

## Summer on Bures Sports ground

Bures Sports Ground has always been a well used and cherished social focal point for many village residents which this year through a combination of the pandemic, long periods of good weather and above all reputation has attracted a large number of visitors creating some issues that frustrated many residents of Bures, so it is probably worth reflecting on some of the work undertaken by the Sports Ground committee, both parish councils and many Bures residents in addressing some of these issues.



Litter has been the biggest and most visible frustration to many and was addressed through the introduction of many more visible litter bins and the creation of the litter picking group. These kind volunteers provided a mercurial effort in keeping our sports ground clean and tidy but more so provided a social interaction with our visitors simply through a visible presence and emphasising the need to dispose of litter responsibly. It is clear to all that these simple initiatives have been very successful particularly towards the latter part of the summer.

As with any large gatherings of people there can be instances anti social behaviour as was the case in Bures. Of the few occurrences, all were reported to the police and regular police patrols were implemented. In July there was a police engagement event by the BBQ area and ultimately the police have provided a comprehensive report on how to mitigate any ongoing issues. Many of these recommendations have been or are currently being implemented, the most notable being the introduction of CCTV across the open areas and community centre car park. Again, these initiatives have been highly successful with no reported instances through July and August.

Many have expressed concern about people jumping from the millennium bridge and also social distancing across the bridge. Again these concerns have been addressed mainly through the introduction of comprehensive signage. We have requested Suffolk County Council introduce improvements that would deter people jumping from the bridge. Unfortunately they have stated that bridge is fully compliant to standards and will not engage any further which is disappointing.

We hope you agree that the Sportsground is maintained to the highest standards. This year has seen the refurbishment of the landing stage with top quality decking.

The committee supported by both Parish Councils and the clubs that use the sports ground will continue to implement initiatives that will maintain the quality and beauty of the facility such that all can continue to enjoy.

Richard Shackell

