

**FORMER ST STEPHENS SCHOOL SITE, KINGFISHER ROAD, OFFERTON-
PROPOSED ALLOTMENTS**

Report of the Deputy Chief Executive

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To consult the Area Committee on the proposed future use of the former school playing field at Kingfisher Road Offerton.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The site shown edged red is the former playing field to St Stephens School which closed many years ago, part of the site subsequently having been redeveloped with housing.
- 2.2 Since the school closure the site has not been used for any formal purpose and has remained closed though there may have been some unauthorised access by members of the public.
- 2.3 An application has been received from a local group the Bosden Farm Allotment Association who wish to use the land to establish an allotment site.
- 2.4 The exact details as to how the group would operate the site have yet to be discussed in detail but it is understood that the site would be for the benefit of local residents and operated on a not for profit basis with no commercial element.
- 2.5 Due to the fact that the site has remained unused for a number of years it will require a significant amount of investment to bring the land into a condition which will allow cultivation.
- 2.6 Allotment sites are not generally operated on a commercial basis and the income which they generate is not significant. It may be anticipated that the applicant Allotment Association will be seeking an agreement of significant length and at a nominal rent to justify their investment in the site.
- 2.7 Any agreement between the parties would contain restrictions on the use and the operation of the site. Any development would have to be subject to the grant of planning consent though the scope and nature of any permanent structures on the site would be subject to consent under the terms of the agreement.
- 2.8 The Bosden Farm Allotment Association is the first organisation which has approached the Council to use the site for this purpose. There may be other organisations in the locality which may have similar aims and objectives. Members are asked to consider whether they would wish for the Council to advertise this opportunity and seek expressions of interest from other organisations and report back to the Area Committee with the results of the exercise.

3.0 **RECOMMENDATION**

- 3.1 The Area Committee is requested to consider the contents of this report and provide any comments.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

There are no background papers

Anyone requiring further information should contact Charlotte on Tel. 0161 474 4240 or by email on charlotte.cordingley@stockport.gov.uk

BACKGROUND PAPERS

There are none

Anyone requiring further information should contact Charlotte Cordingley on telephone number Tel: 0161 474 4240 or alternatively email Charlotte.cordingley@stockport.gov.uk