

## **Hillside Rural Activities Park - Newsletter no. 4 - December 2005**

As you may know already we completed the purchase of the first field in March this year. The second field is due to be bought by the end of March 2006 at the latest, earlier if our major funder for the land purchase makes a decision on our application this month. We are hoping for a positive outcome!

We have recently secured grant assistance from Defra under the Rural Enterprise Scheme of £65,000 for the drainage and groundwork. The work will include construction of a new football pitch and a seven-wicket cricket square for Knayton Football Club and Leake Cricket Club respectively. It will also provide drainage around the tennis courts. The grant is for 65% of the total cost with the balance made up from internal funds, local donations and a further grant application from the Football Foundation that is currently being prepared. Tenders have been received from three contractors and work is planned to start in the spring of 2006.

The number of local donors is still increasing (now 58) giving a total of £7,710. Further money will come once the tax rebate under the Gift Aid scheme has been received from Inland Revenue. **Thanks to all of you for your continuing generous support.**

The North East Region of Metal Detecting Clubs had a day on the HRAP field on Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> December. They found a number of interesting objects, some dating to Roman times. The Clubs have made a donation of £138 to the project funds from money raised on the day.

The next significant grant we are applying for is the Rural Target Fund from Yorkshire Forward. This is for 75% of the cost for constructing a new access onto the highway (required by the change of use planning consent) and for the access road and car park. We will have a decision by mid-January on this application.

We have so far raised £395,000 towards the estimated total cost of £980,000. The main sponsors to date include Yorkshire Forward, Hambleton District Council, North Yorkshire County Council, Borrowby Parish Council, BP, and Defra. We have applications pending with Yorkshire Forward, Evolve (Land Fill Tax Credit Scheme), The Foundation for Sport and the Arts, Awards For All and the Local Network Fund.

A floor plan for the building has been agreed within the group. This makes provision for self-contained changing and shower facilities for the sports clubs and for the Scout/Community Hall. This floor plan will now form the basis for tenders from Design and Build contractors. Once the tenders have been received we will be applying to the Big Lottery Fund and other sources of funds for the money required to put up the building.

We now have quotations for installing an electricity supply to the site, for a septic tank and hope to have the quote for the water supply shortly.

Tom Finch and Laura Keast are developing a scheme for the children's playground. This will form the basis of the Service Element of the Duke of Edinburgh Award they are working hard for at the moment. Tom has carried out some market research with the children at Knayton School.

We have been in discussion with Knayton School to explore the possibility of making the facility available for both curricular and extra curricular activities. We hope to be able to work closely with Mr Keane and his staff to ensure that the HRAP is fully utilised by the wider community, not just the main member groups.

We would like to thank Mike l'Anson of Thirsk Forest who is in the process of planting native broadleaf trees in the hedges around the site. In the spring we are planning a working party to plant hedging to fill in the gaps in a number of areas.

We are planning an open day at Knayton Village Hall on Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> February to provide the opportunity for us to answer any questions from local residents and other interested parties. We hope to be able to make sure that everyone is fully aware of our progress and of our plans for the coming months. Details will be available after Christmas.

If you would like more information about the project, would like to help or make a donation, please contact either Janet Peckitt (01845 537557) or Moray Finch (01845 537034) or visit [www.hrap.co.uk](http://www.hrap.co.uk)