

Wellow Sports presentation to B&NES' Cabinet on 10.09.2014 by Heather Andrews, read by Debbie Clarkson another Wellow Parish Councillor

I have been a Wellow Parish Councillor for nearly eight years and have recently become the Community Governor for St Julian's School Wellow. I am a recently retired hospital consultant.

All these positions temper my views on what is good for Wellow.

I have lived in Wellow for nine years and it is very apparent to me that the playing field is woefully underused. This was evidenced by a five day snapshot audit of playing field use which was undertaken to support Wellow Sports' successful planning application for the tennis / netball courts.

Presently the only 'organised' sporting activity in Wellow is horse riding. Very few parishioners avail themselves of this facility. Kicking a football about on the field is the only main stream sport available in Wellow and that is certainly not for girls and women.

Obesity is the major health problem in the developing world with its consequent epidemic of diabetes, heart disease, stroke and cancer. It is universally accepted that exercise has a major preventative effect. Wellow has taken on this challenge with this innovative sports project.

We are aiming to provide varied sporting activities for all sections of society whether young or old. Equally important is the 'social hub' aspect of this project. Loneliness is a major source of depression in the elderly. This site will allow facilities for conversation, tea and home-made cakes providing a much needed village facility. It must be remembered that older ladies don't feel comfortable going to the pub.

We are fortunate to have an excellent primary school in Wellow which draws pupils from the surrounding villages. It is designated OFSTED outstanding but the sports facilities are very limited. The school is hoping for the enhanced sporting facilities that this project will allow. This has the full support of the Head Mistress. There will be a safe walking passage between the school and the playing field.

Curo tell me that just over 20% of the housing units are classified as affordable. Every element of our balanced village community would benefit from enhanced sporting facilities. Presently senior school children attend eleven different schools and this project will allow them to get together and have fun through sporting activities.

We are determined to provide equal life chances for all children and young people in the village in a safe and healthy environment and importantly to enhance the lives of the elderly.

In short, **'Sport for All'**.