



# Hillside Rural Activities Park

## Newsletter August 2009

### Groundwork Community Spaces grant

We have now completed the installation of the 30m zip wire, Climbstones and Pendulum Seat Combination which have been a tremendous addition to the playground. Early in September we will be installing the outdoor gym equipment in two "clusters" between the football and cricket pitches. This will give teenagers, adults and the more "mature" members of the community the chance to exercise in the open air without the need to pay a subscription to a gym or fitness club. The equipment will include; a Cross Trainer, Air Skier, Seated Chest Press, Pull Down Challenger, Double Sit-up Boards, Seated Leg Press, Self Weighted Rower, Rider, Chin up bars and Parallel bars. After that we will use any of the funding leftover for landscaping the playground area, possibly to include some trees for shade, some seating and maybe even a fire pit and BBQ. If you have any suggestions or ideas please feel free to contact us to discuss in more detail. The official Launch Event for this funding is on Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> August at 1100am.

### Borrowby Sports

At the Borrowby Parish Meeting in 2008 we discussed reviving Borrowby Sports which was last held on the village green in 1988. The event is being run in conjunction with Borrowby Show Young Members section with additional support from a number of people who have volunteered to help the youngsters to organise things. Hopefully, this will again become an annual event which can only help to encourage the strong community spirit we are so lucky to have. The sports are open to all residents from the Hillside Villages.

### New donation news

We have recently received a donation from the executor of the estate of a local resident who has divided the proceeds of the estate between 10 local charities. We were delighted to receive the gift of £75,000 at our last meeting on 10<sup>th</sup> August 2009. This gives us a massive boost in our quest to raise the funds necessary to construct the changing rooms, toilets and showers which we have been working on for the last three years with the Hillside Scout Group. We understand that the Hillside Scout Group have received a similar amount.

### Toilets

We now have the temporary toilets installed and operational. Our plan is to have the disabled unit open all the time for use by all visitors to the site, but the male and female toilets will only be opened by arrangement for specific events. This is to try and keep down the running costs whilst making sure that a facility is available e.g. for children visiting the playground. We would ask that users try and leave the facility as they find it, minimise the amount of water used and call us if there are any problems so we can fix them quickly.

We are considering how we ensure that the toilets are kept clean and with the necessary "supplies" available. The preferred option at the moment is to invite tenders from anyone prepared to clean the toilets and ensure that they are in an acceptable condition. If you are interested in tendering for this contract, please contact us for further information.

### Scout and Community Sports Hall News.

Our stage 1 application to Sport England for £500,000 was submitted at the end of June. Due to a larger than expected number of applications, Sport England have delayed their decision from end of July to September 14<sup>th</sup>. If successful, we then need to submit a more detailed stage 2 application by 11<sup>th</sup> December with a decision from Sport England expected some time in January 2010.

Contact:

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or visit [www.hrap.co.uk](http://www.hrap.co.uk)



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We are preparing a contingency plan to proceed without the funding from Sport England so that we can make use of the £70,000 from the bequest and the £9,000 leftover from the £10,000 grant from the Garfield Weston Foundation (we have committed to spend approximately £1,000 on the provision of the temporary toilets which are now in operation). This £79,000 with the £40,000 pledged to us by the Clothworkers Foundation means we have £119,000 available. The £40,000 is time limited and must be spent by May of 2010.

## Donations

As you may know, we are a charity and rely to a great extent on donations to cover running costs and maintenance. If you enjoy using the playground for your family and friends or walking your dog around the park and would like to see it continue to grow and develop, maybe you would consider making a donation to our funds. Donations can be enhanced if they are "gift-aided" which enables us to claim back tax from HMRC. Forms for making a donation can be obtained from the Downloads page of our website [www.hrap.co.uk](http://www.hrap.co.uk) or contact us by telephone for a paper copy.

We have a small number of local residents who make an annual donation to our funds. Now that we are starting to incur running costs we really need to try and attract more donations to ensure that we can continue to protect what we have achieved since 2005 when the site was an agricultural field growing rape seed.

Note that the major grants we have attracted are restricted to the purpose for which they were made and cannot be used e.g. to cover our rates or water bills, insurance, annual playground inspection by RoSPA, fuel for the tractor. This rule is laid down by the Charity Commission.

## Include us in your will...

Another way to help sustain us in the future is to think about including us in your will, in this way even a modest donation will be much appreciated by us and enable us to ensure that the park is open for future generations. In common with many small charities, we are run entirely by volunteers who are unpaid, therefore you can be sure that any donation will be spent entirely on the Park and not on salaries.

## Suggestions

We are always open to suggestions on how we can develop and improve the park. If you have any ideas please feel free to share them with us. We have recently been approached with a number of ideas including a suggestion for litter bin at the car park, the Park is there for us all to enjoy....

## Litter and Dog Fouling

We are in discussion with the Council about them providing a refuse collection service so that we can have a litter bin in the playground area – we do pay rates so feel it is not unreasonable for us to get this service in return... In the meantime, we would ask that users do the right thing with their litter please.

We are aware that fouling continues to be a problem caused by a minority of dog walkers. Please remember that all are welcome to use the park, but that it is there to be used as a recreational facility often by children playing over the whole field. If you are a dog walker, please come prepared with a bag and either take the droppings home or deposit them in the waste bin by the pedestrian gate. We have worked hard to persuade the council to empty this bin at the roadside but they will NOT come into the car park.

## Coming events.

Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> August 2009 – Borrowby Sports and the launch event for the new play equipment.

Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> November 2009 – Bonfire organised by Friends of Knayton School in conjunction with the HRAP committee.

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