

## Annual Report 2010.11

### Introduction

The Barton Fields Trust has been in charge of the field for six 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 1<sup>st</sup> 2005. The Trust has been given an annual grant by the Council to help maintain the field.

### Improvements

The hedgerow planted three 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. We have planted wild meadow flowers in this area. It is clear the birds love this area which is close the hedgerow.

We have planted seeds and bulbs by the entrance to the field by argyle road to help beautify the field.

We have been successful in being awarded a grant from Sita toward the purchase of twenty trees and cages to protect them. These trees have now been planted and the field looks terrific now with these new trees fitted. The Council's Tree people have been employed to help us with the purchase and care of them for the next three years.

This year we have introduced our '**Friends of the Field**' group and have several members of the community involved in the improvements to the field. They have been heavily involved in this planting

The Neighbourhood Partnership has funded a litter bin by picnic table near the council's play area. The position of the bin is ideal for families to enjoy a picnic while the kids have a fun time playing safely.

We have fitted a bench plaque in memory of Glenys Sharpe who was tragically killed near by.

### 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.

We have again this year invested money to improve these pitches.

The hedgerows are trimmed and in good condition.

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

We have this year employed someone to litter pick 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 past six years.

It is hoped that the council will give the Trust an annual increase to cover inflation etc this year for the first time unfortunately this hasn't happened.

## **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.

We have had meetings with community leaders and there does feel willingness for such a proposal to move forward. It is hoped that in the near future we may well have news concerning the proposal.

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

**Mike Bond**

**Chair, Barton Fields Trust**

**June 2011**