

NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

COALVILLE SPECIAL EXPENSES WORKING PARTY – 15 APRIL 2014

Title of report	REQUEST TO RENAME COALVILLE PARK
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Purpose of report	To provide members with relevant information in order to fully consider a request to change the name of Coalville Park
Recommendations	THAT THE COALVILLE SPECIAL EXPENSES WORKING PARTY CONSIDER THE REPORT AND MAKE A RECOMMENDATION TO CABINET

1.0 BACKGROUND

2014 marks the 100 year anniversary of the commencement of World War I and on 11 December 2013 the Coalville Times published a letter by Michael Kendrick supporting a suggestion by an Armed Forces Veteran (Mr Paul Clements) that Coalville Park be renamed Coalville Centenary Park in honour of the servicemen and women that sacrificed their lives in World War I. (see Appendix 1)

The published letter was subsequently followed by a letter to the Chief Executive as a formal request to consider the changing of the name (see Appendix 2).

Since receiving the letter, the Council has received/considered, subsequent suggestions for the Park's name from Mr Kendrick, which have included the following;

- Coalville 1914-18 Centenary Memorial Park
- Coalville's Great War Centenary Park
- The Coalville 1914-18 Centenary Park
- The Coalville Great War Memorial Park
- Coalville's Centenary Park Commemorating 1914-18

2.0 HISTORY TO COALVILLE PARK - TITLE DEEDS

The land (Coalville Park) was transferred to the District Council in 1898 from the Trustees of Coalville Athletic Club on the basis that it forever be used as a public park and pleasure ground (the deeds do not make any mention of the name).

Efforts have been made by officers to discover and consult with the Trustees of Coalville Athletic Club to discuss the suggested name change but without success. There is no

longer a record of the Trust on the Charity Commission website and it can be assumed that this body no longer exists.

3.0 PROCESS FOR CHANGING THE NAME OF A PUBLIC PARK

As the Title Deeds make no reference to the name and the original Trustees cannot be found, research was undertaken into any required legislative process for changing the name of a public park.

It has been determined that no such legislative process exists. As the owners of the park the Council have the ability to name the park as it wishes. However, as the park was gifted to the public it is recommended good practice that any proposed name change should involve public consultation.

There are recent examples of renaming public parks in Leicester City ie Nagal Grove Open Space was renamed to Jesse Jackson Park together with the Nelson Mandela Park. There are no examples of such name changes to public parks in North West Leicestershire that officers are aware of.

4.0 CONSULTATION

In consideration of good practice, the below highlights the potential timelines for any consultation and determination:-

CSEWP members advise cabinet to hold a public consultation	15 April 2014
Cabinet agree to consult	24 June 2014
Consultation period	July/August 2014
Feedback to cabinet (Name change agreed or not)	September 2014

Members may be aware that the Council has agreed to sign up to the Armed Forces Community Covenant and is currently working with the Ministry of Defence and Royal British Legion on measures within the covenant. It is suggested that these bodies be specifically consulted if any name change is recommended.

5.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL

- The impact on officer time from Democratic Services and Community Services in connection with the administration, advertising and promotional costs together with the changes to the signage and noticeboards for the Park. An explanation plaque would also be considered necessary outlining the reasons for the name and its change.
- The need to amend literature, documents and records over a period of time to reflect any new name.
- Byelaws imposed on Coalville Park. Unfortunately, there is no provision in legislation to amend byelaws which means the current ones will need to be repealed with the new ones being advertised and approved by the Secretary of State. The Council would need to advertise the 'new' byelaws, providing for at least one month consultation with the new byelaw being presented to the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) for confirmation. This is a detailed process which would require significant officer

time. However, there are currently a number of land transactions due to be completed by the District Council to Parish Councils and it is proposed that should any amendment to byelaws be required as a result of a name change, any amendments also required by these transactions would be undertaken at the same time to ensure one process and one cost.

The approximate costs relating to a name change are as follows;

Item	Cost
Consultation Process (officer time, advertising)	£2,000-£4,000 and officer time
Replacement of signage/noticeboards	£1,500 and officer time
Amending Council website, literature, leaflets, documents	Officer time, documents to be updated as they are refreshed over time
Re-working of bye-laws	£1,000 and officer time

6.0 NEXT STEPS

The Portfolio Holder for Community Services has requested that this matter be considered by the Coalville Special Expenses Working Party with a recommendation being made via the minutes to the next Cabinet meeting on 24 June 2014.

Members are therefore asked to consider two matters;

1 – Do Coalville Special Expense members support consultation on a proposal to change the name of Coalville Park

2 – If so, what name or names would members recommend to cabinet for the consultation process