

Committee: Community and Housing Committee

Agenda Item

Date: March 17th 2010.

17

Title: **WOODLANDS PARK PLAY AREA**

Author: Suzanna Wood, Housing Strategy &
Planning Policy Manager (01799 510543)

Item for decision

Summary

- 1 This report asks Members of the Committee to authorise the transfer of a play area currently in the Council's ownership to Great Dunmow Town Council.

Recommendations

- 2 That the Community and Housing Committee recommend to Finance and Admin Committee the transfer of the Woodlands Park play area to Great Dunmow Town Council at nil value.

Background Papers

- 3 The following papers were referred to by the author in the preparation of this report and are available for inspection from the author of the report.
 - Valuation from District Valuer
 - Plans of the play area and equipment
 - Emails from the legal department
 - Emails between the District Council, Estuary Housing Association and Great Dunmow Town Council.

Impact

4

Communication/Consultation	Consultation has taken place with Great Dunmow Town Council
Community Safety	Site inspections are carried out regularly by Dunmow Town Council on behalf of the District Council.
Equalities	None
Finance	Land can only be used as a play area and has been valued at a pound by the District Valuer.
Human Rights	N/A

Legal implications	Transfer of land has been advertised in the local paper. Legal are ready to draw up the transfer documents.
Sustainability	Miracle, the equipment provider has issued a Warranty for the equipment.
Ward-specific impacts	Implications for Woodlands park, Great Dunmow
Workforce/Workplace	None

Situation

5. As part of the development of Woodlands Park, a piece of land was designated as a play area. Estuary Housing Association, the Housing Association managing the affordable housing were asked to contribute £30,000 for play equipment. This has been provided on the land and the local children living on Woodlands Park are now enjoying the play area. The play area has been transferred into the Council's ownership however we do not have the expertise to manage the area.
6. Officers have been liaising with Great Dunmow Town Council about the future management of the area. The Town Council already inspect the area regularly for the District Council and they have indicated that they are happy to take on the management of this space.
- 7 This report is asking Members to approve to Finance and Administration Committee the transfer of the play area to the Town Council.

Risk Analysis

8

Risk	Likelihood	Impact	Mitigating actions
The Town Council decide not to take the play area on	1 – Discussions have been had with the Town Council and agreement made	2 – would have a financial impact on the Council in managing the site	The Council would have to explore other ways to manage the play area

1 = Little or no risk or impact

2 = Some risk or impact – action may be necessary.

3 = Significant risk or impact – action required

4 = Near certainty of risk occurring, catastrophic effect or failure of project.