

Annual Report 2009.10

Introduction

The Barton Fields Trust has been in charge of the field for five years. 'Fields in Trust' took ownership of the field from Bristol City Council and the trust took over the management of the field on April 1st 2005. The Trust has been given an annual grant by the Council to help maintain the field.

Improvements

The trust has replenished the pathway bark which 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.

Four further benches set in concrete slabs have now been fitted in the field.

This year we were able to have five attractive 'welcome signs' fitted at all entrances to the field. They announce 'Welcome to Barton Fields' and 'Home of Barton Hill RFC'

The hedgerow planted two years ago running down Argyle Road is now looking like a hedgerow. This hedgerow will in time replace the wire chain link fence which at the moment marks the boundary.

Three more Litter/dog bins have been fitted at the top entrances and one at the bottom of the bark pathway

A small area of the field is not being mown as a ongoing trial to see how leaving the mowing in certain areas will develop like a meadow area. and help support wild life.

We have also supported the Rugby Club by funding metal shutters over the entrances to help stem a recent spate of burglaries.

The Trust has placed a top quality picnic table near the council's play area. The position of the table is ideal for families to enjoy a picnic while the kids have a fun time playing safely.

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. All though we have had a real hard and very wet winter the pitches were covered in grass with only few 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.
- There have been far less complaints about litter this year as we have introduced a litter picking regime..

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 five 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.

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.

We hope to this year introduce a 'Friends of the Field' group to foster more public participation in the involvement of the field.

This years objectives are to

- Set up a 'Friends of the Field' group:
- Lop and prone trees on Argyle Road
- Find funding for an Orchard
- Ensure all to search for funding
- Complete bench plaque for Glenys Sharpe
- Complete more Art works

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, public participation and with the help from other agencies.

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

Mike Bond
Chair, Barton Fields Trust
June 2010