

# FAREHAM

## BOROUGH COUNCIL

### Report to the Executive for Decision 07 July 2014

**Portfolio:** Leisure and Community  
**Subject:** **The Centenary Fields Programme**  
**Report of:** Director of Community  
**Strategy/Policy:** Leisure for Health and For Fun  
**Corporate Objective:**

**Purpose:**

To advise the Executive about the Centenary Fields Programme and to seek approval to nominate Sarisbury Green as a dedicated Fields in trust site.

**Executive summary:**

The Centenary Fields programme is a nationwide initiative aimed at protecting recreational spaces in perpetuity, to honour the memory of those who lost their lives in World War I.

The Programme aims to encourage every local authority in the UK to nominate at least one recreational space to be dedicated as a Centenary Field to commemorate this historic event and create a tangible legacy that will be valued by the local community for generations to come.

**Recommendation/Recommended Option:**

The Executive is invited to nominate Sarisbury Green for the Centenary Fields Programme.

**Reason:**

To participate in the Centenary Fields Programme.

**Cost of proposals:**

The financial implications from the recommendations in the report can be met from within existing budgets.

**Background papers: None**

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## BOROUGH COUNCIL

### Executive Briefing Paper

**Date:** 07 July 2014

**Subject:** The Centenary Fields Programme

**Briefing by:** Director of Community

**Portfolio:** Leisure and Community

#### INTRODUCTION

1. The Centenary Fields Programme has been launched to commemorate a significant milestone in history and create a local legacy in recognition of this important event.
2. Access to outdoor space is vital for communities and plays an important role in providing a place for both physical activity and relaxation. The Inverdale report, published in May 2010, states that there is evidence that nationally the number of playing fields has reduced from 26,000 in 1992 to 20,000 in 2009.
3. The Centenary Fields Programme aims to protect the war memorial parks, playing fields or any other green spaces that local authorities may wish to dedicate in memory of those who lost their lives
4. The Fields in Trust (FIT) and the Royal British Legion are working together to deliver the Centenary Fields programme, which is in keeping with the spirit of the Armed Forces Community Covenant to which the Council is a signatory.
5. FIT currently protects over 2,500 public recreational spaces. Many of these are already dedicated to specific people or purposes, notably the King George V Memorial Playing Fields, which were established as a memorial to the Monarch after his death in 1936, and the QEII Fields Challenge to celebrate the Diamond Jubilee and London Olympic and Paralympic Games in 2012, as well as the 2014 Commonwealth Games.

The following Fareham Borough Council owned open spaces already have dedicated status:

- Bath Lane Recreation Ground
- Allotment Road
- Wicor Recreation Ground
- Seafield Park
- King George V Play Area.

6. In addition the following Council owned playing fields are registered as charities:
- Swanwick Lane Recreation Ground;
  - Sarisbury Green;
  - Crofton Recreation Ground; and
  - Titchfield Recreation Ground.

## **PROPOSAL**

7. FIT and the Royal British Legion are inviting each Local Authority throughout the United Kingdom to nominate at least one recreational space in their area that they would be happy to protect as a Centenary Field.
8. FIT have confirmed that a site can only be nominated as a Centenary Field if it has no other award Status.
9. Existing sites protected by FIT and new sites to be afforded protection by Fields in Trust need to satisfy the following criteria if they are to be accepted into The Centenary Fields programme .The criteria are:
- Evidence of title permitting site use for outdoor, sport, play and/or recreation;
  - Sites may be provided with facilities and equipment or used as general open space, and established for that purpose by way of planning requirements;
  - Each site's principal use should be outdoor sport, play and/or recreation;
  - The minimum acceptable size is 0.2 hectare (0.5 acre);
  - Sites need to be accessible in terms of location;
  - Sites need to be accessible in terms of affordability for the community concerned;
  - Sites should be open to the public, and established charitably or, as facilities held by a sports club under the Community Amateur Sports Club regime or held as Public Open Space;
  - All sites will need local managers, who will be responsible for the quality of facilities, their maintenance and development, improving participation and use, and financial and operational sustainability; and
  - Compliance with existing legislation relating to sport, play or open space.
10. In respect of the legal process, once the site has been agreed by the Executive, Fareham Borough Council will be required to complete a deed of dedication to protect the nominated green space in perpetuity. This does not require any change to the ownership and management of the site which will remain entirely with the Council.
11. In consideration of the criteria above, Sarisbury Green has been identified as a suitable location to be nominated for the Centenary Fields programme.

## **RISK ASSESSMENT**

12. There are no significant risk considerations in relation to this report.

## **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

13. The financial implications from the recommendations in the report can be met from within existing budgets.

## **CONCLUSION**

14. The Centenary Fields programme is a nationwide initiative aimed at protecting recreational spaces in perpetuity, to honour of the memory of those who lost their lives in World War I.
15. To commemorate this historic event, it is proposed that Sarisbury Green be nominated to participate in the Centenary Fields Programme.

**Reference Papers:** None