

# CLAPHAM RECREATION GROUND TRUST

Dear Clapham residents

Since our formal appointment on 17th May, the new Trustees have been meeting regularly and we feel we are making progress despite some setbacks. We felt that an update on what has been happening was owed to you all.

First of all, we would like to reassure you that – despite rumours to the contrary – we are indeed the properly appointed Trustees; anyone who would like to examine the legal document confirming this is welcome to make an appointment to do so. Registration of the names of the new landowners is currently under way with the Land Registry and should be completed very soon.

As a 'new broom', we are doing our best to take a fresh and unbiased look at all the challenges that confront the Recreation Ground, and the best way to preserve and enhance the amenity it provides for our community. Please rest assured that we are totally in favour both of replacing the playground, and of creating a new community-owned shop and café, and are keen to work with all those who share those aims. All we ask is that the interested parties talk to us – our agreement will be needed for any activity, as we are the legal landowners, but we are unlikely to refuse any reasonable request.

As you will have noticed, the Recreation Ground grass is now being mowed regularly. There are considerable problems with 'dog poo', making the area unpleasant and indeed potentially dangerous for children playing there. Please don't forget to keep your dog on a leash, and to clear up any messes into the bin provided.

The seat surrounding the Chestnut Tree is going to be removed in the near future for major refurbishment. In the course of this work it may be enlarged from a 5-sided to a 6-sided structure, both providing more seating space and also giving more room for the trunk of the tree.

We are planning, in due course, to clear the scrub from the southern and eastern boundaries of the land, to place a fence along the southern boundary with the footpath, and to plant some more native trees.

We have investigated the suggestion that Arun DC might be about to remove the Dog and Litter Bins from the Recreation Ground. It turns out that this is not the case (and indeed, we wouldn't want them to do so); what has actually happened is that ADC are no longer able to fund the maintenance and emptying of the bins, and they have offered the Parish Council a contract to take on financial responsibility for this. We very much hope that the Parish Council will agree.

# CRGT

We have held a meeting with two of the Directors of Clapham & Patching Community Shop and Café Project Ltd. As a result, numerous matters have now been clarified and we had hoped by now to be able to offer a lease to the Society for the new building, addressing all their concerns. Unfortunately, there remain obstacles outside both our and the Society's control. As soon as these are resolved, matters should be able to proceed speedily.

We have been approached by a group who are interested in replacing the play area; we have agreed to work with them and have already set aside a suitable plot of land for the new playground. We hope they will be able to progress their plans speedily, and we warmly invite all those who have the same objective to join forces with them to achieve their aims.

If you have any thoughts or suggestions about how to maximise the benefits offered by the Recreation Ground to the villagers (and indeed to other visitors), please let us know. Our email is [crgtrustees@gmail.com](mailto:crgtrustees@gmail.com).

The Trustees

September 2017