



Charsfield Recreation Ground

Chairman's Report 2009

2009 has been landmark year for our village. It is with great pride that I report that we now have a Children's play area, football pitch, teenage shelter, trees, car park and paths. However the greatest reward for all of our hard work is that our community is now using all of the facilities.

Fundraisers and Grants

We have had a number of fundraising events over the year. We had a big breakfast and a continental coffee morning, two quizzes, a Suffolk night, a summer fete (which we did in conjunction with the church and the school), the 100 club and "Music and Blues in the Shoes". Collectively this has generated significant contributions to our objectives and has been a foundation for us to use as leverage to get many grants.

We have had fantastic year with securing different grants. With a total of approx £70000 won for the Children's plays area alone. In addition we have been given a number of donations. I thank all of the parties for their generosity whom without their support we wouldn't have been able to make the progress that we have this past 12 months.

Progress

Well what a year! There have been lots of developments on the recreation ground over the year.

- The installation of the children's play equipment was the big event of the year. We had a Grand opening on August 8th with over 70 people in attendance. The ribbon was cut by Peter Holloway. Fun was had by all. Charsfield is now featured on a "Play Suffolk" DVD.
- A car park was built and a path linking the car park to the play area.
- There was also tree planting on the wild fun area as part of the Breathing Spaces Grant
- The MUGA was opened for free access at all times. This has been well used and I believe it was a good decision to make it open to all.
- The whole area was rotavated and seeded. Our hot summer wasn't ideal for grass growing but we now have a respectable turf and children are now using it for football. A big factor being the many hours stone picking. Thanks to all.
- The recreation ground shed and the tennis pavilion were erected on the new hard base.
- The sports wall surface was tarmaced.

The Future

Having now established the rec for our community we still have much to do over the next 12 months – activities include

- Work closely with Denise Causier and the Parish Council to try to claim the VAT back on the grants.
- Surface the footpath from the car park to the play area.
- Finish landscaping the children's play area.
- Build the footpath between the play and barbecue areas.
- Provide a petanque pitch
- Finish the football pitch
- Provide benches and picnic tables
- Erect Notice board signs
- Install litter and dog bins
- Review the fund raising events
- Set up and operate an ongoing maintenance programme
- Build a BMX track
- Install maintenance access gates
- Further fundraising

Thank you

I would like to say thank you to:-

- All the committee members who have worked tirelessly over the year whether it is in securing grants, helping with arranging and running fund raising events, sorting out the complicated accounts this year and ongoing maintenance at the rec.
- Jan Carley, who has now resigned from the committee, for her help over the years.
- The Parish Council for their help financially and especially to Bob Osborne who has been helping us with our efforts to claim back the VAT for the grants
- Thank you to Emma and Martin at the Three Horseshoes for their continued support over the year
- The village for supporting our fundraising events, helping with the stone picking and supporting the grand opening of the children's play area.

Jo Wyatt
Chair, Charsfield Recreation Ground
17 November 2009