

NORTH LINCOLNSHIRE COUNCIL

**INVESTMENT, ASSETS AND EMPLOYMENT
AND
SAFER, GREENER AND CLEANER PLACES
CABINET MEMBERS**

BULLS FIELD, BOTTESFORD

1. OBJECT AND KEY POINTS IN THIS REPORT

- 1.1 To seek approval to protect the area of public open space known locally as Bulls Field in Bottesford by creating a deed of dedication under the fields in Trust Initiative.

2. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 2.1 Bulls Field is an area of public open space in Bottesford that was until recently leased by the council to Bottesford Town Council (BTC). The lease expired with effect from 1 July 2017. Unusually, despite the lease, the council retained all maintenance liabilities for the site.
- 2.2 As the site has now reverted back to the council upon expiry of the lease, it is proposed that the area is put into the Fields in Trust Initiative (FIT)
- 2.3 Fields in Trust (FIT) were previously known as the National Playing Fields Association. Their aim is to protect and promote open spaces. They use charity and contract law to establish binding agreements and commitments that protect valuable public recreation land for the long term for future generations to enjoy.
- 2.4 The key reason for protecting open space is to ensure that everyone has access to a space close to where they live, study or work for healthy, recreational activity including sport and play.
- 2.5 In order to protect a site certain minimum criteria apply as follows:
- The council as the owner must make the application to protect the site.
 - We must provide evidence of ownership.
 - The site must be used for quiet recreation.
 - The site must have public access.
 - The site must be accessible in terms of location and affordability to the land community.
 - The site must have a site manager who is responsible for maintenance, developments, improving people involvement and financial/operational sustainability.

3. OPTIONS FOR CONSIDERATION

3.1 The recommendation is to protect the field for future generations by entering into a deed of dedication under the Fields in Trust initiative.

4. ANALYSIS OF OPTIONS

4.1 Adopting the recommendation will create an additional layer of protection for the site by entering into a deed of dedication under the Fields in Trust initiative.

5. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS (FINANCIAL, STAFFING, PROPERTY, I.T.)

5.1 There are no resource implications to consider in connection with this report.

6. OUTCOMES OF INTEGRATED IMPACT ASSESSMENT (IF APPLICABLE)

6.1 Not applicable.

7. OUTCOMES OF CONSULTATION AND CONFLICTS OF INTEREST DECLARED

7.1 The local elected ward members report that they have consulted local residents and that having received positive feedback they support the proposal.

7.2 Relevant council officers in the legal services and asset and estate management teams were consulted. They support the proposal.

7.3 There are no conflicts of interest to highlight.

8. RECOMMENDATIONS

8.1 That the Cabinet Members approve that the area of land known as Bulls Field in Bottesford is subject to a deed of dedication under the Fields in Trust initiative to protect the site for future generations.

DIRECTOR OF OPERATIONS

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Background papers used in the preparation of this report: None