

BOROUGH GREEN WAR MEMORIAL

RECREATION GROUND IMPROVEMENT

THE SCHEME OUTLINED

FOREWORD.

At a Parish Meeting held in the Western Hall, on February 5th, 1946, warm approval was accorded to a plan for providing the Village with a worthy War Memorial. The plan had engaged the attention of the Parish Council and a Special Committee for many months past. Borough Green, though set in beautiful surroundings, has few social amenities. It can boast little grace in planning or architecture, and many of its houses are ill supplied with gardens. It has however a great potential asset. Some twelve years ago the Parish Council purchased Black Horse Meadow, to serve as a Recreation Ground. The field is admirably suited for the purpose, in an open position, with pleasant views, yet close to the heart of the Village. Unfortunately there has hitherto been no money for its development, or even for levelling the ground.

It seemed therefore to your Committee that it could suggest no better way of commemorating Victory than by providing facilities for the enjoyment of leisure for the young men and women who have so happily returned to us from the Forces, and for the women, children and older folk who, living here in "Bomb Alley," have also spent six anxious years very near the front line.

MAINTENANCE.

We are conscious of considerable uneasiness in the Village, which centres on the suggestion of a 6d. Rate. The Committee are definitely of the opinion that if the required capital is raised in period stated, there will be no need to call upon the rates at all, and that the cost of maintenance can be met by other means.

For instance, owing to a generous offer by one of their members, the Bowlers have been enabled to guarantee a sum of not less than £50 per year for the first five years toward rent and upkeep of the Bowling Green. This, together with rentals from other Clubs, and augmented by means of summer events, etc., will, the Committee firmly believe, meet the needs.

THE START.

In response to the express wish of the people, priority will be given to the children's section as soon as sufficient funds are available. The ground will be open for the use of the public.

CONCLUSION.

The Committee you have elected to serve you, promise to do their utmost to bring the scheme to a successful conclusion. They cannot do this however without your help. If this is forthcoming and is characterised by the neighbourly and enterprising spirit which marked the dreary years of war, we shall together accomplish a really worth while achievement, and enjoy the satisfaction of having created in our Village a really attractive feature for the benefit of this and future generations.

Contributions should be send to the Honorary Treasurer:—

L. S. DANIELS,
Bridge Offices,
Borough Green

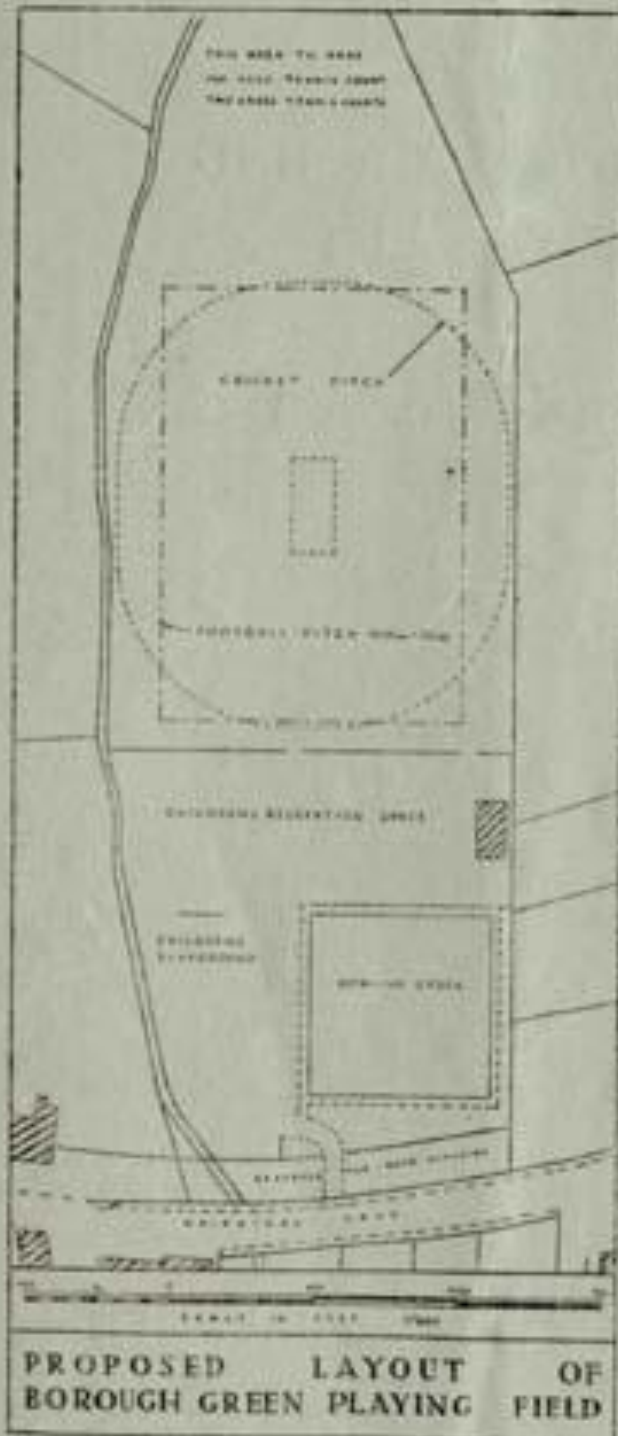
or to the Chairman of Appeals Committee:—

ALBERT WM. WILKINS,
Tilton,
Borough Green.

THE SCHEME.

Aided by the expert advice of the Chief Technical Adviser of the National Playing Fields Association, a scheme has been worked out for transforming the present unsightly Playing Field into a Recreation Ground of which the Village may be proud, a scheme designed to make the fullest possible use of the space available, to give every single individual, young and old, the opportunity of sharing equally the facilities provided.

THE LAY OUT.



The proposed lay-out is shewn in the accompanying drawing. The children's portion to be provided with swings, merry-go-round, see-saw, slide, sand pit, drinking fountain, lavatory. It is also proposed to include ample seating accommodation, and to beautify the whole by the addition of flowering trees, shrubs, etc., suitably placed.

THE COST.

The scheme is estimated to cost £4000, but we should be able to obtain grants from the Carnegie Trust and other sources, which are expected to reduce this figure by one third, if the remainder is raised locally. Even so a sum of at least £2,700 will need to be raised by residents. Admittedly a large amount—but small when compared with the huge sum contributed by Borough Green during the War Years, and cheap if it saves the lives of our children by drawing them away from the increasing risks of the road, and also provides facilities for traditional health giving British sports.

It is hoped to complete the scheme in 2 years. £2,700 in 2 years! Shall we let it beat us? Of course not. If all put their shoulder to the wheel, as surely they will.

The Committee appointed to arrange ways and means of raising the needed balance has resolved itself into three sub-committees, viz:—An Appeals Committee, Ladies Committee and Entertainments Committee.

The Appeals Committee plans to distribute a copy of this circular to every house in the district, and hopes that the public will subscribe liberally to the fund, and co-operate by every means in its power. It will also approach Firms and others in quest of donations.

The Ladies have already started working parties to provide goods for Sales of Work. A most auspicious opening to the campaign was made known at the Parishioners Meeting, held on March 11th, when a resolution put forward by the Women's Institute was approved, transferring to the Memorial Fund a sum of £300, collected by them for other purposes and no longer required. They also promised to raise during the period named a further sum of £200 to provide the pavilion as their own special gift. A most magnificent contribution, representing as it does approximately one sixth of the required total, and exhibiting a spirit of generosity which should set an example to the whole neighbourhood.

The Entertainments Committee suggest the following ways of raising funds:

- (a) Dances and Whist Drives. One member has already guaranteed to raise £50 a year by Whist Drives.
- (b) Musical Concerts, Dramatic Shows, etc., by local or other bodies.
- (c) Fetes held in the meadow itself. Efficiently run it is thought that £100 could be raised at an Annual Fete, which could comprise Procession and collection en route, Fire Drill Display, Sports, Side Shows, etc.
- (d) Tournaments of various kinds. Tennis, Boxing, Comic Cricket Matches.
- (e) A member of the public has offered to arrange a Grass Track Motor Gymkhana.

These are only a few suggestions, but the plans already made augur well for the ultimate success of our venture, and in themselves provide fun and merriment for months ahead.

BORO' GREEN. RESIDENTS ARE INTERESTED!

THE people of Borough Green support their parish council better than most of the surrounding villagers, for at the annual parish meeting there were some 50 present.

Most of their queries were concerned with parking problems, for although (as the Chairman said) the police seem to think the village is the safest in Kent, there is a great deal of complaint locally about traffic problems.

One of these is the matter of parking at the junction of Station Road, Wrotham Road and the school entrance. A parishioner asked if this matter could not receive more attention, but was told that it was a matter for the police, who had already refused to do more.

The chairman said: "They seem to think this is the safest village in the county. They don't think we need a car park. I don't know what to do about it!"

THAT CAR PARK

This brought a question about the car park which was proposed some months ago. "What about it," asked a parishioner. He was answered by Mr. Barber, R.D.C. representative, who said that the matter had been deferred because of many reasons, principally because of heavy rates. It had not been forgotten.

Another said that it was often remarked that "If our forefathers had had the foresight to do this or that, we would have been all right now." Was it not likely that if they shelved the question of the car park much longer they would lose it to other buyers and be condemned by future generations?

Mr. Barber was asked to press for the park at every possible opportunity.

A man in the body of the hall

wryly suggested: "Perhaps it's being deferred because of the cost of the new council offices!"

WHO OWNS IT?

Of the new pavilion, now in course of construction by the efforts of the people of the village, there was one "inevitable" question—Who were the owners? If the football and cricket clubs used it, would anyone else be able to use it?

It will have been built by the parish for the parish, was the chairman's reply, to which was added later—"the clubs mentioned would only use the place on Saturday afternoons, leaving it free for the rest of the week for any organisation who needed it."

Of the building, the chairman said in his annual report: "I did not think that in these times of high taxation and welfare states such spirit of giving and not receiving existed in this country, and I sincerely hope that the new pavilion will be a fitting memorial of those who gave so willingly, and a worthy building for all who use it."

He told the people present that local people had given or lent tractors and trailers, concrete mixers, bricks, tiles, sand, shingle, paving, scaffolding and labour.

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Address by
E. Duffield McDermott Esq.,

The Memorial will then be unveiled and Pavilion opened by
Major General C. W. Norman C.B.E.
Deputy Lieut. of Kent,
Trustee of Kent Playing Fields Association,

The Chairman of the Borough Green Parish Council
Lieut. Colonel F. E. Griggs
will express appreciation on behalf of the Village.

Officiating Clergy
Ven. C. E. Maples Earle,
Archdeacon of Tonbridge and Rector of Wrotham

Rev. D. Dawson
Pastor of the Baptist Church.

Rev. A. W. Van Maulen
Priest in Charge Borough Green.

Music for the Service and afterwards provided by the
11th Kent (Maidstone) Home Guard Band by kind permission
of the Officer Commanding.

SERVICE AND CEREMONY

OF THE UNVEILING
OF THE
BOROUGH GREEN
WAR MEMORIAL SPORTS PAVILION
ON THE
RECREATION GROUND

Sunday, July 17th, 1955



Borough Green War Memorial Sports Pavilion

After the Second World War sixty-two men inspired by the efforts of the late Lt. Colonel F.E. Griggs and Mr. R.L. Cloke built the pavilion. This was accomplished with money raised by the Borough Green Womens Institute and a grant from the Kent Playing Fields Association. Men of two world wars freely gave of their time, skill and labour to commemorate those fallen and to give thanks for the survival of those who returned. Currently vandals on the site may be a nuisance, but the proposed demolition of the edifice constitutes an act of even greater vandalism.

At the opening and dedication ceremony Major General C.W. Norman OBE said "This is an example to every community and village in the land of cooperation and the will to work for the common cause. Our country did it in wartime, Borough Green has shown how it can be done in peacetime."

Restraints on buildings and materials at the time restricted the size. It was hoped that sometime in the future it might be enlarged to serve a growing community. And now I read that one Councillor calls it "a large shed, a running sore, an open wound". Another claims that it is past its useful life and no longer good for its job in the modern world.

To repeat, it is a war memorial, constructed by dedicated men with a vision of a better world. It is possible to respect their vision by adding to their work - creating an extension with two changing rooms, and indoor toilets. Vertical roof level railings along the verandah would stop most vandalism.

Frank G. Bangay

Then Hon. Secretary Building Committee