

BLACKSMITHS FIELD ANNUAL REPORT

MAY 2020

At this time the coronavirus lockdown has meant the play equipment in the field is out of bounds. However, walkers, joggers and dog walkers can still take advantage of this beautiful open space.

The entrance to the field remains good. However, the hedge at the start of the footpath has been severely cut back which has exposed the ditch. A request has been made to erect a fence to protect children.

Some of the original equipment in the Play area has been identified as unsafe and quotations have been obtained to replace this. At the same time we have also obtained quotes for a trim trail. At the last meeting of the Parish Council the Sovereign estimate was accepted and it is hoped they will commence work by the middle of July. The Blacksmiths Field Play Equipment Committee will now be looking at fund raising for other items to improve the use of the field.

William Barnes, with a small working party, has been trying to eliminate the ragwort in the meadow in order to be able to cut, bail and sell the hay in the future. However, this is proving to be quite a task and he will continue to work on this problem throughout this year.

A donation was made to the village of Bosch garden equipment. The Parish Council have looked at the best way to keep this and also other item that the Village Hall and Social Club need to store. After discussion a container was agreed and this has now been placed in the car park.

A few saplings were planted in various spaces around the field, which are all doing well. The pond is looking healthy.

The number of dogs fouling the field has significantly reduced this year, but it is still not completely without incidents. It is hoped that people will continue to bring their dogs to the field, but be responsible and considerate to others.

There are various bird boxes around the field, including an owl box at the bottom.

The den building equipment is now very sparse and will need to be replenished.

The firework night was a success. However, with the uncertainty around social gatherings due to the coronavirus, a decision will be taken by the Parish Council in the summer as to whether this event will be allowed this year. If it does go ahead the Social Club have agreed to ensure further safety measures are put in place.

Cllr Jan Palmer

