

## **Parish Council's relationship with the Bowls Club - Explained**

### **The History**

The Land now known as the King George V Field in Etwall ("the Field") was donated by the John Port Trust directly to the King George's Fields Foundation (KGFF).

The KGFF was founded in 1936 as part of the national memorial to King George V. In 1965 it was absorbed into the National Playing Fields Association (NPFA); a registered charity with royal charter. The NPFA (also known as 'Fields in Trust'), owns nearly a hundred grounds in the country,

The Field (which includes the Bowling Green) is managed by Etwall Parish Council (EPC) who is the Trustee of the Field. Although the Field does not belong to EPC, it does retain ownership of any equipment it has bought and installed on the Field.

### **The Bowling Green**

According to a long-standing agreement, which is detailed in the Etwall Bowls Club Constitution, "the bowling green and facilities are hired from the trustee, the Parish Council, with Etwall Bowls Club undertaking to assist the Parish Council in the upkeep of the green".

The Bowls Club estimate their groundsman's hours equate to approximately 650 hrs per year, a minimum of 15 hrs per week in the season and 10 hrs in the winter. This includes weeding, treating, mowing, gutter cleaning, brushing daily, leaf removal and worm cast removal etc. This is done by the Bowls Club groundsman at no cost to EPC. If EPC were required to employ a person to undertake this work it would likely add an additional £10,000 + Nat Insurance + Pension costs to EPC's Precept.

The Bowls Club carry out all weed and fertiliser treatment and contribute half of the cost of the chemicals (about £300 per year), EPC do cover the entire cost of the watering of the green (circa. £500).

EPC consider that the existence of the bowling green in Etwall is a big draw, and a major asset to be proud of, supplying many hours of physical activity for many residents of Etwall and adjoining locations, and well worth supporting on the present arrangement.

The major additional enhancements to the facility made by the Parish Council, have all been made possible by the club's additional fund raising.