

SOUTH WEST WILTSHIRE AREA BOARD  
WEDNESDAY 13 JUNE 2012

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**COMMUNITY ASSET TRANSFER**

**South Newton Recreation Field**

**Executive Summary**

This report deals with an application for the transfer of the recreation field at Vale View, South Newton to be transferred to South Newton Parish Council in accordance with Wiltshire Council's Community Asset Transfer Policy.

**Proposal**

The Area Board is asked to consider an application submitted by South Newton Parish Council for the transfer of the recreation field at Vale View, South Newton. The applicants' proposal is set out at Appendix 2.

**Reasons For Proposal**

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

**Recommendation**

To approve the transfer subject to the matters referred to in paragraph 9 of the report.

**Stephen Harris**  
South West Wiltshire Community Area Manager

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**COMMUNITY ASSET TRANSFER**

**South Newton Recreation Field**

**Purpose of Report**

1. The Area Board is asked to consider an application submitted by South Newton Parish Council for the transfer of the recreation field at Vale View, South Newton (see plan attached at Appendix 1). The applicants' proposal is set out at Appendix 2.

**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 South Newton Parish Council is attached at Appendix 2 and relates to the transfer of the recreation field at Vale View, South Newton.
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. Cllr Beattie, the local member, has 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 Access is over private rights of way to the south west (vehicular) and over the field to the east (pedestrian).
  - 9.2 The land is subject to agreements for an electricity cable with Scottish & Southern Energy and water supply to the neighbouring property to the north.
  - 9.3 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.
  - 9.4 The land has no value other than as amenity land and South Newton Parish Council will take over maintenance. Therefore, financial implications are limited to the maintenance cost previously incurred by Wiltshire Council being transferred to South Newton Parish Council.

**Recommendation**

10. To approve the transfer.

**Stephen Harris**

South West Wiltshire Community Area Manager

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