

Houghton Field Association – Trustees report 2016/17

Repairs, maintenance and improvements

There has been no significant work on the field facilities this year. We had the last of the hedges trimmed down along the Firs Road border. We will trim hedges and boundaries annually to keep the field boundaries tidy and accessible.

There is work to do on some of the playground equipment which will cost £1,800 or thereabouts. Some fund and/or grant raising will be needed for this.

The new drainage system for the main football pitch was completed enabling the pitch to be used from around November onwards. The pitch has performed well and no games were lost due to water logged pitches.

Finances

After stripping out expenditure paid for from grants we again achieved a surplus of core income over core expenditure over the year. The surplus was achieved through both controlling expenditure to essentials and maintaining revenues.

Revenue generation

We did not hold much in the way of specific fund raising events during the year. There was no Scarecrow Festival this year and due to personal circumstances for the lead organiser we were not able to hold another Talent Auction. However the 100 Club raised a magnificent £1,400 and we are extremely thankful for this and the 100 Club's ongoing work. The 100 Club has now raised over £50,000 for the playing field which is a tremendous effort. We also hired the pavilion and field out for a wedding in July which brought in a reasonable sum.

Grant Funding

We did not apply for a PC grant for 2016/17 as we did not have a specific project we could apply a grant to during this year. We have applied for a PC grant for 2017/18 which has been granted to help us with the cost of removing the old floodlights and cutting back the hedges behind the pavilion and garages.

Pavilion

As previously reported the committee has agreed in principle that the current building should be replaced with a new building. In the meantime we would still carry out repairs, maintenance and small improvements on the current building.

During the year we consulted with existing main users of the pavilion to find out what facilities they would want in a new building. We now need to run a village wide consultation to get as much evidence as possible on what residents want from a new facility. The proposed housing developments in Houghton offer the prospect of significant funding towards this project. However there is a great deal of work to do to obtain this and other funding and to manage the project. We are currently seriously short of the resource to do this and consequently progress is slow.

How you can help

Frankly we can do with all the help we can get, in particular for the new pavilion project. Here are some ways to get involved:

- Join the committee, or if committees are not your thing then simply become a volunteer to offer your time and talent to help us.

