

<b>Report of:</b>	Charlotte Benjamin, Director of Legal & Governance Services Councillor Chris Hobson, Executive Member for Finance & Governance.
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<b>Submitted to:</b>	Licensing Committee - 13 <sup>th</sup> July 2020
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<b>Subject:</b>	Acklam Meadow, Newfield Crescent – Village Green Registration
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**Summary**

<b>Proposed decision(s)</b>
That the Committee accepts & approves the application to voluntarily register the land at Acklam Meadows, Newfield Crescent as a Village Green

<b>Report for:</b>	<b>Key decision:</b>	<b>Confidential:</b>	<b>Is the report urgent?<sup>1</sup></b>
Decision	No	No	No

<b>Contribution to delivery of the 2020-23 Strategic Plan</b>		
<b>People</b>	<b>Place</b>	<b>Business</b>
Registration as a Village Green will make the most effective use of the land in support of the Councils physical and social regeneration agendas	Registration as Village Green will provide improved facilities that will assist in enhancing the quality of life of the residents living in the area.	Registration as a Village Green will protect a valued asset that will help improve the physical, mental and social wellbeing of the community

<b>Ward(s) affected</b>
Acklam

**What is the purpose of this report?**

1. To seek approval to the registration of Acklam Meadows, Newfield Crescent as a Village Green

**Why does this report require a Member decision?**

2. The approval of the application to register the land is not an officer decision, nor is it covered by an officer scheme of delegation.

## **Report Background**

3. The Newfield Crescent site is Council owned open space comprising 4.4 Ha (10.88 acres). It is used as an informal recreation space and forms a valuable amenity area connecting two key open 'green' corridors.
4. The site was allocated for residential development in the Local Plan Preferred Options document (May 2018) – however, following public consultation the decision was taken to remove the allocation and to protect the land as Local Greenspace.
5. In recognition of the importance of the open space to the local community a report seeking approval to make the relevant application for voluntary designation of the site as a Village Green, was presented and approved by Executive at its meeting on the 21st January 2020.

## **What decision is being asked for?**

6. That the Committee accepts and approves the application to register the land at Acklam Meadows, Newfield Crescent as a Village Green

## **Why is this being recommended?**

7. The land at Newfield Crescent is a valued open space resource that benefits the local community. Village Green status recognises its importance and role in the local community and represents the most appropriate course to seek to protect it in perpetuity.

## **Other potential decisions and why these have not been recommended**

8. Two alternative options were considered:
  - i. To retain the current designation and status of the land without Village Green registration. Whilst the land is held by the Council as open space and maintained as such this would not afford the land any long term protection; and
  - ii. That the land be designated as Local Greenspace in the forthcoming Local Plan review. Whilst this offers more protection than the current status of the land, the designation could be removed via a subsequent review of the Local Plan.

## **Impact(s) of recommended decision(s)**

9. The principal impact of the registration as a Village Green will mean that the land is in effect protected in perpetuity from development.

## **Legal**

10. The application to voluntarily register the land as a Village is made in accordance with the provisions of section 15(8) of the Common Land Act 2006. As the registration is being sought voluntarily the freehold of the land remains with the Council.

## **Financial**

11. There are no financial implications for the Council over and above existing obligations for the maintenance of the land.

## Policy Framework

12. The decision to voluntarily register the land as Village Green is in accordance with the Councils adopted Local Plan (2014) which protects it as green wedge and primary open space.

## Equality and Diversity

13. The decision to voluntarily register the land as Village Green is in accordance with the Councils adopted Local Plan (2014) which protects it as green wedge and primary open space.
14. The registration of the land as a Village Green has been subject to an initial Impact Assessment, which identified that a full IA was not required.

## Risk

15. Approval of the application to register the land as Village Green will deliver on the Mayors pledges with regard to the protection of key green spaces.
16. The principal risks should the application be refused are:
  - i. Reputational damage with the community; and
  - ii. The potential pressure for the designation of other site within the Councils ownership to be given the same designation.

## Actions to be taken to implement the decision(s)

17. Subject to the grant of Committee approval, the Council will proceed to voluntarily register the Village Green as proposed.

## Appendices

Appendix 1: Application Form  
Appendix 2: Plan

## Background papers

Body	Report title	Date
Executive	Voluntary Registration of Acklam Meadows	21 <sup>st</sup> January 2020

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