

THORNE'S THRIVING

Issue 2

SPRING 2006

Thorne Park - have your say

Over the past few years the Town Council has put in a special effort on improving the facilities in Thorne Park. Last year thousands of bulbs were planted and they are now providing a wonderful spectacle. Please come to the park to enjoy the spring flowers and at the same time take a look at the old walled garden between the Park and Howarth Timber. The Council is looking at options to improve the walled garden and bring it back into use and is considering such things as:

- Lowering the wall to bring the walled garden more into the park.
- Planting it up as a quiet garden.
- Cleaning the beds to provide a courtyard area that could be used for events or over-spill/disabled parking.

Improvements being considered for the rest of the Park include:

- Remodelling of the sides of the pond to make it both safer and more attractive.
- Provision of improved play equipment including items suitable for older children.
- Construction of a wildlife friendly area.



Please let us hear your views as to how the park could be developed, you can write to us at:

Assembly Rooms, Fieldside, Thorne DN8 4AE
Or email: ian@thorne-moorends.gov.uk

Moorends Welfare Ground Results of a meeting with CISWO

On Tuesday 21st March 2006 the Town Council met with a representative of CISWO (The Coal Industry Social and Welfare Organisation) from whom it leases the Moorends Welfare Ground and it seems that they are promoting a scheme to help with the restoration of Welfare Grounds. Whilst the project called "Facing the Future" doesn't provide any funding itself, it does bring interested parties - trustees, sports organisations and funders - together to move restoration schemes forward.

The Town Council pledged its full support to improving the facilities at Moorends Welfare Ground in co-operation with the sports users and Councillors are due to attend a seminar at CISWO on 7th April and also set up a meeting with all the current and potential users of the ground.

Coulman Recreation Ground - funding application sent to FA

The Town Council, in conjunction with the thriving Moorends Hornets and Stingers Football Club and other stakeholders, have prepared an application to the Football Foundation for funding towards pitch improvements and the construction of new changing rooms at the Coulman Recreation Ground. The Council is grateful for letters of support which have been received from:

Trinity Academy
DMBC Active Recreation Unit
Thorne Group for Mentally Handicapped People
Thornensians RUFC
Thorne Moorends Regeneration Partnership

Planning permission has been granted with access to the new building being from Coulman Road.

The initial application form for 50% match funding from the Football Foundation went in to the FA on 17th February 2006 and following initial feedback a revised application was sent on 18th March 2006.

The whole scheme if successful will cost £393134.00

New Town Councillor for Moorends

Claire Taylor-Hatem MCIPS

I am married with one child and live in Moorends. I was elected councillor for Moorends at the by election on the 2nd March 2006 representing the community group with the intention of being pro active in improving welfare and leisure facilities for the residents.

My grandfather was the late Eric Holt a passionate councillor and Mayor with commitment and dedication I aim to follow.

Due to a military upbringing and my father's continuous postings abroad, I attended Morcott Hall Boarding School in Rutland moving on to College then to Art School. I have lived and worked in the Middle East as Assistant to the president of an international electronics company and as an Assistant Manager for an international fashion Agency. After a craving for the home town I returned to England where I studied for my Professional Graduate Diploma and became a member of the Chartered Institute of purchasing and Supply Chain Management.

During this time I gained an extensive work history of providing development opportunities to disadvantaged groups which has provided me with a broad knowledge of employment and training. I currently work as a Development Officer for the Shaw Trust, a National Charity providing in work support to people



with disabilities and disadvantages. This role involves working with local, National and International companies employing people with disabilities by providing support, training and personal development opportunities.

Due to working closely with all social groups within a community I can confidently say that I am aware of the barriers and wellbeing concerns facing people and I hope to utilise my skills to push for relevant facilities that can be used by everyone.

Results of the public consultation about the proposed Wyke Gate Road Multi-Use Games Area

A survey of students at Thorne Grammar School in 2005 highlighted the demand for multi-use games areas in Thorne and Moorends. One was constructed at the Moorends Welfare Ground in 2005 and this year one is planned at the Wyke Gate Road Recreation Ground.

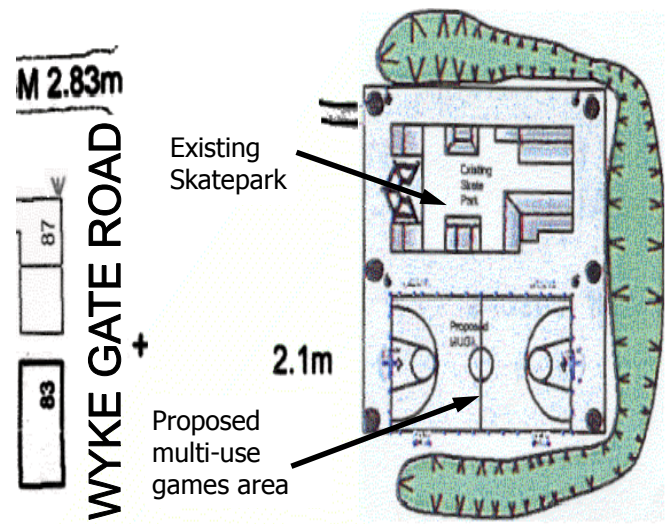
A survey of local residents was carried out and a total of 185 questionnaires were sent out. Thus far, 41 questionnaires have been returned providing a very brief view of the community's feelings towards the proposed development.

There was a large support base for the project with 77.7% of those who completed a questionnaire agreeing to the installation of a MUGA. This supports the positive results from the initial consultation taken on Friday 26th August 2005 at the Environmental Fun Day when 94% agreed to the proposals. On this occasion, those who had reservations about the plans gave reasons such as: concerns over parking facilities, (as it is already felt parking is inadequate in the area), concerns that new facilities would cause further anti-social behaviour and finally one resident felt the facility would not be used.

A total of 72% agreed to the proposed location, with 27% rejecting the location on the basis of either feeling there were better alternatives for the facility, parking concerns, increase in anti-social behaviour and concerns over lack of supervision of the site.

With regards to the installation of flood lights, again the response was favourable with 75% of people consulted agreeable. 22% of residents objected to the installation of flood lights stating fears over a rise in anti-social behaviour, this was a similar response to the initial consultation with the addition of concerns that lights would shine into people's houses causing a nuisance.

The installation of footpaths was found to be a favourable proposition by 83% of those who were consulted. Of those who opposed, 13% anti-social behaviour was sited as well as concerns over disabled access and placement of the footpaths too near to houses. 44% would like to become more involved in the improvements and receive regular updates in the future.



The community voiced further opinions as to other potential improvements they would like to see on the site in future phases of work. These included general landscaping, planting of both trees and low level shrubs/plant, the inclusion of seating, further street lighting and footpaths and boundary improvements. Whilst all of the options received were generally favourable responses, the most preferred options were seating and boundary improvements with 58% and 61% each respectively. This differed slightly to the results of the first consultation when resident's favoured seating and tree planting.

The general sense is now to deliver the project in a way which will curb anti-social behaviour. This is reflected in the 'Other Suggested Improvements' that people would like to see on the site, such as toilets, bins, wheelchair access, a family area, parking, motorbike barriers and keeping dogs off the grounds; maintenance and long-term supervision were the over-riding suggestions.

As a result of the questionnaire it has become apparent that some residents have concerns which are summarised as:

- Parking problems
- Increase in anti-social behaviour
- Lack of new facilities
- Alternative locations for facilities
- Installation of floodlighting
- Installation of access footpaths

Therefore it is proposed to hold an open public meeting and invite all residents who responded to the questionnaire and in particular, all residents who expressed an interest in being kept up to date with progress. In addition, project partners with a vested interest in the scheme will also be asked to attend the meeting. The aim of the meeting is to address the issues that have arisen as a result of this consultation and the best way to now progress this scheme.

A NEWSLETTER FROM THORNE-MOORENDS TOWN COUNCIL

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