

DOBWALLS OPEN SPACE – AN ASSET FOR GENERATIONS TO COME

There's a lot of talk about what might be provided on the two large fields the parish council is buying to create an open space for leisure and recreation.

Here, the chairman of the council John Dunn explains what's happening and urges people to be patient while a more detailed plan is drawn up.



First of all, John is keen to point out that, as they say: "it's early days and this is a work in progress". The purchase of the land has still to be completed so, although there are lots of ideas flying around, nothing's going to happen tomorrow.

The council will take on board the comments, views and aspirations of the village people, but there will be limitations on what ends up there. Dobwalls won't be getting an international airport! The £30,000 funding from Cornwall Council through the Community Infrastructure Levy must be spent on a project which reduces carbon emissions and promotes greener living.



John says the larger of the fields will provide much-needed additional space for Dobwalls Football Club. Extra pitches for the juniors are planned and it's possible there could be a running track which the school and other organisations would benefit from.

John adds: "The other field will be a fantastic community asset, providing a carbon-neutral

area which we hope will include a large wooded area with natural footpaths, a wild flower meadow, an orchard and a family leisure area with tables and park benches for everyone to enjoy.

"And, we will be asking villagers to get involved and also seeking professional guidance to help us make this scheme a success."



HOW HAS THIS ALL COME ABOUT?

Your parish council isn't all about cracked pavements, dog mess and grass cutting! It can flex its muscles when necessary.

When residential developers Wainhomes built on land off Duloe Road on the edge of Dobwalls the company didn't provide any open space for leisure and recreation so the firm agreed to a planning condition imposed by Cornwall Council as part of a special agreement that it would put up a considerable sum of money which could be used within the community. But the money had to be used within a strict timetable and deadline, otherwise Wainhomes could, quite rightly, claim the money back.

Some of the Wainhomes money went to provide additional facilities at either the village primary school or the football club. The rest, to cut a long story short, resulted in the company agreeing that the remaining funds could be used elsewhere in the village, other than a previously identified site on The Green.



John Dunn comments: "Wainhomes kindly agreed the funds could be re-allocated and this was key to making an alternative project work."

So, the council is using the money to purchase the two fields.

All this only happened because of meetings involving the parish council, the football club, the school and others. You may have heard of Jane Pascoe, our local Cornwall councillor. You may not have heard of Linda Coles, our parish council clerk. However, without them, this major, significant project for Dobwalls would not be happening. They have worked tirelessly behind the scenes with Wainhomes and Cornwall Council to achieve this incredible result.

Of course, this is all down to you, the DVP, the Dobwalls Village People. Here's John Dunn again: "The need for additional green space was quite clearly identified in your comments in the various surveys and open days carried out as part of the creation of our Neighbourhood Development Plan for the parish. Your input and the availability of the money from Wainhomes to purchase appropriate land prompted the parish council to explore viable options and we have come up with one. So, as soon as the purchase of the land is complete, we can start on something the village of Dobwalls will be proud of for generations to come."

