

**WILTSHIRE COUNCIL**

WOOTTON BASSETT & CRICKLADE AREA BOARD  
12 OCTOBER 2011

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**COMMUNITY ASSET TRANSFER****Six Plots of Land at Wootton Bassett****Executive Summary**

This report deals with an application for the transfer of six areas of land at Wootton Bassett to be transferred to Wootton Bassett Town Council in accordance with Wiltshire Council's Community Asset Transfer Policy.

**Proposal**

The Area Board is asked to consider an application submitted by Wootton Bassett Town Council for the transfer of six areas of land in Wootton Bassett.

**Reasons For Proposal**

This proposal supports and implements Wiltshire Council's Community Asset Transfer Policy.

**Recommendation**

To approve the transfer.

**Alison Sullivan**  
Wootton Bassett & Cricklade Community Area Manager

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**COMMUNITY ASSET TRANSFER**

**Six Plots of Land at Wootton Bassett**

**Purpose of Report**

1. The Area Board is asked to consider an application submitted by Wootton Bassett Town Council for the transfer of six areas of land at Wootton Bassett (see plans attached at Appendices 1-6).

**Background**

2. Wiltshire Council is supporting the principle of the transfer of community assets in order to empower and strengthen local communities. The Council believes that transferring appropriate public assets to communities leads to more responsive services that better meet local people's priorities.
3. Transfer of an asset can also provide the opportunity to lever more resources into a community and provide a more accessible and responsive base from which to deliver local services.
4. A community group or organisation can benefit from greater financial stability and build confidence through having ownership (or long term security through a lease) of a physical asset. This financial sustainability can help the organisation become less dependent on grants, provide security for further borrowing and opportunities for further growth.
5. Typically, organisations that would be considered appropriate are Voluntary and Community Groups/Associations, Town or Parish Councils, Trusts or Charities, or Social Enterprise Groups.

**The application before the Area Board**

6. The application from Wootton Bassett Town Council relates to the transfer of four parcels of land originally leased from North Wiltshire District Council (NWDC) and two originally leased from Wiltshire County Council (WCC). The sites formerly leased from NWDC are Old Court, Showfield and Longfellow Crescent play areas and land at Hunts Mill Road. The areas formerly leased from WCC are land at the junction of Station Road and Noremarsch Road and land at the junction of Swindon Road and Stoneover Lane.

7. The application was submitted in accordance with the Council's application process and meets the requirements for consideration by the Area Board.
8. The Community Area Manager has consulted with Strategic Property Services, who have undertaken appropriate consultation with service departments across the Council. Local consultation has been undertaken by the applicant in accordance with the application checklist and the outcome of the consultation is included within the application. Cllrs Groom, Doyle and Roberts, the local members, have been apprised.

### **The views of Council officers**

9. On behalf of the Council, Strategic Property Services (who have overall responsibility for the Council's estates and property) has provided the following observations to the Area Board.
  - 9.1 Wootton Bassett Town Council has maintained all of these parcels of land for many years.
  - 9.2 The land is to be transferred on the standard basis. This is that there will be a covenant restricting use of the land to community purposes. If the land should cease to be used for this purpose it will revert to Wiltshire Council.
  - 9.3 The land has no value other than as amenity land and Wootton Bassett Town Council will continue to maintain it. Therefore, there are no financial implications.
  - 9.4 The three play areas are designated as public open space and the disposals will have to be advertised in the local paper for two weeks.

### **Recommendation**

10. To approve the transfer.

**Alison Sullivan**

Wootton Bassett & Cricklade Community Area Manager

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