

EXECUTIVE – 25 JUNE 2014

REPORT OF DEPUTY CHIEF EXECUTIVE (COMMUNITY SERVICES)
RE: DEDICATION OF PART OF QUEENS PARK AS A CENTENARY FIELD

WARDS AFFECTED: HINCKLEY

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

To request Executive agree to the dedication of part of Queens Park, Hinckley as a Centenary Field.

2. RECOMMENDATION

That Executive agree to the northern section of Queens Park, Hinckley being dedicated as a Centenary Field.

That Executive delegate authority to the Leader of the Council and the Head of Street Scene Services to progress this dedication and make minor amendments to the boundary line should the need arise.

3. BACKGROUND TO THE REPORT

3.1 The Royal British Legion and Fields in Trust are leading a nationwide initiative to secure recreational spaces in perpetuity in memory of the millions of people who lost their lives in World War 1. Their objective is to commemorate a significant milestone in our shared history and to create a tangible local legacy which will be valued by local communities for generations to come. This initiative is also in keeping with the spirit of the Armed Forces Community Covenant which HBBC have committed to. Led by the Duke of Cambridge the challenge aims to protect 2012 open spaces by 2012.

3.2 Queens Park, Hinckley has been identified as the most appropriate site in HBBC's ownership and management as this park was created before WW1 and as such provided a recreational space for those lost during WW1.

3.3 The dedication protects the site from development in perpetuity as provides a legacy to mark the centenary of WW1.

3.4 The indicative boundary of the dedication is shown on the attached plan.

3.5 A plaque will be installed on the site to mark the dedication.

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS (KP)

The cost of applying for this dedication is £100 for land registry charges, costs to install the commemorative plaque and officer time. This can be met from existing budgets.

5. **LEGAL IMPLICATIONS (EH)**

The dedication of the park will require the Council to enter into a deed to impose a restriction on the part so that the Council cannot sell or otherwise dispose of the land without the consent of Fields in Trust. The resulting restriction will be registered against the Council's registered title to the Land with HM Land Registry. In the future, consent will be required from Fields in Trust for any change to the use of the park outside of the terms agreed in the Deed.

The land identified is already bound by a restrictive covenant in the conveyance to the Council which states that it cannot be used for any purpose other than a public park. It is therefore considered that the land is no more restricted by the dedication. Members should note however that it would mean there are two restrictions to be removed from the land in the event the Council ever wished to sell or develop as anything other than open space.

6. **CORPORATE PLAN IMPLICATIONS**

Protecting and improving our parks and open spaces are a corporate plan priority within the aim of creating vibrant places to work and live.

7. **CONSULTATION**

No consultation has taken place about this proposal.

8. **RISK IMPLICATIONS**

It is the Council's policy to proactively identify and manage significant risks which may prevent delivery of business objectives.

It is not possible to eliminate or manage all risks all of the time and risks will remain which have not been identified. However, it is the officer's opinion based on the information available, that the significant risks associated with this decision / project have been identified, assessed and that controls are in place to manage them effectively.

9. **KNOWING YOUR COMMUNITY – EQUALITY AND RURAL IMPLICATIONS**

This dedication will commemorate those who lost their lives in WW1, and demonstrates the Boroughs commitment to the Armed Forces Community Covenant.

10. **CORPORATE IMPLICATIONS**

By submitting this report, the report author has taken the following into account:

- Community Safety implications
- Environmental implications
- ICT implications

- Asset Management implications
 - Human Resources implications
 - Planning Implications
 - Voluntary Sector
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Background papers: Indicative plan of Queens Park and area for dedication.

Contact Officer: Caroline Roffey

Executive Member: Cllr Bill Crooks