

TELFORD & WREKIN COUNCIL

CABINET - 23 MARCH 2010

ST LUKE'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL - PINWOOD AVENUE PLAYING FIELD

REPORT OF THE HEAD OF PROPERTY & DESIGN

1 PURPOSE

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to seek approval to the installation of fencing to secure the junior football pitch located on the playing field at Pinewood Avenue, Trench. The report also seeks approval to provide the local community with reassurance as to the future use of the remaining field by applying to have the land voluntarily registered as a village green.

2 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 **That Cabinet approve that delegated authority be given to the Head of Property & Design to apply for planning permission for the installation of fencing around the junior pitch located on the playing field at Pinewood Avenue, Trench.**
- 2.2 **That Cabinet approve that delegated authority be given to the Head of Property & Design to make an application for voluntary registration of the land shown hatched on the plan attached at Appendix A as a village green.**

3 SUMMARY

- 3.1 In 2000/01 a fencing scheme to secure a part of the existing St Luke's site was installed, and whilst this protected the school buildings, it left the playing field unprotected.
- 3.2 The school has for some time been unable to use the school playing field as it has been used by dog walkers and the consequential health and safety implications of this use has prevented the children being able to access the provision. In addition, the implication of the more rigorous Safeguarding element of recent OfSTED inspections has substantially increased the need to address this issue.
- 3.3 The local community has for a number of years had unrestricted access to the Pinewood Avenue playing field, as it has been perceived by residents as a community facility, and strong concerns have been voiced by local people that this should remain the case. The area of land accommodating the football pitch is considered by Department for Children, Schools and Families to be a school playing field. Consequently, whilst the Council wishes for the whole playing field to remain accessible to the local community, the requirements of the OfSTED

inspectorate do need to be taken into consideration. By voluntary registering the remaining unfenced portion of the playing field as a village green, this would provide residents with certainty over the future use of the open land external to the enclosed football pitch.

- 3.4 The area of the playing field proposed to be fenced (see Appendix A) would remain available to the community out of school hours as the kissing gate would not be secured or locked. This would allow local residents use of the football pitch when not in use by the school, and would alleviate many of the problems associated with dog fouling etc. which has been a concern for the school and the Council previously.

4 PREVIOUS MINUTES

- 4.1 There are no previous minutes.

5 INFORMATION

- 5.1 The Council has been consulting with local residents about the use of the playing field at Pinewood Avenue. The opportunity for all users including St Luke's Catholic Primary and the local community is of priority concern, particularly the need to use the football pitch as required. The main issue to address is to ensure that the football pitch can be separated from the remainder of the open field during the school day. This would allow the St Luke's pupils to use the football pitch and would not prevent local residents wishing to access the site.

- 5.2 In early 2009 a village green application for the whole of the playing field at Pinewood Avenue was submitted by Wrockwardine Wood and Trench Parish Council on behalf of local residents. Consultation meetings hosted by the Parish Council, with attendance from Telford & Wrekin Members and Officers, were held with local residents to discuss the related issues. As a consequence it has now been agreed between all parties concerned to proceed with the planning application for the fencing of the football pitch and to apply to voluntarily register the remaining area of the field as a village green.

- 5.3 The site is designated as Green Network therefore any form of development would be contrary to planning policy.

6 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY

- 6.1 The proposals detailed in the recommendations to this report would help to promote the Council's equality commitment in terms of:

- Provision of a secure playing field area for the school which will ensure that all pupils have the opportunity to benefit from a full physical education curriculum.
- By registering the remaining playing field as a village green, this would ensure that the open space will be available for all local people into the future.

- The proposals for the junior pitch include improvements to allow access to the junior pitch for disabled users by providing a pathway and accessible kissing gate for wheelchair users.

7 ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

- 7.1 The football pitch would be enhanced as part of these proposals, and registering the land as a village green would ensure its future as public open space.

8 LEGAL COMMENT

- 8.1 Registration of land as a village green means that the land cannot be used in future for any purposes which are inconsistent with village green purposes (i.e. development of the land would be prohibited). The Council, as registration authority, has the power to accept applications for voluntary registration of village greens and the power to register the land. Ongoing legal advice regarding the application process will be given.

9 LINKS WITH CORPORATE PRIORITIES

- 9.1 The specific proposals will contribute to the realisation of the Council's Priority Plans with particular emphasis in respect of:
- Children & Young People (optimising the health and well-being of children, ensuring children & young people grow up in safety and security);
 - Community Protection and Cohesion (reassuring the community and building stronger communities);
 - Environment (maintaining a clean, quality environment).

10. OPPORTUNITIES AND RISKS

- 10.1 The opportunities and risks associated with this proposal have been identified and assessed. Arrangements will be put in place to manage the risks and maximise the opportunities that have been identified.

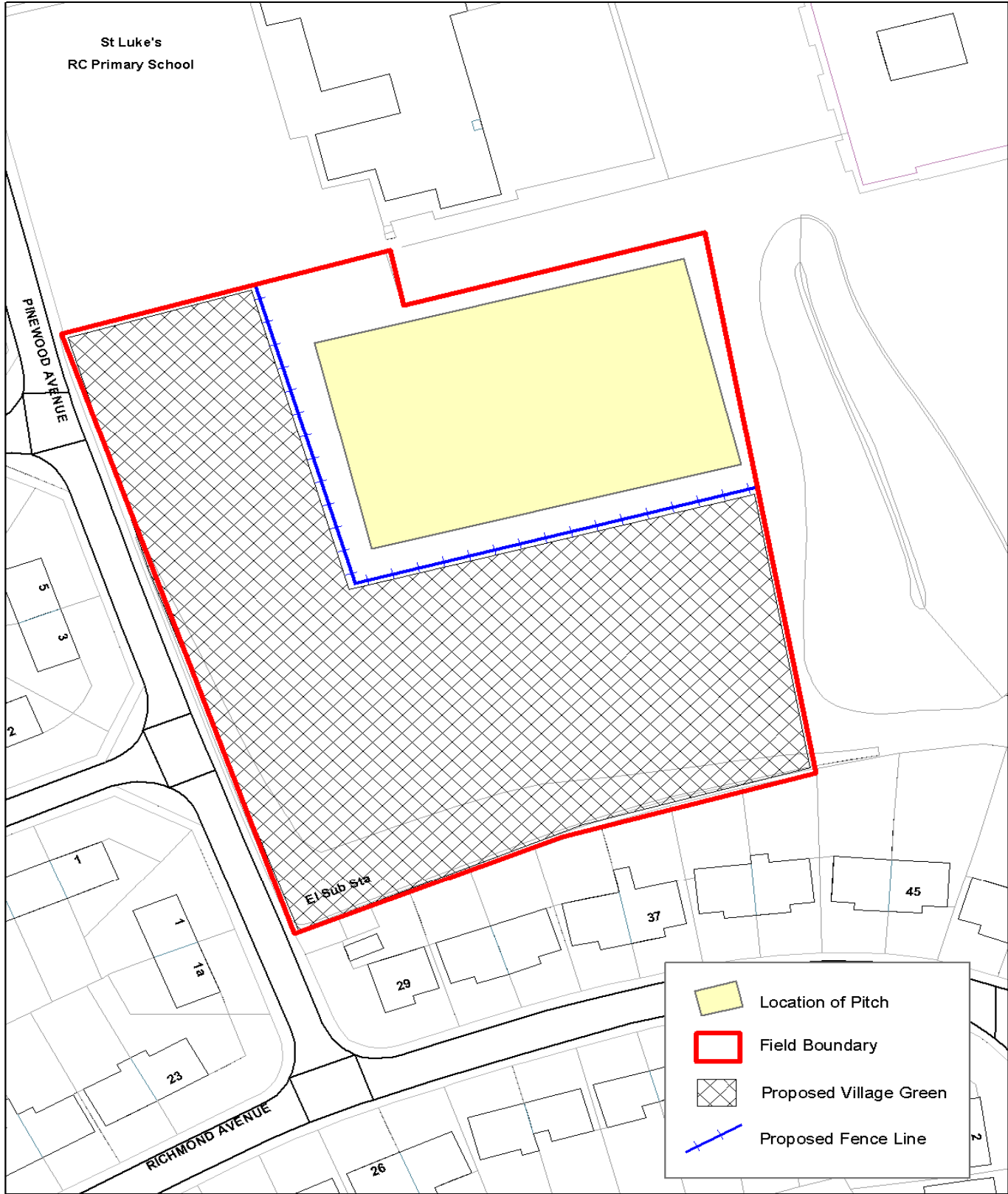
11 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS





- 11.1 The funding for the fencing would be prioritised through the Local Authority Co-ordinated Voluntary Aided Programme (LCVAP). The land is currently maintained by the Local Authority through delegated school budgets, and this would continue.


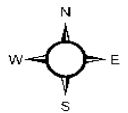
12 WARD IMPLICATIONS

- 12.1 The site is located within the Wrockwardine Wood and Trench Ward.
Ward Members Councillors Robert Groom and Charles Smith

Report prepared by: Mal Yale, Capital & Facilities Manager Tel: (01952) 380931



	Location of Pitch
	Field Boundary
	Proposed Village Green
	Proposed Fence Line

 <p>Telford & Wrekin COUNCIL</p>	<p>Children & Young People Civic Offices PO Box 440 Telford TF3 4WF</p>	<p>Proposed Fence Location (approx)</p>	Scale: Not to Scale	
			2010	
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