



# RECREATION GROUND REPORT FOR THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

April 2021

Covid-19 restrictions have now been lifted by the government and the Play Area, Zip Wire, grassed areas, etc. have been in full use, with residents and the children, enjoying the facility.

The Football Pitch is beginning to be used by various football Clubs. However, at this point the Pavilion is not being used, due to the Covid-19 rules. There is a plan to improve the quality of the football pitch over the summer with the addition of topsoil and grass seed. This will be organised by Tim Carr.

Also, as part of the pitch uplift, and courtesy of a generous donation by the BarClay Music Makers, two new benches are on order. These will be installed near the existing two benches and the final rubbish bin will be installed at the same time.

The Pavilion. 7 of the 11 showers have been replaced and Stuart and Peter will continue to replace the remaining 4 showers over the next few weeks. We will then need to look at the extractor fans and the heaters. The broken guttering has been repaired, this was actioned by Tim.

Unfortunately, the local youths still like to carry out mindless vandalism to the pavilion and the area in general. Another bin was destroyed, this time in the car park. This has been repaired and replaced. The broken bollards in the carpark are still part of the ongoing dialogue with the installer and manufacturer, however, very little progress is being made. As a precaution all of the bollard stumps have been painted with white paint to try and avoid any accidents. Railings around the play area are being broken and bent. We take remedial action to repair, but it is the mindset of the youths who want to destroy the facility. Police are informed about the Recreation Ground and the destruction.

I do believe we are going to have to install CCTV on the Pavilion to try and reduce these mindless acts by the youths. This is my opinion, and we will seek advice.

Our shared Recreation Ground does not seem to be any responsibility of Barham Parish Council as far as they are concerned especially as they are considering stopping DK9 carrying out patrols in Claydon, they currently continue.

Play Equipment. We have had a visit by RoSPA and with some relatively minor issues, that we already knew about, the Play Equipment has been approved for another year. We will be replacing one of the Spring Seats as soon as we can, but it is disappointing that delivery for a relatively small item is in the region of £50. The Parish council will order from the annual grant as they can claim the VAT back. We are investigating additional play equipment and refurbishment of the existing. Gail is leading this with assistance from Danielle and once we



have agreed upon the nature of the new equipment a programme of grant seeking will start. Currently we are awaiting quotes from three companies.

General Upkeep. As part of the planned upkeep of the Recreation Ground and with the distant prospect of the Probation Service people returning to help out the Committee has purchased a shredder to deal with small branches and other cuttings that need to be disposed of. Our other purchase has been a 5 in 1 multi-tool that will allow the undergrowth and overhanging branches to be tidied up.

We have also agreed with the Coffee Station that they can use the Pavilion end of the carpark to set up and we have given them access to the electricity supply in the Pavilion. This is proving to be extremely popular with dog walkers, and other visitors alike.

The Facebook response from residents is continuing and is incredibly supportive.

The Treasurer has updated the cheque signing criteria, this has been tested and is working. However, we do need to investigate paying without checks and bring us into the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

The Container replacement is growing momentum and we are investigating in earnest to replace it in the early summer. Our current 20ft container is starting to rust very badly and is not big enough for the goalposts during the off season. These usually get stored in the Pavilion over the Summer months but the proposed 40ft container should address this. The ground now being harder reduces the risk of any large vehicles being stuck in the soft ground, so we can progress now.

Once the container has been replaced, we will liaise with a member of the community to reinstate the BMX Track, something that we are sure will be popular as the existing and fairly uninteresting mound is in regular use by young cyclists.

Peter and Stuart