

THE BARTONS WAR MEMORIAL PLAYING FIELDS

2024 PLAYGROUND APPEAL

The playground is the only facility of its type in the two parishes and has always been well used. It is really important we raise enough funding to renovate it before equipment becomes unsafe and has to be dismantled. We will be actively applying for any grants that are available but we need your help.

Most of the items in the playground are showing signs of age and wear. In particular the posts are beginning to rot below ground level. The spring mounted toddler items and the sandpit are OK, and the zip wire has already been partially refurbished but the rest needs attention. The BVMHF Management Committee have explored various options including trying to extend the life of items by cutting posts short, installing metal supports and making repairs to the structures. However, this will prove to be difficult to do and quite costly with little long-term guarantee of the further life of the items. There are also a number of mechanical parts that will soon need replacement. The wood chipping safety surfaces also need complete replacement in the very near future.

The Management Committee have approved a costed plan to replace some of the well-used items, dismantle and remove others, and introduce several new pieces of play equipment aimed specifically at children of primary school age including a multi-ability roundabout. In order to achieve the plan in full we need to raise at least £70,000.

We appeal to all residents of the Bartons and the immediately surrounding area, to users of the playground from neighbouring villages, and to local businesses to assist us in providing our children and grandchildren with a new, extended playground.

You can assist by fundraising, by direct donations (using gift aid if you pay tax) and by letting us know of any potential sources of grants. If you wish to you can also sponsor a specific item. As we are a registered charity, any donations you make may also help to reduce your own or company tax liability.

If you can help in any way, please email the Secretary, Trevor Payne, on bvmhfsec@gmail.com or our Treasurer on hinton500@hotmail.com or speak to a member of the Management Committee of the Fund.

NOTE: The Bartons Victory Memorial Hall Fund is the charity which owns the playing fields and has overall management responsibility for the whole site. The fund is assisted in running the site by the Bartons Memorial Sports and Social Club, who manage the main building, and the Middle Barton Bowls Club, who manage the Bowling Green.