

CENTENARY FIELDS

SPORT, LESIURE & CULTURE (COUNCILLOR PETER BRADBURY)

AGENDA ITEM: 2

Reason for this Report

1. To provide details of the Centenary Fields initiative being promoted by Fields In Trust (FIT), in partnership with the Royal British Legion and to seek approval to nominate Grange Gardens, in the Grangetown Ward and Alexandra Gardens, in the Cathays ward as candidate sites.

Background

2. FIT, formerly the National Playing Fields Association is a charitable organisation dedicated to the protecting and promoting parks and green spaces for play, sport and recreation.
3. The Council has, previously participated in initiatives to support its own and FIT's objectives the most recent being in 2012 and whereby Cabinet approved placing seven of its parks and green spaces in trust, through the Queen Elizabeth II Fields Challenge.
4. The Centenary Fields Initiative calls on all landowners including all local government tiers to secure recreational spaces in perpetuity to honour the memory of the millions of people who lost their lives in World War I 1914 – 1918.
5. The initiative specifically encourages participants to nominate green spaces that contain a war memorial that have some significance to World War I.
6. The sites proposed for nomination meet FIT's criteria and have significant in context relating to the conflict :
 - On the 7th July 1921 and following the establishment of a committee to raise funds to create a Grangetown War Heroes Memorial, an unveiling ceremony took place. The memorial was commissioned at a cost of £ 1000. The memorial contains the names of those who lost their lives in World War I and the names of committee members responsible for its installation.

- Alexandra Gardens within Cathays Park is home to the Welsh National War Memorial. The memorial, which was unveiled by the Prince of Wales in 1928, commemorates those servicemen that lost their lives in World War I, and contains a commemorative plaque for those who lost their lives in World War II.

Issues

7. In participating in the initiative, the Council will enter into a Deed of Dedication, which constitutes a legally binding agreement.
8. By entering into a Deed of Dedication the Council is effectively “disposing” of the land under Section 123 of the Local Government Act 1972. This legislation requires the Council to advertise its intentions and to give consideration to any representations received from the public in reaching its final decision.
9. By entering into a Deed of Dedication there will be no restrictions or controls imposed, in respect of public access and / or the use of the proposed sites for the full range of current purposes.
10. The use of the proposed sites will be continuous, consistent with FIT’s objectives, which, in addition to protection promote the use of parks and green spaces for recreational use, both passive and active, social cohesion, mental well-being, healthy lifestyles and community benefit.
11. Those sites participating in the initiative will receive a plaque from FIT marking its status and commemorating its protection under the initiative.
12. The extent of the land proposed for inclusion in the dedication, at the two sites and within a red line is indicated on plans, attached at Appendix B.
13. The costs associated with dedication can be met within existing budgets.

Local Member consultation

14. Initial consultations with local ward members have been undertaken and further detailed consultation will be undertaken prior to and post advertisement, subject to the decision of Cabinet.

Reason for Recommendations

15. Under Section 123 of the Local Government Act 1972, the Council is required to advertise the proposed disposal of land and to take account of any objections raised.

Financial Implications

16. Under the terms of the dedication, the Council retains the freehold and all maintenance responsibilities of the sites. The proposal is subject to consultation and a further report will be received by Cabinet indicating

the outcome and to seek approval of next steps. Any costs of dedication will be met from existing revenue budgets of the directorate.

Legal Implications

17. The Council is required to advertise a disposal of public open space land pursuant to section 123 of the Local Government Act 1972 and to consider any objections. The Council has power to dispose of land at an undervalue of up to £2m for wellbeing purposes.

HR Implications

18. There are no HR implications arising from this report.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Cabinet is recommended to :

- 1) approve the dedication of the sites referred to in this report, in principle and subject to consultation.
- 2) delegate authority to the Director of Economic Development to progress the consultation process with stakeholders and local ward members in order to finalise the proposed disposal details, prior to any advertisement.
- 3) agree that the proposed disposal of the sites indicated in the report be advertised in accordance with the relevant section of the Local Government Act 1972 and that the outcomes be reported back to a future meeting.

SENIOR RESPONSIBLE OFFICER	NEIL HANRATTY DIRECTOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
	7 December 2018

The following Appendices are attached:

Appendix A : Minimum Criteria for Centenary Fields as published by Fields In Trust

Appendix B : Site Plans – Grange Gardens & Alexandra Gardens