

## **RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL**

### **CABINET**

**21<sup>ST</sup> NOVEMBER 2017**

### **YNYSANGHARAD WAR MEMORIAL PARK – FIELDS IN TRUST CENTENARY FIELDS PROGRAMME**

**REPORT OF THE SERVICE DIRECTOR, PUBLIC HEALTH &  
PROTECTION IN DISCUSSIONS WITH THE RELEVANT PORTFOLIO  
HOLDER, COUNCILLOR LEWIS**

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#### **1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT**

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to seek the approval of Cabinet to enter into a deed of dedication providing Fields in Trust 'Centenary Field' status to Ynysangharad War Memorial Park.

#### **2. RECOMMENDATIONS**

It is recommended that Cabinet:

- 2.1 Agree to the dedication of Ynysangharad War Memorial Park as Centenary Field.
- 2.2 Agree to submit an application to Fields in Trust for the dedication of Ynysangharad War Memorial Park as Centenary Field.
- 2.3 Gives consideration to identifying other suitable sites within the County Borough for dedication as Centenary Fields.

#### **3. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 3.1 The development work undertaken to date to support the submission of a Heritage Lottery Fund Parks for People application for Ynysangharad War Memorial Park has highlighted the need to raise the profile of the park as a dedicated war memorial park. The Fields in Trust ensure this due to the programmes promotion, both regionally and UK wide.

3.2 Land protected through the Centenary Fields programme ensures valuable green space is protected as a living remembrance to those who fought and lost their lives in World War I.

3.3 Dedicating a Centenary Field is in keeping with the spirit of The Armed Forces Community Covenant.

#### **4. BACKGROUND**

4.1 Fields in Trust is a national charity that operate throughout the UK to safeguard recreational spaces. Their mission is to ensure that everyone – young or old, able bodied or disabled and wherever they live should have access to free, local outdoor space for sport, play and recreation, advocating that these spaces are vital to building happy and healthy communities.

4.2 The Fields in Trust Centenary Fields initiative aims to protect at least one green space in every local authority area across England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland to commemorate the centenary of World War I. Safeguarding these sites will create a living UK wide legacy in commemoration of the sacrifice made by those who lost their lives in WWI.

4.3 Fields in Trust is working in partnership with the Royal British Legion to deliver the programme. This will commemorate this significant milestone in our history and create a tangible local legacy that will be valued by communities for generations to come.

4.4 The Centenary Fields programme sets out a number of objectives:

- i. To protect the existing network of war memorial fields that were given in memory of those who lost their lives during World War I. This will be done through a legal Deed of Dedication between the landowner and Fields in Trust;
- ii. To ensure at least one of these spaces is protected in each local authority area thereby creating a living UK wide legacy from the World War I Centenary;
- iii. To raise money for improvements to war memorial parks and fields, leveraging funding from other partners;
- iv. To encourage schools to ‘adopt’ their local war memorial and park and undertake research into the war memorial and the green space, in order to understand the historical aspects of both, as well as the importance of preserving them for the future as an important part of local heritage;

- v. To provide an opportunity and resources for local communities to come together and take part in an annual event focused on the World War I Centenary. This will enable people to explore community life as it was 100 years ago and to reflect on the momentous events that took place then and the impact on their local community.

4.5 If the site is accepted as a Centenary Field, the legal process then starts and sites will be protected via a deed of dedication. Fields in Trust will draw up the draft deed and the landowner then has a chance to make amendments. When all parties are satisfied with the deed, it will be signed and registered with the Land Registry. The site is then able to order a Centenary Fields commemorative plaque and organise an unveiling event.

4.6 The Ynysangharad War Memorial Park Cabinet Committee, acting as trustees of the park, agreed to submit an application to Fields in Trust for the dedication of Ynysangharad War Memorial Park as Centenary Field, subject to Cabinet approval.

## **5. EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS**

5.1 In developing this proposal, an Equality Impact Assessment screening has been undertaken to ensure that;

- i. The council meets the requirements of the Public Sector Equality Duties; and
- ii. Due regard has been taken of the likely impact of the decision in terms of equality and discrimination.

## **6. CONSULTATION**

6.1 Consultation carried out within Pontypridd Town Centre and Ynysangharad War Memorial Park, as part of the Heritage Lottery Fund Parks for People application identified that a number of people were unaware that the park was a dedicated war memorial park. The Centenary Field status alongside the HLF application will further promote the war memorial dedication.

## **7. FINANCIAL IMPLICATION(S)**

7.1 The costs are as follows:

- i. Any legal costs associated with agreeing the deed;
- ii. The cost of installing the commemorative plaque – which will be provided free of charge;

- iii. The cost of registering the resulting restrictions with the Land Registry.

7.2 There are no direct resource implications as the Parks and Countryside Section can absorb this work within the existing revenue budget.

## **8. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS OR LEGISLATION CONSIDERED**

8.1 The Parks is held in trust by Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council for the charity of 'the Ynysangharad War Memorial Park'.

8.2 The conveyance contains a restrictive covenant restricting the use of land for the purposes of a public parks and recreation ground for the benefit of the inhabitants of Pontypridd town and the adjoining district.

## **9. LINKS TO THE COUNCILS CORPORATE PLAN / OTHER CORPORATE PRIORITIES/ SIP / FUTURE GENERATIONS – SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT.**

9.1 The emphasis of the war memorial dedication will help to develop equal and cohesive communities for war veterans linking with The Armed Forces Community Covenant.

9.2 The deed of dedication makes positive contribution to the cultural well-being of Wales.

9.3 The promotion of Ynysangharad War Memorial Park on a national level as a vibrant visitor offer focus on heritage and culture as well as active recreation.

9.4 The dedication of the park as a Centenary Park links to the Armed Forces Covenant and local authorities Community Covenant. The Armed Forces Covenant is a promise by the nation ensuring that those who serve or who have served, and their families, are treated fairly. Community covenants complement, at a local level, the Armed Forces Covenant.

## **10. CONCLUSION**

10.1 The submission of an application to the Fields in Trust Centenary Parks programme for Ynysangharad War Memorial Park in September 2017 presents the Council with the opportunity to reaffirm the war memorial dedication of the park as well as enhance the profile on a UK wide level.

- 10.2 Land protected through the Centenary Fields programme ensures the protection of valuable green space for Rhondda Cynon Taf residents, visitors and future generations.
- 10.3 An enhanced Ynysangharad War Memorial Park presents an opportunity to impact on the economic regeneration of Pontypridd town centre and the county borough of Rhondda Cynon Taf.
- 10.4 Following the application and subsequent site visit by Fields in Trust, and subject to the appropriate legal documentation being completed, further discussion will take place with the relevant Cabinet Member in respect of a location for the commemorative plaque and unveiling event.
- 10.5 Members are asked to consider the information contained in their report and agree to the submission of an application to Fields in Trust for the dedication of Ynysangharad War Memorial Park as Centenary Field.

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972**

**AS AMENDED BY**

**THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) ACT 1985**

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**Background Papers**

None.

**Officers to contact:**

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