

Grand opening of the new pavilion facilities

A fine crowd of local residents and friends, parish and district councillors gathered on the Crowmarsh Gifford recreation ground on Saturday 17th June to celebrate the completion of the two-year project to improve the facilities at the Pavilion.

Andrew Johnson, chairman of the parish council's environment and recreation committee, explained that the project followed on from the success of the 2018 play area and continued a change in thinking by the Parish Council. By winning funding and support from organisations like South Oxfordshire District Council and the FCC Communities Foundation, we could go from providing facilities that were just good enough to provide the very best for our residents.

The new facilities include public toilets, a new disabled access ramp, an attractive new patio, a servery selling food and beverages and a new state-of-the-art small meeting room. This design came about largely thanks to parish councillor David Rowley and was realised

by our architect Michael Simpson, project managed by the committee, with the help of builders SCM and huge day-to-day help from Chris Strange to keep everything running.

Kellie Hinton, Vice Chair of South Oxfordshire District Council, also thanked the committee and praised David Rowley's drive in working so hard on the details and liaising with SODC. She appreciated the amount of fund-raising, planning and time commitment that has gone into making this pavilion even better than it was. SODC contributed over £73K to this project from their grants fund, which was the largest grant given that year.

John Griffin, Chairman of Crowmarsh Parish Council, echoed thanks to Andrew, David and all the fantastic team who saw this project through to success, and to SODC and FCC for



their maximum grants that have meant very efficient use of Parish Council funds. He encouraged people and local groups to come forward to make use of the meeting room and the servery and the pavilion as a whole.

Kellie and John then jointly cut the ribbon to open the facilities and Andrew thanked the volunteers for serving fantastic cakes to help raise funds for the church, and encouraged everyone to enjoy the jazz band and view the fantastic show of historic photos in the main hall, curated by David Beasley.