

## Annual Report 2008.09

### Introduction

The Barton Fields Trust has been in charge of the field for four 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.

### Improvements

The trust has now completed a pathway laid with bark which now reaches from Charlton Road to the pathway running across the lower field. The purpose of the rustic pathway is to guide people away from the badger set which is now well hidden by last years planting. Two benches on concrete slabs have now been fitted. The first one is set on top of the field looking down over the neighbourhood. The second is set halfway down the newly laid pathway. It is hoped that if the benches are not vandalised like last years trees then we will fit more next year.

The hedgerow planted a year or so ago running down Argyle Road has had its first cut and is now started to look the part. This hedgerow will in time replace the wire chain link fence which at the moment marks the boundary.

A new Dog bin/litter bin has been fitted in response to the public asking for one to be fitted at the bottom of the field.

We have asked for a small area of the field not to be mown as a trial to see how leaving the mowing in certain areas works to allow a meadow like area.

### Maintenance

The Trust employs CPS Grounds Maintenance to look after the field. The Contractor has been doing a good job and we work closely with them to improve the condition of the field. The pitches has had lots in of investment and although there some unevenness the amount of grass on the pitches is fantastic compared with anything previous. At the end of this Rugby season in April the pitches were covered in grass with no bare patches which is amazing as in all previous years great swaths of the pitches would normally be bare. This has come about by, good fertilising, drill seeding; weed killing, and the laying of loads of mulch to break up poor soil and clay.

The hedgerows are trimmed and in good condition.

Some of the vandalised trees have started to bush out.

### Accountability

The Trust has become accountable for the field as the community now knows who is in charge of the field. We know this by:

- Complaints received by the Trust about various things: litter, motorbikes, Fly tipping etc.
- The Trust advertises its AGM in June each year which can be attended by the public as there is a slot for Public Participation.

## **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 past four years.

It is hoped that the council will give the Trust an annual increase to cover inflation etc this year for the first time.

## **The Future**

The control and maintenance of the field is vital to for the community, the Rugby Club and to all other beneficiaries who may use the field in the future.

It is hoped that this year we will be able to have welcome signs at all entrances to the field and more benches to be fitted.

We are still chasing the opportunity to have tipping on the field to enable the levelling of the entire bottom half. This will increase the quality and size of the pitches and the laying of a training area. This is now taken several years to get to this point but with the help of Churngold and the other agencies we will one day be successful.

There has been no progress on the sale of a piece of land at the bottom of the field and I have to say it isn't looking good for this particular fundraising project.

## **Conclusion**

We believe we have made good progress to have an excellent playing field and park for all the community. It is hoped the council will give a rise in the fields allowance so that the progress may continue.

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 and careful management and with the help from other agencies.

My thanks goes to all the trust members for there hard work, commitment and support over the past year!

**Mike Bond**

**Chair, Barton Fields Trust**

**June 2008**