

To: Members of Lacock Parish Council
From: Ron George
Date: 6th September, 2017
Subject: Recreation Ground: Report Number 3 : July/August/September 2017

1 PURPOSE : To provide below, details of progress and activities during the period.

2 THE RECREATION GROUND

- Both football clubs have spent the period preparing for the 2017/18 season, and have now held their first League games.
- FC Lacock (the Sunday side) travelled to Barcelona for a summer football competition. They achieved much success and in doing so spread the name of the village to teams from South America, the Middle and Far East. Finishing 3rd they returned to news that they had been promoted to the Premiership division in their League, have attracted a strong squad of players, and continue to represent us well.
- The Luxor Saint Andrews Saturday football side have also held trial games on the ground. Their first two fixtures of the season are “home” games and on Saturday 2nd September they won 6-0.
- The higher level of football now played at Lacock is likely to result in some extra costs as the ground will need to be mowed and marked to a better standard. While such costs will be low, they will occur, and it is proposed that they are met from ground hire fees.
- The remaining 5 a side football posts have now disintegrated and been removed from the ground (thanks Geoff). Whilst these have been heavily used during the 4 years since purchase It is not proposed to replace them before discussions are held with the Primary School and “Playforce” to determine need.
- The pitch side trees have grown branches which are now extending into the football field. These will need to be trimmed back to ensure that they do not interfere with games.
- Lacock Cricket Club first X1 finished their season badly with the first team losing all but one of their games during this period. As a result they have now been relegated to the second division of the Wiltshire League for 2018 season. The quality of cricket played in this League is now very high, the result of Premiership reorganisation two seasons ago, so this outcome was not unexpected.
- The Lacock at War Festival was organised with meticulous care and much enjoyed by record crowds of visitors. The ground was immaculately organised and then cleared following the event with the grass surface restored by the following weekend. The National Trust have been asked to repair the surface at the entrance way to the Ground.
- Very large numbers of visitors have used the area during the summer weeks and this is resulting in wear. A review of the whole ground will be conducted during the Autumn months and necessary repairs listed and improvements recommended for attention during the winter.

- This will include the equipment in the children`s play area which has been very heavily used throughout the summer months. The majority of users are National Trust visitors so I have now met with Playforce and begun a review of its condition. The space occupied by the fixed play equipment is no longer big enough to accommodate the large numbers (on most days I have counted over 50 users and carers in this small space) so the area needs enlarging and new more contemporary play activities installed. Following a design process I shall bring forward recommendations with estimated costs to the Council and the National Trust for these improvements to be made.
- Playforce have now repaired the broken climbing frame in the play area. I recommend that the cost of this repair (circa £500) is shared between the Parish Council and the National Trust.
- Mole activity has again been a feature of this period and the agent has completed much good work.
- An increase in the number of users who are bringing dogs onto the Recreation Ground has been noted. The National Trust are again requested to replace the sign at the Red Lion Car Park entrance to the ground which informed visitors that this was illegal.

3 COMMUNITY SPORTS AND SOCIAL PAVILION DEVELOPMENT PROJECT

The project report from the Steering Group is submitted separately for the consideration of members during a later item on the Agenda.

