

Village Green Working Group Update –July 2015

Jim Donahue

I am pleased to report that the new Village Green Working Group was kicked off in June with great enthusiasm by all involved. The participants include:

- Jim Donahue – PC – WG Chair
- Dave Bowen - PC
- Cormac Neeson of the Cricket Club
- Alastair Aitchison of the Football Club
- Gavin Jones - Whitchurch primary school sports teacher
- Adrian Coulas-Pitman – resident of Whitchurch
- A WOTHab's representative to be invited to future meetings

The Working Group members got stuck in with a number of issues that we are already following up on:

- There should be a usage schedule published on the village web-site, and posted physically somewhere on the grounds. The PC is already looking at options for a notice board on the green.
- We discussed a proposal for a Village Green Activities Committee. Potential activities could include:
 - Rounders Games
 - Movies Nights
 - Music festivals
 - BBQ's and other social events to raise money for the new Pavilion
 - Volunteers to build facilities such as BBQ's, fitness trails, or even the new Pavilion.
- Fundraising for the replacement Village Green Pavilion was discussed:
 - Dave Bowen has dunking and gunge tanks that could be used at this year's Fete to raise money for the pavilion.
 - The Parish Council has initiated a new team of Jon Steward, Carrie Hart, and James Norman to look at design options for a new pavillion.
 - Grants and fundraising options are also being investigated.
- Football Pitch Maintenance – options are being investigated for repairs in front of the goals as this is repeatedly getting dug up.
- Facilities for Teenagers are being investigated that could include a basketball net.
- Village Green budget and charging is also being investigated but this is not seen as a critical issue now that we have agreed that the school should not be charged for use of the Green during normal school hours during term time. We are also following up Jon Steward's kind offer to maintain much of the green at no charge, which would of course free up other funds, but this would not take effect before the current maintenance contract is up in February.

There will be a follow-up meeting at the end of July. Please contact one of the WG members if you have any ideas.