

# Report

Report to:	<b>Community and Enterprise Resources Committee</b>
Date of Meeting:	<b>22 January 2019</b>
Report by:	<b>Executive Director (Community and Enterprise Resources)</b>

Subject:	<b>Centenary Fields Site Nomination</b>
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## 1. Purpose of Report

1.1. The purpose of the report is to:-

- propose that the Council participate in the 'Centenary Fields' programme

## 2. Recommendations

2.1. The Committee is asked to approve the following recommendations:-

- (1) that Crawfordjohn Play Area and Law Recreation Ground are put forward as the Council's submission to Centenary Fields to evaluate the most appropriate site for inclusion as South Lanarkshire participation in the Centenary Fields programme; and
- (2) that a report be submitted to a future meeting of the Community and Enterprise Resources Committee to provide an update on the outcome of the evaluation of the sites.

## 3. Background

- 3.1. South Lanarkshire Council has been approached by Centenary Fields, which was launched in 2014 by Fields in Trust President, The Duke of Cambridge and who work in partnership with Poppyscotland and the Royal British Legion. Fields in Trust is a British charity which protects parks and green spaces and promotes the cause of accessible spaces for play, sports and recreation in British cities and towns.
- 3.2. Centenary Fields 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 1 (WW1).
- 3.3. These protected sites could be war memorial parks or recreation grounds, memorial gardens, parks or recreational grounds that contain a WW1 war memorial, or other valued green space that has some significance to WW1 either existing or planned.
- 3.4. The programme aims to safeguard these sites to create a living UK-wide legacy in commemoration of the sacrifice made by those who lost their lives in WW1.
- 3.5. Centenary Fields' dedication is aligned with the value of the Armed Forces Community Covenant and the programme aims to be recognised by local communities as a clear and visible commitment to the importance of these spaces now and in the future.

#### **4. Sites Considered for Inclusion**

- 4.1. During research into potential locations, it was identified that the Council already has one site, Kirkton Park, Blantyre registered under the Fields in Trust Scheme. However, given the importance of this year in terms of the 100 year anniversary, it was considered appropriate to consider a further site.
- 4.2. Following consultation with the Council's Estates and Grounds Services, two sites which meet the criteria were identified, both having links to WW1. The sites identified are as follows;
- 4.3. Crawfordjohn Play Area  
Through research, it is understood that this site has historical links to WW1 as a proclamation and muster point for outlying dwellings and farms, although there is limited written records to validate this claim. The site, which has recently seen significant investment in a new children's play area, is in the heart of the village of Crawfordjohn, with the war memorial located across the road in the grounds of the cemetery. The evaluation by Centenary Fields would consider if the evidence available meets the criteria to make this a suitable site.
- 4.4. Law Recreation Ground  
This site, within the village of Law, has a WW1 war memorial located in it, which was erected in May 1920 and commemorates those who were killed or missing in the Great War. The site also has a changing pavilion, football pitches and a fixed play area.
- 4.5. Location plans for both sites are attached at Appendix 1 and 2.
- 4.6. To allow the Council to participate in the scheme, the proposal would be to request Centenary Fields to consider both sites, Crawfordjohn Play Area and Law Recreation Ground, and then take forward their recommended location. A further report will be submitted to a future meeting of the Community and Enterprise Resources Committee to provide an update on the outcome of the evaluation of the sites.
- 4.7. Other sites were considered which also have links to WW1, however, these had existing restrictions (e.g. common good land) and initial discussions with Centenary Fields suggested these would not be appropriate locations to be considered as part of the programme as the preference is to have sites which do not have any pre-existing restrictions.

#### **5. Employee Implications**

- 5.1. There are no employee implications.

#### **6. Financial Implications**

- 6.1. There are no immediate financial implications, however, sites within Centenary Fields' determination will have a burden placed on them which could restrict future development and consequently the opportunity of future income to the Council through sale or development. However, the scope of this is limited given the current use of the sites and local plan designation.

#### **7. Equality Impact Assessment and Consultation Arrangements**

- 7.1. This report does not introduce a new policy, function or strategy nor recommend a change to an existing policy, function or strategy and, therefore, no impact assessment is required.

- 7.2. There is also no requirement to undertake any consultation in terms of the information contained in this report.

**Michael McGlynn**  
**Executive Director (Community and Enterprise Resources)**

27 December 2018

**Link(s) to Council Values/Ambitions/Objectives**

- ◆ Focused on people and their needs' and 'Working with and respecting others

**Previous References**

- ◆ None

**List of Background Papers**

- ◆ None

**Contact for Further Information**

If you would like to inspect the background papers or want further information, please contact:-

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