

CABINET

Queen Elizabeth II Fields Challenge- Fairfield play area Dec 2011

Individual Cabinet Member Decision (Cllr Smith) Report of Head of Environmental Services

PURPOSE OF REPORT				
To seek a decision from the Cabinet Member to nominate Fairfield play area for the Queen Elizabeth II Fields Challenge				
Key Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>	Non-Key Decision	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Referral from Cabinet Member
Date Included in Forward Plan	NA			

RECOMMENDATIONS OF HEAD OF ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

- (1) That the Cabinet Member nominates Fairfield play area for the Queen Elizabeth II Fields Challenge

1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 The Queen Elizabeth II Fields Challenge, headed by its Patron Prince William, is a programme to protect 2012 outdoor recreational spaces in communities all across the country as a permanent living legacy of the Olympics and Queen's Diamond Jubilee which will take place in 2012.
- 1.2 The programme is being run by Fields in Trust (FiT) the new operating name for the National Playing Fields Association.
- 1.3 Along with every Council we have been asked if we would like to nominate some of our open spaces to be held on trust for the inhabitants of a specific area and to be known as a "Queen Elizabeth II Playing Field".
- 1.4 Legal ownership of the land remains with the Council. However, once the land is dedicated for charitable purposes it will continue not to be developed or used for purposes other than those it is already used for.
- 1.5 The main advantage for the Council is that land held in this way is much easier for community groups to raise funds for. As an immediate example once an area has been designated a Queen Elizabeth II Field an application can be made to SITA Trust's £1 million fund for improvements to the recreation area.
- 1.6 The Council has been asked if it will support the programme by nominating some suitable sites. Thus far the only site nominated has been Regent Park in Morecambe. This site already has a specific use named in its conveyance

so could not ever be used for any other purpose.

2.0 Proposal Details

2.1 Fairfield association have requested that we consider nominating the land that houses Fairfield play area (Map attached). This land is owned by the Council but leased to the association on a 10 year lease from the 1st of March 2004. The play area has been paid for by the association and is managed by the association. The Association have committed to other long term projects in the vicinity with the Millennium Orchard (1000 year lease of an area of land) and more recently with taking a 30 year lease of additional land to create an Urban Nature Reserve.

3.0 Details of Consultation

3.1 Consultation has taken place with relevant Council services. Consultation has also taken place with the relevant ward councillors and Fairfield Association who all support the nomination of the land.

4.0 Options

4.1 Option 1- nominate the land for the Queen Elizabeth II Fields Challenge. This would mean that the land was maintained as public open space in perpetuity.

4.2 Option 2- don't nominate the land for the Queen Elizabeth II Fields Challenge

4.3 The officer preferred option is option 1.

5.0 Conclusion

5.1 The report seeks a decision from the relevant portfolio holder to nominate Fairfield play area for the Queen Elizabeth II Fields Challenge.

CONCLUSION OF IMPACT ASSESSMENT (including Diversity, Human Rights, Community Safety, Sustainability and Rural Proofing)
--

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

Legal Services have been consulted and have no further comments.
--

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

As highlighted in the report, should Members decide to support the nomination of any sites owned by the City Council and the application was to be successful, then the site could not be used for purposes other than what they are currently used for. This would therefore limit the Council's options for any future disposal/development opportunities should they arise.
--

OTHER RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

Human Resources:

None as result of this report

Information Services:

None as a result of this report

Property:

The land in question is currently leased to the Fairfield Association

Open Spaces:

The Fairfield Green Play Area, on land off Wingate-Saul Avenue, is identified as site 499 by the Lancaster District PPG17 Study Update of 2010 as a Children's Play Area. The PPG17 Study reports that the household survey which informs the study revealed that the district's residents felt that there was insufficient provision of children's play facilities. Additionally, 68% of the survey's respondents felt that there was insufficient provision of facilities for young people. Recommendation YP2 of the PPG17 Study is that existing facilities for Children and Young People are protected from development.

The Fairfield Green Children's Play Area is set within a larger area of recreational land, identified as site 271 "Fairfield Allotments" which is described in the PPG17 Study Update as an Allotment and Community Garden. This site is identified as an Urban Green Space by the Lancaster District Local Plan, Policy E29 applies. Policy E29 states that the site is to be protected from development and where appropriate enhanced. Policy T24 of the Local Plan also identifies the site as a component of a local Strategic Cycle Network.

SECTION 151 OFFICER'S COMMENTS

The Section 151 officer has been consulted and has no further comments

MONITORING OFFICER'S COMMENTS

The Monitoring Officer has been consulted and has no further comments

BACKGROUND PAPERS

None

Contact Officer: Mark Davies

Telephone: 01524 582401

E-mail: mdavies@lancaster.gov.uk

Ref: