

NEATH PORT TALBOT COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

Streetscene & Engineering Cabinet Board

1st December 2017

Report of the Head of Streetcare, M. Roberts

Matter for Decision

Wards Affected: Port Talbot

CENTENARY FIELD APPLICATION TALBOT MEMORIAL PARK

Purpose of Report

1. To consider an application to the Fields in Trust, Centenary programme to dedicate an area of Talbot Memorial Park, Port Talbot as a Centenary Field, commemorating World War One 1914-1918.

Executive Summary

2. The Centenary Fields initiative aims to secure recreational spaces in perpetuity to honour the memory of the millions of people who lost their lives in World War One. Through this programme, landowners across the UK are encouraged to dedicate recreational spaces as a Centenary Field.
3. These sites can be War Memorial Parks, Recreational Grounds, Memorial Gardens and parks and recreation grounds that contain war memorials. It is recommended that Talbot Memorial Park which is situated within Port Talbot is dedicated as a Centenary Field, Commemorating World War One 1914-1918.

Background

4. In July 2014, Fields in Trust launched an initiative called Centenary Fields. This UK project aims to protect in perpetuity war memorial fields, green spaces that include war memorials across the UK and that provide a fitting commemoration for the Centenary of World War I.

5. Fields in Trust have established a partnership with the Royal Legion who has adopted Centenary Fields as one of flagship initiatives.
6. The Centenary Field initiative aims to secure recreational spaces in perpetuity to honour the memory of the millions of people who lost their lives in World War One. Through this programme, landowners across the UK are encouraged to dedicate recreational space as a Centenary Field. The programme will commemorate this significant milestone in our history and create a tangible local legacy that will be valued by communities for generations to come.
7. These sites can be War Memorial Parks, Recreational Grounds, Memorial Gardens and parks and recreation grounds that contain war memorials. It is recommended that Talbot Memorial Park which is situated within Port Talbot is dedicated as a Centenary Field, Commemorating World War One 1914-1918.
8. Due to existing lease arrangements, certain sections within Talbot Memorial Park are excluded from this proposal. Such areas include two lodges, a bowling green, bowls pavilion and tea room - please see Appendix 1
9. The Centenary Fields programme aims to protect at least one green space in every local authority area across Wales, England, Scotland and Northern Ireland by November 2018.
10. On approval, the site will be protected via a deed of dedication and registered with the Land registry. The deed will be agreed by the authority and Fields in Trust - please see Appendix 2
11. It is proposed that the park will be dedicated for use in the future as a recreational memorial park, for community events to be held and/or allotments. Notwithstanding the dedication, the Authority shall continue to support and acknowledge the existence of the Friends of Talbot Park, and the use of the grounds by local sports organisations. The Council shall continue to allow public events that may be organised by the council, friends group or other persons.
12. On completion, the authority will receive a Centenary Fields commemorative plaque to display on site and there will be an opportunity to have an unveiling ceremony to mark the occasion and raise awareness of the initiative.

13. The authority will remain fully responsible for the management and day-to-day running of the site.

Financial Impact

14. There will be a small implication in terms of land registry and legal costs for the dedication process. These costs will be met by the service. A Plaque will be provided by the Fields in Trust.
15. As a Centenary Field and therefore a Fields in Trust protected site there may be future funding opportunities (for Talbot Memorial Park) as the charity is continually looking to secure funding for its protected sites.

Equality Impact Assessment

16. A Screening Assessment has been undertaken to assist the Council in discharging its Public Sector Equality Duty under the Equality Act 2010. After completing the assessment it has been determined that this proposal does not require an Equalities Impact Assessment.

Workforce Impact

17. There are no staffing implications in the delivery of this proposal.

Legal Impact

18. Legal Services will draw up a deed of dedication. A draft of the deed is attached to this report – please see Appendix 2.
19. Whilst the dedication of the park ensures that the Council contributes to each Local Authority dedicating at least one area of land, and shows support for this important scheme, it should be noted that the Council's flexibility with respect to future management of the dedicated area would be restricted going forward. The Council would not be able to allow the ground to be used for any other use, would not be able to dispose of the Property (that is, to sell it or lease part of it) or to make any alterations or build any structures upon it, without the permission of Fields in Trust. Whilst such consent from the Fields in Trust organisation should not be unreasonably withheld, the Council is still dependent upon obtaining such consent. Furthermore, the Council could not permit the erection of any buildings, structures or alterations that would result in the total structural and building

footprints to exceed twenty per cent of the total square footage of the Property. Whilst this is not something that we would envisage wanting to do in any event, it is worth noting that this restriction exists. Discussions have taken place with representatives of Fields In Trust around the potential for us to lease further areas of the park out to local organisations (albeit they would continue to use it as a recreation ground) and Fields in Trust do not foresee any difficulties with this proposal.

Risk Management

20. There are no risk management issues associated with this report.

Sustainability Appraisal

21 This proposal has a positive impact in relation to Sustainable Development as potential funding will assist in the operational costs of the Park and thereby helping to protect its future.

Consultation

22 There is no requirement under the Constitution for external consultation on this item

Recommendation(s)

23 It is recommended that Talbot Memorial Park, other than the excluded sections as detailed in the report, be dedicated as a Centenary Field to commemorate the First World War conflict 1914-18, under the Fields in Trust initiative.

Reason for Proposed Decision(s)

24 To provide a commemorative legacy of the First World War conflict of 1914-18 and support the Fields in Trust and British Legion Centenary Fields programme.

Implementation of Decision

25 The decision is proposed for implementation after the three day call in period.

Appendices

26 Map of Talbot Park – Appendix 1

27 Deed of Dedication – Appendix 2

List of Background Papers

28 None

Officer Contact

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