

Report to Cabinet

17 January 2024

Subject:	Allocation of Village Green Status and Park Designation – Goldicroft Playing Fields
Cabinet Member:	Cabinet for Leisure and Tourism, Councillor Charn Singh Padda
Director:	Alice Davey, Director of Borough Economy
Key Decision:	Yes – designation change for site
Contact Officer:	Matthew Huggins Assistant Director, Borough Economy



1 Recommendations

- 1.1 That approval be given for the site currently designated as Goldicroft Playing Fields to be amended to a Neighbourhood Level Park.
- 1.2 That the Assistant Director of Borough Economy be authorised to complete voluntarily self-registration under section 15(1) of the Commons Act for Goldicroft Park to be designated as a Village Green.

2 Reasons for Recommendations

- 2.1 The Friends of Goldicroft Park made a request to the Council to consider voluntary registration under the Commons Act (Section 15.1).

3 How does this deliver objectives of the Corporate Plan?

	The Best Start in Life for Children and Young People Maintaining a green space that is easily accessible for local children and young people, and for future generations.
	People Live Well and Age Well The green space is well used by all ages, and the designation will support the Friends Group and the Council to further develop this green space for healthy activities.



4 Context and Key Issues

- 4.1 Goldcroft Playing Fields is a well-used green space by the local community, with an active Friends Group in formal partnership with the Council under the Friends Group's Partnership Agreement.
- 4.2 The Friends Group have developed this space further as a community resource, with community days, informal sport activities, and conservation activities.
- 4.3 The green spaces service have assessed this request and have confirmed that they are satisfied the green space can be designated as a Village Green and as a Neighbourhood Level Park.
- 4.4 Planning policy officers have been consulted and have confirmed there are no objections for this registration to take place.

5 Alternative Options

- 5.1 Do nothing – the green space will remain a green space open to the community, but will not be designated as a Village Green.

6 Implications

Resources:	The Council will still be responsible for the maintenance of the land, which is currently part of the maintenance schedule – officers do not expect an increase in resource requirements.
Legal and Governance:	The application will be submitted under delegated authority through the voluntary registration application form under the Commons Act 2006. This is a Cabinet Level decision because of the change of designation of land.
Risk:	There is a risk of further applications – officers are currently development a policy and process to make this clearer for future applications of this kind.
Equality:	There are no impact on equality, as the site will remain as unrestricted green space.



Health and Wellbeing:	The Village Green Status ensures that the green space is available for future generations to use for physical activity.
Social Value:	The Village Green Status ensures that the green space is available for future generations to use for physical activity.
Climate Change:	Future plans include to increase biodiversity on the green space, to support our climate change objectives.
Corporate Parenting:	There are no implications for corporate parenting.

7. Appendices

Appendix A: Map of Goldcroft Playing Fields

8. Background Papers

None

