

## **Wellow Sports Project**

### **Statement by Peter Downey Vice Chairman**

Three years ago two extraordinary people Chris Wordsworth, former Wellow Youth Club organiser and Andy Smith, whose daughter played Tennis to a very high standard, determined that something should be done to create more sport in Wellow, which will be the first major Project in Wellow since the building of the Village Hall and purchase of the field 40 years ago.

Before you today is the proposal that has emerged, not just from them, but the team drawn from the people of the Village. We have a full sized football pitch, but no team has been able to be raised for the 19 years I lived there. It is used for the once a year Horticultural Show which will still be able to take place, and occasional scratch kick-about and the odd cricket match – odd because it is so un-level even I can get a decent leg break if I am bowling in the right direction.

A huge amount of work, Planning, Designing, Fundraising, Community exhibitions and consultations as well as a full Referendum that received 2/3<sup>rd</sup> support on a turnout greater than the General Election. The youngsters, too young to vote, were so determined they held their own vote! You will hear from one of them later

In your papers you will see the layout from an architect who then lived locally which provides for :

- 7 aside football pitch –In line with Somerset FA policy for villages - requires smoothing
- 2 Tennis Courts – Floodlit which includes a Netball layout on one.
- 2 Cricket Nets – we expect to feed Hinton Charterhouse CC
- Outdoor Gym
- Boules Park
- Speed Walk – Jogging track

These sports facilities will provide the opportunity for all ages, male and female, for those of us with grey hair or none to the youngsters at St Julian's Primary..

With considerable difficulty, not least with the LTA nearly 90% of the funding has been pledged or raised. Of the £23,000 still to be raised we are seeking the support of the Council for £15,000. When our Project is completed, we will be happy to share our experience with other communities who share with us the belief that fitness and sport are vital ingredients plus important in connecting communities in rural areas.

Our Chairman, who has driven this community project is next.....