

Agenda Item 6

Adoption in Principle of the Transfer of the Barrowford Park:

An informal meeting of the Chairman and Vice Chairman of the Council and the Chairman of GP has taken place to discuss the outcomes of discussion at the September GP meeting and meetings with Pendle BC representatives to progress to the next step forward. It was felt that a policy statement or declaration of intention was needed to allow constructive proactive negotiations with Pendle to take place

Policy: The consensus of the meeting was that the following should be included:

1. That ownership of the park should be transferred to Barrowford Parish Council at the end of a negotiated interim period. (possibly 3 years or sooner)
2. That the land and buildings comprising the Pendle Heritage Centre currently on a long term peppercorn lease of no real monetary value to Pendle be transferred to protect the entirety of Barrowford Memorial Park; no alteration to the current lease is necessary subject to confirmation of the conditions attached to that lease.
3. That during the transitional period Barrowford Parish Council will contribute significantly to the running costs of the park on the proviso that as funding is reduced across all Pendle Parks the top up is in addition to Barrowford's allocation of the Pendle budget and must include measures to safeguard this.
4. That the current annual cost of £45,000 be the starting figure in negotiations but may be subject to variation as the best option for the levels of maintenance and services in the park are negotiated.
5. That the Parish Council at the point of transfer retains the right to:
 - a. Carry out future works and maintenance in house.
 - b. Sub contract works to either Pendle Borough Council or other outside contractors.
 - c. Or a mixture of all options.
6. That certain infrastructure deficiencies such as the future stability of the banking and remedial work to the lake are subject to mutual agreement regarding improvement to an agreeable standard prior to the transfer, or these areas may be omitted from the proposed transfer.
7. That a Working Group consisting of the Two Chairmen and Two Vice Chairmen in conjunction with the Clerk can negotiate with Pendle Borough Council Representatives on the above matters.
8. That a sum be included in the 2017-18 budget to cover the envisaged cost for the first financial year.
9. That this could be paid subject to satisfactory progress in negotiations towards the transfer of the park subject to clause 3 and Council approval.
10. That after negotiations the recommendations of the Working Group are subject to Full Council Approval before any final agreement of transfer or binding long term commitments are signed.

These should be the guiding principles on which negotiations are based and could possibly include further transfers of public open space land, which the Parish Council feels is at risk and may be lost to public use.