Wilcot Recreation Ground Children’s Play Area Renewal

Project Summary

The Recreation Ground, also known as The Green, is owned by the village and run together with the village hall by an annually elected committee. The Green generates very little revenue so operating cost are covered by the Village Hall account which is funded by a mixture of hall hire, investment income and fund raising. The income is modest and isn’t enough to cover capital expenditure so it was necessary to seek additional funding to replace the ageing play equipment.

The existing metal swings dated from about 1950 and had done good service while the wooden climbing frame was reaching the end of its useful life. The aim was to replace the equipment on a like for like basis so that it would be suitable for a variety of ages and also compatible with its position in a conservation area.

Based on some initial quotes a fundraising target of £24000 was set for the project. Being a small village it was clear that outside help would be needed to raise a sum like this. Once the full amount was raised three final quotations were obtained from play equipment providers Huck, Playdale and Wicksteed. At an open meeting a majority of the committee opted for the Wicksteed offering, which was duly installed. This included a 3 bay swing, large climbing frame with ropes, a new seesaw for younger children and safety matting to cover the entire area.

The largest grant came from the National Lottery with £9328. This was supported by two further substantial grants from Pewsey Area Board of £5000 and the Hills Group for £4638. Local fundraising and donations raised a further £4185 bringing us to the point where the project was fully funded at a little less than the original target.

Breakdown of final amounts with individual contributions of £500 or more listed.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Income</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Big Lottery Fund</td>
<td>9328</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pewsey Area Board</td>
<td>5000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hills Group, Landfill Communities Fund</td>
<td>4638</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bridgewater (via Toby Joll)</td>
<td>1579</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lady Rothschild Foundation</td>
<td>500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fundraising and donations</td>
<td>2106</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total raised</strong></td>
<td><strong>23151</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Expenditure</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Equipment and installation (Wicksteed)</td>
<td>23000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sundries</td>
<td>94</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total expenditure</strong></td>
<td><strong>23094</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The surplus of £57 will be used to pay for the ROSPA safety inspection in September 2015.

Richard Fleet
Chairman
Wilcot Recreation Ground and Village Hall Management Committee

Below are copies of the announcement to the village, photos from the opening and articles from two local publications.
(Announcement circulated to all Wilcot Village Residents)

Wilcot Recreation Ground and Village Hall
Registered Charity 305596

Play Area on the Green

On behalf of the committee I'm delighted to announce that we have finally reached our funding target for replacing the ageing equipment on the play area. The committee will now review the options discussed at previous public meetings and will make a decision on which company will supply the new equipment at our next meeting. This will be on Thursday 11 September at 7:30pm in the village hall and residents are welcome to attend.

The bulk of the funding has come from grants by public and private sources, without this help the project would not be going ahead. By far the biggest contributor is the National Lottery through the Big Lottery Fund, with a grant of £9328. This level of support is very helpful as it means that we can fully replace the equipment rather than adopt a piecemeal approach of taking some of it out of service until funds are available.

We greatly appreciate the contribution of £5000 by Pewsey Area Board as part of its commitment to supporting local projects that benefit the community. The play area benefits more than just village residents so it is good to be helped in this way by local government.

We have also received a funding boost of £4638 from The Hills Group Limited. This is money made available through the Landfill Communities Fund which is administered by Community First, The Rural Community Council for Wiltshire. The Third Party Contribution of £642 required for this was paid by Richard Fleet.

Thanks also to Bridgewater Associates and Toby Joll for a very useful donation of £579. Once again thanks to The Rothschild Foundation for a donation of £500 and for their continued support of local projects. Last but not least thanks to Pewsey Carnival for £300 from its regular annual donation to village halls.

A combination of existing set aside funds and additional fundraising has provided another £3132. Thank you to all those residents who contributed to fund raising events and made other direct or indirect contributions. Organisers of events raising over £100 include; Karen and John MacAuslan, Maureen and Len Giddings, The Golden Swan and Oare School.

A big thank you to all the committee members who have been dealing with suppliers and have got us to the funding target, in particular Jenny Dixon and Julie Prowse for getting the ball rolling and latterly Jane Watherston (ably assisted by Jamie).

After 60 years use the swings are due for retirement and the much younger climbing frame has seen better days, so we've reached our target just in time. New equipment which meets modern safety standards doesn't come cheap but hopefully the young (and not so young) users of the replacements will enjoy the benefits for years to come.

Richard Fleet
Chairman

Secretary John MacAuslan 01672 562127
Chairman Richard Fleet 01672 563859
e-mail hutandgreen@gmail.com
Pictures from the opening

Top
The new 3 bay swing

Bottom
Villagers and Guests
Pictures from the opening

Jane Watherston with the Big Lottery Fund plaque

Councillor Paul Oatway says a few words on behalf of Pewsey Area Board

Jane Watherston, Richard Fleet and Mary Hardwidge with the Hills Group plaque
Wiltcots children celebrate their new play area - three cheers for everybody who helped

Written by Tony Miller on 25 April 2015.

Previous play area simply did not have
and there was something to rest on the baby swings - something the
There were children on hand to show how good the new equipment was
led by Richard Peet - chairman of the Recreation Ground Committee.
On Thursday evening just before the monthly meeting of the village
unpredictably has become dangerous to play on.
The previous play equipment was installed in 1995 and, somewhat
boosts new sense of the existing equipment.

The new play equipment was officially opened at a short ceremony
dusk. The new play equipment was officially opened at a short ceremony.
Recreation Ground. It has been owned by the village since 1924 and now
When many people refer to as Wiltcots Green is really the village's

Visiting Marboroough

marborooughnewsonline.co.uk
The short ceremony ended when one of the young users made the most of a very adventurous climbing frame, called for three cheers - for everyone concerned with the project.

The equipment is used by local children and by children at the local preschool which has an outdoor facility.

The organisers came from, among others, Pewsey Carnival and Lady Rothschild - and the village baked cakes and held sales and sponsored this and there to make up the Grand total.

First £500, then a grant of £3,500 and the Hills Group, through the Landfill Community Fund and Community Board voted a grant of £1,000. The Pewsey area.

...and a gentle push from Big Sister.

from community first

Jane Eldred and Mary Hardridge

Success

Play area supporters smile for camera
We’re all ready to play

Grants and donations help to fund village green’s brand new play area

By Anna Mounoury

http://www.gazetteandherald.co.uk/news/12918047.Wilcot_children_celebrate_their_new_play_area/