

Corsham Area Board 2 June 2011

Chairman's Announcement – Queen Elizabeth II Playing Fields

The Lord Lieutenant of Wiltshire on behalf of HRH Prince William has asked Wiltshire Council to assist in supporting the Queen Elizabeth II Fields Challenge. The aim of the Queen Elizabeth II Fields Challenge is to protect 2,012 playing fields in communities all across Britain by 2012, thereby securing recreational spaces for community events, sport, exercise, and play; all vital elements impacting on issues such as health, crime and social wellbeing.

Fields in Trust (FIT) with the assistance of Wiltshire Council, Swindon Borough Council and other local authorities is required to identify 20 playing fields (indicative only) throughout Wiltshire which the councils would be willing to protect. Once these have been identified and agreed, Fields in Trust will then target the public at large by putting these fields forward to a vote allowing the general public to express their support by way of a vote for their favourite local playing field. The vote is being planned for late September.

Each community area board is requested to submit two nominations, outlining its priority preference, in line with the project criteria by the 9 September 2011.

Once the nominations have been submitted, a Committee made up of Cllr Stuart Wheeler (Portfolio Holder for Leisure), Mark Smith (Director – Neighbourhood Services), Brad Fleet (Director – Development Service), Robin Townsend (Head of Leisure) and Mr John Bush (Lord Lieutenant) will make the final decision on the nominations taking into account geographical location and planning effects.

Town and Parish Councils will be encouraged to take part in the programme by putting forward land that they own for protection direct to Fields in Trust.

Further details will be sent to the Town and Parish Councils in the Corsham Community Area for action. Suggestions for playing fields will then be put forward will be brought to the next meeting of the Area Board on 18 August when the two nominations for the Corsham area will be decided.