

# PRESS RELEASE

1 September 2015

## CONSTRUCTION OF NEW SPORTS FACILITIES IN BARFORD TO COMMENCE AS FUNDRAISING TARGET REACHED

After just 18 months of raising money, the dream of new sports and recreational facilities on King George's Playing Field in Barford will soon become a reality thanks to the £450,000 fundraising target being reached in late August.

WREN, a not-for-profit business that awards grants for community, biodiversity and heritage projects from funds donated by FCC Environment through the Landfill Communities Fund, has recently awarded £50,000 towards the project. Combined with a substantial contribution from Warwick District Council and an additional £20,000 raised from Barford, Sherbourne and Wasperton villagers, the fundraising target to build the facilities has been achieved. Whilst additional fundraising will continue to raise money to purchase equipment, the realisation of this milestone has enabled contractors to be appointed with work due to commence in early September. The facilities are expected to be completed, and ready for use, in December having also had grants locally totalling over £80,000 from Barford Community Charity and Barford St.Peter's School Trust.

A working group was formed two and a half years ago to plan how to raise enough money to bring in an exciting new children's play area, as well as create a multi-use games area (MUGA) including two tennis courts and an all-weather court, picnic and toilet facilities and an upgrade to the lane accessing the site. Villagers also requested the introduction of pathways around the playing field and additional seating, both of which are being implemented.

The fundraising news was announced to locals by members of the working group at a summer fun day held in Barford on bank holiday Monday (31 August). The event, which attracted over 200 people who defied the wet weather to turn out and support, was opened by guest of honour Karen Carney, captain of Birmingham City in the Football Association Women's Super League and also a member of England's national football team. It was hosted by Sarah Falkland from BBC Midlands Today, and the many activities on offer included a Barford Bake Off, a Barford's Got Talent contest and a Barford Pets with Talent contest. The fun day raised a further £6,000 on a wet bank holiday Monday.

John Murphy, Chairman of the Barford, Sherbourne and Wasperton Joint Parish Council and member of the working group, said "It is simply breathtaking to see just how far members of this working group, in partnership with residents from across Barford, Sherbourne and Wasperton, have progressed in the last 18 months. To have finalised the scheme design and raised such a significant amount of money in such a short period of time is outstanding, and I am so proud of what our local community has achieved. The latest grants from WREN and Warwick District Council are major milestones for us as they enable the project construction to finally begin. This is proof that with

belief, dedication and energy, dreams can become a reality. I speak on behalf of residents from across the three villages when I say that I cannot wait for the new sports facilities to be opened towards the end of the year.”

This sentiment was echoed by Councillor Peter Whiting, Portfolio Holder for Finance at Warwick District Council, who commented “The amount of community effort which has gone into the fundraising work since this project commenced is amazing. Given this, Warwick District Council has been delighted to support such a proactive approach. I personally applaud those who have invested considerable time in this project and I share their excitement in looking forward to seeing their hard work rewarded with new sports facilities fit for future generations of local villagers.”

Joe Newby, WREN’s grant manager for Warwickshire, says: “We’re delighted to be supporting the Kings George's Playing Field Improvement scheme and pleased our funding will provide such a fantastic facility for the people of Barford and surrounding communities. WREN is always happy to consider grant applications for projects that make a difference to local communities and we’re really looking forward to seeing this one take shape soon.”

ENDS

For more information regarding this press release or on the scheme to improve facilities at King George’s Playing Field in Barford, please contact Mark Griffin on [mark.griffin1@outlook.com](mailto:mark.griffin1@outlook.com) or **07802 470896**.

[www.barfordplayingfields.org](http://www.barfordplayingfields.org)

Notes to editors:

- **WREN** is a not-for-profit business that awards grants for community, conservation and heritage projects from funds donated by FCC Environment through the Landfill Communities Fund. Since 1998, WREN has granted over £200m to more than 7,000 projects which benefit people living within 10 miles of a FCC Environment landfill site. For more information please visit [www.wren.org.uk](http://www.wren.org.uk)
- **FCC Environment** is the leading UK waste and resource management company and is part of a global group with a strong heritage in providing services for communities and business. Its vision is to be the environmental company of choice, delivering change for a sustainable future. It employs 2,400 people and operates more than 200 facilities across England, Scotland and Wales. FCC Environment donates the LCF tax credits that are generated by its operations to WREN, in order to add value to the environmental and social infrastructure of the communities around landfill sites. [www.fccenvironment.co.uk](http://www.fccenvironment.co.uk)
- **The Landfill Communities Fund** - any waste that is discarded which cannot be reused, reprocessed or recycled may ultimately be disposed of in a landfill site. To encourage the re-use, recycle and recovery of more value from waste and use more environmentally friendly methods of waste disposal, Landfill Tax is charged on each tonne of waste sent to landfill. Landfill Operators (LOs) are

able to redirect a small proportion of landfill tax liability (currently 6.8%) to support a wide range of community and environmental projects in the vicinity of their landfill sites through the Landfill Communities Fund (LCF). The LCF is regulated by ENTRUST on behalf of HM Revenue & Customs, and the projects are delivered by enrolled Environmental bodies (EBs). Since its inception in 1996, over £1 billion has been spent on more than 32,000 projects across the UK. For further information, please visit [www.entrust.org.uk](http://www.entrust.org.uk) see HMRC's general guide to Landfill Tax

[www.wren.org.uk](http://www.wren.org.uk)

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Photo captions:

- 1. INFO Sarah Falkland and Karen Carney entertain the Barford crowds.
- 2. INFO Children and villagers celebrate raising £450k in 18 months