

## **Boughton Pocket Park – Report by Paul Morris, Chairman**

**CIL Funding:** This year we completed our CIL Bid to improve the park. After a consultation with park users there were requests to improve our provision for pre school children, older children and we would also like to improve the access to the play equipment for children with additional needs. Happily we can report our bid was successful and approximately £100,000 including VAT was made available. We put the project out to tender to several play equipment providers and have placed an order with Sucliffe play equipment. This is due for delivery in the 1<sup>st</sup> week of June and installation will commence shortly after.

**Bonfire Fundraiser:** In November we had our annual fundraiser, the Boughton Village Bonfire which raised £4390. Income was down due to reduced ticket sales this year due in part to school holiday timings. We must thank all our volunteers who helped in the run up to the event and throughout the evening. We wouldn't be able to run the event without everyone involved. The weather was windy but fine and we had a successful event with our 3<sup>rd</sup> year of local food stalls, and another amazing display by Titanium fireworks.

**Tree planting:** We watered our 20 new trees in the park to help them establish and they are doing well, this will continue for 16 weeks this summer. Thanks to the Parish Council for providing the funding for establishing this addition, improving the biodiversity of the park. The wildlife trust surveyed the park and were pleased to see the investment in our park.

**Community Christmas tree:** This year we erected a community Christmas tree outside the park. Following the many positive comments from villagers the previous year we hope to make this a new tradition in the village. There was a carol singing event at the tree which was very well attended by over 100 people. With the cooperation and help of the Village hall committee there continued a gathering in the village hall with refreshments. Donations were collected for Thomas' Fund.

**Community Events:** We would like to have more community events in the park such as a Village Picnic Day in the future. Please contact us if there is something you would like to see.

**Future maintenance:** Several benches require replacing in the park and the perimeter path which has now been repaired will be resurfaced during the summer.

**Volunteers:** We would like to increase our number of committee members and volunteers. We would welcome anyone to register as a volunteer that could spare a small amount of time to help at an event or even at an occasional work party. Please register your details by messaging our facebook page, "Boughton Pocket Park"