

Report to Town Council 26th November 2013

Report No.1

Flying Monk Playing Field

1. Purpose of the report

To confirm that the completed documentation for inclusion of the Flying Monk Playing Field as a Queen Elizabeth II Challenge field be submitted to Fields in Trust.

2. Background

2.1 In commemoration of the Diamond Jubilee local authorities and other land owners were invited to put forward playing fields for inclusion as a Field in Trust under the Queen Elizabeth II Challenge.

2.2 The purpose of the scheme was to provide protection from loss of fields to potential development and in certain cases enable access to a pool of funding provided for improvement.

2.3 The Town Council agreed to put forward St Aldhelm's Mead and White Lion Park and, subject to the agreement of the three tenants, the Flying Monk Playing Field.

2.4 The first two areas have been submitted and approved as protected fields by Fields in Trust.

2.5 The tenants of the Flying Monk Playing Field have agreed the submission and now signed the relevant documents ready for completion.

2.6 In the interim a local food store approached the tenants with a view to utilising part of the site and providing alternative facilities for the three tenants.

2.7 In December 2012 the Council agreed that appropriate offers for purchase would be considered and that the move to have the field adopted by Fields in Trust be delayed until the situation concerning the food store was clarified. It was also agreed that any disposal of the land should not disadvantage the current tenants.

2.8 Subsequently a developer approached the tenants with another proposal for use of all or part of the site.

2.9 Neither of the two parties who had expressed interest in the site progressed with firm proposals and revised documents issued by Fields in Trust have now been signed and are ready for submission.

2.10 The tenants are anxious to proceed in order to secure protection and take advantage of any funding streams available under the scheme.

3. Current developments

3.1 The Neighbourhood Plan is progressing and has identified areas of land considered suitable for development.

3.2 Representatives of the Steering Group recently met with a potential developer and discussions have commenced about the sites identified in the emerging plan.

3.3 The Flying Monk Playing Field and the land held as an extension to the Tetbury Hill Cemetery may be involved in these proposals.

4. Financial implications and risks

4.1 The Town Council is the land owner of the Flying Monk Playing Field and all three tenants occupy the site on a long lease with in excess of 20 years remaining.

4.2 The Queen Elizabeth Challenge scheme will finally close at the end of December 2013 with no further extension. The impact will be that unless a field is registered before that date funds under the community programme will not be available and there will be no recognition as a QE II Field.

4.3 Fields may be registered with Fields in Trust at any time to enable protection against potential loss of facility as a consequence of development and may obtain access to grant funding streams available at the time.

4.4 Once a field is registered with Fields in Trust the disposal or development of all or part of the field may only be undertaken with the consent of the trustees of Fields in Trust

5. Recommendations

The instruction of the Town Council is requested.

Jeff Penfold
Town Clerk
20.11.2013