

1. **Fields in Trust - The Willows** (Pages 1 - 5)

CABINET MEMBERS DELEGATED DECISION

Open		Would any decisions proposed :		
Any especially affected Wards	Discretionary	Be entirely within Cabinet's powers to decide	YES	
		Need to be recommendations to Council	NO	
		Is it a Key Decision	NO	
Lead Member: Cllr E Nockolds E-mail: cllr.elizabeth.nockolds@west-norfolk.gov.uk		Other Cabinet Members consulted: Cllr K Mellish (also ward member)		
		Other Members consulted:		
Lead Officer: Nathan Johnson E-mail: Nathan.johnson@west-norfolk.gov.uk Direct Dial: 01553 782075		Other Officers consulted: Chris Bamfield, Robert Wiseman, Chris Durham		
Financial Implications NO	Policy/Personnel Implications NO	Statutory Implications NO	Equal Impact Assessment NO	Risk Management Implications NO
Date meeting advertised: 9 th October 2018		Date of meeting decision to be taken: 16 th October 2018		
Deadline for Call-In: 23 rd October 2018				

FIELDS IN TRUST

Summary

The report seeks approval to enter into a Deed of Dedication with Fields in Trust (formerly the National Playing Fields Association) for The Willows, Downham Market.

Fields in Trust is a National Charity operating throughout the UK to safeguard recreational spaces. The Council has worked with Fields in Trust to dedicate open spaces across the borough in recognition of Queen Elizabeth II's Diamond Jubilee. A Fields in Trust Dedication is also in process for Tower Gardens; the gardens and tower will be protected as a Centenary Field in honour of those who lost their lives in World War I.

It is proposed that the Willows are dedicated through the Fields in Trust 'Green Spaces for Good' programme.

By entering into an arrangement with Fields in Trust the Council can provide protection in perpetuity for the identified open space known as The Willows.

Recommendation

That the Council agrees to;

- a) Enter into a Deed of Dedication with Fields in Trust for the open space shown in Appendix 2 in the report as a 'Green Spaces for Good' site.
- b) Delegate authority to the Executive Director, Commercial Services in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Culture, Heritage & Health to agree the Deed of Dedication with Fields in Trust.

Reason for Decision

To give protection in perpetuity for open spaces at The Willows.

1. Background

- 1.1 In 2012/13 and 2015/16 the Council dedicated a number of playing fields and open spaces across the Borough as Queen Elizabeth II Fields In Trust to provide a legacy of protected recreation spaces commemorating the Diamond Jubilee (Appendix 1).
- 1.2 Fields in Trust (formerly the National Playing Fields Association) are an independent charity who campaign to protect and improve playing fields throughout the country. To protect open spaces the Council would agree a legal document called a Deed of Dedication with Fields in Trust. This is a legally binding document that gives permanent protection to open spaces. The document requires Fields in Trust approval for any development on an open space and generally this only allows buildings that are ancillary to the site, for example, changing rooms for football pitches, however, these still need Fields in Trust permission. Further details for Fields in Trust can be seen at www.fieldsintrust.org
- 1.3 The Council continues to own and manage the dedicated sites.
- 1.4 The Willows site fits the eligibility criteria for a Field in Trust. By committing to a Deed of Dedication for the area identified the Council can give reassurance to local residents that the open space is protected for perpetuity.

2. Financial Implications

- 2.1 The drafting of the documents will be carried out for the Council by Fields in Trust with some resources from Public Space and Legal. Other than a small cost for signage there will be no increase in revenue costs for the maintenance of the area.
- 2.2 Entering into the Fields in Trust scheme may enable access to some grant funding sources which would not otherwise be accessible.

3. Policy Implications

- 3.1 The Council has already entered into arrangements with Fields in Trust as shown at Appendix 2, including the area known as The Willows will be an extension of these arrangements.

4. Risk Management

- 4.1 The protection of sites achieved through the Fields in Trust process will limit the Council's ability to consider alternative uses. However, the Council has determined that the site identified should be retained for recreational use.

Appendix 1

2012/13

Gaywood Hall Recreation Ground
The Esplanade Gardens
Hunstanton – Lower and Upper Green
Hunstanton Community Centre
Peck's Field
Parkway
Kettlewell Lane
Lincoln Square
The Howdale
Wootton Park*
The Walks
Downham Market Community Centre*
Downham Market Memorial Playing Fields

2015/16

River Lane sports pitches, Lynnsport

2018/19

Tower Gardens

*submitted by Parish/Town Council

Appendix 2

