

**Blaby District Council
Council**

Date of Meeting	20 May 2025
Title of Report	Transfer of Narborough Park This is not a Key Decision and is not on the Forward Plan
Lead Member	Cllr. Nigel Grundy - Neighbourhood Services & Assets
Report Author	Executive Director
Corporate Priority	All Priorities: A Place to Live; A Place to Work; A Place to Visit; People Strategy; Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS)

1. What is this report about?

- 1.1 To seek authority to transfer Narborough Park to Narborough Parish Council for ongoing community use.

2. Recommendation(s) to Council

- 2.1 That Council approve the disposal of Narborough Park to Narborough Parish Council.
- 2.2 That delegated authority is given to the Executive Director (S151) in consultation with the Neighbourhood Services and Assets Portfolio holder and Finance, People and Performance Portfolio holder to agree terms and finalise the disposals of the land assets detailed in 2.1.

3. Reason for Decisions Recommended

- 3.1 Transfer of land listed in 2.1 is a recommendation within the Parks & Open Spaces Strategy 2024-2034.
- 3.2 The recommendation seeks to transfer open space to the Parish Council where there is no potential for development of the land and in so doing reduce maintenance costs and liability to the Council.

4. Matters to consider

4.1 Background

The District Council have recently developed a Parks and Open Strategy 2024-2034 with a strategic vision to ensure that Blaby District Council owned parks and open spaces are sustainable, high quality, accessible and continue to provide value to people, place, and nature.

A key objective of the strategy is to review all strategic parks and open spaces owned by Blaby District Council and recommend the best ownership and management for their respective communities.

The proposed disposal of Narborough Park follows the recent Council approval to dispose of other community assets to Parish Councils. These included the disposal of land at Southey Close recreation ground and Jubilee Park to Enderby Parish Council and disposal of Holt Crescent allotments to Thurlaston Parish Council.

Parish Councils have an in depth understanding of local needs, and the availability to access funding opportunities which has the potential to provide a vast range of benefits to its residents, visitors, and park users. In addition, it allows for the Parish Council to take control of the site offering opportunities for consistency in maintenance regimes, community events, activities, and much more.

Further to an offer in principle to transfer the land, Narborough Parish Council have expressed an interest to take ownership of Narborough Park which is located off Desford Road. The site is not deemed to have development potential. The land to be transferred will be conditional upon it remaining as open space in perpetuity.

Therefore, it is proposed that the land as shown in Appendix A be transferred to the parish and to be retained as open space in perpetuity, for a nominal value of £1.00.

4.2 Proposal(s)

- To proceed with the transfer outlined in 4.1; and for the terms of the transfer for the site to be agreed and finalised by the Executive Director (S151 officer) in consultation with the respective Portfolio Holders for Assets and Finance.

4.3 Relevant Consultations

Consultation was undertaken during the development of the Parks & Open Strategy that subsequently identified the transfer of Narborough Park.

Internal consultants: The Parks and Open Spaces Strategy working group, Tourism, Planning, Environmental Services, SLT, Informal Cabinet, Scrutiny, Full Council.

External consultants: Leicestershire County Council, The Environmental Partnership (TEP) Parish/Town Councils.

4.4 Significant Issues

There are no significant issues to report.

5. What will it cost and are there opportunities for savings?

- 5.1 Blaby District Council currently have no running costs for the management and maintenance of the site, therefore there will be no direct savings from the transfer of the park. The long term liability of the running the site will rest with Narborough Parish Council in the future.

6. What are the risks and how can they be reduced?

6.1

Current Risk	Actions to reduce the risks
Councils' liability for the sites	Transferring the asset to the Parish Council will transfer the liability.
Risk that the Parish is unable to maintain the assets after transfer.	The Council will carry out due diligence to ensure the Parish Council has the ability and funding to maintain the park into the future.
Limited funding for improvements to the open spaces.	Transferring the asset will provide further funding avenues for future improvements to the sites.
Retention of part of the park raises concerns with the public that the park will be built upon.	Develop a clear communication approach, in partnership with the Parish, that explains the rationale for retaining a small part of the land for future changes and how this will not affect the ongoing use of the park itself.

7. Other options considered

- 7.1 The option of continuing ownership of the park and leasing it to Narborough Parish Council, beyond the current lease hold arrangements, was considered. However, the Council intend to maintain the site as a park and as such believe Narborough Parish Council are best placed to maximise the parks potential in the future.

8. Environmental impact

- 8.1 No adverse environmental impacts are anticipated given there is to be no change to the current utilisation of the land.

9. Other significant issues

- 9.1 In preparing this report, the author has considered issues related to Human Rights, Legal Matters, Human Resources, Equalities, Public Health Inequalities, and Climate Local and there are no areas of concern.

10. Appendix

- ## 10.1 Appendix A – Proposed red line boundary of the park to be transferred to Narborough Parish Council

11. Background paper(s)

- 11.1 None.

12. Report author's contact details

Marc Greenwood Executive Director Place
Marc.greenwood@blaby.gov.uk 0116 275 0555