

BLOG - FEBRUARY 2020

Apart from some minor things, all works have been completed....Play Area, MUGA, Tennis courts/pavilion, plus Footpaths linking everything together meaning you can get off Branch Road more quickly.

In the Spring the contractors, Sovereign Sports, will return to properly mark lines on all the tennis courts and MUGA and seal the surfaces. They will also add topsoil and grass seed to the damaged areas of the Rec so that the 'paddy field' appearance is soon forgotten. The "Mount Everest" of soil in the far corner will also be 'tidied up', perhaps evolving into a landscape feature known throughout Kent.....

We are very grateful to the following for their support in helping us achieve these fantastic improvements:-

Chilham Parish Council via the Section106 Funds,
Ashford Borough Council via their Community Grants Fund
Claire Bell, Kent County Councillor, via the County Member Combined Members Grant Fund

On a frustrating note - we, along with the majority of our visitors, are quite frankly appalled at those people who do not clear up their dog's mess. It is not the dog's fault but it is again becoming a major problem. It is your responsibility and your duty to clear up - not somebody else's. This is a recreational area used by children and adults alike.

The Recreation Ground is private land owned by the Trust, it is not a council run public facility. Options open to us are - ban all dogs, ban certain individuals, work with the council and local police to prosecute, create teams of volunteers to 'watch' the Rec and CCTV recordings, use a security type organisation (the local Hells Angel Chapter may encourage compliance!).

Onto more appropriate things - it is good to see both St Mary's school and Hope View school making use of the MUGA, and we even had a shout for MUGA help from a Canterbury secondary school whose sports field was just too unplayable due to the weather.

Both Chilham FC and Canterbury under 15 Youth football team have suffered with cancellations as the ground has been so wet, and we hope that they will both be back playing regularly again very soon.

The 100 Plus Club - due to some changes with our behind the scenes administration, we will be asking you to change your Standing Order arrangements. Malcolm Smith will speak to you about this in the coming weeks/months. Your support is much appreciated, and of course, sometimes you win!

We welcome Little Kickers - a weekly session starting in January for the under 5's, loosely based around football but aimed at fun and development.

The Sports Hall is available for weekly hire - Badminton, Basketball, Table Tennis, Football, Volleyball, indeed any sport based activity. Has anyone played Pickleball?

It's a racket sport played on a badminton court, that combines elements of tennis, platform tennis, badminton and table tennis. It is easy to learn, fast-paced and extremely fun to play due to the long rallies that occur throughout a game. It suits all ages.

Pickleball is almost always played in doubles, although singles is also very popular and fun to play, especially for those looking for a greater challenge.

Have a look at <http://www.pickleballoxon.org.uk> or other web sites and videos on YouTube.

Let us know if you are interested.