

# Malpas Recreation Ground Trust

## Chairs Report 2020-2021

### Trustee Actions

In the reporting period, the Trustees have once again been successful through, the Denton Clark Rentals property management company, in renting out to a local family, the four bedroom property known as Greenshields, which is situated at 34, Hughes Lane.

### Risk Management

The Trustees have assessed the major risks to which the charity is exposed in particular those related to the operations and finances and are satisfied that systems are in place to mitigate exposure to major risks.

### Site Usage Review

At the end of March 2020, a notice was posted advising residents that the play equipment was closed due to the Coronavirus Covid19 pandemic; this is in line with all play grounds across West Cheshire.

Whilst the general area of the recreational field remained open for residents use to exercise, security fencing was erected around the children's play area to close off access to the play equipment.

No weekly inspections of the equipment took place and it was only after a full safety inspection on 6th August by a certified inspector had taken place that the security fencing was removed. The play equipment was subsequently reopened on the 17th August 2020, with notices advising people on how to remain safe from the Covid19 virus.

This long closure period resulted in the cancellation of the planned usage of the site for the VE75 village celebration event in May 2020 and the Malpas Village Fair in July 2020.

However the site was still being used by the Malpas Alport Primary School children for their weekly games when they were able and had deemed it safe to do so.

### Site Maintenance

With the closure of the play equipment in place, a decision was taken by the Trustees to use the period of reduced visitors to the site, to undertake some major ground works improvements.

In May 2020, a notice was posted to close off access to the top end of the site; this to allow extensive ground works to take place to remove the World War One representative Trench network and restore the area to a natural parkland environment.

Additional boundary fencing was erected and new hedging was planted around the site perimeter. The existing hedges were also gapped up where needed.

Works also took place on re-instating fencing that was removed from around the old equipment play area prior to 2016. This installation forming part of a plan to fully enclose the children's play equipment to provide safe area the holding of younger children and the exclusion of dogs.

The major groundwork works were completed by the end of June 2020.

The previously reported infestation of Japanese Knotweed would appear to have eradicated although the area continues to be monitored on a weekly basis.

On 18th May 2020 some tree cutting work to remove branches overhanging the Electricity Power Feed lines was completed on the site boundary next to the Tilston Road.

The work was undertaken by Amey Limited who had the authority to do so under a national utilities act.

### **Play Equipment Maintenance**

Following a full safety inspection on 6th August 2020, weekly checks of the equipment were again restarted by the committee chairman. The existing play equipment has remained in good condition with no expenditure needed on equipment maintenance.

### **Weekly Safety Inspections**

Any defects identified on the play equipment are remedied within appropriate timescales, or reported to the appropriate responsible body. Visits, issues and actions followed up, are recorded in a site log book.

Whilst there have been no equipment defects observed within the reporting period, litter of the site does remain a major issue.

### **Management Committee**

No business meetings of the management committee took place during the reporting period due to a quorum of the committee members not being available and the restrictions and impact of Coronavirus Covid19.

However, the Chairman of the committee did attend a number of meetings with the Trustees, to further the financial management and general business of the Trust.

### **Future Strategy and Plans**

There are plans in place to utilise the site as a location for the Malpas Summer Fair in July 2021, and to finish fencing that will completely enclose the children's play equipment.

The longer term strategy is to develop the site in a unique manner with greater emphasis on a park with open green space on its north western perimeter.

### **Reporting Accountants**

Mitchell Charlesworth LLP will continue in office as reporting accountants for the ensuing year.

Chris Whitehurst  
Chair Malpas Recreation Ground management Committee

31<sup>st</sup> March 2021