

SALISBURY CITY COUNCIL

Report

Subject : Public Open Space at Bishopdown Farm
Committee : Full Council
Date : 20 January 2020
Author : Annie Child, City Clerk

1. Report Summary:

- 1.1. This report gives details of transfer of land ownership between Wiltshire Council (WC) and Laverstock and Ford Parish Council (LFPC) for a piece of land within the parish boundary of Salisbury City Council (SCC).

2. Background:

- 2.1. On Dec 2019 the Leader of the Council, Councillor Jeremy Nettle and the Clerk of SCC meet with the Chairman and Clerk of LFPC. The meeting was called to discuss the implications of a potential transfer of land from WC to LFPC.
- 2.2. The transfer of land ownership is part of a wider programme of land transfer between WC and LFPC.
- 2.3. The land is shown on maps and plans at Annex A and Annex B attached to this report. The land will form part of Castle Hill Country Park. The country park is currently being built by The Land Trust and on completion will be leased to them from LFPC on a 99-year lease with a peppercorn rent.

3. Implications for SCC:

- 3.1. The land is not and has not ever been maintained by SCC. The land will be maintained by The Land Trust (Registered Charity No. 11138337, full title the Land Restoration Trust) using dedicated funds provided by the developers of Riverdown Park and transferable to them on signing of the 99 year lease. The lease will be signed on the Practical Completion of the Country Park, defined in the Country Park Management Plan and certified by Wiltshire Council. Completion is on course to take place before the end of 2020. No liability for maintenance will transferred to SCC.
- 3.2. There is no identified need or desire by SCC to own this piece of land.
- 3.3. SCC cannot prevent WC from transferring this land to LFPC if WC is so determined to do.

4. Recommendation:

It is recommended that the Council:

- 4.1. Note the transfer of land from Wiltshire Council to Laverstock and Ford Parish Council
- 4.2. Welcome the establishment of the Castle Hill Country Park under the management of The Land Trust, where it will be a valuable resource for residents of both the City, Laverstock and Ford.

5. Wards Affected: All

6. Background Papers:

6.1. Annex A – Map of Land (Doc 76687)

6.2. Annex B – Further Map and details (Doc 76688)

7. Implications:

7.1. **Financial:** Nil in relation to this report

7.2. **Legal:** Nil in relation to this report

7.3. **Personnel:** Nil in relation to this report

7.4. **Environmental Impact:** As shown in this report

7.5. **Equalities Impact Statement:** Nil in relation to this report.