

# ***London Borough of Bexley***

## ***News Release***

For Immediate Release

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### **CABINET APPROVES START OF STATUTORY PROCEDURE FOR DISPOSAL OF OPEN SPACES**

Bexley's Cabinet has approved the start of the statutory procedure for the disposal of three open spaces in Erith and part of a park in Sidcup.

The areas are: West Street Small Park, Erith; Wilde Road (East), Erith; Wilde Road (West) Erith; and the eastern half of Old Farm Park, Sidcup.

There will be further statutory public consultation on their future. The results will be reported to the Council's General Purposes Committee, which will make the final decision, early next year.

At its meeting yesterday (17 November), the Cabinet considered the results of the two public consultations carried out so far on the future of the four areas. They are among 27 sites identified as surplus, following a comprehensive review of green spaces that the Council maintains.

The Cabinet received a detailed report setting out the background to the two public consultations. It considered the current provision of open space in each of the four areas, relevant planning policies and the issues specific to each site, alongside the Council's very challenging financial position.

"The financial pressures we face are unprecedented and likely to increase," said Cllr Don Massey, Cabinet member for Finance and Corporate Services. "We have to tackle a large projected deficit, which we estimate at £34m by 2018, so we can continue to meet

our legal responsibilities”.

Bexley is ranked seventh highest London Borough in terms of the total area of publicly accessible open space land and fourth highest in the total area of accessible open space per 1,000 population. The four sites make up less than a third of one per cent of the total area of parks and open space that the Council maintains.

**‘ENDS’**

A copy of the detailed report considered by the Council’s Cabinet is available online at

<http://democracy.bexley.gov.uk/documents/s69198/Item%205-1%20Open%20Space%20Sites.pdf>

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