

Eastburn Playing Fields Association

Appendix 1

Chairman's report to the AGM, 22nd April 2009

This afternoon I duly printed off the minutes of last years meeting and sat down to consider how much had been achieved since we were here this time last year. Perhaps to the man in the street there doesn't seem to have been much progress but when you sit down and look at what has been done there has been great progress.

So as not to be here all night I've kept to the key events rather than a blow by blow report.

So we start with summer 2008 and the completion of the local consultation by Bradford Community Environment Project- B CEP, and the subsequent report produced from questionnaires returned by local residents. A very necessary exercise which had to be completed before any other work commenced.

This time last year we were also looking to get a professional assessment on the state of the pitch by the Sports Turf Research Institute – this also was completed summer 2008.

After production of the public consultation report, draft ideas were put together by Karen Elliott who was employed at that time by B CEP, we met and discussed these ideas ready to take these forward to a plan, unfortunately shortly after, Karen left B CEP for pastures new and we did have a time when frustratingly our project seemed to get a little, shall I say 'stuck in the mud'.

After many e-mails and phone calls it wasn't until late Autumn that we had a chance to look at a first draft plan of the play area with Gill Wood who had taken over from Karen Elliott at B CEP. The plan wasn't what we had in mind at all so we sent the plans back to be revised. During this time Gill Wood also left for pastures new and Adele Adams took over as the lead architect at B CEP along with Simon Alderson also a landscape architect. Three B CEP meetings and two steering group meetings further down the road we now have quite a detailed plan of the play area and the play equipment, for those of you who haven't seen these plans they are on the table for you to have a look at.

The steering group met this week and has approved this plan and B CEP are at the moment doing a costing the results of which we will report to the Parish Council Meeting in May. Simon Alderson has also confirmed that Planning have officially said (allegedly a letter is in the post) that we **don't** need planning permission for the site. We have also asked Inspector Sue Sanderson to look at the plans from the 'Secure By Design' point of view which she has confirmed that she is willing to do.

We also investigated securing access from Sycamore Avenue to the recreation area but have had to put this on hold until the outcome of the LDF call for building land, the principal of access from Sycamore is not dead in the water just on hold and we will look at this again in the future.

Obviously the redevelopment of the recreation area is going to take a considerable amount of money so I'll try to bring you up to date on where we are with funding?

Chairman: Karen Pickard
Vice-Chairman: Gladys Emmott
Secretary: Cheryl Brown

Registered Charity: 101088

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We have had disappointments – the withdrawal of funding by Acorn due to the recession - but on the positive side

February this year saw a meeting with Councillor Kelley the result is that we have been awarded £10,000 from the Ward investment fund. Meetings are arranged later this month to discuss exactly what we need to do following on from that award.

We have applied for a £50k grant from Playbuilder, a pot of funds held by Bradford Council and are pleased to report that we are through to the second stage – sorry Cheryl more forms to fill in.

We have an application in for a grant from Groundworks (£35k), we have had confirmation of receipt of the application and should hear whether we are through the first round in a few weeks time. This grant is specifically to go towards the pitch and wetland area of the park.

Once we have a costing for the play area we will be able to put in for major grants from the waste companies Yorventure and WREN but will probably have to look for smaller grants to top the monies up.

That said we still have challenges to overcome. The draining of the pitch isn't as straight forward as it may seem. Where do we send all the water? Will we create a duck pond? To help us answer these and other questions Councillor Lambert has contacted a colleague of his who has offer to come and meet on site and give us his professional opinion on the drainage issues and what if any relevance the much mentioned concrete chamber has. He has offered to do this initial visit for free but there may be the need for an official report to cover us just in case the afore mentioned duck pond appears after a drainage solution is implemented.

Finally, many thanks to both Councillors, Steering Group members and others who have contributed to the work over the past 12 months. I hope you can see much has happened and is continuing to happen although not a morsel of soil has been disturbed on site. I am optimistic that by this time next year we will have secured the necessary funding, have a clear idea of what we are going to do with the rest of the recreation area, that is the pitch, and have a start date for implementation of the Play Area or maybe even have begun work.

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