

**EXECUTIVE BOARD – 19<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER 2017**

<b>Subject:</b>	Fields in Trust Centenary Fields Programme
<b>Corporate Director(s)/Director(s):</b>	Andy Vaughan Corporate Director Commercial and Operation Services Hugh White Director of Sport and Culture
<b>Portfolio Holder(s):</b>	Dave Trimble - Portfolio Holder Leisure and Culture
<b>Report author and contact details:</b>	Eddie Curry Head of Parks Open Spaces & Investment Funding <a href="mailto:eddie.curry@nottinghamcity.gov.uk">eddie.curry@nottinghamcity.gov.uk</a> Tel:- 0115 8764982
<b>Subject to call-in:</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
<b>Key Decision:</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
<b>Criteria for Key Decision:</b>	
(a)	<input type="checkbox"/> Expenditure <input type="checkbox"/> Income <input type="checkbox"/> Savings of £1,000,000 or more taking account of the overall impact of the decision
<b>and/or</b>	
(b)	Significant impact on communities living or working in two or more wards in the City <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
<b>Type of expenditure:</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Revenue <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Capital
<b>Total value of the decision:</b>	
<b>Wards affected:</b>	Bridge and Bulwell Forest
<b>Date of consultation with Portfolio Holder(s):</b>	<b>Cllr David Trimble Portfolio Holder for Leisure and Culture 26 /7/2017</b> <b>Cllr Jane Urquhart Portfolio Holder for Planning, Housing and Heritage 24/7/17</b>
<b>Relevant Council Plan Key Theme:</b>	
Strategic Regeneration and Development	<input type="checkbox"/>
Schools	<input type="checkbox"/>
Planning and Housing	<input type="checkbox"/>
Community Services	<input type="checkbox"/>
Energy, Sustainability and Customer	<input type="checkbox"/>
Jobs, Growth and Transport	<input type="checkbox"/>
Adults, Health and Community Sector	<input type="checkbox"/>
Children, Early Intervention and Early Years	<input type="checkbox"/>
Leisure and Culture	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Resources and Neighbourhood Regeneration	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Summary of issues (including benefits to citizens/service users):</b>	
This report seeks approval to apply to the Fields in Trust Centenary Fields Programme and to nominate both Victoria Embankment and Bulwell Forest Park as recreational sites to be protected in perpetuity as Centenary Parks.	
Centenary Fields is an organisation working across the UK in partnership with The Royal British Legion to secure recreational space in the form of a Deed of Dedication in order to honour the memory of the millions of people who lost their lives in World War 1 (WW1). The programme will also help commemorate World War 1 (WW1) and form part of a wider programme of commemorative events taking place in the city during 2018.	
<b>Exempt information:</b>	None.

<b>Recommendation(s):</b>	
<b>1</b>	Agree to nominate Victoria Embankment and Bulwell Forest Park as recreational spaces suitable for the Fields in Trust Centenary Fields Programme.
<b>2</b>	Delegate authority to the Director of Strategic Assets and Property in consultation with the Director of Legal and Governance Services to establish terms and enter into the Deed of Dedication with Fields in Trust for Victoria Embankment and Bulwell Forest Park.
<b>3</b>	Delegate authority to the Portfolio Holder of Leisure and Culture the ability to accept any future external funding associated with the Centenary Fields Programme and designated sites in consultation with the Director for Legal and Governance Services.
<b>4</b>	Delegate authority to the Director of Sport and Culture to carry out tender Process and enter into contracts that may be needed in the event that funding is made available as part of the Centenary Fields programme.

## **1 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 1.1 The Centenary Fields Programme will provide the City with the opportunity to be part of an officially endorsed initiative to commemorate the First World War (WW1).
- 1.2 The initiative will provide the vehicle to permanently dedicate and protect a number of playing fields within the city. These sites will be safeguarded from development and will provide the city with the opportunity to promote its commitment to providing and enhancing sports and recreational provision within the city.

## **2 BACKGROUND (INCLUDING OUTCOMES OF CONSULTATION)**

### **2.1 Centenary Fields Programme**

As part of the Council's programme of centenary commemoration events, it is proposed that a programme of permanent dedications be sought for Parks and Green Spaces within the City that have a strong WW1 connection.

### **2.2 What is the initiative all about?**

The Centenary Fields programme aims to protect at least one green space in every local authority area across England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland to commemorate the centenary of WW1. These protected sites could be war memorial parks or recreation grounds, memorial gardens, parks and recreation grounds that contain war memorials or other valued green spaces. Safeguarding these sites will create a living UK-wide legacy in commemoration of the sacrifice made by those who lost their lives in WW1. Fields in Trust is working in partnership with the Royal British Legion to deliver the programme.

### **2.3 Why should landowners get involved with this initiative?**

Dedicating a Centenary Field is a fitting way for landowners to mark the centenary of WWI by commemorating the sacrifice of those who lost their lives in the conflict and ensuring that their communities benefit now and in the future from protected green spaces. The Centenary Fields programme is also a way of local authorities fulfilling the Armed Forces Community Covenant.

## 2.4 How is a site defined for this programme and what criteria need to be met?

A site could be a war memorial park or recreation ground, memorial garden, park or recreation ground that contains a war memorial or other valued green spaces. If there isn't a war memorial on the site then it must have some significance to WW1, for example it could be playing a key role in the local WW1 commemorations. As time goes on there will undoubtedly be some good examples of how sites are connected with WW1, and these will be promoted as applicable.

## 2.5 Funding opportunities

The designation will also open up the opportunity for the council to benefit from capital funding. The Fields in Trust are currently negotiating several funding opportunities' that may become available in future years to the designated sites.

## 2.6 Site Assessment

Each application will be assessed through a site visit but as a minimum, the following criteria must be met:

- The Landowner of the site must complete the application form;
- Evidence of ownership, and where relevant freehold interest must be produced;
- The principal use should be outdoor recreation, sport or play. However, sites can also include facilities such as pavilions, village halls, indoor leisure or heritage facilities that are established for community recreational purposes;
- Sites must have public access;
- Sites should be accessible in terms of location and affordability for the local community. Sites should have local managers who are responsible for the quality of the facilities, maintenance and development, improving participation and financial and operational sustainability.
- The Landowner must be able to sign the agreed Deed of Dedication within six months of submitting an application.

## 2.7 Nottingham Centenary Fields

Over the last year, a number of local parks friend's groups have registered an interest in dedicating their local park or green space as a Centenary Field.

The sites put forward for the dedication include:

### **Victoria Embankment and the War Memorial Gardens - Appendix 1 contains a plan of the site.**

- This is the most obvious location within the City for the dedication as it can be clearly linked to the City's formal Armistice Day commemorations.

- It includes both the War Memorial and Memorial Gardens.
- The playing fields were gifted to the City by Jesse Boot whose company Boots played a major role in supplying medical supplies to the front line during WW1.
- The playing fields are enjoyed by millions of visitors over the years who enjoy sport, recreation and attending events including the National Armed Forces Day 2013.
- The dedication is fully supported by the Armistice Centenary Steering Group and the local community.

**Bulwell Forest Park - Appendix 2 contains a plan of the site.**

Possibly a little known fact but the fields which now include the golf course, the play area, multi-use games area (MUGA), tennis courts and playing fields are also known as Soldiers Hill.

- They were used by the army to train conscripts during WW1.
- The wooden building that is now the home of the Sons of Rest (established early 1930's) was used as a sanatorium for people suffering from TB.
- The playing fields are enjoyed by hundreds of visitors over the years who enjoy sport, recreation on the field and in the new play and sports areas.
- The dedication is fully supported by the Friends of Bulwell Forest, the Sons of Rest and the local community.

**3 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED IN MAKING RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 3.1 Alternative sites around the city have been considered for designation however, they have been discounted on the basis that they do not have a clear link to WW1 and they do not meet the selection criteria or they have possible regeneration activity planned for the future. Therefore, the two sites proposed are considered to be the most suitable sites for the designation.

**3 FINANCE COLLEAGUE COMMENTS (INCLUDING IMPLICATIONS AND VALUE FOR MONEY/VAT)**

- 4.1 This decision seeks approval to designate Victoria Embankment and Bulwell Forest Park as part of the Fields in Trust Centenary Fields Programme, thereby committing the Council to continue to make them available as playing fields for recreational purposes in perpetuity. The running costs to maintain these sites will remain the responsibility of the Council. Any additional costs arising as result of this designation will be contained within the budget manager's revenue budgets.
- 4.2 As a result of this designation, the Council may be able to bid for capital funding to invest in and improve these sites, and the appropriate approval will be requested prior to making any financial commitment.

**Maria Balchin, Senior Commercial Business Partner 17/ 7/2017**

**5 LEGAL AND PROCUREMENT COLLEAGUE COMMENTS (INCLUDING RISK MANAGEMENT ISSUES, AND LEGAL, CRIME AND DISORDER ACT AND PROCUREMENT IMPLICATIONS)**

## **Procurement**

- 5.1 There are no significant procurement concerns with the decisions being sought. Where any elements of the project require quotations or tenders to be obtained, Procurement will support the client to undertake these in accordance with Contract Procedure Rules.

**Sue Oliver Category Manager Places 25/7/2017**

## **5.2 Planning Services**

Consultation with the Council's Planning Services Department has confirmed that:

- both sites subject to this proposal are included in the adopted 2005 Local Plan as Open Space Network and are also proposed to be retained in this designation in the Part 2 Land and Planning Policies (LAPP) replacement Local Plan. The latter document is yet to go through examination.
- There is no conflict with the proposed allocation and the Local Plan. There are policies in the adopted Local Plan, Core Strategy, and the LAPP that protect Open Space.
- It was noted by the Planning Services section that successful allocation for a Centenary Fields Dedication could potentially result in additional funding sources, which could help secure the sites in the long term.

Extracts from the Adopted Local Plan (adopted 2005) for Victoria Embankment and Bulwell Forest Park are shown in Appendix 3 to this report.

**Matthew Grant Senior Planner (Policy) 21/7/17**

## **Legal**

- 5.3 A Deed of Dedication is not a disposal of the Council's legal interest in the land but instead it will restrict the use of the land by placing a restriction on the registered title. The Council's legal department will support the project by assisting with the terms and documentation required for the Deed of Dedication.
- 5.4 If the sites are accepted, the legal process then starts and sites will be protected in England via a deed of dedication. Fields in Trust will draw up the draft deed and then the landowner has a chance to make amendments. When all parties are satisfied with the deed it will be signed and then registered with the Land Registry. The site is then able to order a Centenary Fields commemorative plaque and can organise an unveiling event.
- 5.5 The power for the Local Authority to act is contained in s.111 (1) of the Local Government Act 1972 and s1 (1) of the Localism Act 2011.
- 5.6 The Fields in Trust is a registered charity and as a legal entity can enter into a Deed of Dedication with the Council. It is the Council's decision whether or not it wants to enter into the deed based on the added value of the dedication by Fields in Trust.

**Connie Green Solicitor, Contracts and Commercial Team 26/7/2017**

**6 STRATEGIC ASSETS & PROPERTY COLLEAGUE COMMENTS (FOR DECISIONS RELATING TO ALL PROPERTY ASSETS AND ASSOCIATED INFRASTRUCTURE)**

- 6.1 There are no objections to the principle of this report's recommendations.

The Property Section has been working closely with Parks and Open Spaces team and Legal Services to ensure that the boundaries of the areas to be dedicated adequately protect the playing areas and points of interest, but do not prevent day-to-day complications or other issues arising.

Careful consideration has also been given to the exact wording of the Deed to ensure that the council's regular activities and special events will not require further FiT consent being obtained (for example Riverside Festival at Victoria Embankment).

**John West Estates Surveyor 18/7/2017**

**7 SOCIAL VALUE CONSIDERATIONS**

- 7.1 Where any elements of the project require quotations or tenders to be obtained, Procurement will work with the client to build in appropriate KPI's in relation to social value such as local spend and local employment targets.

**Sue Oliver Category Manager Places 25/7/2017**

**8 REGARD TO THE NHS CONSTITUTION**

- 8.1 I fully support the application and for these two areas to be identified as the parks to have this dedication.

An additional reason for the recommendations could be to recognise the value of making these sites more attractive and appealing to our citizens.

We know that there is growing evidence that increased utilisation of parks and green spaces improve our health and wellbeing.

**Alison Challenger Director Public Health 27/7/2017**

**9 EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT (EIA)**

- 9.1 Has the equality impact of the proposals in this report been assessed?

No



An EIA is not required because:

(Please explain why an EIA is not necessary)

There is no equality impact assessment for this initiative as there are no negative impacts on the community.

**10 LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS RELIED UPON IN WRITING THIS REPORT (NOT INCLUDING PUBLISHED DOCUMENTS OR CONFIDENTIAL OR EXEMPT INFORMATION)**

10.1 None.

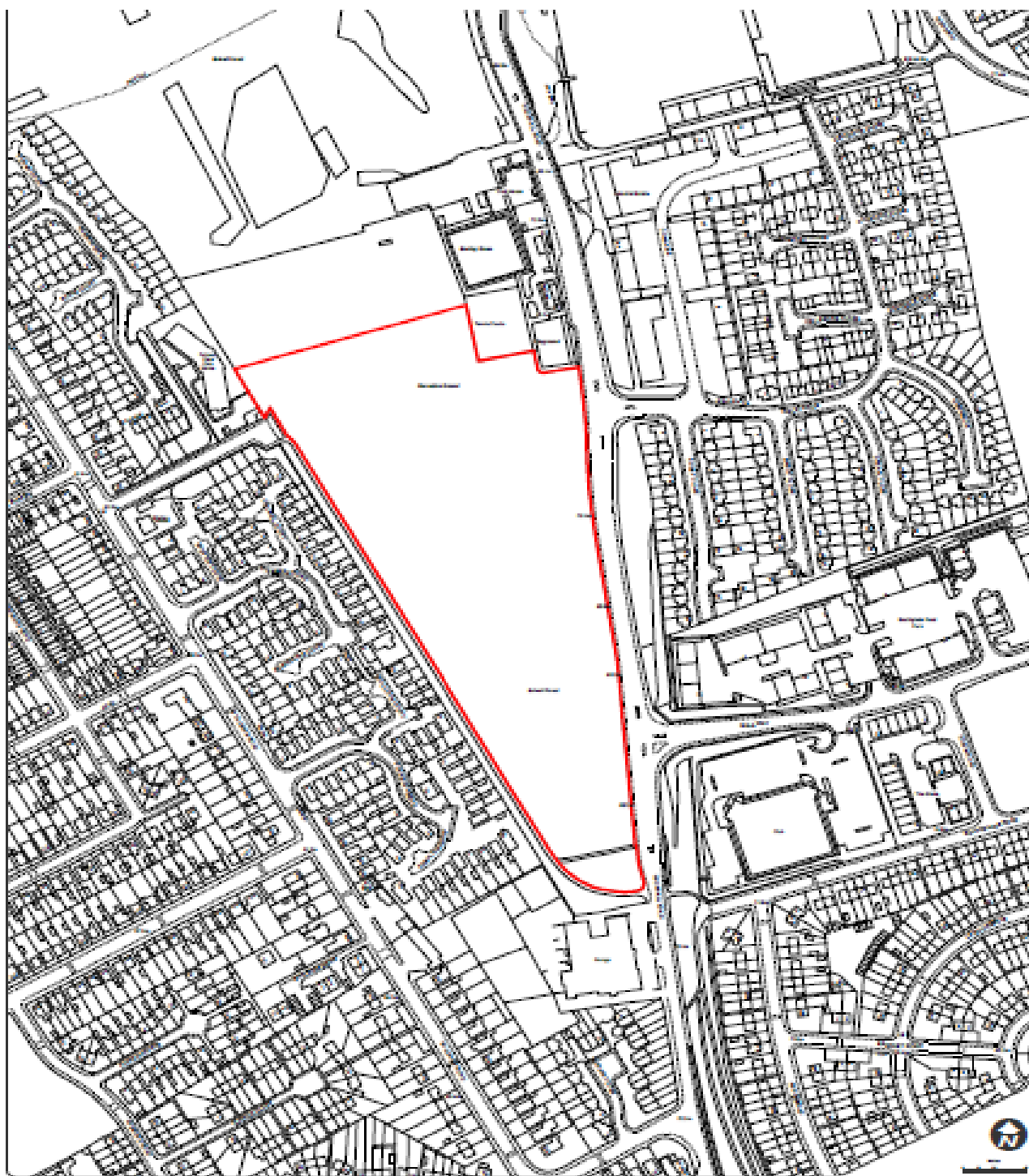
**11 PUBLISHED DOCUMENTS REFERRED TO IN THIS REPORT**

11.1 None.





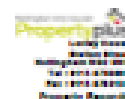
## Appendix 2 - Bulwell Forest Park



**BULWELL FOREST PARK**

Scale @ A4 = 1:200




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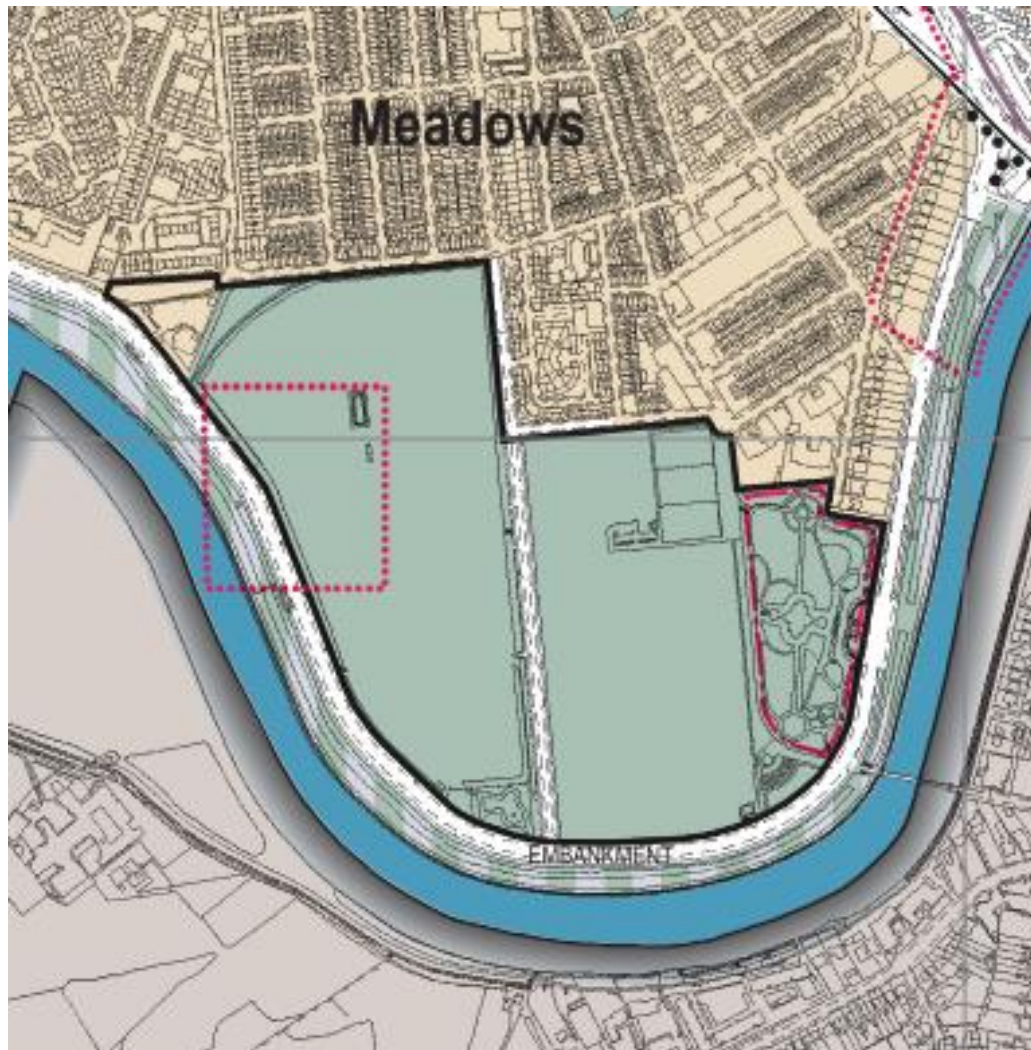


## APPENDIX 3

### Victoria Embankment extract of Adopted Local Plan(adopted 2005)





Key

-  Open Space Network
-  Historic Parks & Gardens
-  Archaeological Constraints Area



**Bulwell Forest Park extract of Adopted Local Plan (adopted 2005)**

Key

-  Open Space
-  Consultation Zone – Hazardous Installations
-  Biological Sites of Important for Nature Conservation (as at January 2003)
-  Proposed Cycle Path (Indicative)

