



# Hillside Rural Activities Park

## Newsletter February 2009.

### Promotional Video.

Richard and Lucy Critchlow kindly donated the making of a PR video recording showing what we have achieved in the last four years. This is available to view on our website [www.hrap.co.uk](http://www.hrap.co.uk). Thanks to Richard and Lucy and all contributors for their help with this and to Rik Royall for hosting the site for us.

### Playground funding success.

We are delighted to report that we have recently heard that our application for a grant of £49,583 has been approved! The grant is from the Big Lottery Fund administered by Groundwork UK. This means that we can now press on with the next phase of the playground and have it in place later this spring. You may recall that in October last year we carried out a consultation in Borrowby Village Hall to determine what playground equipment you would like included in the next phase. We received 109 responses from a wide variety of people – all suggestions have been gratefully received. The results of the survey are shown in the table below.

			<b>Points</b>	
<b>Primary</b>	1	30m runway	157	
	<b>52</b>	2	Climbing Stones	148
		3	6m Activity Net	90
<b>Secondary</b>	1	Sports Point Fitness Centre	44	
	<b>14</b>	2	Climbing Stones	29
		3	Pendulum Seat Combination	26
<b>Adults</b>	1	30m runway	121	
	<b>43</b>	2	Sports Point	110
		3	Climbing Stones	108
<b>Total</b>	1	30m runway	300	
	<b>109</b>	2	Climbing Stones	285
		3	Sports Point	205
		4	6M Activity Net	169

We are trying really hard to get the most equipment possible for the money available. Our proposal for the playground is to provide the 30m aerial runway, pendulum seat combination and then either the 6m activity net or the pair of 3m high Climbstones, depending which is cheaper.

The consultation identified a strong preference for a trim trail around the perimeter of the park, rather than locating the gym equipment in the playground. In response to this feedback we have modified the plan accordingly.

Tenders have been issued for the playground equipment which we hope to start installing in April in time for the summer. The trim trail equipment will be installed around the same time.

## **Working Party – Help Needed PLEASE**

With spring soon upon us we need some help with a number of maintenance jobs including:

- Filling in soil and reseeding settlement around some of the pin kerbs in the playground
- Cutting down several drainage manholes so they are flush with the grass level
- Erecting a fence around the barn to discourage children from playing in the barn
- Trimming elderberry plants that are escaping from the hedge in some areas of the perimeter.

If you have some time available and would like to help, please contact us. We haven't fixed a date yet but this is likely to be in April once the weather improves.

## **Borrowby Sports**

Some of you may remember Borrowby used to have its own annual sports day. We are keen to revive this event in the Park later this summer. We need a team of 3 or 4 volunteers to help organise things. Borrowby Show Young Members are keen to help with this but have asked for assistance from adult residents of Borrowby. This is an excellent way of helping to develop the Young Members. Can you spare some time and enthusiasm to help put something back into our community? If so, please contact me on the phone number below.

## **Scout and Community Sports Hall News.**

Together with our partners the Hillside Scout Group we have been working hard for the last three years to raise funds for the building. After much frustration we have been unsuccessful with both the Big Lottery and the National Sports Foundation, who we had hoped would be a majority funder. We have received a number of other grants; £10K from Garfield Weston Foundation (for HRAP) and over £30K from a variety of sources to the scouts. This still leaves us with a massive mountain to climb; even achieving our reduced scope of building would cost in the order of £400K. Between us we have only £165K so far. We are planning to revive a previous application to Sport England in the hope that we can finally achieve success.

## **Toilets**

We had hoped that the Scout and Community Sports Hall, which would have included toilet facilities, would be up by now. Lack of toilets on site is becoming an increasing problem and we are considering a temporary solution, such as a serviced portaloo. If you can help either with practical solutions or even better with a donation or funding then please contact us.

## **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 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 our Downloads page of website [www.hrap.co.uk](http://www.hrap.co.uk) or contact us by telephone for a paper copy.

## **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 small vegetable garden for the children and hosting a bonfire and fireworks display on November 5<sup>th</sup>. Remember, the Park is there for us all to enjoy....

## **Dog Fouling**

We are aware that this 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.

Contact: Moray Finch on 01845 537034 or Richard Morrice on 01845 537714 or visit [www.hrap.co.uk](http://www.hrap.co.uk)