

READING BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT BY HEAD OF LEGAL AND DEMOCRATIC SERVICES AND CHIEF VALUER

TO:	THE HEIGHTS FREE SCHOOL SUB-COMMITTEE		
DATE:	11 OCTOBER 2016	AGENDA ITEM:	6
TITLE:	MAPLEDURHAM PLAYING FIELDS FOUNDATION - FIT4ALL		
LEAD COUNCILLORS:	COUNCILLOR EDWARDS	PORTFOLIO:	MAPLEDURHAM PLAYING FIELDS CHAIR OF TRUSTEES
SERVICE:	TRUSTEE OF CHARITY	WARDS:	MAPLEDURHAM
LEAD OFFICER:	BRUCE TINDALL CHRIS BROOKS	TEL:	0118 937 2594 0118 937 2602
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1. PURPOSE AND SUMMARY OF REPORT

- 1.1 To present to the Sub-Committee a detailed proposal received from the Mapledurham Playing Fields Foundation (MPFF) to enhance the facilities and operations at Mapledurham Playing Fields without the need to sell land to fund these enhancements. The proposal, under the heading “Fit4All”, is attached.
- 1.2 This proposal is referred to in the report on the Proposal from the Education Funding Agency, at Agenda item 4 on tonight’s agenda. An earlier proposal was attached to that report at Appendix 4, and discussed at para. 4.2.2 of that report. That report also gave notice that this proposal had been received on the day of issue of the Sub-Committee agenda, and would be presented to the Sub-Committee as a “to follow” item.
- 1.3 The “Fit4All” proposal has been submitted by Gordon Watt, the MPFF Chairman, who has been invited to address tonight’s meeting.

2. RECOMMENDED ACTION

- 2.1 That the “Fit4All” presentation be received and considered.

3. POLICY CONTEXT

- 3.1 This is set out in the report on the Proposal from the Education Funding Agency, at Agenda item 4 on tonight’s agenda.

4. THE PROPOSAL

- 4.1 Mr Watt’s letter of 29 September 2016 to the Chair of the Sub-Committee, promoting the “Fit4All” proposal, is at Appendix 4 of the report on the Proposal from the Education Funding Agency, at Agenda item 4 on tonight’s agenda.
- 4.2 Mr Watt sent the updated proposal on 3 October 2016 under cover of an email in the following terms:

“Dear Mr. Brooks,

Please find attached a proposal is to enhance the facilities and operations at Mapledurham Playing Fields (MPF), without need to sell land to fund it. It is put forward, on behalf of a large group of volunteers who have collectively committed to dedicate their time, energy and expertise to ensure its implementation and sustained success, as an alternative to the proposal submitted by the Education Funding Agency (EFA).

We are submitting this now so that cognisance will be taken of it in any consideration of the proposal submitted by the Education Funding Agency. It would have been useful to have had more time to finalise our proposal, but we were concerned that it might have been pre-empted by a prior decision on the EFA proposal.

We have addressed the points raised in the review of the draft proposal, in particular, we have amended the original plan for parallel leases of the pavilion and football pitches to a single lease of the whole of Mapledurham Playing Fields and a right to hire agreement for the football pitches. If this proves problematic to the subcommittee we are prepared to revert to the original arrangement although we accept this will be more complicated to arrange.

Please let me know how we can best help Reading Borough Council understand and consider our proposal.

Kind Regards, Gordon Watt”

5. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND INFORMATION, AND EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

5.1 it is not known whether this proposal has been subject to any public consultation prior to its submission.

6. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

6.1 This is set out in the report on the Proposal from the Education Funding Agency, at Agenda item 4 on tonight’s agenda.

6.2 The Mapledurham Playing Fields Foundation has been registered as a charity. Under the charity scheme, its objectives are:

“To provide or assist in the provision of facilities at Mapledurham playing fields in the interests of social welfare for recreation or other leisure time occupation of individuals who have need of such facilities by reason of their youth, age infirmity or disability, financial hardship or social circumstances with the object of improving their conditions of life”.

7. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

7.1 The financial implications of this proposal have not yet been assessed..

8. BACKGROUND PAPERS

‘Fit4All’ - Letter and leaflet of 29 September 2016 from Gordon Watt  
Fit4All - A proposal to make Mapledurham Playing Fields fit for all without losing land - received 3 October 2016.