

## **Newman Collard Playing Fields**

### **Our vision**

Our aim is to continue to develop our site as a place of recreation, which is accessible and attractive to ALL users in a variety of ways, encouraging people to enjoy both formal and informal activities both indoors and outdoors.

The majority of the site is owned and managed by the Newman Collard Playing Fields Trust, although some parts are owned and managed by Liss Parish Council. In practice, the Trust and Council are committed to working closely together for the benefit of the community. This vision has been developed by the Newman Collard trustees in consultation with our main users and the Parish Council, in line with a joint strategy to improve and promote recreation facilities across the village. In recognition of the Council's support and our own aims, the Trust will maintain and develop its free-to-access and pay-to-play facilities to increase and diversify public participation.

The site is home to Liss Athletic Football Club and Newman Collard Tennis Club and hosts a range of organised activities which we shall continue to support and nurture. However, our intention is to diversify the range of available activities and make provision for more informal recreation. To this end, we have obtained funding from the South Downs National Park Authority and Liss Parish Council for an all-season, all-weather multi-use games area (MUGA) and outdoor exercise equipment.

The MUGA will be of particular benefit to older children and young people who are a priority in the village recreation strategy. But it should, together with the exercise equipment, appeal to people of all ages, abilities and interests: for example, basketball, dodgeball, paddle- or pickle-ball; walking football for people with limited mobility; fitness activities for women and girls; five-a-side football, particularly when the grass pitches are waterlogged; exercise by parents after taking their children to school. We are also considering the creation of running and bike routes, we are planning a Recovery Group for people who have experienced a serious illness and we would be pleased to host after-school activities to complement the very active pre-school group who use our pavilion.

Liss Men's Shed is based at Newman Collard, the Splatter Chatter Nursery (previously Little Treasures) is a major user of our pavilion and Liss Brownies, Liss Guides, Liss Runners also use our facilities. We shall continue to develop our pavilion and improve its facilities and accessibility. Following its major extension a few years ago, we have recently made improvements to its internal and external lighting. We want to redecorate it, improve its storage facilities and extend the scope of its first floor. We would like to encourage a broader range of activities ranging from bingo to coffee mornings, cinema to craft markets, toy exchanges to holiday clubs; yoga to tai chi, though being mindful and avoiding unhelpful duplication of activities happening elsewhere.

Although the primary focus for the site is recreation – both formal and informal – we also have plans to make the site more environmentally friendly, ranging from installing LED lighting, to planting wildflower banks, to creating nature trails. In implementing a plan to upgrade and improve our pond, we will look for all sorts of opportunities for environmental improvements. We will contribute to the village's range of tree planting initiatives and seek opportunities to encourage pollinators. We will further develop the Memorial Garden, encouraging the involvement of volunteers.

We will pay close attention to people's health, safety and security. We will continue our programme of PAT testing and keep our compliance with COSHH and other regulations under review. We have recently upgraded our security lighting and CCTV and have carried out a health and safety assessment of the pond and its surrounds.

In all of this we will aim to complement activities elsewhere in the village, working collaboratively with partner organisations – as we have done for Queen Elizabeth’s Jubilee and King Charles’s Coronation.

To enable us to achieve these developments we have recently strengthened our team of trustees, led by a four-person officer team of Chair, Vice-chair, Treasurer and Secretary. We will continue to do so and will keep under review the need for paid executive capacity, in addition to the support which Liss Parish Council and Men’s Shed can give us, having regard to on-going maintenance as well as planning and implementing new projects. We will continue to research and apply for funding opportunities and encourage the involvement of volunteers.

We will promote the site to everyone, not just our regular visitors and users - for example, by installing sociable seating around the site so that people can experience and enjoy its recreational and environmental features. We are very keen to develop the site’s social as well as recreational possibilities, encouraging villagers to see Newman Collard as a great ‘destination’. This could include such things as developing an outside performance area or on-site catering facilities such as a coffee cabin. In promoting the site, we will encourage groups and individuals to suggest and offer to lead the implementation of new ideas and activities.