

**APPLICATION FOR CENTENARY FIELDS STATUS, CAMPBELTOWN WAR
MEMORIAL AND KINLOCH PARK**

1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to seek approval from members to put Campbeltown War Memorial and Kinloch Park forward for Centenary Fields status, and subsequently to seek delegated authority for officers to progress matters following the submission of an application.
- 1.2 Centenary Fields is a partnership between The Royal British Legion and Fields in Trust and works with landowners to protect at least one green space in each of the local authorities across England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland. The project was created in commemoration of the centenary of the First World War and the sacrifice made by those who gave their lives in the conflict. The protected sites can be war memorial parks or recreation grounds, memorial gardens, parks and recreation grounds that contain war memorials, or other valued green space that will create a tangible local legacy valued by communities for generations to come.

RECOMMEDATIONS

Members are asked to:

- Approve the submission of Campbeltown War Memorial/Kinloch Park for consideration by Fields in Trust as potential Centenary Fields site

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2.0 INTRODUCTION

- 2.1 The Council has the opportunity to put forward a site for consideration by Fields in Trust as a Centenary Field. Centenary Fields status protects, in perpetuity, any green space which has a WWI connection to honour the memory of First World War servicemen and also those, military and civilian, who played their part on the home-front to build a better life for the benefit of generations to come.

3.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

Members are asked to:

- 3.1 Approve the submission of Campbeltown War Memorial/Kinloch Park for consideration by Fields in Trust as potential Centenary Fields site; and

4.0 DETAIL

4.1 CENTENARY FIELDS STATUS

- 4.1.1 Centenary Fields status gives sites a legal protection by way of a binding Minute of Agreement between the landowner, in this case the Council, and Fields in Trust. Fields in trust describe the MoA as: *“a robust yet flexible way of safeguarding the future of a space, designed just for us. Minutes of Agreement legally ensure that space is protected for future generations to enjoy. This means that before certain developments can take place the owner needs to seek permission from Fields in Trust. The protection of each space is individually detailed in the MoA and this would include any changes to the space. Generally, only ancillary buildings are allowed but other buildings could be allowed subject to Fields in Trust’s permission.”*
- 4.1.2 While additional protection for these site is to be welcomed, the Council as a custodian of public land is likely to afford the site protection regardless. Centenary Fields status would simply serve to enhance the site’s protection.

- 4.1.3 Officers are of the view that the primary benefit to the Council in having this site designated as a Centenary Fields site is more in the symbolic sense – that the site is officially recognised by both Fields in Trust and the Royal British Legion as space to be protected for future generations to enjoy, and to commemorate those servicemen and women, as well as civilians, who played their part World War One. There may also be the opportunity to use Centenary Fields status to help lever in external funding for the site.
- 4.1.4 Every site receives a commemorative plaque to display on site, as well as receiving associated signage, the display of which is optional. There is no requirement for an actual name change.
- 4.1.5 This status does not prevent disposal at a future point in time, as long as disposal is of a clear advantage to, and in the best interests of, the community from a recreational perspective.
- 4.1.6 The Council would continue to own, manage and maintain the site. Fields in Trust's role is a custodial and advisory one only. They ensure that the fact of protection of Centenary Fields sites is in the public domain and that any proposed changes in use, or any buildings which fall out with the terms of protection, cannot happen without their specific advance consent.
- 4.1.7 The Centenary Fields status does not bring with it any particular expectation or requirement of maintenance standards. There would not be any emerging revenue pressures as a result of having this status attached to Kinloch Park.

4.2 SITE SELECTION

- 4.2.1 To achieve Centenary Fields status, the site must have a link to WWI and be suitable for sport, recreation and/or play. The only two sites which appear to officers to meet this criteria are Kinloch Park in Campbeltown and Hermitage Park in Helensburgh.
- 4.2.2 Given that the profile of Hermitage Park is being raised through the £3million restoration project, Officers are of the view that, on balance, it would be more appropriate to put Kinloch Park forward. This is on the basis that Kinloch Park is likely to derive greater benefit from this enhanced status and protection.

5.0 CONCLUSION

- 5.1 Putting this site forward for Centenary Fields status, if the application were successful, would afford it additional protection and an increased national profile. This is complementary to the work with the Council has already undertaken to ensure that World War One is appropriately commemorated throughout Argyll and Bute

6.0 IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 Policy – none known
- 6.2 Financial – none known
- 6.3 Legal – the Council would be entering into a binding agreement to protect the site in perpetuity. This protection would only enhance the protection already offered by the Council in its role as a custodian of public land.
- 6.4 HR – none known
- 6.5 Equalities/Fairer Scotland Duty – none known
- 6.6 Risk – none known
- 6.7 Customer Service – none known

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