

**Nine Acres
Report for Charlbury Town Council
June 2021**

Re-seeding of football pitches

Over the next few months the Nine Acres Committee with assistance from the football club will be carrying out urgent pitch repairs including seeding, fertilization and easing compaction of the ground for sport.

A rustic barrier that will be used to keep people off this area whilst the works are in progress. The initial focus will be on the 11 v 11 pitch with work then moving onto the junior pitch and then the top "hockey" pitch.

The work has benefitted from May being a wetter than expected month, leading to there being moisture in the ground for the grass seeding works to progress. Seeding was scheduled for Friday 14th May with access to the main football pitch restricted to allow the grass to grow. The roping off of the area will allow full access around the perimeter of Nine Acres for walks and runs as previously suggested.

Other plans

There are also plans under consideration to install a MUGA area, upgrade the play-area, create a trail running track and outdoor gym!! But this will take time and will need to be financed.

The NAMC is going to continue to work on how it can improve the facility for all users, through discussion, setting targeted objectives and taking action.

Provision for our young people

Charlbury Youth Football club now has 12 teams, but Nine Acres is its only secure venue for training and matches. Paul Jenkins has said that Charlbury Football Club remain open to other ideas and locations in the town but "we are woefully lacking in outdoor facilities for our young people. Hopefully, we can engage with the Town council in help on this issue for the longer term."

Football success

The under 18 girls football team have built upon their success of winning the Oxfordshire Youth U16 Football league last year, by becoming champions of the Under 18 Thames Valley North division which covers the Oxfordshire, Buckinghamshire and Berkshire areas. Regular games were played against High Wycombe, Abingdon, Maidenhead and Chesham! In fact the girls fulfilled all the fixtures through a difficult season without losing a game.

The Football and Sports Club

Covid restrictions have impacted on this facility which was not able to open until April. However, it was able to offer an important community service in the meantime as it was used by Charlbury Health Centre as its vaccination centre, a service that was greatly appreciated by residents.

The Club is now open and with the Euros now running is being well supported and is starting to make up for time lost by being closed over important times such as Christmas, New Year and Easter.

Janet Burroughs
21 June 2021