

Boxford Playing Fields Management Committee Report to Boxford Parish Council AGM

26TH April 2025

2024 was a year of comparative stability. Boxford and Edwardstone Cricket Club unfortunately did not have a team for this season, but we are hopeful that they (or some cricket) will return in some form and to that end we are hosting a series of fixtures this season for Sudbury cricket club. Boxford Rovers football club juniors completed their programme of fixtures and training sessions. BRFC Adults had a challenging season and have one fixture next weekend which will complete the 24/25 season in which they look to continue in division two of the Essex and Suffolk Border League. Similarly the tennis courts, children's play area, sports pavilion and allotments were fully used and the playing fields remained available for walkers and more casual recreational activity throughout the year.

The 2024 programme of works included repairs to equipment in the childrens play area consisting of the replacement of the aerial slide at a cost of £11,784, funded by grants from Boxford Community Council among others, repairs to drainage to the pavilion, some electrical work including the installation of floodlights to aid the youth football team training through the winter period which was funded by a combination of grants including £2000 from the Parish Council and a grant from Babergh DC along with a CIL grant and money from our own funds. Some other ground projects including the resurrection of the cricket square to facilitate the forthcoming fixtures were also completed.

This year we plan to:

- Install the long awaited floodlights to enable football practice to continue into the autumn and winter on Wednesday evenings. The overall project cost is quoted as £13,030 which I look to fund from a CIL grant of £9,773 from Babergh DC, a £2,000 grant from Boxford Parish Council and the rest from our own funds.
- Carry out essential maintenance to the play equipment.
- Replace the existing Aerial Runway which has now reached the end of its economic life with a new one at a cost of £11,784. I am working on the funding at present but envisage a combination of a s106 grant from BDC, £2k from Boxford Community Council and the balance of £8,043 from BDC Capital funds – but all TBC!
- Start a six year programme to maintain and improve our playing field turf financed in large part by the FA. We now have the initial grant of £2,304 in our bank account ready for use. Melvyn Eke is leading on this on behalf of the committee.
- The car park will also need attention once again this year after the very wet winter

Financially we remain in good order with a present bank balance of £19,905 with the end of year accounts showing a modest surplus of £749.

In the longer term we have to plan for the resurfacing of the tennis courts in about 5 years time and the play area will also need to be renewed in much the same timescale so we are grateful to the Parish Council for having agreed to build a reserve at £5k each year to assist us when the time comes.

Arrivals

We welcomed Natalie Woods as our Honorary Secretary this spring but otherwise we remain the same crew as last year and I owe my personal thanks to them all for the support and assistance that they have given to our joint endeavours.

We are always keen to recruit to the team and I would particularly welcome a volunteer to relieve me of the role of treasurer before too much longer!