

Recreation and Amenities Committee Report 2017-18

Members: Messrs Brome, Burrows, Crichton, Forbes, Irwin (ex-officio), O'Brien Baker, Staines, Thompson and Welch (ex-officio and Chairman)

Key Projects undertaken were:

1. Work plan for the Common has been kept updated by the Deputy Clerk with input from Working Group.
2. Established the Common as a **Local** Nature Reserve with powers devolved to us by Suffolk Coastal.
3. Held a Common Open Day for the second year to help promote the Common as a Nature Reserve and help parishioners get the best from the area.
4. Applied to Tesco for funding to provide signs with information about the Common.
5. Met with Suffolk Coastal Officers and District Councillors to try and learn lessons from the Mill Heath development which might be applied to future planning applications.
6. Continued tree inspections for all Parish Council land according to our work plan including an expert inspection carried out every two years.
7. Established an inspection plan for the Common and the Recreation Ground/Kronji's Piece.
8. Provided inspection training for the team of volunteer play area inspectors and reviewed the way in which future training should be conducted.
9. Completed regular inspections of all play areas and the Bike Trails site using teams of volunteers.
10. All play areas were also independently inspected and risk assessments carried out.
11. The Sports Fund Working Group have prepared 3 alternative Sports schemes that could increase sports facilities in the Parish. A survey has been conducted in the parish on "Money to Play With." Results are being analysed before deciding the next steps.
12. Improved the contractual arrangements for litter clearance.
13. Improved marking of the Car Park lining and hatching with help from R G Carter who funded the work. An example of local developers working well with the local community.
14. Conducted repairs to football pitches and reduced costs for the maintenance of the Western Corridor site.
15. Conducted day to day management of the Recreation Ground/Kronji's Piece.
16. Arranged a work day for the Recreation Ground/Kronji's Piece which had to be cancelled because of the weather.
17. Established a working group to deal with dog management issues and conducted a clear up after your dog campaign "Collect, bag and bin".
18. Held an annual litter pick with local volunteers and the support of Tesco.
19. Undertook a survey of Martlesham's Rights of Way with help from volunteers.
20. Reviewed risk assessments.
21. Supported the operation of the Portal Woodlands Working Group who not only maintain the woodlands but do some valuable educational work with young people (aged 5 years upwards.)
22. Completed tasks within the overall budget.
23. With effective management plans in place for the Common and Recreation Ground/Kronji's Piece and an established inspection programme for Play areas many of the day to day issues have been handled quickly and effectively by the Clerk and her team using devolved powers. This has reduced the workload of the committee and enabled issues to be dealt with more quickly providing a better level of service.

Thanks to all committee members for helping with the busy workload and to all of the staff for progressing the many items delegated to them and for their help and patience with our deliberations at meetings.

W Welch (R&A Chairman)