

Barton Fields Trust

Annual Report 2016.17

Introduction

Barton Fields Trust have been in charge of the field for Eleven years. 'Fields in Trust' took ownership of the field from Bristol City Council and Barton Fields Trust took over the lease and management of the field on 1st April 2005. The Trust's main income is an annual grant from Bristol City Council to help maintain the field.

Improvements

Our work in creating havens for wild life has been a success. We have left parts of the field not mown, developed hedgerows, looked after the Badger/fox sets and made sure hedgerows are trimmed out of bird nesting season. We believe the field is now a very important area for wildlife locally and we hope to improve on this in the future.

We received a grant from the John James Foundation for £2500. This money was spent working with young people in the neighbourhood to create a small nature area with bird boxes, planting, seating area and raised beds for flowers which is hoped to attract bees.

The two Rugby pitches are still in a poor condition despite the Trust providing funds for renovation each year. This year we attracted a grant of £2000 from the RFU and a personal visit from the Head groundsman of Twickenham, Keith Kent. He gave his opinion on the best way forward to develop the pitch which all agreed must be one of the worse in England.

£3300 has been spent this year to renovate the rugby pitches. This work has been completed by our contractors.

The Trust has spent £700 on bollards outside the entrance to the car park to stop parking and people turning. This will improve the look of the entrance.

Community Fun Day

The Trust even with low volunteer numbers organised yet another Community fun day for the local neighbourhood on Saturday 3rd June 2017. The event was yet again a great success with over a thousand local people turning out and using the field.

Part of the event is the 999 day and our thanks to the local beat team for bringing their equipment, two police horse's and much more to the event.

We had lots of stalls and fairground rides, lots of free play work, Fun dog show, bouncy castles, the, BBQ, tom-bola, a BMX rider display, Fishponds Taewondo Academy display and much more. This event was again, for the 6th year running, an outstanding success for a neighbourhood that seems to lack that community feel sometimes.

The Trust has to be thank all for their hard work in making the event a great success.

The Trust also would like to thank Community Youth Network for all their hard work in helping make the day a success.

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 this year: Motorbikes riding on field
- The Trust advertises its AGM in June each year where the Public can be attended b
- Community Days
- No complaints about litter this year as we have a litter picking regime.

Finance

We were delighted to acquire new grants from several sources to enable the development on the field while giving added value.

£2000...RFU.....Pitch improvements

£2500...John James Foundation....Nature area.

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

The Future

The Trust sees the continuation of its work developing a field for all the neighbourhood.

We do need to work hard to develop a Friends of the field to ensure inclusiveness of the neighbourhood.

Pitch improvements is an on going issue which the Trust is keen to develop.

Conclusion

We made good progress in developing an excellent Playing Field and Park for all the community.

The field continues to look very tidy and an inviting place for the community to come and enjoy the facilities.

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 2017