

## **REPORT OF THE LEISURE AND RECREATION SUB-COMMITTEE FOR 2005/2006**

I would like to start this report by thanking Councilor Ros Hicks-Greene, Vice Chairman of this Committee, for the support and advice she has give me throughout this year and also the other committee members for their advice and support. I would also like to thank our ground staff for the hard work they put in across the village but especially on the recreation ground and Wasbrough field where they work incredibly hard to keep the various pitches playable throughout the rugby and football season.

The Leisure and Recreation Committee of the Council is responsible for all the open spaces, verges and trees and allotments in the village as well as the recreation ground, Wasborough field, the skate park and the play areas at Mary Green and Westbrook.

I am pleased to report that the routine repair and maintenance of the village has been kept up to date and the recreation ground and Wasbrough field have stood up well to the heavy usage by the various sports clubs. As always a great deal of the Parish Council's resources is put into maintaining the pitches on the Recreation Ground and Wasborough field. This year has seen them busier than ever and we are pleased to note that the teams at Grove Rugby club, Grove Challengers and Grove Rangers continue to thrive and be successful.

We were particularly pleased and grateful to the Mary Green Improvement Committee – (MAGIC) for the installation of the new toddler and teenage play equipment at Mary Green just before Christmas. We wish them well in their efforts to raise money to replace the old equipment in the junior section of the play area. The playground equipment at the Mary Green, Westbrook play area and the Skate Park has continued to be inspected weekly by councilors, monthly by professional playground inspectors and annually by ROSPA. We always act on recommendations in the various reports of these bodies and we welcome their advice and assistance.

As always one of the biggest problems in all the open spaces in Grove is the health risk created by dog fouling and it continues to be difficult on the Recreation Ground and Wasborough field. So if you walk your dogs in the open areas of Grove and particularly on the recreation ground or Wasborough field please clean up after them and use the dog bins provided.

We have continued to maintain the trees around the village, taking specialist advice from officers of the Vale of White Horse District Council and Oxfordshire County Council when necessary. We have this year been investing in training our own staff how to deal with some of these issues safely themselves and so less work will be done by outside contractors in the future.

The Committee again held a competition for the best kept allotment in the village, with judging taking place of all the allotments on three occasions during the year and prizes being presented at the horticultural society's autumn show. I would like to thank all those who helped with the judging of the competition and the Horticultural Society for allowing us to use their show to present the prizes. We will be holding the competition again this year and judging will be starting in the not too distant future.

Councilor Richard Ackers  
Chairman.