

**HAMBLETON DISTRICT COUNCIL**

**Report To:** Cabinet  
11 September 2012

**Subject:** PUBLIC OPEN SPACE – SNAPE

**Bedale Ward  
Scrutiny Committees  
Portofolio Holder for Leisure and Health: Councillor P Wilkinson**

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**1.0 PURPOSE AND BACKGROUND:**

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to explore the options for the future management of Snape Recreation Ground.
- 1.2 In 1981 the Council leased a piece of public open space in Snape to Snape Parish Council who manage the site providing recreation and play opportunities for the community (see Annex A for map).
- 1.3 Snape Primary School subsequently approached the Parish Council to use the play area, even though the site is not ideal due to the sloping landscape and drainage problems, but an agreement was reached between them for this to happen.
- 1.4 Chevin Housing recently put a proposal together to build four affordable homes in Snape, which would have encroached on this piece of land reducing the overall space, but still leaving a substantial space for the size of the village. In compensation of this Chevin Housing was prepared to invest in the open space by levelling and draining the site, relocating the play area and installing new equipment.
- 1.5 This proposal prompted a community group – Snape Village Recreation Ground Preservation and Improvement Group) – to set up and lobby for the whole site to be safeguarded for recreation forever through the Queens Elizabeth II Fields Challenge 2012. A petition signed by 73 people including Snape Community Primary School has been sent to the Council, as landowner, to ask that Snape Recreation Ground is nominated as a QEII Fields Challenge scheme. The petition does not explain Chevin plans to invest in the recreation area to compensate for the loss of space (see Annex C).
- 1.6 The Queen Elizabeth II Fields Challenge has been set up in celebration of the Diamond Jubilee and is supported by the Duke of Cambridge to protect spaces including woodlands, children’s play areas, bike trails and sports pitches. By signing up to the programme the land will be governed by this Trust and protected from any future development.
- 1.7 Since receipt of the petition Chevin Housing has withdrawn their proposals to develop four affordable homes in Snape.

**2.0 DECISIONS SOUGHT:**

- 2.1 There are three options (see Annex B for detailed options appraisal) for consideration by Cabinet as follows:
  - a. To continue to lease the land to Snape Parish Council under the current regime
  - b. To nominate the recreation area for the Queen Elizabeth II Fields Challenge, transferring governance of the land to the Trust and safeguarding the site forever

- c. To explore transferring the land to Snape Parish Council for recreational purposes for a nominal fee to relinquish ownership and to give control to the community

### **3.0 LINK TO CORPORATE PRIORITIES:**

- 3.1 This report links to the corporate priority to provide an appealing and varied range of leisure and health opportunities.

### **4.0 RISK ASSESSMENT**

- 4.1 There are no significant risks associated with this decision.

### **5.0 SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS:**

- 5.1 The Council's approach to all these projects is that they need to be sustainable at a local community level and for that reason the projects are owned, delivered and managed by local community groups.

### **6.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS AND EFFICIENCIES:**

- 6.1 If Option 3 is preferred the Council will receive a nominal fee associated with the value of the land.

### **7.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS:**

- 7.1 If Option 2 is preferred in paragraph 2.1 there will be legal implications to transfer the land to the QEII programme ownership.
- 7.2 If Options 2 or 3 are preferred in paragraph 2.1 the Council will relinquish ownership of this land therefore reducing the overall amount of land owned.

### **8.0 EQUALITY/DIVERSITY ISSUES:**

- 8.1 All projects relating to public open space must ensure they are fully accessible for all and available for general public use.

### **9.0 RECOMMENDATION(S):**

- 9.1 To explore Option C in 2.1 with Snape Parish Council.
- 9.2 Delegate a decision to the Chief Executive in consultation with the Cabinet Spokesperson for Leisure and Health.

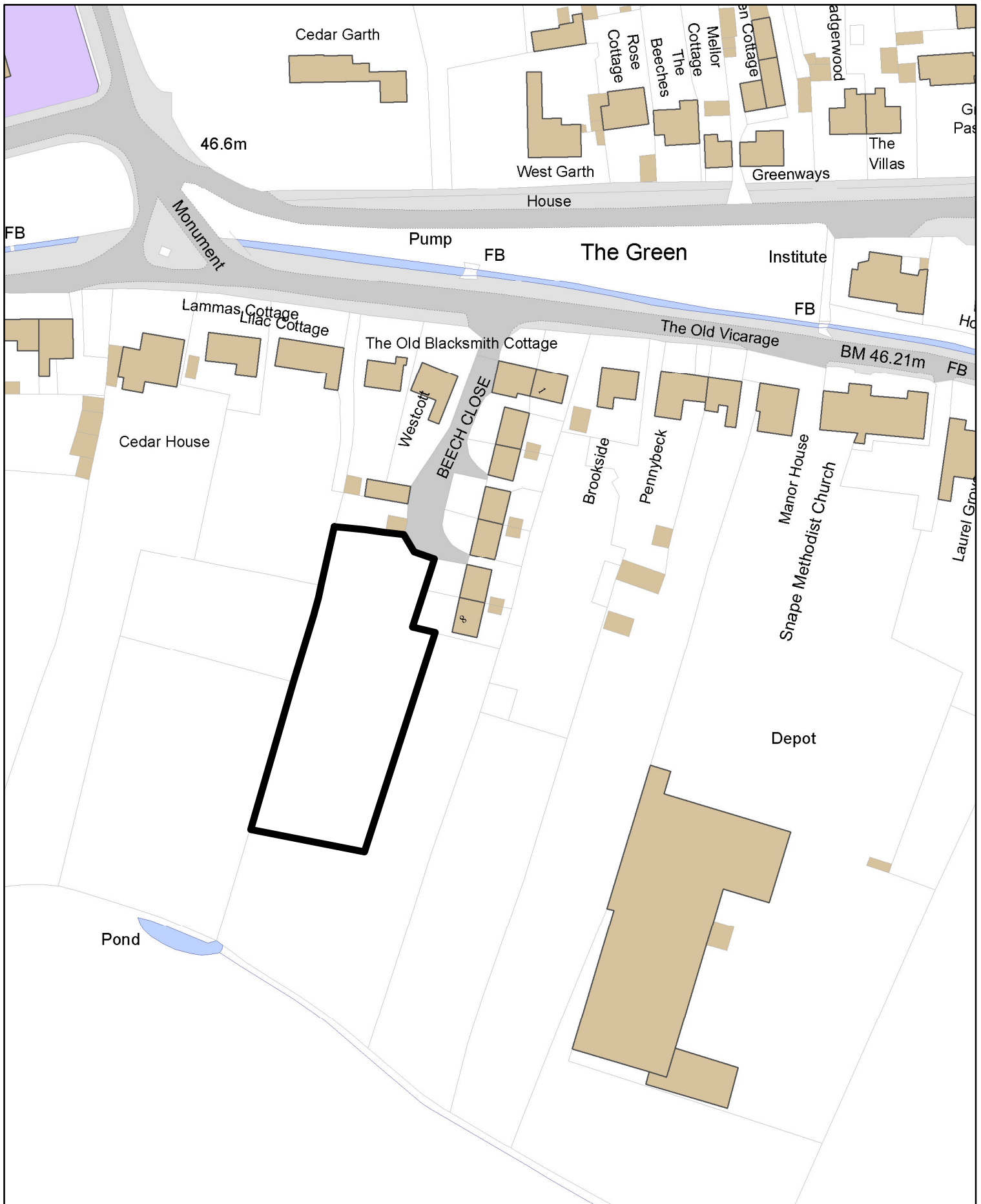
DAVE GOODWIN

#### **Background papers:**

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# Recreational Field Beech Close Snape

Annex A  
31/07/2012



## Snape Recreation Ground

### Options

Option	Detail	Positives	Negatives
A	Continue to lease the land to Snape Parish Council	HDC retain ownership and control of the land	As landowner, HDC periodically has to deal with management issues using valuable resources
		The Parish Council retains responsibility for managing the site locally	
B	Nominate the recreation area for the Queen Elizabeth II Fields Challenge	Once land is governed by the QEII Trust it will safeguard the land for recreation forever	The land would be governed by the trust and limit any future schemes/disposals the council may have in the future for its assets
C	Explore selling the land to Snape Parish Council	The ownership and responsibility of the land would give control to the community	HDC will reduce it's ownership of public open space
		HDC would no longer need to become involved in management issues related to the space	



Dear Phil Morton, (Acting Chief Executive for Hambleton District Council)

Please join Fields in Trust's programme to make sure our parks and playing fields are safeguarded forever in celebration of the Diamond Jubilee.

The Queen Elizabeth II Fields Challenge is supported by The Duke of Cambridge and will ensure that our children and grandchildren have access to all kinds of spaces including woodlands, children's play areas, bicycle trails and sports pitches.

As a local resident I call on you to nominate Snape Recreation Ground as a QEII field in my local area.

Thank you.

Name

.....

House No

.....

Postcode

.....

Dear Villager,

You may be aware that Chevin Housing Association is proposing to build four properties on the Recreation Ground off Beech Close, Snape. Clearly, this will seriously diminish this space for use by villagers. If you want to see for yourself, the Recreation Ground will be laid out on Saturday 21 April with lines indicating the extent of the development.

We are seeking to persuade Hambleton Council to nominate Snape Recreation Ground as part of the Queen Elizabeth II Fields Challenge. This would mean that the Recreation Ground will be protected in perpetuity from any building development and will provide access to funds for improvement of existing facilities.

### **We need your support**

- If you feel able to do so, please sign the reverse of this flier and a caller will collect this from you by Wednesday 25 April.
- You should also be aware that there is a Parish Council meeting in Snape Institute on Thursday 26 April at 7.45. Please attend and make your feelings known.

Yours sincerely,

Snape Village Recreation Ground Preservation and Improvement Group

