

## Report of Barton Fields 2006.7

### Introduction

The Barton Fields Trust has been in charge of the field for two years. It took over the management of the field from Bristol City Council on April 1<sup>st</sup> 2005. The Trust has been given an annual grant by the Council to help maintain the field.

### The Future

The Trust has a masterplan for the future. The control and maintenance of the field is vital to allow this to happen for the community, the Rugby Club and to all other beneficiaries who may use the field in the future. This plan is taking some while to come to fruition. Planning, the Environmental Agency, City Council's Play Development Workers are all 'dragging their feet' in allowing the development of the field and the placement of a play area, to take place. In fact we are no further on now than a twelve months ago. Hopefully, in the next few months the Pay area, paid for by Section 106 money, will be in place and we will be able to start our ground surface improvements and development.

### Maintenance

The Trust employed CPS Grounds Maintenance to look after the field from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2005. The Contractor has been doing a good job and we work closely with them to improve the condition of the field.

We believe this has happened:

- The condition of the turf has improved by regular mowing.
- The two rugby pitches have never been so good. (Still a long way to go!). Grass growing where it hasn't before – due to drill seeding at the right time.
- Poor quality soil on the pitches has had treatment using a mulch to improve its quality.
- Pitch marking has been regular and of high quality
- A planned schedule with the Contractor for ongoing improvement of field and pitches
- Planned trimming of the hedges. We have adjusted the trimming at the right time to get full benefit to the hedgerows while having bird-nesting time in mind.

### Improvements

We have laid a copse to support and hide the Badger set from open view. This was good environmental work and will benefit the set enormously. It will protect the set from unwanted interference for years to come.

We have laid a hedgerow along the chain link fence by Argyle Road. This hedgerow, when mature, will be an asset to wild life and will act as a barrier to the road when the chain link becomes old and decays.

## **Accountability**

The Trust and the development of the field have become accountable to the community.

- Complaints received by the Trust about various things: litter, motorbikes, Fly tipping etc. have been dealt with.
- The Trust holds an AGM which may be attended by the public

## **Finance**

The Council's funding for the field is vital for its development.

With good budget control and careful management of the funding, far more has been achieved with the capital than any previous management.

For the same amount of funding we have managed to achieve quality maintenance and development in the first two years.

The coming year will allow for more purposeful development and planned improvements such as communal seating, drainage etc. Savings from the overall maintenance budget and external funding opportunities will achieve this.

## **Conclusion**

We believe we have made good progress to have an excellent playing field and park for all the community.

The Rugby Club is blossoming and has become one of the top teams in Bristol now to play in the South West League

The field is looking far tidier and pristine than ever before.

Development is continuing into the coming year

The future is looking really good and promises great things for the field with hard work, careful management and the will from other agencies, which could make vital things, happen.

**Mike Bond**  
**Chair, Barton Fields Trust**  
**15 May 2007**