

Agenda item 9

For decision: Land acquisitions

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Summary

This report provides an update on pending and possible land acquisitions in Frome, where Frome Town Council will take on care and maintenance responsibilities.

Following on from previous updates and reports, FTC is in negotiations for the following play & recreation spaces in the town – to be transferred from Mendip District Council:

Packsaddle (including Chapmans Close)

The extents of both these sites have now been agreed; and the transfer is being progressed by MDC's legal team and FTC's appointed solicitors.

Tower View

The extent of the site has now been agreed; and the transfer is being progressed by MDC's legal team and FTC's appointed solicitors.

Although the dates of the transfers have yet to be confirmed, it is recommended that both spaces are considered as part of the budget-setting process for 2017/2018.

Subject to the budget-setting process, both spaces are also set to be included in the Council's Participatory Budgeting projects.

Separately, FTC has also held initial discussions about the following green spaces:

Millennium Green

FTC staff have had early discussions with the Trustees of Millennium Green – and in turn staff at MDC.

FTC staff are currently reviewing the terms of the lease between the Millennium Green Trust and MDC – and subject to all party agreement, it's felt that FTC is in a good position to take on the lease, thereby assuming primary responsibility for the upkeep and care of the green.

It's hoped and expected that FTC will continue to work with the Trust – but with the Trust in a supportive rather than responsible role.

The Rangers will also continue to work with the Critchill School Rangers in looking after the Green.

Rodden Meadow

In principle, FTC has been offered a pocket of land to the north of Rodden Meadow and to the east of Millennium Green.

The land is currently privately owned - and the owner has confirmed his intention to transfer the land shaded and marked on our attached plan ([Appendix 2](#)) as a gift to FTC, to look after it on behalf of the town.

For information, the land in question is part of a current planning application.

Land below the TH White site on Vallis Road

Also subject to a planning application, there is a pocket of land to the east of the TH White site that may be offered to FTC in the future. Further details will be brought back to Council in due course.

All of the above land will be or would be managed by the Outdoor team, with the Rangers taking on day to day to responsibility for these sites. Involving the community on all sites will be a priority.

In the event that all of these sites come into FTC's responsibility, it would be difficult to take on any other significant additions without greater resources for the Rangers; and for the Council generally.

Recommendations

1. Note the status of the Packsaddle & Tower View transfers
2. *In principle*, approve FTC taking on the agreement for Millennium Green – delegating responsibility to the Environment Manager to progress this
3. *In principle*, approve FTC taking on responsibility for the land above Rodden Meadow – delegating responsibility to the Environment Manager to progress this
4. *In principle*, approve FTC taking on responsibility for the land next to TH White, delegating responsibility to the Environment Manager and the Planning Officer to negotiate terms and conditions
5. Note the comments about resources, budgets and responsibilities