

SUBJECT: ADI'S LEGACY / HARTSHOLME COMMUNITY GARDEN

DIRECTORATE: HOUSING & INVESTMENT

REPORT AUTHOR: PAULA BURTON, ACTING ASSISTANT DIRECTOR, HOUSING MANAGEMENT

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 To update Housing Scrutiny Sub Committee regarding the request made by Adi' Legacy to lease the land to the rear of Hartsholme Shops, Morton Drive for them to manage and maintain as a community garden at a nil or peppercorn rental cost per annum.

2. Background

- 2.1 The land to the rear of Hartsholme Shops on Morton Drive in Lincoln is land owned by the Housing Revenue Account. The piece of land is indicated in yellow on the attached Appendix A and is 244m².
- 2.2 Due to historical anti-social behaviour the land (and other land in the vicinity) was fenced off to prevent fly tipping, vandalism and people gathering and causing a nuisance to the shops and residents in the community.
- 2.3 In September 2023, Adi's Legacy CIC approached the City of Lincoln Council and requested use of the land to create a community garden for public use in the city.

3. Adi's Legacy

- 3.1 Adi's Legacy (CIC) is a registered non-profit community interest company and provides a unique service to individuals across the city. They cater to all in the community including those sleeping rough, those who have previously slept rough or living in hostel/temporary accommodation. They supply home packs, food and toiletry packs but also support anyone in need of extra help.
- 3.2 Adi's Legacy pre-loved shop opened on 5th August 2023 and is situated at 72 Hemswell Avenue, Lincoln.

4. Adi's Legacy Community Garden

- 4.1 Adi's Legacy's main aim is to bring the community together and create a safe multipurpose outdoor space for local residents to use. They hope that by creating a multipurpose garden, it would help prevent loneliness and isolation and make a positive impact on those living in the community. They aim to include the community in the upkeep of the area including gardening tasks, grass cutting and litter picking.

From the Adi's Legacy pre loved shop they will be able to supply drinks and snacks from the kitchen area of the shop which will all be supplied free of charge. They currently offer hot drinks and breakfast snacks in the shop. Adi's Legacy intend to use the utilities from the shop to provide electric for tools and water for the garden as needed.

- 4.2 Adi's Legacy aim to secure a formal lease for the land to enable them to bid for available funding to encourage community participation in looking after the garden, with assistance from volunteers already working for Adi's Legacy preloved shop. Adi's Legacy would also like to use the garden for events for the local community including barbecues, teddy bear picnics, family picnics, coffee and chat sessions, and aim to provide seating areas for all ages.

5. Strategic Priorities

5.1 Let's drive inclusive economic growth

The establishment of a new community garden that is open to the public and maintained by members of the community and voluntary agencies will support jobs and training opportunities in the local voluntary sector.

5.2 Let's reduce inequality

The provision of the community garden promotes equality of opportunity and seeks to tackle deprivation by providing access to outdoor spaces to the local residents. Adi's Legacy Garden will also provide much needed opportunities for the public to be able to enjoy the space, participating in gardening and provide opportunities to support and promote mental health.

5.3 Let's deliver quality housing

The land being proposed for lease is not of a sufficient size for development of additional homes but will provide public outdoor space that the local residents will be able to access and use.

5.4 Let's enhance our remarkable place

The development and the green space enhances the community, creating a sense of belonging and pride in the local area.

5.5 Let's address the challenge of climate change

The proposal by Adi's Legacy looks to introduce and maintain plants in the garden will contribute to biodiversity and the public's awareness of how the community can work together to achieve a reduced amount of carbon emissions.

6. Organisational Impacts

6.1 Finance

The land being requested for lease was previously leased as a community garden. There has been no maintenance in place and the garden is in need of some maintenance in the future.

There are no foreseen financial expenditure costs connected to the granting of a lease for the garden as Adi's Legacy will be responsible for the maintenance costs for the garden.

No commercial potential for income has been identified for the piece of land.

Failure to grant permission for the lease will result in the Council having to fund ongoing costs to maintain the land as and when required.

6.2 Legal Implications including Procurement Rules

Legal implications have been explored and it is recommended that a formal lease be granted to Adi's Legacy for clarity of responsibilities for the maintenance and upkeep of the land.

6.3 Equality, Diversity and Human Rights

The Public Sector Equality Duty means that the Council must consider all individuals when carrying out their day-to-day work, in shaping policy, delivering services and in relation to their own employees.

It requires that public bodies have due regard to the need to:

- Eliminate discrimination
- Advance equality of opportunity
- Foster good relations between different people when carrying out their activities

The proposal to grant a lease to Adi's Legacy for the land requested for a community garden advances equality of opportunity by enabling members of the public to gain experience of volunteering roles and gives them work experience and also confidence to work with others.

The community engagement and participation activities that will be delivered in this project within the local community will be accessible and open to all local residents which encourages community cohesion and good local relationships as well as benefits to the health and wellbeing of local residents.

6.4 Human Resources

This project will be managed by existing staff within the Corporate Property Team and Tenancy Services Team.

6.5 Land, Property and Accommodation

This programme will improve the use of formerly unused land owned by the Housing Revenue Account and will encourage community engagement and accountability for local community land.

6.6 Significant Community Impact

Long term, the community impact will be positive with improvement in the biodiversity of the area.

6.7 Corporate Health and Safety implications

It is not envisaged that there are any Health and Safety implications should the lease be granted.

7. Risk Implications

7.1 i) Options Explored:

Granting of the lease – The benefits of this are detailed within this report.

Decision to not grant the lease – This will trigger a piece of work to bring maintenance of the land back within the Housing Revenue Account responsibilities. This will incur a cost to the HRA and inclusion within the current DCE contract will be required.

7.2 ii) Key Risks Associated with the Preferred Approach:

Management of the lease:

Risk: Adi's Legacy do not maintain and use the land for the reason the lease is granted.

Mitigation: Action can be taken to end the lease using the conditions contained within the lease.

8. Recommendation

8.1 For the Housing Scrutiny Sub Committee to note the contents of this report and approve:

- The granting of a lease of the land to the rear of Hartsholme Shops to Adi's Legacy at a peppercorn rent for a term of seven years or less being terminable at the end of any year of lease or earlier should there be a breach of lease conditions.
- Each party to bear their own fees in the granting of such lease.

Is this a key decision?

Yes

Do the exempt information categories apply?

No

Does Rule 15 of the Scrutiny Procedure Rules (call-in and urgency) apply?

No

How many appendices does the report contain?

None

List of Background Papers:

None

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