



North Tyneside Council

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Briefing note

To: Strategic Property Group

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Date: 18th February 2015

Title of Briefing: Community Asset List – Forest Hall Library

Background:

In September 2014, SPG considered a report which provided information on the legal requirement for the Council to maintain a Community Asset List and to consider applications submitted by any party to nominate an asset for inclusion in the List.

The report gave information of the type of organisations that are eligible to nominate an asset. It also provided details of certain categories of use into which the asset had to fall for successful nomination (Localism Act 2011 s88 paras 1 & 2)

Forest Hall Library

Forest Hall Library provides a facility for borrowing books, cd's and dvd's, providing a community IT facility, hosting Bounce & Rhyme sessions for parents/carers of babies, facilitating meetings both formally and informally for local people, acting as a collection point for the credit union, working with schools to introduce children to Library Services, acting as a public information hub, providing fax and copying services, venue for councillor surgeries, reading room.

The application for the nomination of the Forest Hall Library was received by the Council on 17/11/14, from the Springfield Community Organisation (North Tyneside) Ltd, a registered charity.

Following receipt of the nomination, consultation was undertaken with the Community Engagement Team, the Legal Team and the Planning Team.

Community Engagement Team – Undertook an audit of Springfield Community Organisation which confirmed that the Group fell within the eligibility criteria of organisations that are legally able to nominate an asset.

Legal Team - Conducted a Land Registry Search and property title check to ensure there were no onerous covenants that would prevent the property from being nominated.

Planning – Were asked to provide ancillary comments on planning and potential use restrictions.

This consultation confirmed that the Springfield Community Organisation is an organisation that meets the eligibility criteria and is therefore legally able to nominate the Forest Hall Library as a community asset.

It also confirmed that the asset falls within Para. 1 of Section 88 of the Localism Act and is therefore one that can be nominated.

(Para. 1 -the asset currently furthers the social wellbeing or social interest of the local community, and it is realistic to think it can continue to do so)

Recommendation

It is recommended that in line with Statute, SPG validates the application from the Springfield Community Organisation to allow Forest Hall Library to be added to the Community Asset List.