

Firstly, I would like to start by thanking everyone who took the time and trouble to complete the Parish Asset survey and for being here in this meeting tonight. Although the survey, (and the process), was not perfect, it serves its purpose as the start of our consultation and engagement process and it has given us a “toe in the water” feel for sentiment and what is important to you all. The responses and results will be published in our report and forward plan in the autumn and before then they will be used to help guide our next steps. Thank you to those who did give us, the council, candid feedback about our performance as well as the survey itself – we have listened to your comments and will amend our approaches in future.

We received 100 online responses and 16 paper responses. We also held some stakeholder meetings to better inform ourselves about their issues and plans. We have met with the Cricket, Tennis and croquet and Football Clubs, and have had more recent meetings with the School and Church. We now intend to build on all this feedback and with the active support and ongoing help of our community, develop and publish a plan for improving the usability of our Parish Assets.

The key lessons that we have learned so far from this effort are:

- We are truly blessed with the wealth of our physical assets and the involvement & passion of so many members of our community. (The Oval was a surprise for many)
- There is a fantastic level of participation in organized sport which is growing from all over the parish as well as our neighbouring parishes. (We need to make sure it is all inclusive)
- There is a need to improve access to non-competitive, informal recreational activities both indoors and in our beautiful public spaces. (We need to make provision for our wellbeing)
- We need to, and can do, more as a Council to improve our communications and to actively reach out to groups in our wide Parish who feel that their access to our shared assets is limited in some way. (There is more to Binsted Parish than the village).

As I said this survey marks the start of the process to better manage our Parish Assets. Over the next few weeks and months we will form working groups where necessary to conduct feasibility studies, arrange further stakeholder meetings to dive deeper, potentially draw up plans and make specific, actionable recommendations for improving the access to and use of our Parish Assets, by as wide a range of parishioners as is possible. There is so much that can be done to improve the use of our assets however we simply cannot do it by ourselves. In order for any of these potential projects and ideas to succeed, we will need your help and participation going forwards. Therefore after listening to a short review of the findings from the survey of each of the assets in turn you will be asked if you are interested in stepping up and offering your time and support to help us undertake these projects.

Before we start however I would like to stress that we do recognise that we won't be able to provide everything that people want, in exactly the places they want or at the time or in the time frames they would like. From what we have seen and heard there are clearly areas of conflict with different recreational activities often competing for the same space. We also need to be mindful that we don't compete with or duplicate assets or resources held by other stakeholders in a way which compromises them.

Before we dive in, I would like to provide an answer to some of the questions that have been raised about the survey. Although there were valid reasons for including certain sports and activities in our list, this did in fact cause confusion. Hot air ballooning was included as currently balloonists use the Oval for this purpose. Swimming was in the survey because not that long ago Blacknest Golf Club had applied for permission for a swimming pool and as swimming is something that parishioners were previously enthusiastic about we were retesting the appetite and if it would be important for the Council to support such an application should it come along again.

And some myth-busting. There have been a number of comments made regarding Rowledge Cricket Club's tenancy and use of the rec. Firstly, part of Rowledge is in our Parish community and a number of their members live in our Parish. Secondly Rowledge CC pays all costs for the maintenance of the high standard wicket which meets health and safety requirements. The Parish council pays for the cost of maintaining the outfield. Whilst we are now fortunate enough to have a vibrant Binsted CC, the cost of maintaining the wicket to this standard might be difficult for them to sustain. If things change we can re-evaluate the arrangement, however as things stand, Rowledge CC's investment in the wicket, facilitates Binsted CC playing matches.

The survey findings do provide for a number of what I would call "easy wins"; moving the basketball hoop to a location out of the car park, working with the groundsmen to see if we can find more pitch space for football, working with stakeholders to see if an all-weather community pitch is possible, finding a way to increase the number of people playing tennis, producing walking maps or creating a green gym are all going to be a lot easier to accomplish than draining and reinstating the Oval. However at this stage nothing is off the table and we should consider everything carefully in our working groups to make sure we make the right decisions now that will beneficially impact our families in future.

You asked us to engage with you more, be more responsive and hopefully by undertaking this survey, summarising the results this evening and publishing the full findings in our report in the autumn we are making steps in the right direction.

Finally, please remember being a parish councillor is voluntary position. Like you we all have families and jobs to do, but we give up our time because we like to think that we can make things better for the whole community. Please try to remain respectful and support our efforts in a positive way. We won't always get it right but we stand a better chance of success if you keep engaging with us, telling us where things are not right and letting us know where things can be improved. We work for and represent you, so it is therefore really important for us to be able to demonstrate our value and to have a valid purpose for you. The forward plan that falls out of this survey and its working groups will help make clear what that purpose is.

I am now handing over to the team to take us through the survey findings. As said before this will be a short feedback session of 15 minutes per asset – Sue will be our time keeper and she will be making a note of any pertinent questions raised as well as dealing with the nominations for the working groups.