



Have you pledged yet?

We're coming to the end of the six month period for raising funds for the purchase of a field for development into a public recreation ground for Ashton Hayes. We are still about £18,000 short of our target figure of £62,500 needed to complete the land purchase. We expect to close the gap a little in the next few weeks, but we urgently need to find further funds.

We need your pledges! Many residents have told us that they intend to pledge but have not yet done so. So we hope that the funding gap will be filled by you making your pledge. The village has been waiting for decades for a piece of land suitable for a recreation ground. The opportunity is too good to miss!

The deadline for finding the money is the end of March. However we need to allow time for collecting funds and for legal formalities to take place. Hence our deadline for pledges is MARCH 13TH. Please consider making a pledge; don't just leave it to others.

How much should I pledge? As we suggested in the last newsletter, if every household gave £35 then we would reach our target for resident donations of £12,000. We don't expect everyone to pledge and so a donation of more would be good. But whatever you can manage will be very much appreciated. Pledges so far received vary from £25 to £1,000. Pledging is easy - the form is on the back page.



THANK YOU!

The Association would like to say a big THANK YOU to all those who have sent in pledges. You have made a valuable contribution to providing a community asset for generations to come.

We will contact you in March about collecting your contribution. We hope that by then all donors who are taxpayers will be able to Gift Aid their donations.

We would also like to thank our three councillors (Cllrs Deynem, Bailey and Parker) for contributing a total of £6,000 from their councillors' fund.

And finally we would like to thank our partners, the Parish Council, for their valued and vital support in this project.

New funding strategy identified

We are exploring with the Parish Council alternative ways of purchasing the field which will make fund-raising for the next phase - the development of the field - much easier.

By bringing together the field purchase and the field development into a single project, all monies raised for the field purchase will qualify for "match funding" from many of the funding bodies we plan to approach. In this way we will get up to £60,000 in grant money without having to do lots of local fund-raising.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Saturday March 6th: Consultation on Field Design. Parish Rooms, 10am to 1pm. Just drop in anytime.

Saturday March 13th: Spring Dance Fund-Raiser. Village Hall, 8pm. Tickets from the Post Office, priced £12 to include hot pot supper.

Questions you are asking...

What happens if all the money cannot be found by the deadline? We can extend the purchase deadline but this costs money. We are in discussion with Cheshire West and Chester Council to see what other options are available.

Some people say this is just a football field. Is that right? No. The project has three main elements: an amenity open space, a playground and space for organised and informal sport (which will include football).

Won't a recreation field encourage housing development south of the village? No. Ashton Hayes is contained within green belt and the recreation field will make no difference to existing policy or practice.

What about a tennis court? We are not looking to include a tennis court at this time. But if, during the consultation phase, this came forward as something a number of people were strongly interested in, then it could be considered.

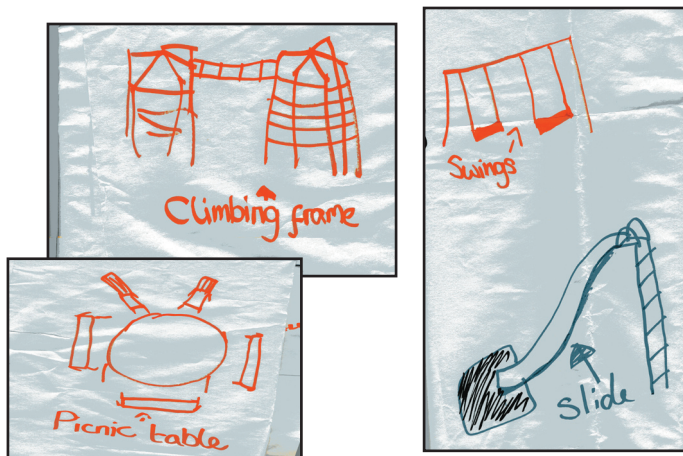


We hope the field will attract wildlife, like this fieldfare which visited Ashton recently.

Designing the Recreation Ground

Although the purchase of the field is not complete, the Association has been considering the layout of the facility. We have engaged a council landscape expert, Edd Snell, to produce a detailed design to take to consultation. Edd will be working with the children at the school to get their views on what the play area should look like.

The key consultation event will take place on 6th March in the Parish Rooms, from 10am to 1pm. This will be a drop-in style consultation and all residents of all ages are encouraged to attend. We are particularly keen to get the views of teenagers. We will then work with Edd to incorporate the comments and produce a final design. We will ask the Parish Council to approve the scheme, which will also provide a further opportunity for the public to comment.



Pictorial views of what Ashton children would like to see, taken from the last drop-in session.

What do we call it?

Recreation ground, playing field, open space - we use these terms interchangeably. But it would be good for the village to settle on one name. Kelsall did a survey and came up with the name "Kelsall Green". What do you think we should call the field? Please let us know your views.

Further questions? Skills to offer?

Please contact ASHSRA's Chairperson, Andrew Garman: 751557 or andrew@qfutures.co.uk

MY PLEDGE

I / we pledge a donation of £ towards the purchase of a recreation ground for Ashton Hayes.

Name(s):

Address:

Email:

Telephone number:

Please send this pledge to Mrs Andrea Thwaite, 64 Ringway, Waverton, Chester, CH3 7NP, or place it in the Pledge Box in the Village Shop.