

COMMUNITY ASSET TRANSFER

Firs Road Play Area, Firsdown

Executive Summary

This report deals with an application for the transfer of Firs Road play area, Firsdown to be transferred to Firsdown Parish Council in accordance with Wiltshire Council's Community Asset Transfer Policy.

Proposal

The Area Board is asked to consider an application submitted by Firsdown Parish Council for the transfer of the Firs Road play area, Firsdown. 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.

Tom Bray
Southern Wiltshire Community Area Manager

COMMUNITY ASSET TRANSFER

Firs Road Play Area, Firsdown

Purpose of Report

1. The Area Board is asked to consider an application submitted by Firsdown Parish Council for the transfer of the Firs Road play area (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 Firsdown Parish Council is attached at Appendix 2 and relates to the transfer of the Firs Road play area.
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 Devine, 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 Part of the land has been leased by Firsdown Parish Council since 1997 and the remainder since 2005.
 - 9.2 Access to the land is via an adjoining public footpath and byway.
 - 9.3 Financial implications are limited to the loss of the rent which is currently paid by Firsdown Parish Council.

Recommendation

10. To approve the transfer.

John Price
Estate Officer

Tom Bray
Southern Wiltshire Community Area Manager
