

COMMUNITY AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS

9 MARCH 2011

REPORT OF THE HEAD OF COMMUNITIES & NEIGHBOURHOODS

QUEEN ELIZABETH II FIELDS CHALLENGE 2012

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To mark the Queens Diamond Jubilee and the 2012 Olympics a nationwide legacy project lead by Prince William titled the Queen Elizabeth II Fields Challenge is to take place.
- 1.2 Essentially the project involves various authorities and bodies being asked to identify public open sites and spaces that facilitate and encourage healthy outdoor pursuits and recreational activities that might be suitable for nomination to become a Queen Elizabeth II Field.
- 1.3 Ultimately a public vote in 2011 will determine which sites from those proposed that will be designated as Queen Elizabeth II Fields and this report seeks members support for Melton Country Park to be put forward as a nomination.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 **Members support the proposal for Melton Country Park to be put forward as a nomination for the Queens Elizabeth II Fields Challenge.**

3.0 KEY ISSUES

- 3.1 As part of the Queens Diamond jubilee celebrations in 2012 and to mark the 2012 Olympics, a special project the Queen Elizabeth II Fields Challenge is the subject of a letter of enquiry received by this authority in November 2010 see attached as Appendix 1.
- 3.2 The key aims of the challenge are to :
 - Protect 2012 outdoor recreational spaces (such as Melton Country Park) across the country by 2012
 - Increase participation in both physical activity and volunteering
 - Engage long term support for the Queen Elizabeth II Fields

Further information and details about the projects are attached as Appendix 2.

- 3.3 Members will note that there will be some funding made available to successful Field Challenge sites for improvement and development as well as them becoming eligible for further funding streams that are expected to emerge as the project progresses.
- 3.4 Members will note that one of the most significant implications/outcomes for successful Field Challenge in Trust nominations will be the conferring of their current designation/status for perpetuity.
- 3.5 The key benefits from the protected designation of the sites are :
 - Making a commitment to Local residents to safeguard land, facilities and opportunities for sport, play and outdoor recreation for now and forever

- Protect public access to outdoor space
- Reassurance of the viability and sustainability for the site in regards to any investment
- Ensuring any changes that might occur do not result in any reduced recreational/outdoor pursuit capacity of the site
- Raise awareness to the importance of the site for a range of quality of life and amenity reasons

3.6 The Friends of Melton Country Park Group have been fully consulted in regards to this proposal, and welcome the potential to protect the sites country park designation.

4.0 **POLICY AND CORPORATE IMPLICATIONS**

4.1 There are no direct policy or corporate implications as a result of this report.

5.0 **FINANCIAL AND OTHER RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS**

5.1 There are no direct financial or other resource implications as a direct result of this report.

6.0 **LEGAL IMPLICATIONS/POWERS**

6.1 One of the key implications for any site achieving inclusion as an 'In Fields Trust' project will be the designating of that sites existing designation for perpetuity. Legal implications will be fully considered during the determination phase of nominated sites and therefore there are no direct legal implications as a result of this report.

7.0 **COMMUNITY SAFETY**

7.1 There are no direct community safety implications as a result of this report.

8.0 **EQUALITIES**

8.1 To consider and give any Equalities implications relating to this report.

9.0 RISKS

9.1 There are no direct risks associated with this report; however opportunities to designate the status of public recreational sites for perpetuity are not common.

Probability



Very High A				
High B				
Significant C				
Low D		1		
Very Low E				
Almost Impossible F				
	IV Neg- ligible	III Marg- inal	II Critical	I Catast- rophic

Impact →

Risk No.	Description
1	Site is either not put forward or does not receives enough public votes to achieve a Field in Trust designation

10.0 CLIMATE CHANGE

10.1 There are no direct climate change implications as a direct result of this report.

11.0 CONSULTATION

11.1 A letter with details of the scheme has been sent out to all Parishes inviting them to suggest any sites local to them that they feel meets the required criteria and may warrant consideration for nomination. At this time there is no set cut off date for proposals to be out forward to the In Fields organisation for nomination and therefore any forthcoming suggestions can be further considered by the council for inclusion as proposed sites along with (if agreed) Melton Country Park.

12.0 WARDS AFFECTED

12.1 Melton Country Park is in the Melton Mowbray Dorian Ward.

Contact Officer: Principal Assistant (Environment) – Raman Selvon
Date: 13 January 2011

Appendices : 1 – November 2010 Enquiry Letter
2 - Project Information

Background Papers: None

Reference : X : Committees\Cttee, Council & Sub Cttees\CSA\2010 11\090311\QEII Fields Challenge 2012