign the deeds of dedication for the six playing fields previously approved for dedication under this challenge.

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

RECOMMENDATIONS

That Cabinet:

Grant approval for the deeds of dedication to be signed by the Duly Authorised Officer, the Council's Legal Services Manager.

DETAILS AND REASONING

Background

The Fields in Trust (FIT), formerly The Playing Field Association, has and still is promoting a scheme to recognise the Queen's 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.

Benefits / Restrictions of Achieving Dedicated Status

Once a nominated site has been accepted and achieves dedicated status there are a number of benefits and also restrictions which will apply, as follows:

- Dedicated status land cannot be sold, unless replaced with an area of greater value and with the prior agreement of FIT.
- Part of a high profile national campaign which brings promotional opportunities.
- Supports celebrating the year of the Queens Diamond Jubilee and the London 2012 Olympics.

- Funding streams are available which are restricted to Queen Elizabeth II Fields only, including a £1 million fund open to community groups associated with dedicated fields, which would be subject to a bidding process for grants of between £5,000 and £25,000.

Nominated Sites

The following sites have been successfully nominated and subject to the completion of the deed of dedication would achieve protected status:

Much Hoole Playing Field
Middleforth Park
Croston Manor
Farington Park
Withy Grove Park
Gregson Lane Playing Field

Procedure

The FIT standard deed of dedication has been amended to meet the needs of the Council including ensuring that the potential option is included for the granting of a lease or licence to a “community group” to take over the running or management of the park.

For each site the deed will be sent to FIT along with proof of ownership, these will then be checked by FIT who will then produce the final document which will be forwarded to the Council and FIT for signing and completion.

Once completed a commemorative plaque will be provided and installed on each successful site.

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.

FINANCIAL	<p>The six successful 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>Any potential future grants awarded / income from the £1m 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>The completion of the deed of dedication will require the Council to continue to use the sites for recreational use and places restrictions on their disposal.</p> <p>Legal title has been checked for the six sites to make sure there are no restrictive covenants preventing the land being dedicated. There are none.</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>
THE IMPACT ON EQUALITY	<p>An Equality Impact Assessment is in place for the parks service. There are no adverse equality impacts as a result of the proposals in this report.</p>
OTHER (see below)	<p>Corporate Plans and Policies The improvement and development of the borough's parks and open spaces are reflected in the Corporate Plan.</p>

<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

Cabinet report 7 September 2011