

FALKIRK COUNCIL

Subject: PROPOSAL TO DESIGNATE ZETLAND PARK AS A “WORLD WAR ONE CENTENARY FIELD”.
Meeting: EXECUTIVE
Date: 19TH MAY 2015
Author: DIRECTOR OF CORPORATE & NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES

1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to consider a request for Falkirk Council to support and commit to a nationwide initiative led by Fields in Trust in conjunction with the British Legion and Poppy Scotland.
- 1.2 The Initiative is to provide legal protection to at least one green space in every Local Authority area in Scotland, England, Wales and Northern Ireland in commemoration of the sacrifice made by all those who lost their lives in World War One. This initiative is endorsed by Fields in Trust patron HM The Queen and their president HRH The Duke of Cambridge. The protected green spaces are to be known as Centenary Fields.
- 1.3 Zetland Park, Grangemouth meets all of the criteria for a Fields in Trust Centenary Field.

2 BACKGROUND.

- 2.1 The prime focus of Fields in Trust is to safeguard valuable green spaces (Fields as they are known), ensuring their protection and use for future generations. They are protected in perpetuity by a legal document known as a Deed of Dedication.
- 2.2 The legal protection of these green spaces follows the same format of the King George V Fields and the Queen Elizabeth Fields, which were established in celebration of the Queen's Diamond Jubilee in 2012. The Queen Elizabeth Fields were also linked to The Olympic Games in London in 2012 and to The Commonwealth Games in Glasgow in 2014. This particular designation was approved by members at the 4th September 2012 Policy and Resources Committee.
- 2.3 Safeguarding sites through the Centenary Fields programme compliments these other Fields in Trust initiatives, and ensures that more parks and other valuable green spaces will be protected for future generations to enjoy.

The existing Queen Elizabeth Fields are:

- Sunnyside Playing Fields – Falkirk
- Gairdoch Park – Carronshore
- Duncan Stewart Park – Bonnybridge
- Avonbridge Public Park – Avonbridge
- Herbertshire Gala Park – Denny
- Douglas Park – Bo'ness

The existing King George V Fields are:

- Overton Park- Redding
- Crownest Park - Stenhousemuir
- McLauren Park Stenhousemuir
- Findlay Russell Park Stenhousemuir
- Stenhouse Park Stenhousemuir
- Stewartfield Park Larbert

- 2:4 This Fields in Trust initiative aims to establish a network of protected Centenary Fields throughout the UK by November 2018 at the latest, supported by signed Deeds of Dedication. Any Field which is not legally signed by this time will not become a Centenary Field.

3 CENTENARY FIELDS CRITERIA

- 3:1 The criteria for a Centenary Field are clearly defined by Fields in Trust. The prime requirement is that it should be a green space such as a War Memorial park, a recreational ground, a memorial garden, a park, or a recreational space that contains a War Memorial.
- 3:2 It is now proposed to nominate the older part of Zetland Park as Falkirk Council's Centenary Field. The Park has an impressive War Memorial, together with the expansive recreation grounds and play facilities. The Park meets all of the prime criteria to become a Centenary Field. There are no other green spaces in Grangemouth which are protected by Friends in Trust designations.

5 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS AND COSTS INCURRED

- 5.1 Designating a green space as a Centenary Field ensures that the land will be protected in perpetuity as a green space and ensures that the asset cannot be sold for commercial gain.
- 5.2 Costs incurred will be modest and will be accommodated within Corporate & Neighbourhood Services Estate Management budget and includes the following:
- Legal costs incurred with agreeing to the Deed.
 - The costs of installing a commemorative plaque (a plaque is provided free of charge by Fields in Trust).
 - Registering the resulting restrictions with the land registry.

6 IMPLICATIONS FOR ZETLAND PARK

- 6.1 Zetland Park is one of the largest Urban Parks in the Falkirk Council area. The war memorial and its landscape setting are recognised as an important part of Zetland Park.
- 6.2 The northern parts of Zetland Park were in existence before World War Two. The Park was extended in the 1950's at about the same time as the construction of new housing at Kingseat Avenue, and this extension included the provision of four playing fields, together with changing facilities. The Park was also extended to an area west of the Grange River, and this now includes the Leisure Centre and car parking. It is now proposed that the Centenary Field designation would only apply to the older parts of the park which were in place prior to World War Two.
- 6.3 Designation as a Centenary Field would not only protect the historic and conservation value of Zetland Park but it would also strengthen the case to attract external funding.
- 6.4 Comments were invited from stakeholders including The Friends of Zetland Park, Falkirk Community Trust and Local Ward Member's, comments are shown in Appendix 2 (attached).

7 RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that The Executive Committee:

- 7:1 **Supports the Fields in Trust "Centenary Field" Initiative; and**
- 7:2 **Agrees that the older part of Zetland Park should become Falkirk Council's nominated Centenary Field (Appendix 1) and accepts the legal protection that this incurs.**

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DIRECTOR OF CORPORATE & NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES

Date: 29 April 2015

Ref: AAP190515 – Proposal to Designate Zetland Park as a "World War 1 Centenary Field

Contact Officers: Mike Joyce, Estates Development Officer ext 4605
Wraight Shepherd, Projects and Development Co-ordinator ext 4617

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

Report to Policy and Resources Committee
APPENDIX 1 Plan of Zetland Park in 1944
APPENDIX 2 Response to Consultation

September 4th 2012.
(see below)
(see below)

Plan of Zetland Park in 1944
showing the proposed area for Fields in Trust Status



RESPONSE TO CONSULTATION

from The Friends of Zetland Park.

9th April 2015

Dear Wraight,

The response of Friends of Zetland to the possibility of Falkirk Council applying for Fields of Trust -Commemorative Field status for the pre-war section of Zetland Park is completely supportive and should be received with honour by the town.

I should however say that FoZP are equally concerned about the retention of the remaining section of the park, bounded by Kingseat Avenue, Bowhouse Road and the pathway link from the water pumping station to Abbotsgrange Road, for solely recreational use.

FoZP are therefore seeking a legal undertaking from Falkirk Council, which will survive changes to the political colour of the Council from time to time, which will preserve this area for nothing other than recreational use in whatever form it ultimately takes. The loss of significant Green Space by the creation of the Asda Distribution Centre and the current plans to locate a new school for Carrongrange on the grounds of Moray School, mean that retention of the total current boundary of Zetland Park has to be protected from other, non-recreational development possibilities.

FoZP look forward with interest to these being obtained and confirm they will play whatever role necessary in helping you procure them.

Yours sincerely,

Tom Brown

FoZP-Vice Chairman

from Falkirk Community Trust

24th April 2015

Falkirk Community Trust would support the application for Zetland Park to obtain FIT status, where this application and subsequent FIT approval did not materially affect the lease agreement for the activity areas within the Park that FCT currently hold with Falkirk Council. The development and improvement of the Park and its environs would be broadly welcomed by FCT, and we would be pleased to work in partnership with FIT and Falkirk Council to support the implementation of the improvements where agreed.

Paul Finnie | Sport & Recreation Manager

Falkirk Community Trust

Tel 01324 590922

From Local Ward Member, Allyson Black

10th April 2015

Wraight,

Yes, I support this proposal.

Great news

Thanks,

Allyson Black