

STATEMENT FROM CLLR DAVID HARDING – STANTON DREW CHILDREN'S PLAY AREA AND BISHOP SUTTON FOOTBALL GROUND

I am here this evening to talk to you about two community resources in the Chew Valley.

The first is the Children's Play Area in Stanton Drew.

This much used and loved play area features the typical equipment, for the children of the village to climb and balance and swing on, as you would find in many areas across the district.

However, the equipment is ageing and decaying. The wooden construction is constantly being patched up and repaired, but this can't continue much longer, and the equipment will soon need to be condemned or replaced.

The second resource I wish to mention is the football ground at Bishop Sutton FC.

The ground is used not only by the club for games, but for a wide variety of sporting and social activities for children and young people in the area, including hosting local football cup finals and coaching events for all ages.

The ground is desperately in need of modernisation, upgrading of facilities and repair.

Both Stanton Drew Parish Council and Bishop Sutton Football Club are unable to repair and update their facilities as they cannot access grants for the tens of thousands of pounds needed.

The reason they cannot access grants is that land both facilities stand upon are owned by B&NES Council.

And this is the reason I bring this matter to Cabinet tonight both Stanton Drew Parish Council and Bishop Sutton FC have applied for Community Asset Transfers (CATs) in their favour but there has been no discernible progress in the 14 months I and my ward colleague Cllr Box have been aware of and working on this matter.

In fact, I would like to point out Stanton Drew Parish Council first applied for a CAT 5 ½ years ago! 5 ½ years, come on Cabinet, Council really has to do better than this.

So, I ask Cabinet please:

- 1) help to expedite the CATs for both these assets, and
- 2) give me a timescale by which the Council will aim for to complete these processes.