

**TONBRIDGE & MALLING BOROUGH COUNCIL**

**LEISURE and ARTS ADVISORY BOARD**

**1 March 2011**

**Report of the Chief Leisure Officer and the  
Cabinet Member for Leisure, Youth and Arts**

**Part 1- Public**

**Matters for Recommendation to Cabinet - Non-Key Decision (Decision may be taken  
by the Cabinet Member)**

**1 QUEEN ELIZABETH II FIELDS CHALLENGE**

**Summary**

**This report highlights the Fields in Trust Queen Elizabeth II Fields Challenge, and brings forward proposals on the Borough Council's engagement with the scheme for Member consideration.**

**1.1 Introduction**

1.1.1 Fields in Trust, formerly the National Playing Fields Association, has announced a national campaign to commemorate Her Majesty The Queen's Diamond Jubilee in 2012. The Queen Elizabeth II Fields Challenge, headed by its Patron, Prince William, aims to protect 2,012 outdoor recreational spaces in communities all across the country as a permanent living legacy of the Jubilee and the London 2012 Olympics. From sports pitches to woodlands, children's play areas to gardens and bicycle trails to parks, the Queen Elizabeth II Fields Challenge aims to protect a diverse range of outdoor spaces.

1.1.2 From local authorities to private individuals, landowners across the country are being invited to nominate sites for inclusion in the scheme that will then go forward to a public vote.

1.1.3 **Terry Housden, Project Officer, The Queen Elizabeth II Fields Challenge will be attending the meeting to give a presentation** on the details of the project and respond to any questions Members may have.

**1.2 Fields Challenge**

1.2.1 Fields in Trust aims to engage the whole nation in the Challenge. At the outset the Trust is targeting local authorities as it is felt that their support for the project is key to its success. Fields in Trust are encouraging all local authorities throughout the United Kingdom to nominate a number of public open spaces in their area that they would be happy to protect as a Queen Elizabeth II Field. The Challenge then aims to safeguard these open spaces in perpetuity for future generations, by

placing covenants on the land, meaning they will remain in use for public recreation forever. Fields in Trust also hope that local authorities will see benefits in protecting these spaces in terms of addressing some of their key agendas around increasing physical activity, promoting social cohesion and improving the environment.

- 1.2.2 Fields in Trust also wish to encourage any Town, Parish or community council; sports club, recreational charity; voluntary body or private landowner who might want to get involved with the initiative.

### **1.3 Council Support**

- 1.3.1 It is proposed that this Council actively supports the Fields Challenge campaign, and aims to promote nominations for sites across the borough. It is proposed to achieve this by:

- the nomination of sites in the Council's ownership;
- promoting the scheme to Parish/Town Councils;
- promoting the scheme to relevant developers, and in particular new sites currently being developed.

### **1.4 Borough Council Sites**

- 1.4.1 It is proposed that the Borough Council nominates the following four sites in its ownership for entry into the public vote. The latter three could be considered as one site entry as they naturally border each other.

- Priory Wood Public Open Space
- Frogsbridge Sportsground
- Woodland Walk
- Scotchers Field

- 1.4.2 The sites are highlighted on the map at **[Annex 1]**, and all are identified for improvement over the next year, funded primarily from developer contributions. Liaison has been undertaken with Tonbridge Sports Association and local Members and any comments received will be reported verbally at the meeting.

### **1.5 Parish/Town Councils**

- 1.5.1 Fields in Trust has advised that all Parish/Town Councils will be contacted directly in regard to the Challenge, and Terry Housden will be giving a presentation to the Parish Partnership Panel on 3 March 2011.

## **1.6 Local Development Sites**

1.6.1 Alongside the designation of existing public open spaces the scheme will encourage the designation of sites arising from new developments across the country. Consultation has already been undertaken with the Council's Chief Planning Officer and the scheme will be actively promoted to appropriate development sites.

## **1.7 Legal Implications**

1.7.1 Following confirmation/acceptance of a site under the scheme the landowner will be required to sign up to a Deed of Dedication with Fields in Trust to secure, in perpetuity, the use of the site as a designated public open space.

1.7.2 Consultation is being undertaken with the Legal Services Partnership Manager in regard to the formal dedication of the Borough Council sites nominated for the Challenge, and any final decision will be subject to there being no legal restrictions identified with regard to the sites.

## **1.8 Financial and Value for Money Considerations**

1.8.1 No direct costs are associated with the nomination and dedication of sites.

## **1.9 Risk Assessment**

1.9.1 The Council will need to consider any implications arising from the dedication of sites as highlighted at sub-section 1.7.2 above.

## **1.10 Equality Impact Assessment**

1.10.1 See 'Screening for equality impacts' table at end of report.

## **1.11 Policy Considerations**

1.11.1 Asset Management and Community.

## **1.12 Recommendations**

1.12.1 It is **RECOMMENDED TO CABINET**, that:

- 1) the Borough Council supports the Fields in Trust Queen Elizabeth II Fields Challenge;
- 2) nominations for sites to enter the Challenge from across the Borough be encouraged; and
- 3) subject to confirmation by the Legal Services Partnership Manager the Council nominates the four sites in its ownership as detailed in the report.

The Chief Leisure Officer confirms that the proposals contained in the recommendation(s), if approved, will fall within the Council's Budget and Policy Framework.

Background papers:

contact: Darren Lanes

Nil

Robert Styles  
Chief Leisure Officer

Martin Coffin  
Cabinet Member for Leisure, Youth & Arts

<b>Screening for equality impacts:</b>		
<b>Question</b>	<b>Answer</b>	<b>Explanation of impacts</b>
a. Does the decision being made or recommended through this paper have potential to cause adverse impact or discriminate against different groups in the community?	No	
b. Does the decision being made or recommended through this paper make a positive contribution to promoting equality?	Yes	The dedication of sites would secure them in perpetuity as public open spaces with access for all.
c. What steps are you taking to mitigate, reduce, avoid or minimise the impacts identified above?	N/A	

*In submitting this report, the Chief Officer doing so is confirming that they have given due regard to the equality impacts of the decision being considered, as noted in the table above.*