

ANNEX B
RINGWOOD TOWN COUNCIL
ANNUAL REPORT 2008
RECREATION, LEISURE & OPEN SPACES COMMITTEE
REPORT BY THE CHAIRMAN

It is my great privilege and also sadness that I am presenting this report tonight. As many of you will know the late Cllr Malcolm Daly was elected Chairman of the Committee last May and I was pleased to be appointed as his Deputy. Regrettably following a long illness Malcolm passed away earlier this year and I took over as Chairman of the Committee. Malcolm's work as Chairman has already been well documented elsewhere but I would like to pass on my sincere personal thanks for the work he did during his term of office as Chairman.

I could take up the rest of this meeting with the work the Committee has done during the year but I will just make a few general points and draw out those issues which I think have the greatest bearing on the future of recreation, leisure and open space provision in the town.

ALLOTMENTS AND CEMETERIES

Our allotments and cemeteries continue to be very well maintained, the former by the allotment holders and the latter by our very dedicated ground staff. In order to carry out an extension to the road in the Hightown Road Cemetery, we have had to terminate the tenancies of allotment holders who had been using spare ground on that site. Once the new roadway is constructed we hope to be able to relet some of the area for use as allotments.

Some of you may have noticed that we have had to carry out significant tree works within the cemetery in the last three months. Like people, trees have a life span and unfortunately several have come to the end of their time and we have had to have them removed for safety reasons.

LONG LANE

Our development of sports pitches at Long Lane has by all accounts been a massive success. So much so that although we provided more car parking than the Planners required, there are insufficient spaces and the Committee has agreed that we should now look to provide additional off-road car parking to support these pitches.

DROP IN CENTRE

Regrettably we were forced to terminate the tenancy of the Tennis Club for the grass courts at Carvers Recreation Ground. I am very pleased to say that our decision on that has given us the opportunity to introduce a Drop-In Centre for teenagers at the former tennis pavilion. This is staffed entirely by volunteers and has taken the place of the Drop In that used to operate from Belinda's cake shop in the High Street. It is very well attended and is providing an informal supervised facility for those young people who would otherwise have nothing to do on a Friday evening. In addition the cessation of

grass court tennis will enable us to incorporate the grass tennis court area into the adjoining children's' play area. This will give the very young children a safe and enclosed grassed area on which they can kick a ball in absolute safety.

CHILDREN'S ENTERTAINMENT

Finally I am pleased to say that when we prepared our budget at the end of last year we managed to include a provision which for the first time allows us to provide young children's entertainment on Carvers Recreation Ground twice a week during the summer holidays. The entertainment will be based on circus skills and has been designed to enable the young children to learn skills and perform if they wish to. We will be circulating details to all schools and play schools shortly before the school summer holidays.

Time has only permitted me to give a very brief summary of the work we have undertaken but if you have any questions I will be pleased to try and answer them.

Cllr Neville Chard
Chairman