

| REPORT TO | DATE OF MEETING |
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| Cabinet | 5th November 2014 |

Report template revised June 2008



| SUBJECT | PORTFOLIO | AUTHOR | ITEM |
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| Centenary Fields | Armed Forces Champion, Regeneration, Leisure & Healthy Communities | Howerd Booth | |

SUMMARY AND LINK TO CORPORATE PRIORITIES

The report seeks Cabinet approval to register recreation sites in South Ribble as Centenary Fields. Link to Corporate priorities – Thriving and Prosperous Borough, Clean Green and Safe.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Approval of the site allocations. Dandy Brook Park and Hutton Playing Field are to obtain Centenary Field designation through a deed of dedication between the Council and Fields in Trust
2. Grant approval for the deeds of dedication to be signed by the Duly Authorised Officer, the Council's Legal Services Manager.
3. Allocate funding to allow improvements to be made to Dandy Brook Park, site of the proposed Borough memorial and peace garden and also to assist with a major lottery funding bid.

DETAILS AND REASONING

Overview of the scheme

FIT (the operating name of the National Playing Fields Association) is launching a new initiative called Centenary Fields led by HRH Duke of Cambridge. This is a UK wide project which aims to protect in perpetuity war memorial fields and green spaces that include war memorials across the UK and provide a fitting commemoration to the First World War which is a significant milestone in the Countries history.

The Centenary Fields programme sets out a number of objectives:

- To protect the existing network of war memorial fields that were given in memory of those who lost their lives during World War I. This will be done through a legal Deed of Dedication between the landowner and Fields in Trust.
- To ensure at least one of these spaces is protected in each Local Authority area thereby creating a living UK-wide legacy from the World War I Centenary, FIT has set a target of 425 valuable green spaces to be protected in perpetuity, nationally.
- To raise money for improvements to war memorial parks and fields, leveraging funding from other partners
- To encourage schools to 'adopt' their local war memorial and park and undertake research into the war memorial and the green space, in order to understand the historical aspects of both, as well as the importance of preserving them for the future as an important part of local heritage.
- To provide an opportunity, and resources, for local communities to come together and take part in an annual event focused on the World War I Centenary. This will enable people to explore

community life as it was 100 years ago and to reflect on the momentous events that took place then and the impact on their local community.

FIT has also established a partnership with the Royal British Legion who have adopted Centenary Fields as one of three flagship initiatives that form their portfolio of work commemorating WWI, the other two being a project to protect war graves and their Centenary Poppies Campaign. Nationally FIT and The Royal British Legion have signed a Memorandum of Understanding, which in South Ribble we would hope to echo and work with the local branches of the Legion.

FIT are very keen to support the designation of our sites as a Centenary Fields and will work closely with the Council to organise a launch event to make them as high a profile occasion as possible to give the WW1 Commemoration and the Council maximum publicity. The following sites have been nominated based on the recent activity relating to WW1 commemorative events or construction:

- Dandy Brook Park, Lostock Hall. This is the site of the proposed Borough memorial and peace garden.
- Hutton Playing Field, Hutton. A war memorial has recently been installed on this site.

In future, should the initiative be shown to be productive for these two sites, it is possible to nominate further sites.

If the Dandy Brook Park is designated a Centenary Field, it will also assist the Council's lottery funding bid for funds to construct the Borough's new memorial and peace garden, which recently won planning approval following extensive public consultation. The various initiatives, Centenary Fields, memorial, peace garden and development of the site to improve local sports and leisure opportunities all work together, as well as reinforcing South Ribble's aim to improve the range and quality of local amenities as part of its City Deal ambitions.

If approved, the launch event to designate the sites as a Centenary Fields will hopefully take place later this year, the exact date is yet to be confirmed. Public support for the memorial and recognition of WW1 has been shown to be particularly strong, and so the Council has developed a wider programme of community events linked to installation of a memorial and peace garden.

It is recommended that the Council take advantage of this unique and highly prestigious opportunity which could not only help to draw in funding for these important parks but also to receive considerable publicity, positively raising the profile of the sites. It is recommended that Cabinet grant approval for the Deeds of Dedication to be signed by the Duly Authorised Officer, the Council's Legal Services Manager.

To support the longer term development of the Borough Memorial at Dandy Brook Park, it is proposed to submit a Heritage Lottery Bid. The full WW1 project includes:

- The Borough Memorial
- Peace Garden with local interpretation boards
- Extending the local footpath network
- Production of an educational Memorial booklet
- A South Ribble Museum Exhibition Programme
- Community roadshow events building a clearer picture of our role and contribution to WW1 and the following peacetime.
- Training local volunteers
- Production of an online digital WW1 archive available to schools and public
- An inaugural event to mark the opening of the Borough Memorial

This extensive WW1 programme will offer opportunities for engagement for the whole borough. The Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) bid could provide up to £100,000 contribution, subject to match

funding. The estimate for the whole project is £158,750. A HLF bid of £97,500 is proposed. The remaining £61,250 would be made up of the following match funding:

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| S106 Contributions | £15,000 |
| WW1 budget | £3,000 |
| Parks capital programme | £11,000 (footpath improvements budgeted) |
| CIVITAS fund | £20,000 |
| Roundabout sponsorship | £12,250 |

This site is a Borough site, and while its local importance to Central My Neighbourhood area is noted, it is suggested that contributions to the improvement works required be born equally across the Borough. Therefore five equal contributions of £3,000 are required from overall Section 106 funds from each part of the Borough, recognising the whole borough acknowledges the importance of WW1 to our communities. This will amount to a contribution of £15,000, which could be used as effective match funding for a successful lottery bid (estimated to be approximately £150,000).

All Chairs of the My Neighbourhood forums have been consulted on the allocation of S106 funding towards the war memorial and their support for this allocation has been unanimous.

Parks department are already scheduled to improve footpaths in this area and so this match funding is already committed and accounted for. Roundabout sponsorship and EU CIVITAS income funds can be allocated to public realm projects.

Lottery funding looks very favourably on both commitment and match funds from the Council and this contribution to a successful bid would clearly show South Ribble’s commitment and recognition of WW1 events.

It is recommended that Cabinet approves allocation of funds which would provide match funding described towards the WW1 memorial project.

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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| LEGAL | Once the Deed of Dedication has been signed the resulting restriction will be required to be registered with the Land Registry at a cost of approximately £80 for up to three titles. In the future, consent will be required from Fields in Trust for any significant change to the use of the park outside of the terms agreed in the Deed. The completion of the Deed of Dedication will require the Council to continue to use the facilities for recreational use and places restrictions on their disposal. Legal title has been checked for the sites to make sure there are no restrictive covenants preventing the land being dedicated. There are none. |
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| FINANCIAL | <p>The 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>Equal contributions from each My Neighbourhood area of £3000 from overall S106 funds are suggested from the following suitable sources of unallocated Section 106:</p> <p>Eastern - Leigh Brow Fm (Hennel Ln) M3/30 Western Parishes – split between Hugh Barn Lane, New Longton - M3/200, Land at New Manor Residential Home, Liverpool Road, Longton – M3/150, Land at Orchard House, Gill Lane, Walmer Bridge – M3/177 Leyland – Rowland Homes Cowling Lane/Dever Avenue - M3/058 Central – Wainhomes Developments 214 Croston Road, Farington Moss M3/167 Penwortham - Chelford Properties Limited & Royal Bank of Scotland Land adjacent Stricklands Lane M3/095</p> <p>In combination this provides equal contributions from across the borough amounting to £15,000 towards improvements on the site which can also be used as match funding for an ‘Our Heritage’ lottery funding bid.</p> |
| RISK | <p>Risk will be managed through the existing Neighbourhoods Directorate risk profile and maintenance will continue under the current arrangements with no changes required. 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> <p>Please note that the Heritage Lottery bid is speculative at this stage and is therefore a risk to project completion of the Dandy Brook Memorial site.</p> |
| EQUALITY & DIVERSITY | <p>There are no issues. Dedication of the War Memorial will provide the opportunity for greater community and partnership engagement.</p> |

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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> |