

PRESS RELEASE

New “slider” for Troopers Hill children

Generous donations from local people in St George, Bristol, gave community group, Friends of Troopers Hill, the confidence to apply to Ibstock Enovert Trust for the remaining funding needed to bring a “slider” back to Troopers Hill Field.

The “slider” is what local people called the much-loved red slide that stood for more than 40 years on Troopers Hill Field. Despite best efforts to prolong its life, in November 2019 Bristol City Council had no option other than the removal of the slide because it had become so corroded.

In February 2020 Friends of Troopers Hill started a low-key campaign to raise funds, aiming to increase publicity and fundraising during a series of public events, through the year, including mobile planetarium shows, donated by Mario Di Maggio owner of the local business, Immersive Theatres. Covid-19 called a halt to this approach, leaving the group to make appeals via posters on Troopers Hill and on social media, occasionally including unusual rewards, including Zambian pennies as encouragement.

Jo Webster-Green, owner of local toyshop, Little Treasures, generously donated £500 taking the donations to above £1,000.

In October 2020, Angela Haymonds, Trust Secretary for Ibstock Enovert Trust, visited Troopers Hill to attend a small opening ceremony of new paths on Troopers Hill Field that had been partially funded by her Trust. While Friends of Troopers Hill showed Angela all the work that had been carried out by the funding, they also described the slide fundraising appeal. Angela encouraged the group to apply for the remaining funding. Ibstock Enovert Trust is an Environment Body funded through the Landfill Communities Fund (LCF).

To prepare their case Friends of Troopers Hill gathered feedback and photos from local people whose children had used the old slide, they collated statistics on the numbers of local children with excess weight; letters of support were requested from heads of local schools, Summerhill Infant School and Air Balloon Hill Primary School, the local Member of Parliament, Kerry McCarthy, local councillors and the landowners, Bristol City Council. The funding application to Ibstock Enovert Trust was submitted in plenty of time for the closing date 5th February.

In March, the Friends were delighted to hear their application to Ibstock Enovert Trust for £9,847 had been successful. Susan Acton-Campbell, Chair of the Friends of Troopers Hill, “It will be wonderful to add this new slide to the range of activities that children already have in the play area and activity trail that we raised £80,000 to open in 2016. The children and their parents have really missed their old slide. Outdoor play has been particularly important during Covid-19. We are so grateful to all the donors and to Ibstock Enovert Trust for their support.”

Troopers Hill Field is owned and maintained by Bristol City Council. Friends of Troopers Hill have worked closely with Bristol Parks Landscapes team in the selection of the slide, its dimensions are almost identical to those of the old slide but it is built to modern safety

standards. They have also taken care in planning the position of the slide so it will form part of a natural progression as the children move round the play equipment. The new “slider” will be installed during summer of this year.

Local Councillor for St George Troopers Hill, Fabian Breckels said “This is excellent news and many children will be pleased to see a slide back on Troopers Hill Field. I’ve worked with Friends of Troopers Hill for many years now and always been happy to support their bids for funding to protect Troopers Hill and improve the Field next door.”

Angela Haymonds, Trust Secretary of Ibstock Enovert Trust says: “Making outdoor spaces attractive and of benefit to children and families has been a priority for the Trust and the Trustees were keen to support this important project. It’s great that a tax on landfill can feed back into the local environment and have such a positive impact.”

Angela continued: “This is just one of the many community projects Ibstock Enovert Trust has funded through the Landfill Communities Fund (LCF). The scheme offered funding to projects that benefit communities living within 10 miles of a landfill site. Following a reduction in funding as landfill sites have reached capacity, the decision was made by the Trustees to wind down the Trust and this was the last funding round. The Trustees are very proud of what has been achieved over the past two decades, during which time well over 500 projects have been supported with a value of over £9m that have enhanced and improved the environment for communities who live and work in the vicinity of landfill sites operated by Enovert Management Limited and within the vicinity of Ibstock Brick works.”

Media information:

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Notes to editor:

- Friends of Troopers Hill was formed by a group of local residents in 2003, they aim to:
 - Provide a friendly community focus for people who care about Troopers Hill.
 - Carry out practical conservation work to help look after Troopers Hill.
 - Organise public events such as walks and talks.
 - Work with Bristol Parks to make sure Troopers Hill is well looked after.
- More details about the slide project are available at

<http://www.troopers-hill.org.uk/field.htm#RedSlide>

- Details of the earlier paths project are on

<http://www.troopers-hill.org.uk/waystonature/#access>

- Ibstock Enovert Trust (formerly Ibstock Cory Environmental Trust) was established in February 2001, in conjunction with Ibstock Brick Limited and Cory Environmental Management Ltd and funded through the Landfill Communities Fund (LCF). To date it has supported 496 projects and funding totalling over £8.1 million has been approved. IET mainly supports projects in Dudley, South Gloucestershire and Sevenoaks, where Enovert Management Limited has operational sites with links to Ibstock Brickworks. Following a reduction in funding as landfill sites have reached capacity, the decision was made by the Trustees to wind down the he Trust at the end of this financial year (31 March 2021).
- Enovert (formerly Cory Environmental) is one of the UK's leading operators of waste management and landfill services in the UK. With twelve operational landfill sites, two composting facilities, three waste transfer stations and an anaerobic digestion facility, Enovert manages in excess of 2.3 million tonnes of waste per annum. Enovert's landfill operations and anaerobic digestion facility generate considerable amounts of renewable energy from landfill and biogas, contributing to the UK's drive to reduce its reliance on fossil fuels.
- Landfill Tax and the Landfill Communities Fund (LCF) Any waste that is discarded which cannot be reused, reprocessed or recycled may ultimately be disposed of in a landfill site. To encourage society to re-use, recycle, recover more value from waste and use more environmentally friendly methods of waste disposal, Landfill Tax is charged on each tonne of waste sent to landfill. LOs are able to redirect a small proportion of landfill tax liability (currently 5.3%) to support a wide range of community and environmental projects in the vicinity of their landfill sites through the Landfill Communities Fund (LCF). The LCF is regulated by ENTRUST on behalf of HM Revenue & Customs, and the projects are delivered by enrolled Environmental bodies (EBs). Since its inception in 1996, over £1.4 billion has been spent on more than 60,000 projects across the UK. For further information, please visit www.entrust.org.uk or see HMRC's general guide to Landfill Tax.

Photos overleaf can be obtained in high resolution from Susan Acton-Campbell. They are of Susan Acton-Campbell, Chair of Friends of Troopers Hill, standing in the planned location for the new slide, holding an oil painting by local landscape and documentary artist, Oliver Sidaway www.oliversidaway.com of the old slide.

