



# Media Release

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## NEW LIFE FOR LINGERFIELD AND SCOTTON

Plans to develop sports pitches as part of a new country park for Lingerfield and Scotton got the go-ahead last night as Harrogate Borough Council's Cabinet unanimously agreed to move to appoint a contractor to carry out the work.

Working closely with Scotton with Lingerfield Parish Council, the council's primary task is to develop the area's first dedicated football pitch. This will provide a new 'home' ground for the recently formed Scotton Scorchers' Junior Football Club and for the footballers of Lingerfield Primary School.

Situated three miles north of Knaresborough, the Lingerfield Recreation Ground covers an area of about 16 acres and is let by Harrogate Borough Council on a 99 year lease to the parish council.

A further area totalling six acres has been sub-let for a golf driving range and a further acre has recently been sub-let for a children's nursery.

As well as developing the much needed football pitches, Harrogate Borough Council is also working with the parish council to develop the remainder of the recreation ground as a country park.

Councillor Pat Jones, Cabinet Member for Leisure and Amenity Services, said: "This is an exciting development for Lingerfield and Scotton. With the consent of the parish council, we are co-ordinating the development works for the football pitch.

"The need for a football pitch in the area has long been recognised but it has been extremely difficult finding a suitable location. The decision to create a country park provided the first viable opportunity. And we obviously had to get over the financial obstacles first. Funding is now in place with £50,000 raised by the borough council and the parish council. This has been enhanced by grants from the Football Foundation and a Waste Recycling Environment grant.

"When completed, it will be one of the finest pitches in the district, and an invaluable resource for the club and the school. Developing the land in this way to include the country park will bring it into use as a valuable public amenity for the whole area."

Harrogate Borough Council has now given approval to proceed with the scheme and it is hoped it will be ready for use by September next year. ENDS

**FURTHER INFORMATION: Councillor Pat Jones is available for comment on 01423 872466. More technical information is available from Mr Mark Hardcastle, Leisure Development Manager on 01423 556724.**