

## **Approval of Nomination of Kings Park, Dalkeith for the Centenary Fields Initiative**

**Report by Richard Moffat, Head of Commercial Operations, Resources.**

### **1 Purpose of Report**

This report details a request for Midlothian Council to support and commit to a nationwide initiative led by the charity Fields in Trust in conjunction with the British Legion and Poppy Scotland to nominate parks and other greenspaces as Centenary Fields

It is proposed that Kings Park, Dalkeith be put forward as the nominated park in Midlothian.

### **2 Background**

- 2.1** The key aim of the Centenary Fields initiative is to provide legal protection to at least one greenspace in every local authority in Scotland, England Wales and Northern Ireland in commemoration of the sacrifice made by those who lost their lives in World War One.
- 2.2** The initiative is endorsed by Fields in Trust Patron HM the Queen and its president HRH the Duke of Cambridge and whereby the protected green spaces are to be known as Centenary Fields.
- 2.3** Fields in Trust's principal purpose is to safeguard valuable green spaces (Fields as they are known) ensuring their protection and use for future generations. They are protected in perpetuity through a legal document known as a Deed of Dedication.
- 2.4** The legal protection of these greenspaces follows similar initiatives and process to the designation of King George V Playing Fields and Queen Elizabeth Fields.
- 2.5** The most recent of these schemes, the Queen Elizabeth Fields, was established to mark the Queens Diamond Jubilee in 2012. The nominated Fields were also linked to the Olympic Games in London in 2012 and the Commonwealth Games in Glasgow in 2014.
- 2.6** Midlothian Council approved the designation of 11 Queen Elizabeth Fields on 26 June 2012.

## 2.6 The existing Queen Elizabeth Fields are:

Area	Town
Cowden Park	Dalkeith
Penicuik Playing Fields	Penicuik
Arniston Park	Gorebridge
Poltonhall Playing Fields	Bonnyrigg
Ironmills Park	Dalkeith
Mayfield Park	Mayfield
Welfare Park	Newtongrange
Roslin Park	Roslin
Rosewell Park	Rosewell
Danderhall Park	Danderhall
Vogrie Country Park	Near Gorebridge

## 2.7 The existing King George V Playing Fields are:

Area	Town
King George V Park	Bonnyrigg
Memorial Park	Loanhead (in compensation for development of KGV Loanhead).
King George V Playing Fields	Loanhead (reduced due to development and compensated for by Memorial Park)

**2.8** The criteria for nomination as a Centenary Field is a park or other open space with a World War 1 memorial or other links to this war and which is not already protected in partnership with Fields in Trust.

**2.9** Nominations are subject to an application process that includes a site visit by Centenary Fields.

**2.10** If accepted the Council will undertake a legal process including signing and registering a Minute of Agreement that ensures the Council does nothing to detract from the amenity of the site and that should the Council effect disposal the Minute of Agreement is transferred to the new owner.

**2.11** It is the intention of Fields in Trust to secure nominations from almost all Scotland's local authorities. At the time of writing 16 Councils have designated 27 Centenary Fields with a further eight intending to apply.

## 3 Main Report

**3.1** In 2012, when the council approved the designation of Queen Elizabeth Playing Fields many of these sites had war memorials within the site boundary.

**3.2** There are four parks in Midlothian that meet the Fields in Trust criteria where the site has a war memorial and is not already designated either as a King George Playing Field or a Queen Elizabeth Field and these are:

Kings Park, Dalkeith

Welfare Park, Newtongrange

Lasswade Park

Penicuik Public Park.

- 3.4** King's Park in Dalkeith is the location of the area's principal war memorial and on this basis King's Park would be the preferred site for Midlothian's nomination as a Centenary Field.
- 3.5** It should be noted, however, the area under protection will not include the whole of the current park and an area is omitted to allow the development of a sports area as part of the proposed Kings Park Primary school development. See Plan 1.

## **4 Report Implications**

### **4.1 Resource**

- 4.1.1** There are no resource implications consequent upon this report.

### **4.2 Risk**

- 4.2.1** A concern was raised by the Council's Legal Services that King's Park was previously designated under the National Playing Fields Association – Carnegie Trust between the two world wars but neither Fields inTrust nor the Council can find any record of this agreement.
- 4.2.2** Fields in Trust which is the custodian for the United Kingdom's designated Fields welcomes the designation as a Centenary Field given that no records of a previous designation have been located despite an extensive search.
- 4.2.3** In the unlikely event of the Council seeking to breach the agreement Fields in Trust have a 'Fields Change' process that requires replacement of land (green space) lost to development to be replaced and protected. That requirement is consistent with Scottish Planning Policy (SPP). Midlothian Council has previously reached a satisfactory agreement with Fields in Trust on a 'Field Change.'
- 4.2.4** If the council decided to dispose of the area of King's Park under the agreement, the terms of the Minute of Agreement will pass to the new owner. This is, however, a very low risk given the park's importance as a local greenspace and its history including one of Midlothian's key memorials.

### **4.3 Single Midlothian Plan and Business Transformation**

Themes addressed in this report:

- ☐ Community safety
- ☐ Adult health, care and housing
- ☐ Getting it right for every Midlothian child
- ☐ Improving opportunities in Midlothian
- ☐ Sustainable growth
- ☐ Business transformation and Best Value
- ☒ None of the above

#### **4.4 Key Priorities within the Single Midlothian Plan**

Under the theme of Sustainable Growth, the Single Midlothian Plan 2016/17 identifies “investing in our people and our infrastructure in a sustainable way” as a key aim.

#### **4.5 Impact on Performance and Outcomes**

There are no issues impacting on performance and outcomes as a consequence of this report.

#### **4.6 Adopting a Preventative Approach**

The protection of the park will help to the site for future generations and it may in future be eligible for funding streams through Fields in Trust that are not available to non-designated sites.

#### **4.7 Involving Communities and Other Stakeholders**

No public consultation has taken place at this stage.

#### **4.8 Ensuring Equalities**

The park is already very user friendly to people of all abilities and the designation will not affect this.

#### **4.9 Supporting Sustainable Development**

The designation will support future development of the site by ensuring people have continued and improved opportunities for healthy living.

#### **4.10 IT Issues**

There are no IT issues consequent on this report.

### **5 Recommendations**

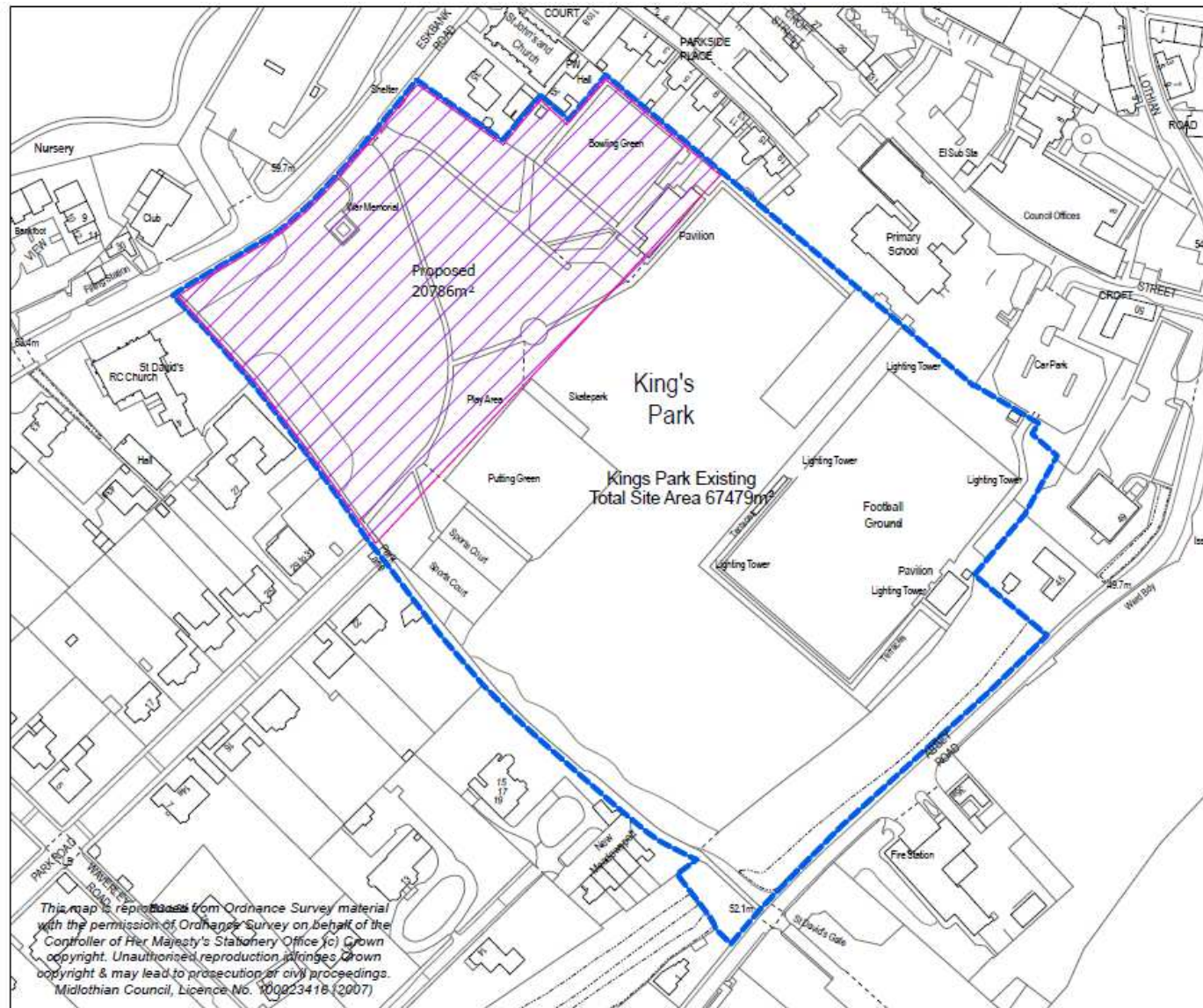
Council is invited to:

- a) Confirm the nomination of King's Park, Dalkeith for designation as a Centenary Field is acceptable;
- b) Approve submission of an application to Fields in Trust for consideration;
- c) Request the Director, Resources provides an updated report in due course.



**Date: 31 October 2018**

**Report Contact James Kinch 0131.561.5256**

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## RESOURCES PROPERTY ASSETS

-  Existing Site 6.75ha
-  Proposed Centenary Field 2.08ha

Kings Park  
0 Eskbank Road  
Dalkeith  
EH22 3BB  
Asset Ref. 000220

Acc. Resources Sports And Leisure

Midlothian Council  
Resources  
Midlothian House  
40 Buccleuch Street  
Dalkeith EH22



Midlothian