

The Vale of Glamorgan Council

Cabinet Meeting: 12 December, 2016

Report of the Cabinet Member for Visible, Leisure and Regulatory Services

Centenary Field Status - Llanmaes, Playing Field

Purpose of the Report

1. To seek approval to enter into a deed of dedication to provide 'Centenary Field' status to the Playing Field in Llanmaes.

Recommendations

1. That delegated authority is granted to the Director of Environment and Housing Services in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Visible, Leisure and Regulatory Services to enter into a deed of dedication to provide Centenary Field status to the Playing Field in Llanmaes.
2. That the Head of Legal Services be authorised to sign the deed of dedication between the Council and Fields in Trust and register the same.
3. That permission is also granted to Llanmaes Community Council to allow the development of a Memorial Garden in a corner of the field, subject to consultation with the Director of Environment and Housing services, provided the full cost of establishing this garden and future maintenance costs are met by Llanmaes Community Council.

Reasons for the Recommendations

1. To progress the formal dedication to support the work of the third sector in the Vale of Glamorgan and to ensure the protection of this particular site in perpetuity.
2. In order to execute and complete the legal documentation.
3. To allow the development of a memorial garden with the cost being met by the Community Council.

Background

2. Llanmaes Community Council has approached the Council to have the Playing Field in Llanmaes dedicated as a Centenary field to ensure that it is available to future generations for recreational purposes. As part of the proposals they would also like

to investigate incorporating a memorial Garden, at their own cost, in a corner of the field.

3. Fields in Trust (the operating name of the National Playing Fields Association) has developed an initiative called 'Centenary Fields'. 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 for the Centenary of World War 1 (WW1).
4. Fields in Trust has established a partnership with the Royal British Legion who has adopted Centenary Fields as one of three flagship initiatives that form their portfolio of work commemorating WW1, the other two being a project to protect war graves and the Centenary Poppies Campaign. Fields in Trust and The Legion are working together via a Memorandum of Understanding.

Relevant Issues and Options

5. This report seeks permission to enter into the relevant formal agreement with the Fields in Trust. Alexandra Park in Penarth was also recently approved by Cabinet to be a Centenary Field as part of this initiative promoted by Fields in Trust.
6. Parks and green spaces are highly valued by local residents. The Playing Field in Llanmaes is well used by local residents for informal recreation. This dedication at Llanmaes will benefit local residents and park users and contribute to improving their quality of life whilst also helping to address health inequalities.
7. A plan identifying the proposed dedication area is attached at [Appendix A](#).
8. 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.
 - 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 years ago and to reflect on the momentous events that took place then and the impact on their local community.

Resource Implications (Financial and Employment)

9. There are minimal resource implications with this project. Some new signage will be required and this will be funded from existing budgets.

Sustainability and Climate Change Implications

10. The dedication of this area will help to recognise its value for the purpose of recreational activity. In addition, dedication could increase future funding opportunities which could further enhance its amenity value.

Legal Implications (to Include Human Rights Implications)

11. The terms and conditions of the Deed of Dedication need to be recorded in the formal deed of dedication. 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. Such consent would be related to major changes in the operation or design of the area and it is not considered that this will cause any problems with the normal day to day operation of the area.

Crime and Disorder Implications

12. The Deed of Dedication may serve to reduce crime in the area by improving the status of these open spaces and increasing their uses by all sectors of the community.

Equal Opportunities Implications (to include Welsh Language issues)

13. None applicable to this report.

Corporate/Service Objectives

14. Well-being Outcome 4: An Active and Healthy Vale:
Objective 7: Encouraging and promoting active and healthy lifestyles.
Work in partnership to deliver a range of activities through our leisure and community facilities and parks to increase levels of participation and physical activity.

Policy Framework and Budget

15. This is a matter for Executive decision.

Consultation (including Ward Member Consultation)

16. The Local Ward Members have been consulted on these proposals.

Relevant Scrutiny Committee

17. Healthy Living and Social Care

Background Papers

18. Letter from Llanmaes Community Council

Contact Officer

Dave Knevet - Operational Manager - Leisure Services.

Officers Consulted

Head of Visible Services and Transportation
Operational Manager - Property

Operational Manager - Legal
Accountant - Visible Services and Housing

Responsible Officer:

Miles Punter - Director of Environment & Housing Services