

Annual Report 2011.12

Introduction

The Barton Fields Trust has been in charge of the field for seven 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 hedgerow planted four years ago running down Argyle Road is now a developed hedgerow. This hedgerow will in time replace the wire chain link fence which at the moment marks the boundary.

A small area of the field is not being mown as an ongoing trial to see how leaving the mowing in certain areas will develop like a meadow area. It is clear the birds love this area which is close the hedgerow.

Twenty new trees have been planted this year and touch wood they are all surviving! Funding from SITA!

Four benches at the top of the field have been fitted overlooking the field and the Welsh hills beyond. This has proven to be a great new feature for the field. Funding for the benches came from the Neighbourhood partnership.

Diamond Jubilee

We had a very successful Jubilee event on the field with over 5 – 600 people local people turning up to a brilliant Summer Fayre and Fun Day. The field became 'Barton Fields - A Queen Elizabeth 11 Field'.

Bristol's Lord Mayor unveiled a plaque to commemorate the day. There were many stalls and other attractions. The event proved to be a multi-cultural event reflecting the neighbourhood's diverse community!

The Trust was one of the three Beacons lit in Bristol at the top of the field at 10.26pm on Monday 4th June 2012. 35 people from the local community turned out to see the spectacle. Our thanks go to the PCSO's Alison, Leanne, Anna and Carl for all their hard work. The event would not have happened without them!

Friends of the Field

This group started last year to improve community links and participation in the field. This hasn't grown as we would have liked. We have met however every other month with several people attending.

Our biggest success was a History meeting at the clubhouse in May 2012 led by local historian Mr Bartlett. The history of Fishponds was the subject and then the history of the field. 30 members of the public turned up. We were able to talk about the field and a picture of 'The Lindens,' which was a large house now demolished and replaced by Linden Close, was well received.

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.

The hedgerows are trimmed and in good condition.

Some of the vandalised trees from planting a few years ago are have developed into bushes which enhance the field.

The field has been litter picked two hours a week to keep the field clean and pristine.

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 no complaints about litter this year as we have introduced a litter picking regime.
- The development of the 'Friends of the Field' group.

Finance

We were delighted to acquire grants from several sources to enable the development on the field.

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 part six years.

It is hoped that the council will give the Trust an annual increase to cover inflation etc.

The Future

We are working with 'Sports Solutions' who is a company who is helping us look to the future in acquiring the funding for a Community centre/Rugby Club and a way to sort out once and for all of playing surfaces.

This unfortunately has come to nothing. This is the second major effort to improve the quality of the field and clubhouse that has been unsuccessful.

Conclusion

We 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

Although we are back to square one in trying to improve the Clubhouse and pitches we live in hope that we will succeed in the ground development.

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

Mike Bond

Chair, Barton Fields Trust

June 2012