

Annex 4

Land at Hartsdown Park, Margate

Current position

Thanet District Council are the freehold owners of Hartsdown Park which comprises predominantly public park but also operational depot, sports and leisure centres and several sports clubs and commercial businesses. One of which is Manor House Nursery School which occupy Hartsdown House as a private pre-school nursery and forest school. The MD of the nursery has approached the Council requesting an agreement to occupy an area of Hartsdown Park to develop nursery services to provide an allotment area and further Forest school activity area. Initially the MD identified three possible sites, indicated on the plan below, which were considered by Officers and sites one and two were discounted as inappropriate, however site three may be considered suitable for the proposed nursery and forest school use and it is understood that the Nursery would not wish to change the land save for excluding the public by erecting fencing which would require advertising and planning consent. Ward Councillors for the area were consulted on the proposal for use of this site and no objections were raised. If the Council let the land they could secure revenue income, however the public would be excluded from the site which measures approximately 150 sq.m.

The Options

The options include;

- agreeing to the principle of granting an interest in the site below subject to advertising and planning;
- consider allowing a lesser area to be used or;
- Declining the request altogether and retaining the land as public park.

