

TANGMERE PARISH COUNCIL



PRESS RELEASE

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Tangmere Parish Council is pleased to confirm the completion of a major project to protect the village recreation field with a soil bund.

Several years ago, following a series of Traveller encampments on the recreation field, wooden posts were installed around the field boundary. Over time these posts have deteriorated and a further encampment occurred in 2018; a more permanent solution was needed.

Consultation with residents about options such as a metal fence with strategic gates, a planted hedge, steel posts concreted into the ground and a ditch with a raised soil mound failed to deliver a clear consensus. The Parish Council discussed the various options and finally decided in January 2020 that, whilst no solution will completely remove the threat of further incursions, a comprehensive barrier would make the field less attractive to Travellers. The Parish Council chose to build a raised mound, called a bund, selected on the basis that, planted with a mixture of grass and wild flowers, a bund would form the least visually intrusive barrier with the advantage of being the quickest solution to complete. The council was very aware that if delay occurred and another encampment took place in the summer of 2020 then residents would feel let down.

The work was completed, to a high standard, by a local Chichester firm, and the exercise has attracted much comment from residents, some in favour of the project, others disappointed that such work was needed in the first place.

Council Chairman, Andrew Irwin commented:

“Clearly not every resident would be pleased with the enclosure of the recreation field, but on balance I believe that residents will recognise that a significant deterrent to further trespass was required. Protected walkways have been installed at the most popular points along both Malcolm Road and Nettleton Avenue, and once the planting is established I am sure that residents will find the solution acceptable.”

Ends

Notes for Editors:

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