

WILTSHIRE COUNCIL

TROWBRIDGE AREA BOARD

14 MARCH 2013

COMMUNITY ASSET TRANSFER

Trowbridge Park

Executive Summary

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

Proposal

The Area Board is asked to consider an application submitted by Trowbridge Town Council for the transfer of Trowbridge Park.

Reasons For Proposal

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

Recommendation

To approve the transfer.

Rachel Efemey

Trowbridge Community Area Manager

WILTSHIRE COUNCIL

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Trowbridge Park

Purpose of Report

1. The Area Board is asked to consider an application submitted by Trowbridge Town Council for the transfer of Trowbridge Park (see plan attached at Appendix 2). The application is attached at Appendix 1.

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 Trowbridge Town Council relates to the transfer of Trowbridge 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. 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 The park was acquired in two parts, each of which is held on trust. The northern part is to be used as a public pleasure ground and the remainder for the recreation and use of the public.
 - 9.2 The areas coloured green on the plan are not owned by Wiltshire Council but it has rights of way over them. The transfer will be with the benefit of these rights.
 - 9.3 The area coloured orange on the plan is part of the footbridge over County Way. This is highway and will not be transferred, although Trowbridge Town Council will be given the right to use the area under the bridge as part of the park.
 - 9.4 The area hatched purple on the plan will be retained by Wiltshire Council but Trowbridge Town Council will be permitted to use it as part of the park.
 - 9.5 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.
 - 9.6 Due to the existence of the trusts the land has no value other than as a public park. In addition, the costs and income attributable to the operation of the park by Trowbridge Town Council will be dealt with as part of the service delegation. Therefore, there are no financial implications arising from the transfer.
 - 9.7 The park is designated as public open space and the disposal will have to be advertised in the local paper for two weeks. The Community Asset Transfer policy requires the applicant to bear the cost of the advertisements.

Recommendation

10. To approve the transfer.

Rachel Efemey

Trowbridge Community Area Manager