

**WILTSHIRE COUNCIL**

**WARMINSTER AREA BOARD**

**DATE 2 JULY**

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**COMMUNITY ASSET TRANSFER**

**Warminster Park**

**Executive Summary**

This report deals with an application for the transfer of Warminster Park to be transferred to Warminster Town Council in accordance with Wiltshire Council's Community Asset Transfer Policy.

**Proposal**

The Area Board is asked to consider an application submitted by Warminster Town Council for the transfer of Warminster Park. The applicant's 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.

**Jacqui Abbott**

Warminster Community Area Manager

# WILTSHIRE COUNCIL

## WARMINSTER AREA BOARD

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### COMMUNITY ASSET TRANSFER

#### Warminster Park

#### **Purpose of Report**

1. The Area Board is asked to consider an application submitted by Warminster Town Council for the transfer of Warminster Park (see plan attached at Appendix 1). The applicant's 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 Warminster Town Council is attached at Appendix 2 and relates to the transfer of Warminster Park.
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. Warminster Area Board councillors 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 Although it is within the area shown on the plan attached to the application form, the Warminster Football Club land is excluded from this report as it was the subject of a separate application which was approved in January 2015.
  - 9.2 Part of the land is designated as a King George V Field. The transfer will need to be structured in such a way that the Charity Commission's requirements are satisfied.
  - 9.3 Much of the land is subject to a lease to Wiltshire Wildlife Trust. There are other leases of buildings or land within the park. The transfer will be subject to these leases.
  - 9.4 Smallbrook Road Car Park has been identified as being within the scope of the car parks property asset review.
  - 9.5 The land is to be transferred on the usual basis. This will restrict use of the land to community purposes. If the land should cease to be used for this purpose the land will revert to Wiltshire Council.
  - 9.6 Rents of all leased areas will pass to Warminster Town Council, along with any obligations contained within them and the cost of upkeep of the property.

### **Recommendation**

10. To approve the transfer subject to the matters in paragraph 9 above.

**Jacqui Abbott**  
Warminster Community Area Manager

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