

 Executive Committee 9 January 2019		Agenda Item No. <h1 style="text-align: center;">12</h1>
Title	Centenary Fields Request	
For further information about this report please contact	David Anderson 01926456214 david.anderson@warwickdc.gov.uk Chris Elliott 01926 456003 chris.elliott@warwickdc.gov.uk	
Wards of the District directly affected	Aylesford, Warwick	
Is the report private and confidential and not for publication by virtue of a paragraph of schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, following the Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation) Order 2006?	No	
Date and meeting when issue was last considered and relevant minute number	N/A	
Background Papers	Letter and enclosures from Friends of St Mary's Lands	

Contrary to the policy framework:	No
Contrary to the budgetary framework:	No
Key Decision?	No
Included within the Forward Plan? (If yes include reference number)	Yes. Ref 948
Equality Impact Assessment Undertaken	No
There is no equality impact assessment for this initiative as there are no negative impacts on the community.	

Officer/Councillor Approval		
Officer Approval	Date	Name
Deputy Chief Executive	17.12.18	Andrew Jones
Head of Service	17.12.18	Robert Hoof
CMT	17.12.18	Chris Elliot, Andrew Jones, Bill Hunt
Section 151 Officer	17.12.18	Mike Snow
Monitoring Officer	17.12.18	Andrew Jones
Finance	17.12.18	Mike Snow
Portfolio Holder(s)	17.12.18	Cllrs Butler and Grainger
Consultation & Community Engagement		
Fields in Trust; St Mary's Lands Working Party, Warwick Town Council, Friends of St Mary's Lands.		
Final Decision?	Yes	
Suggested next steps (if not final decision please set out below)		

1. **Summary**

- 1.1 This report sets out the proposed response to a request for this Council to apply to designate St Mary's Lands in Warwick under the Centenary Fields initiative to commemorate those who lost their lives in World War I.

2. **Recommendation**

- 2.1 That the Executive notes the progress made on securing Centenary Field designation for Abbey Fields Kenilworth, St. Nicholas Park Warwick, Pump Room Gardens Royal Leamington Spa and RAF Centenary Park (Tapping Way Open Space) Warwick as Centenary Fields.
- 2.3 That the Executive notes the response by the Fields in Trust to the request from the Friends of St Mary's lands to have St Mary's lands designated as a Centenary Field.
- 2.4 That the Executive agree for officers to make an application for the Northern Enclosure of St Mary's lands as a Centenary Field and the Nature Reserve Area as a Green Space for Good designation on the understanding that if successful with these applications the Executive agrees to a deed of dedication for each of these green spaces.
- 2.4 That the Executive agrees to delegate authority to the Head of Neighbourhood Services, in consultation Portfolio Holder for Neighbourhood Services, to agree and sign the terms of a Deed of Dedication for the areas of land referred to in recommendation 2.4 and as shown on Plans 1 and 2.

3. **Reasons for the Recommendation**

- 3.1 Fields in Trust is a national charity that operates throughout the UK to safeguard recreational spaces. Their mission is to ensure that everyone young or old, able bodied or disabled and wherever they live should have access to free, local outdoor space for sport, play and recreation, advocating that these spaces are vital to building happy and healthy communities.
- 3.2 The Centenary Fields programme was launched in 2014 by Fields in Trust President HRH the Duke of Cambridge. It aims to protect at least one green space in every local authority area across England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland to commemorate the centenary of World War I. Safeguarding these sites will create a living UK wide legacy in commemoration of the sacrifice made by those who lost their lives in WWI.
- 3.3 Fields in Trust is working in partnership with the Royal British Legion to deliver the programme. This will commemorate this significant milestone in our history and create a tangible local legacy that will be valued by communities for generations to come.
- 3.4 The main benefits of taking part in the initiative are to:
- contribute to a UK initiative to commemorate those involved with World War I
 - raise awareness of both the initiative and the Council's commitment to providing for public access and recreation
 - raise the profile of the nominated sites

- 3.5 The initiative also aims to safeguard valued public spaces for the future. However, as most of these green spaces are already safeguarded through other means, this is not necessarily an additional benefit.
- 3.6 In July 2018 the Executive agreed that applications should be made for the following open spaces in the District as each had significant connections with World War I.

Abbey Fields, Kenilworth

There is a war memorial in form of obelisk which was unveiled in 1922. It commemorates those who died in WWI, WWII and the Korean War. It is located at the top of Abbey Fields near the junction of Abbey End and Abbey Hill.

St. Nicholas Park, Warwick

This has avenue of trees central to the park. At the base of some of the trees are small stone cairns on which there are plaques mounted commemorating various individuals from both world wars. More recently a new war memorial has been erected dedicated to those involved in World War I.

The Pump Room Gardens

Soldiers from across the country as far afield as Gateshead and Exeter came to Leamington Spa Pump Rooms to receive special treatment for their war wounds during WWI. The Turkish baths and radical radiant treatments were the main attraction. Approximately more than 7,000 treatments were given to injured soldiers at the Pump Rooms over the four years of WWI.

RAF Centenary Park (Tapping Way open space) in Warwick

This site has been discussed with The Fields in Trust and even though there is a less strong link with WWI there is a link with Royal Air Force Warwick. RAF Warwick was a former Royal Air Force relief landing ground and was opened on a large grass field called Tournament Field in December 1941. Due to the 100th Anniversary of the founding of the RAF the Fields in Trust have said they would consider an application for this site. This is a new open space which is about to be adopted by the Council from the developer Taylor Wimpey. Locally the open space has been known as Tapping Way open space. Council officers have discussed the new name with the Chase Meadow Residents Association which supports the proposed name of RAF Centenary Park.

- 3.7 The applications have been made and have been accepted as eligible by Fields in Trust. It is not necessary for the green spaces involved in the programme to change their names. Each of these green spaces already have names that are instantly recognisable within the community through their long usage. These green spaces will acquire Centenary Fields status; and will receive and display signage associated with this which would ensure there was no requirement for any actual name change.
- 3.8 As each of the green spaces is accepted as a Centenary Field, the legal process then starts and green spaces will be protected via a Deed of Dedication. Fields in Trust will draw up the draft deed and the Council then has the opportunity to make amendments. When all parties are satisfied with the deed, it will be signed and registered with the Land Registry.
- 3.9 Once the green spaces have been dedicated each green space will receive a Centenary Fields commemorative plaque. The requested funding will ensure that the plaques are sensitively located within each green space and interpreted specific to each of them.

- 3.10 At the end of October 2018 the Friends of St Mary’s Lands wrote to the Council asking that St Mary’s Lands be applied for as a Centenary Field. Officers made contact with the Fields in Trust to establish its eligibility which resulted in the response to the original letter writer – see appendix 1. There are clear issues with the extent and type of land being requested and the evidence of the historic relationship with WW1.
- 3.11 Further enquiries indicated that the Northern Enclosure – an area of woodland may have been the site of a building used as a hospital in WW1 and so may be suitable for the Centenary Field designation. In addition the Field in Trust also administer other programmes of protection for open spaces but which are not connected to WW1. A programme called Green Spaces for Good is one such programme and the nature reserve area could be eligible. The implications for the land are the same as for the Centenary Fields initiative. It is suggested that applications for these areas of land be made and that delegated authority be provided to secure the deed of dedication should the applications be accepted. Both areas of land are proposed to be improved but have no development proposals on them arising from the Master Plan that was approved in 2017.

4. Policy Framework

4.1 Fit for the Future (FFF)

The Council’s FFF Strategy is designed to deliver the Vision for the District of making it a Great Place to Live, Work and Visit. The provision of high quality green spaces makes a significant contribution to making Warwick District a great place to live, work and visit.

The FFF Strategy has 3 strands – People, Services and Money and each has an external and internal element to it. The table below illustrates the impact of this proposal if any in relation to the Council’s FFF Strategy.”

FFF Strands		
People	Services	Money
External		
Health, Homes, Communities	Green, Clean, Safe	Infrastructure, Enterprise, Employment
<u>Intended outcomes:</u> Improved health for all Housing needs for all met Impressive cultural and sports activities Cohesive and active communities	<u>Intended outcomes:</u> Area has well looked after public spaces All communities have access to decent open space Improved air quality Low levels of crime and ASB	<u>Intended outcomes:</u> Dynamic and diverse local economy Vibrant town centres Improved performance/ productivity of local economy Increased employment and income levels
Impacts of Proposal		
More cohesive communities with greater awareness.	It will meet one of the quality standards for greenspaces. Potentially sites become Green Flag sites.	It will have a beneficial effect on the local economy in terms of attracting visitors.

Internal		
Effective Staff	Maintain or Improve Services	Firm Financial Footing over the Longer Term
<u>Intended outcomes:</u> All staff are properly trained All staff have the appropriate tools All staff are engaged, empowered and supported The right people are in the right job with the right skills and right behaviours	<u>Intended outcomes:</u> Focusing on our customers' needs Continuously improve our processes Increase the digital provision of services	<u>Intended outcomes:</u> Better return/use of our assets Full Cost accounting Continued cost management Maximise income earning opportunities Seek best value for money
Impacts of Proposal		
The scheme will offer the opportunity for some staff to become involved in the project.	The proposal will improve the public experience of the Council's services in respect of open space	N/A

4.2 Supporting Strategies

Each strand of the FFF Strategy has several supporting strategies and the relevant ones for this proposal are explained below.

Local Plan

- 4.2.1 The Council has an agreed a strategy statement "The future and sustainable prosperity for Warwick District" which amongst other things seeks to:
- Support the growth of the local economy; and
 - Maintain and promote thriving town centres.
- 4.2.2 The Council acknowledges the value of green spaces to the district and that they are an essential community amenity that needs to receive the necessary awareness and promotion to enable it to attract visitors and businesses to the district.

4.3 Changes to Existing Policies - None

4.4 Impact Assessments – Not applicable. There is no equality impact assessment for this initiative as there are no negative impacts on the community.

5. Budgetary Framework

5.1 The costs associated with this initiative will be any legal costs in drafting the deed and also the cost of registering with the Land Registry. These costs can be met through existing budgets.

6. Risks

6.1 There is the possibility that the applications are unsuccessful and the sites do not get designated however officers have met with officers of the Fields in Trust who have indicated that the sites meet the criteria required.

7. Alternative Option(s) considered

- 7.1 As the Fields in Trust has indicated that the Friends original request is not appropriate there is no real option to agree to the Friends request.
- 7.2 The Executive could decide not to apply for any further designations and this is an option open to Members.

8. Background

- 8.1 Each application will be assessed through a site visit but as a minimum, the following criteria must be met:
- The Landowner of the site must complete the application form
 - Evidence of ownership, and where relevant freehold interest must be produced
 - The principal use should be outdoor recreation, sport or play. This can include buildings or facilities if the use is ancillary to the outdoor space
 - Sites must have public access
 - Sites should be accessible in terms of location and affordability for the local community
 - Sites should have local managers who are responsible for the quality of the facilities, maintenance and development, improving participation and financial and operational sustainability
- 8.2 The deadline for the applications was 11th November 2018 (but there is still some latitude to apply) and all Deeds of Dedication must be signed by May 2019. Any sites where the deed is not signed by this time will not become Centenary Fields.
- 8.3 A major national event is anticipated in 2019 to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the Peace Day held in 1919.
- 8.3 For further information please visit <http://www.fieldsintrust.org/centenary-fields>