

BARNARD MEADOW – AGM END OF YEAR REPORT 2024

Following last year's AGM an unanimous decision was made to pursue the idea of incorporating a "play area" as part of the development of Barnard Meadow. The idea is gaining support from many different quarters allowing Malcolm, Patrick and myself (Mac) to continue our ad-hoc discussions and development meetings. Meanwhile, Barnard Meadow was left to nature over the winter period.

In February a site meeting took place with Fawns Recreational Services' representative who then produced a schematic community play-space design together with an indication of the costs involved. Subsequent discussions resulted in the Trustees and Committee supporting such a scheme to be included in the development plan.

Given the uncertain weather conditions experienced during the first part of the year and the logistical nightmare of attempting to organise groups to keep Barnard Meadow tidy, the decision was made to outsource the matter to a third party. The successful party (Tim Gent) kindly undertook the task and has done a wonderful job of clearing last year's growth and keeping the grass under control. This was aided by Malcolm's herculean efforts of removing various amounts of wire, metal, glass and plastic to the skip we had placed on the site of the Village Hall. The input of both parties allows the true area of the site to be seen, which has helped clarify development ideas.

By August a schematic design for the site was achieved, sufficient in content to share with two contractors who we met on site. Both were encouraged to present their ideas as how best to achieve the objectives as explained by Malcolm and Mac. Subsequent briefs and guide costs were received from both parties, which came within an acceptable percentage difference.

During September the Trustees and Committee members met and discussed all the above. The scheme was agreed with an overall budget of £60,000 for the development of Barnard Meadow providing car parking for 14 cars, a play area and open community space.

Patrick Wilson Architects were briefed on the agreed scheme and invited to act on our behalf. The brief has been accepted and the necessary contracts agreed and signed in October. It is hoped that a successful planning application can be achieved early next year.