

Agenda Item	16
Report No	CIA/27/18

HIGHLAND COUNCIL

Committee: City of Inverness Area Committee

Date: 31 May 2018

Report Title: Centenary Fields

Report By: Inverness City Area Manager

1. Purpose/Executive Summary

- 1.1 This report sets out the aims of the Centenary Fields initiative to commemorate World War 1. It recommends Cavell Gardens for nomination as a Centenary Field.

2. Recommendations

2.1 Members are asked to:

- i. Recommend that the Cavell Gardens War Memorial site and immediately adjacent greenspace is nominated for Centenary Field status.
- ii. Council records identify that this site is Inverness Common Good Fund land. There are no resource implications arising from the nomination of the site.
- iii. If approved, the community will be consulted regarding the proposed nomination through contact with the Community Council and other groups known to have an interest. Depending on community response, which is anticipated to be favourable, Cavell Gardens will be nominated.
- iv. The Committee is asked to approve the nomination of Cavell Gardens as a Centenary Field.

3. Background / Main Issues

- 3.1 Centenary Fields (CF) is a partnership programme led by Fields in Trust and the Royal British Legion to commemorate World War 1 through protecting green spaces. It was launched by HRH The Duke of Cambridge in 2014 to mark the centenary of World War 1 and will close in 2018.
- 3.2 CF aims to protect at least one site in each local authority area across the UK and the Council has been asked to nominate one or more parks or other key green space with a link to World War 1. Sites containing war memorials which are used for active recreation sport and/or play are appropriate greenspaces to nominate.
- 3.3 The main benefits of taking part in the initiative are to:
- contribute to a UK initiative to commemorate those involved with World War 1.
 - raise awareness of both the initiative and the Council's commitment to providing for public access and recreation.
 - raise the profile of the nominated sites.
- 3.4 The initiative also aims to safeguard valued public spaces for the future. However, as the area is already safeguarded as Common Good land, this is not an additional benefit.
- 3.5 A disadvantage to the Council is the need to obtain consent from CF in the event of any management change to the site.
- 3.6 Nominated sites are subject to an application process including a site visit by CF. If accepted, the Council is required to undertake legal processes, including signing and registering a Minute of Agreement (MoA). The MoA ensures the Council does nothing to detract from the amenity value of the site, and in the event of disposal, that the MoA is transferred to the new owner. The Council has existing designations for 6 King George V Playing Fields, with Bught Park being the only Designation in the City area. Thereafter, the Council will be required to install a commemorative plaque supplied by CF and arrange an unveiling ceremony. The site name will not change and there are no funds associated with CF status.

3.7 Selection of Eligible Sites

Although any site within Highland can be nominated, the landowner must complete the application form. For simplicity, and especially due to the legal undertaking required, it is recommended that the Council should nominate a site in its ownership and management.

- 3.8 In addition to the conditions covered above in relation to ownership, connection with World War 1, and its recreation function, CF specifies that eligible sites must:
- be accessible in terms of location and affordability for the local community.
 - should have local managers who are responsible for the quality of the facilities, maintenance and development, improving participation, and financial and operational sustainability.

3.9 Sites which are already protected as QEII sites are not eligible.

4. PROPOSAL

4.1 The Cavell Gardens War Memorial and immediately adjacent Greenspace has been identified as an appropriate site because it is the location of a war memorial as well as providing for local active recreation and is located close to a residential area.

5. Implications

5.1 Resource

There are minimal resource implications limited to the costs of erecting a plaque and of hosting an unveiling ceremony as well as the costs of local community consultation.

5.2 Legal

The Council will be required to register a Memorandum of Understanding and any future change to management arrangements will require consultation with CF.

5.3 Community (Equality, Poverty and Rural)

No implications

5.4 Climate Change / Carbon Clever

No implications

5.5 Risk

No implications

5.6 Gaelic

No implications

Designation: Inverness City Area Manager

Date: 10 May 2018

Author: Charles Stephen, Ward Manager

Background Papers: