

An update from the Porlock Recreation Ground Management Committee

Although the winter months are always a little quieter on the Rec things are always busy in the background at this time of year, and we've already started planning for this year's Country Fair. It's on **Sunday 5th August**, so please put the date firmly in your diary. We're currently taking bookings for tables, stalls and gazebos, so if you're interested in taking part please contact Ivor Jones porlockcountryfair@gmail.com for more details. If you feel keen get involved with the organisation or on the day please email porlock.rec.nicola@gmail.com.

In the light of Susan Taylor's legacy, we understand that some have questioned why the Rec should benefit financially from the Country Fair. The answer is simply that the day-to-day running costs of the Rec are circa £15,000 per year and we are keen to avoid using legacy funds for this purpose. Our aim is to enable long term benefit from the legacy and to ensure that the Rec remains sustainable indefinitely. Understandably perhaps, we have lost some sources of funding, making Country Fair income as important as ever. That said, this year we will be taking a new approach to working with other local not-for-profit organisations and, as last year with the Bus Fund, we will again provide the opportunity for a local village cause to raise funds on the day.

The majority of the legacy funds received to date have been invested, prior to further community consultation and longer term decisions. The legacy has however allowed us to reduce reserves and embark upon maintenance and improvement work much of which has now been completed. For more information please see <https://goo.gl/3G9Amb>. We have had very positive feedback about the new entrance, addition of dog waste bins, refurbishment of the children's play area and the recent facelift to the changing rooms. Thanks to all who have helped make these improvements happen.

We also plan to improve pitch maintenance making use of the new gang mowers and slit aerator machine (delivered in early December 2017), which we hope will improve drainage and the quality of turf.

Over recent months, the Committee has also prioritised work needed to modernise the legal structure of the charity. To this end, 2018 started with some good news - the new CIO application was approved by the Charities Commission on 31 January 2018. There is significant work to be done before the CIO is "up and running" with assets and liabilities transferred, but this is a major step ahead of legacy use evaluation and, we hope, deeper involvement of others beyond the trustees.

Over the coming months we will be explaining the process for nomination of new charity trustees prior to elections at the CIO Annual Community Meeting. However, you don't need to wait or be a trustee to get involved - if you are keen to work with us, perhaps on specific tasks or projects please get in touch by emailing porlockrecground@gmail.com.