

Emneth Playing Field Committee
Charity No. 802015

Report of the Committee – 2011/12

The activities of the last twelve months or so have been dominated by the Community Play Area project. The lengthy planning and funding application process finally resulted in some good news when in July 2011 the committee were notified it was successful in its bid for funding of £49,999 from the Big Lottery Fund. Together with committed funding of £2,001 from Emneth Parish Council and £1,500 from Norfolk Playing Fields Association this gave us a capital budget for the new play area of £53,500 and the committee is very grateful to all three bodies for the financial support.

Work was able to commence in September with a new toddler's area being created, some new equipment installed, the refurbishment of some older equipment and the creation of the central feature being a large grassed mound incorporating a number of play features. We were also fortunate to have been able to purchase some redundant play equipment for a very low price to enhance the play area further.

Whilst there have been one or two snags and delays along the way work was completed in January 2012 and the improvements have been well received. An organised launch event took place in April and the play area has been since been extensively used.

The committee has successfully applied for a £3,500 sustainability grant from the Big Lottery Fund and part of this will be used to stage a number of community events during 2012 to promote the use of the new facilities.

Another important project that was completed in 2011 was the installation of new security fencing and gates along the frontage of the site. This was considered essential to maintain control on access and thereby significantly reduce problems associated with anti social behaviour and trespass etc. This was entirely financed by Emneth Parish Council and we are grateful for the support. The security gates have meant adopting an entirely new regime for operation of the Playing Field but in conjunction with our new caretaker (in post since 1 November 2011) these matters have generally been working well.

In December Michael Clayton stepped down as Chairman and Trustee, as planned, and to date this post has not been filled however the trustees continues to work hard and it is hoped there will be one or two new trustees on the committee in the near future.

Under the guidance of Tanya Bunting there have been two successful fundraising events over the last year being the production and sale of calendars and a Christmas party & draw resulting in a much needed contribution to general funds of £2,584 (net).

The field and pavilion facilities have continued to be well used by our principal user, Hungate Rovers Youth FC, but unfortunately the local adult team folded in the summer of 2011 with a consequent reduction in usage and revenue.