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**Boot Fairs** - thanks to everyone who supported these during the summer months. They are an important income for us. Thanks as well to St Mary's Primary School PTA for running the Refreshments and raising money for the PTA/School.

**Football** - we now have 3 local teams: Chilham FC (Saturdays pm), Chilham FC (Sundays am) and Canterbury Youth Under 14's (Sunday am or pm). Why not come along and support them.

**Rec Developments** - many of you have asked what is happening about the new Play Area, Multi Use Games Area (MUGA) and Tennis club improvements. Well, if you thought dealing with the EU was unrewarding...we have some very frustrated volunteers who have put a lot of work and many hours into this project for over a year but are being delayed by red tape in abundance:-



**The Play Area** - approved by Ashford Borough Council

**Seating Area** - between the Play Area and the MUGA, approved

**The MUGA** - approved but with no warning very restricted hours imposed. ABC admitted this was their error but we still have had to apply (with a fee) for an amendment. The MUGA will be open to everyone with no locked gates

**MUGA Floodlights** - the existing, long approved football training floodlights are to be moved by a few metres with plans to modernise the lights so that only the MUGA is lit. Planning has had to be re-sought.

**Footpaths** - in view of the traffic and lack of paths in Branch Road, our plan was to provide footpaths from the pedestrian entrance round to the Pavilion and all the new facilities. This would vastly improve access for the ST Mary's school children, mums with push chairs etc. Surprisingly, planning is necessary!

**Tennis Club** - planning approval for an additional court and pavilion is still awaited. This, along with the entrance to the Footpath has been complicated and delayed by a Tree Preservation order being placed on the nearby silver birch as a result of a neighbour's intervention. Plans have had to be redrawn, a specialist tree surgeon will be needed for the work around the roots, and the structure of the Footpath in this area will have to be changed. Unfortunately, all adding to our already stretched costs.

**Funding** - a lot of this work is being funded by Grants but both the Sports Centre and the Tennis Club are contributing substantially from their own funds. Although ABC have had the Grant money for well over a year, they have still not been transferred to the Parish Council's control, which is the agreed procedure. Until the money is received, we cannot confirm acceptance of quotations for the work. In fact these quotations have existed in most cases for over a year and we are fearful that the long delays will mean increased costs (basically extra money that we do not have).

**Car Park** - we were very fortunate to gain a grant from Viridor Credits which will help us resurface the car park, but it would not make sense to start this work until all the other major work has been completed, although we have time limits under the terms of the grant.

We had hoped to start, if not finish, all the work in the autumn but this now seems highly unlikely. The logistical issues will be considerable and we thank you in advance for bearing with us while work goes on at the Rec, which may affect access for short periods. If you see anyone banging their head against a brick wall, you now know why...ultimately though we should have a much improved Rec with added facilities for the benefit of the community.

The Sports Centre and Rec are a Charitable Trust which does not run itself but is entirely dependent on volunteers. Unfortunately volunteers do not grow on trees (even protected ones), **so if you would like to put something back into the community, please get in touch (see the website)**. It is sometimes frustrating, sometimes hard work but it is also enjoyable and rewarding.

