

Report of Barton Fields 2005.6

Introduction

The Barton Fields Trust has been in charge of the field for just one year. It took over the management of the field from Bristol City Council on April 1st 2005. The Trust was 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.

Maintenance

The Trust employed CPS Grounds Maintenance to look after the field from 1st April 2005. Because the Trust is concerned about the advancement of the field it has been important to make sure the Contractor was doing a good job and to 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 to improve its quality.
- Pitch marking has been regular and of high quality

- Trimming of the fields edges and difficult areas completed without fuss and to a good standard
- 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.

Community Involvement

We have worked hard in involving the community in the development of the project:

- Consultation on our Masterplan concerning the development of the field.
- Consultation with Parents on what items of play equipment to have in the new Children's Play Area
- A successful bulb planting day by the community
- 1st newsletter delivered to local homes
- Links with Speedwell Technology College re-established and working together for sport
- Pressure put on Council to deliver and maintain a Children's Play Area

Accountability

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

- Complaints received by the Trust about various things: litter, motorbikes, dogs mess etc.
- Discussions concerning the timing of hedge cutting with neighbours
- Fence repairs notified to us by neighbours

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 all in the first year.

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 on our journey to have an excellent playing field and park for all the community.

The Rugby Club is blossoming and looking to improve its facilities.

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

Development is continuing into the coming year

The masterplan is still live.

The Community are involved.

The future is looking really good and promises great things for the field with hard work and careful management.

Mike Bond

Chair, Barton Fields Trust

21st March 2006