CARNEGIE NPFA PLAYING FIELD: GRANGE MEADOW, BLETCHINGLEY

Site details
Location: High Street, Bletchingley, Surrey RH1 4PE
Landowner: Tandridge District Council
Size: 7 acres

History
Grange Meadow Sports Ground was conveyed to the NPFA in August 1929 by Mr E.W. Blessig. A grant application was received in July 1929 from the Bletchingley Sports Association and the following awards were made:

Carnegie UK Trust grant £350.00
NPFA grant £150.00
Local voluntary contributions £850.00

The funding enabled the lay-out of the playing field and various sports clubs were formed to use the Ground. Provision was made for cricket, lawn tennis, quoits, netball, hockey and bowls. Much voluntary labour was given in draining and levelling about two thirds of the area. A pavilion, changing rooms and equipment were also provided. The members of the various beneficiary sports clubs were described as working men and women and small tradesmen. This project was an example of a small rural community achieving a great deal to help itself.

Protection status
The NPFA held the land in Trust from 1929 until 1960 when the then rural district Council of Godstone (now Tandridge District Council) were appointed as Trustees instead of NPFA to hold the land in Trust. Grange Meadow Sports Ground was protected through a Deed of Dedication with Fields in Trust in 2012 as part of the QEII Fields Challenge and is protected in perpetuity as a public playing field and recreation ground.

Facilities and Activities
The site is a thriving amenity and provides the main sports and recreational space within the village of Bletchingley. The site is owned by Tandridge District Council and leased to the Bletchingley Sports Association whose trustees oversee the clubs and organisations using the site.

The site encompasses the sports of football, cricket, lawn bowls and a rifle club under the umbrella of the Grange Meadow Sports Association. The site also has a new children’s play area funded by the Department for Schools and Families Playbuilder Programme in 2009, a Multi Use Games Area and a Skateboard Park. Grange Meadow is also used for village fetes and fairs during the year and has been the focal point for the village’s entry into the Britain in Bloom competition. Grange Meadow is in the heart of the village of Bletchingley. The area is well used by the local community for all sports and recreation purposes including dog walking with views to the north of the Surrey downs.
Location

Plan from 1928 at the time the land was vested in NPFA and the Carnegie grant was awarded.

Birds eye view. The area outlined in red is now protected by Fields in Trust

Grange Meadow was gifted by a local resident Mr E W Blessig to the people of Bletchingley for the playing of cricket, tennis and bowls. Bletchingley Bowling Club was founded in 1929 and is based at Grange Meadow. The Club was officially opened by Mr Blessig on 6th July 1929 with an opening game of bowls.
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Photos 2014