

I. D. E. A. S. (Improve Dunston's Empty Areas Scheme)
Putting PLAY back into Dunston's Playing Field.

INTRODUCTION

Dunston Parish Council requested IDEAS to give a formal presentation of the development plans they have in mind for Dunston's Playing Field and the situation going forward. IDEAS also sought the signing of an application for grant funding in order that this project could proceed. The presentation only dealt with the provision of play equipment as this is the focus of Stage 1, phases 1, 2 & 3 as per the Development Plan.

HISTORY

The acquisition in 2005/2006 of the playing field was funded by Parish Council contribution from the parish precept, grant applications and fund raising. Outline Planning permission was applied for and granted and eventually this field was to some extent levelled and drainage was put in to part of the area, i.e. the football pitches and the bowling green. Following this work, cabins have been placed on site for footballers changing rooms, a bowling green club house, toilet block, and the boundary fencing round the Bowls Club, all financed through the Parish Council, and the whole area remains the property of all Dunston residents. IDEAS would like it noted that on the original plans, along with football and bowls facilities, play equipment, a multi-use games area and tennis courts are also shown. Apart from the two Clubs above and many dog walkers, critically there are no facilities for local children. In fact, the word PLAY seems to be forgotten. There are many and varied definitions of the word PLAY, but IDEAS believe that most people would consider children moving freely about, particularly with others, preferably outside and without restriction, in a safe environment, as one of the most accepted meanings. IDEAS was formed in October 2012 by a very small group of Dunston parishioners who had, over a few years, requested the Parish Council to provide a baby swing in the current play area outside the Village Hall, but unfortunately, there was no commitment from the council for the provision of a small piece of equipment for our youngest residents. The name IDEAS was resurrected by this new Group from the original name used when the old playing field was developed.

CONSULTATION

As outlined in the Business Plan, IDEAS initial questionnaire covered every property in Dunston Parish from Dunston Top to the White Horse Inn in Fen Lane. During this initial approach, personally carried out by IDEAS members on a house to house basis, it became clear that there was overwhelming support for play equipment for our children, grandchildren and younger visitors. There was also considerable support from residents for tennis courts, a multi-use games area and, if possible, a pavilion. IDEAS is in the process of completing a further consultation in this respect.

LIAISON

IDEAS have received great support from Dunston St Peters School and IDEAS meets with the children at their School Council to discuss their ideas. This was brilliantly underlined when we held the first Consultation Meeting in the Village Hall in January 2013 where drawings of what our children would like to see on the playing field were displayed. The School supports this venture for its inclusive equipment ideas and the children will be kept closely informed of progress. IDEAS is regularly in contact with CommunityLincs and other organisations likely to look favourably on projects such as this for grant applications and to assist us to move this project forward. The Dunston Dossier and the Dunston HUB are also points of contact with local residents.

NUMBERS - Since October 2012 IDEAS has been engaged in fund raising events as itemised below:

- December 2011 and 2012 – Carol Singing £497.39
 - April - Nostalgia Night £197.05
 - May - Fashion Show £444.35
 - June - Summer Fete £1016.45
 - July - Medium Night- £378.73
 - Grant from Lincolnshire Co-op £1,000.00
 - Donation from Lincolnshire County Councillor, Marianne Overton, £250.00
 - Donation from E M Howard Ltd £50.00
 - Income from sundry donations, on-going various sales
 - i.e. table top, plants, jam jars, e-bay sales, coach trips and taster craft sessions £650.37
 - PLUS Fund Transfer from original Playing Field Development Fund £1064.29
- IDEAS Bank account as at 16th July 2013 £5,548.63

In addition, IDEAS has also received grant approval for £500 from Lincolnshire County Council/North Kesteven District Council for plants etc. for the wildlife area. We can also announce that, very recently, we have received grant confirmation from the Police & Crime Commissioner for Lincolnshire of £500 towards seating in the play area. Dunston Parish Council have also allocated up to £250 to IDEAS to hire the Village Hall for events.

The team has received help in kind from Blankney Estate, B&Q, Sir James Dyson, various businesses locally in Lincoln and beyond and strong offers for more help when the project is further along. We have also been invited to use youngsters on community programmes to help with ground work etc. Local crafts people have offered their help in making some equipment and residents are making bird boxes etc. for the wildlife area; others are donating seeds and plants.

Money raised does not just come from Dunston residents but from all round Lincoln, Sleaford, Horncastle and beyond, certainly bringing people into this village. People will only donate to projects or ventures they believe in and our events are trying to be innovative and exciting and we believe have injected some vigour into a relatively benign programme. We have a very wide target area in which to sell tickets for our functions and do our best to provide as much media coverage as we can to promote and achieve our ambitious project. Our efforts are based on community enhancement and IDEAS trust that joining with other Dunston organisations in some of our fund raising activities will help to make Dunston an even better place to live and help minimise the impact of rural isolation.

IDEAS has at least four further fund raising events in 2013. Firstly, a joint musical event with St Peters Church and secondly, a Fashion Show with the Village Hall Committee. A further coach trip is planned and, of course, the annual carol singing round Dunston village. IDEAS will have well over £6,000 in the bank account by the end of 2013. Also the Village Hall is already booked for two fund-raising events in our Spring programme 2014.

EQUIPMENT

***Equipment chosen should provide the following disciplines and be available to most abilities i.e. rotating, swinging, climbing, sliding, rocking and socialising and that as much as possible is accessible to the disabled child.

IDEAS have had visits by many representatives from national play equipment manufacturers and suppliers and subsequent quotations for what Dunston children would like to have.

**IDEAS members have also visited a great many play facilities in and around Lincoln to evaluate the kind of equipment different Parish Councils have provided, and spoken to parents, their children and parishioners in other villages to see if what has been provided for them best suits their requirements.

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We would strongly advise Parish Councillors to visit the equipment Martin has installed on their playing field.

This facility is inspiring.

RECOMMENDATION

IDEAS is absolutely serious and determined to make this project a success. In order to capitalize on this enthusiasm and make a meaningful enhancement to the infrastructure of Dunston, we ask for your ACTIVE support.

IDEAS plans are ambitious – we make no apology for that – but you will see from the documentation we have produced that, providing we get support from key players such as yourselves, we have a realistic expectation of success. IDEAS would like to move forward with this project and WREN (Waste Recycling Environmental Limited) has advised us to make an application for funding from them as soon as possible. It is important for residents to see the progress of this ambitious plan and that the money they donate by attending fund raising ventures is being used for the projects they support. There is no doubt that, once a start is made and children begin to use the facilities, it will create more enthusiasm to further develop this field and create a lasting legacy for Dunston residents.

The total cost of the equipment we would like to install in Phase One, including installation, is £89,000 less generous discounts. As Parish Councillors are aware, a percentage of the grant WREN offer is needed to release any allocation made by them. Currently that amounts to 11% of any grant awarded. The Council can also apply for the recovery of any VAT element. When IDEAS started the journey with this ambitious plan, the Parish Council had not, and possibly would not in 2013/14, make provision in the parish precept for play equipment. IDEAS realise that as no money was allocated, this would normally ruin any proposals for a financial outlay of this nature. However, on this occasion, and so that we can move forward, IDEAS has given an undertaking to give the Parish Council any monies they are required to provide to support this grant application to WREN, to a maximum currently of around £6,000. In future it is hoped that the Parish Council will allocate some funding requirement in the precept for the future development of the playing field.

DECISION

This completed our presentation. The grant application closing date looms fast and our presentation to the Council has been delayed. However, on the basis of the above, we trust the Parish Council is happy to proceed with Stage 1 of this ambitious, and we believe, worthy development of Dunston's Playing Field for our children without delay.

IDEAS emphasises that this initial stage is of no cost to the parish funds but will be a start to providing a lasting legacy for Dunston.

Finally, the initial letter of each paragraph makes a word which encapsulates the reason IDEAS was formed. Consultation, History, Introduction, Liaison, Decision, Recommendation, Equipment, Numbers.

CHILDREN

Following this Parish Council Meeting, a decision on the above has been deferred until after the next Parish Council Meeting on the 2nd September. IDEAS needs your support. Please either contact one of the IDEAS team, your parish councillor or come to the next Parish Council meeting to share your views on this project.

The IDEAS Team: Jane Lamyman, Diana Hammond, Pamela West, Nick Byatt. Angela Morley, Sue Fisher and Pauline Moore plus a large team of active supporters.

The IDEAS Group Constitution document and the IDEAS Group Development Plan are available on request from Jane 320287 or Diana 320460.