

Malpas Recreation Ground Chairman's Report

August 2016 – July 2017

Introduction:

The period from August 2016 to July 2017 has been a relatively quiet year for the Trust and the Management Committee.

Accounts and Finance:

An audited set of accounts for the year ending March 2016 were submitted to and accepted by the Charity Commissioners in December 2016. These accounts reported a balance of £298,594 with an income of £6,080 against an expenditure of £2,370.

Monthly income from the letting of the Trusts 4 bedroom property on Hughes Lane and the rental of the car park as a workers compound to Stewart Milne Homes Limited, continues to ensure financial sustainability for the Trust.

Site Review

The equipment uplift and associated landscaping work completed 3 years ago has been well received and continues to see a marked increase in the number of children and adults using the park.

The site continues to be the venue for the popular and well attended Village Fair. The venue was once again provided free of charge in line with the trust principles of supporting the residents of Malpas. The Trustees and I also were involved in ensuring that the venue catered for the Fair requirements.

The site continues to be used by the Malpas Alport Primary School for their weekly games period and their periodic sports day events.

Some five years ago, I reported the presence of Japanese Knotweed growing on the verge on Tilston Road and starting to invade the recreation Ground. Cheshire West Council had failed to act in a timely manner, which has resulted in an ongoing problem. However ongoing actions have resulted in a significant reduction of the plant. Further work to final eradicate the plant will be carried out later this year.

Dog waste on the site has been exacerbated by the closure of the footpath through the Stewart Milne site and an influx of new residents. However, it is hoped that the re-opening of the footpath and the Malpas Pink Poo initiative will go some way to mitigating this issue.

Safety:

During the reporting period, I have made weekly inspections of the site. These visits consist of an inspection of the play equipment to identify and potential hazards or defects, and also a litter pick.

Sadly we have seen some cases of vandalism this year, with two litter bins being destroyed. One has subsequently been replaced at the cost of £304.56

Any defects identified are normally remedied within appropriate timescales, or reported to the appropriate responsible body.

Visits, issues and resolution actions are recorded in a log book.

A 12 monthly inspection, conducted to BSEN Standards, was undertaken by Morral Play Services certified Inspector on 28th August 2016.

A feedback report was been received and outstanding issues are being addressed.

Management Committee:

During the review period, Mr. Paul Reeves has been appointed to the Board of Trustees

Thanks to the support of the Parish Council, 2016-2017 has seen a full complement of 12 committee members, however, it is becoming increasingly difficult to recruit new committee members, and this must remain a priority for securing a sustainable future for the Rec.

Future Strategy:

The strategy is to develop the site in a unique manner with some greater emphasis on a park with wilder green spaces on its north western perimeter.

Some of the possible changes to be considered for 2017-2018 include:

Remove some scrub trees and bushes from the boundaries on the Tilston Road and Love Lane.

Improve the site boundary fencing.

The vision for the future is one of a well-used and maintained green space capable of being enjoyed by all residents and visitors to the village.

Chris Whitehurst,

Chairman

Malpas Recreation Ground Management Committee

17th July 2016