

REFURBISHMENT OF BEALINGS PLAYINGFIELD



This update has been prepared for attendees at the Bealings Village Hall Open Meeting on 9th May 2006.

We are pleased to report there has been a lot of progress since the Friends of Bealings Playingfield held their Open Meeting in November 2005:

1. We have selected a talented landscape architect with experience of similar projects and we now have a revised plan. This plan is being presented at the meeting tonight under item 8 of the Village Hall's Open Meeting Agenda. We believe the plans which are detailed overleaf will provide something for everyone.
2. We have discussed our detailed design with Suffolk Coastal's Play Space co-ordinator and one of the Planning officers, both of whom have given positive responses. The next step is to formally submit a planning application later this month.
3. Discussions are also underway with Suffolk County Council, Little Bealings Parish Council and Mr. Rolph the landowner, with the aim of providing a field-side footpath from Fynn Bridge in Great Bealings up to Brimar House to provide safer access into Little Bealings.
4. The cost of the work is estimated to be around £150,000 although there remains more work to do on these estimates.
5. Work to raise funds locally has continued and we already have enough to cover the costs of the professional fees for design and planning. We hope to have planning consent by July so that we can submit our applications for major grants such as the Big Lottery. Our aim is to start the landscaping of the field in the autumn ready for the implementation of the new facilities in 2007.

Remember this project is for everyone. And as George Bernard Shaw said: "*We don't stop playing because we grow old, we grow old because we stop playing!*"

Finally, please support us on June 11th when we have a Sponsored Bike Ride starting from the Bealings Village Hall at 11.30am – why not do as many circuits of the 2 mile circuit of both Bealings as you can. Follow it up with Fun On The Field from 1.00pm. Hope to see you all there.

Jenny Shaw
Project Leader

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|  | <p>Central to the new design is a new levelled-off grass area which provides for community events. This area is on the side of the field next to the hall. Footpaths around this central area lead to the new play and exercise facilities.</p> |
|  | <p>All the established trees around the perimeter will remain. And most of the new trees on the field itself will be retained, some might be moved and others may be replaced with new trees. It is our plan to retain the countryside nature of the site as much as possible.</p> |
|  | <p>We have included a paved area on the field near the hall which will have seating, some low lighting and BBQ facilities. Access is being provided from the hall via a path running through the trees up to the field. And we propose removing the fencing which separates the field from the hall</p> |
|  | <p>All around the central grass area we plan to install trim-trail equipment to encourage us all to keep fit. The central grass area itself also doubles as a kick-about area when not in formal use.</p> |
|  | <p>In the north-west corner of the field we are removing the scrub and replacing the unattractive conifer trees with a new glade of birch trees. The proposed new toddlers' play-area will be sited in front of this glade. Benches will be provided for adults to watch over the children at play.</p> |
|  | <p>The existing play equipment which is sited above the car park is being removed and an aerial zip-slide put in its place. And a completely new adventure play area will be situated in the north corner of the Playingfield. To accommodate this, any existing scrub has to be removed but most of the young trees retained as part of the design. We plan to consult the young people on the type of equipment they prefer.</p> |
|  | <p>On the east side of the field the land will drop another level from the central grass area to a multi-use sports area which will be fenced off. Much of the scrub around this new area will be removed. These multi-use facilities are intended to be booked in advance.</p> |
|  | <p>The existing public footpath leading to the north east corner remains intact.</p> |
|  | <p>We are also planning for a storeroom with changing rooms and toilet facilities to be added to the Hall, next to the snooker room. This facility is intended to have its own separate entrance and users will book the facilities and be responsible for locking up. More detailed work is required on the design of this building facility. All facilities will be constructed to required standards of accessibility and safety regulations.</p> |

Note: All the above are subject to planning permission.