



Belfast City Council

Report to:	Parks and Leisure Committee
Subject:	Fields in Trust Challenge - Update
Date:	12 January 2012
Reporting Officer:	Andrew Hassard, Director of Parks and Leisure
Contact Officer:	Rose Crozier, Assistant Director of Parks and Leisure

1.	Relevant Background Information
1.1	At its meeting in February 2011 Committee were made aware that the National Playing Fields Association (Fields in Trust) had launched the Queen Elizabeth II Fields Challenge. The challenge is an officially endorsed legacy initiative to mark the two landmark events scheduled to take place in the UK in 2012; HM The Queen's Diamond Jubilee and the London 2012 Olympics. The programme aims to permanently protect 2012 playing fields in communities all across the country ensuring access to outdoor sport, play and recreation both now and for future generations.
1.2	At the June 2011 Committee a number of sites were considered and based on Legal Services consideration only two sites were considered eligible to participate in the initiative and were subsequently nominated. The sites were Orangefield Park and Lagan Meadows
1.3	A <i>Save a Space for Me</i> online campaign was launched in October 2011 encouraging people to support their outdoor spaces to be protected as part of the Queen Elizabeth II Fields Challenge.
2.	Key Issues
2.1	Belfast's local communities demonstrated their support for their local parks through participating in <i>Save a Space for Me</i> . Over 20,000 people from councillors, members of the public and sports leaders showed their support for our parks with over 10,000 web visits recorded on the day of the launch alone. It was a close contest but in the end Orangefield Park won over Lagan Meadows by 3 votes.
2.2	Work will now proceed with Fields in Trust and Council's Legal Services and Estates to draft the deed of dedication.
2.3	There are estates and legal issues which will have to be considered by

	Fields in Trust and the council as a result of Orangefield being part of the Connswater Community Greenway project and flood alleviation scheme which will result in significant work to the park with funding from Big Lottery.
2.4	The council needs to ensure that entering into a deed of dedication at this time will not compromise its ability to deliver the necessary development work in the park required by the CCG project and flood alleviation scheme.
2.5	It is envisaged that events will be planned to engage the local community in celebrating the dedication. This work will be done in consultation with East Belfast Partnership Board as part of the CCG programme. A further report on events will be brought to committee.

3.	Resource Implications
	None at this stage.

4.	Equality and good relations implications
	None.

5.	Recommendations
	Committee is asked to note the success of Orangefield Park in the Queen Elizabeth II Fields Challenge and agree that a deed of dedication be drafted subject to legal and estates issues being addressed.

6.	Decision Tracking
	Assistant Director of Parks and Leisure to implement decision of the committee.

7.	Key to Abbreviations
	CCG: Connswater Community Greenway

8.	Documents Attached
	None.