

REPORT TO:	HOUSING AND COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE	AGENDA ITEM: 7
DATE OF MEETING:	23 APRIL 2024	CATEGORY:
		RECOMMENDED
REPORT FROM:	STRATEGIC DIRECTOR (SERVICE DELIVERY)	OPEN
MEMBERS' CONTACT POINT:	SEAN MCBURNEY – HEAD of CULTURAL & COMMUNITY SERVICES	DOC:
SUBJECT:	FIELDS IN TRUST DEDICATION UPDATE	REF:
WARD(S) AFFECTED:	ALL	TERMS OF REFERENCE: HCS

1.0 Recommendation

1.1 That members note that progress on the previous dedication of sites with Fields in Trust (FIT) and that the Committee considers the protection of further green spaces with a Fields in Trust deed of dedication designation.

2.0 Purpose of the report

2.1 The report updates members on the progress on the previous dedication of sites with Fields in Trust (FIT) and that the Committee considers the protection of further green spaces with a Fields in Trust deed of dedication.

3.0 Executive Summary

3.1 This report updates on the previous dedication of sites with Fields in Trust (FIT) and asks that committee consider the protection of further green spaces with a Fields in Trust deed of dedication as part of our response to the declaration of a climate and ecological emergencies.

4.0 Detail

4.1 Fields in Trust was founded by King George V in 1925 as the National Playing Fields Association (NPFA) and has been operating as Fields in Trust since 2007. The aim is to safeguard all kinds of outdoor recreational spaces including parks, playgrounds, playing fields, green spaces nature reserves and country parks, in perpetuity, to benefit both local communities now and future generations.

4.2 HC&S Committee have already approved the protection of Eureka Park, Swadlincote Woodlands and Cadley Park. The first 2 have progressed to the legal declaration stage whilst

we are still waiting the deed pack for Cadley Park from Harworths before we can complete the declaration. Newhall Park was protected in 2012.

4.3 The formal protection of public green spaces aligns with our corporate priorities and the declaration of both climate and ecological emergencies.

4.4 Fields in Trust aims to protect outdoor recreational spaces and facilities for communities now and for generations to come whilst providing a focal point for physical wellbeing and community cohesion. It is not a direct grant aid programme though some funding will be available and Fields in Trust will ensure that it is distributed according to the wishes of the donors.

The main benefits of protection with Fields in Trust are:

- Making an express and recognisable commitment to local people to safeguard land, facilities and opportunities for sport, play and outdoor recreation both now and forever
- Protecting public access to outdoor space
- Proven to help secure external funding
- Providing reassurance to our residents that we value the contribution that green spaces bring to our communities.
- Raising awareness of the importance of such facilities in the context of quality of life, health, the environment and general amenity.

4.3 During the consultation for the improvements of Oversetts Recreation Ground 86% wanted to see the recreation ground protected as green space for evermore. Therefore, committee consider the following green spaces are protected with fields in Trust over the next few years to ensure future generations can benefit from such spaces for evermore.

Oversetts Recreation Ground, Newhall
Sandholes Local Nature Reserve
Maurice Lea Memorial Park, Church Gresley
Station Street Recreation Ground, Church Gresley
Dunsmore Park (Salsbury Drive), Hartshorne
Woodhouse Recreation Ground
Granville Recreation Ground
Church Street, Coton in the Elms.
Coton Road Recreation area, Walton on Trent.
Hillside, Findern
Coton Park Local Nature Reserve, Coton.
Pilgrims Way and Fox Close playing fields, Stenson Fields

5.0 Financial Implications

5.1 There are no direct financial implications for the Council seeking protection with Fields in Trust although having a protected designation has proved to be an advantage when seeking external funding opportunities.

6.0 Corporate Implications

Employment Implications

6.1 Not applicable.

Legal Implications

6.2 Once completed the restriction within the Deed is registered with the Land Registry, meaning any check that is made on the land will highlight the protection that is on it and prevent disposal, generally meaning sale or lease, without the consent of Fields in Trust. A Deed can either be charitable or non-charitable. If it is the former then both Fields in Trust and charity law will ensure the protection, whilst if it is the latter then Fields in Trust will ensure the protection.

Corporate Plan Implications

6.3 The legal designations contribute to all the priority areas in the Council's Corporate Plan, contributing to Our Environment, Our People and Our Future through protecting and supporting investment, independent living, leisure, and cultural activity and focus on the community as residents and customers.

7.0 Community Impact

Consultations

7.1 Consultations have been carried out with internal identified stakeholders who have no objections.

Equality and Diversity Impact

7.2 Green Spaces support community cohesion and the improvements and the Fields in Trust protection allows access for all members of our community.

Social Value Impact

7.3 Green spaces are used by all members of our communities and are a key element of supporting healthy, sustainable and liveable communities.

Environmental Sustainability

7.4 The protection of green spaces supports the climate and ecological emergency declarations.

8.0 Conclusions

8.1 That the Committee note that progress on the previous dedication of sites with Fields in Trust (FIT) and that the Committee considers the protection of further green spaces identified within this report with a Fields in Trust deed of dedication designation.

9.0 Background Papers

None

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