

SADDLEWORTH AND LEES DISTRICT EXECUTIVE

CENTENARY FIELDS

Portfolio Responsibility: Neighbourhoods

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What the issue is:

Fields in Trust (FIT) have released a paper requesting organisations to submit an application for sites they wish to be considered for Centenary Fields to commemorate those that lost their lives in World War I.

Recommendations:

The District Executive is requested to:

- Consider sites in the Saddleworth and Lees District and recommend those sites they feel should be considered.
- Submit application forms for the chosen sites to Fields in Trust.

1. Background

- 1.1 Fields in Trust (FIT) have released a paper requesting organisations to submit an application for sites they wish to be considered for Centenary Fields to commemorate those that lost their lives in World War I.

2. Issues for Discussion

- 2.1 Fields in Trust are delivering a nationwide initiative in partnership with the Royal British Legion.
- 2.2 Centenary Fields aims to secure recreational spaces in perpetuity to honour the memory of the millions of people who lost their lives in World War I. Through this new programme landowners across the UK will be encouraged to dedicate at least one recreational space as a Centenary Field. 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. These spaces can include war memorial parks and playing fields given in memory of those who lost their lives, or other significant green spaces.
- 2.3 In order that we give consideration to those sites that we feel should be considered as a Centenary Field an application form must be completed. (See Appendix 1 attached.)
- 2.4 Fields in Trust have put together a range of frequently asked questions (Appendix II attached) that aims to inform landowners of the implications of the site becoming a Centenary Field.

3. Possible Sites

- 3.1 The following sites have been raised as potential sites for an application to be submitted to Fields in Trust, although consideration could be given to other sites in Oldham that would meet the criteria if there is a desire to do so.
- Higher Memorial Park, Grafton Street, Failsworth (Appendix III)
 - Lower Memorial Park, Park Avenue, Failsworth (Appendix IV)
 - Shaw Memorial Gardens, Westway, Shaw (Appendix V)
 - Dobcross Memorial Garden, Wool Road, Dobcross (Appendix VI)
- 3.2 There are no minimum or maximum numbers of sites that can be applied for, however, decisions of the sites chosen to become Centenary Fields will be made by Fields in Trust.

4. Potential Costs

The cost to Oldham will be registering the Centenary Deed at the Land Registry and possible solicitor's costs.

5. Recommendations

The District Executive is requested to:

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- Submit application forms for the chosen sites to Fields in Trust.