



The basketball player above is Benedict Wilson who was the inspiration behind the new games court at Avisford Park. Benedict wrote to us last year when he was all of eight years old (he's now nine). Benedict wrote that: 'I've recently become interested in basketball. I really love playing with my friends and Dad.'

But Benedict had noticed some problems with the court. For example, one hoop had been missing and the markings were worn out. Benedict's request to us was modest: 'I would love it if you could repair the court,' he wrote, adding that 'I am willing to help in whatever way I can.'

Our Clerk, Sue Batey, brought Benedict's letter to the attention of councillors and, to cut a long story short, Avisford Park now enjoys a brand new- dual purpose play court including basketball hoops and backboards, and ground markings for both basketball and five-a-side football. The court was financed by Arun District Council in partnership with Aldwick Parish Council and on June 28th Benedict was the very special guest at its official opening.

Benedict is delighted with the result. 'I only expected the markings and hoops to be improved,' he admitted, adding that he was thrilled to learn that a whole new court was to be installed. 'I've played football and basketball here,' he told us as the cameras flashed. Benedict met with Cllr Mr John Bass, Vice-Chairman of Aldwick Parish Council and Ros Bryant Landscape Officer (Projects) of Arun District Council. Declaring the court officially open, Cllr Mr Bass said that 'it wouldn't have happened without Benedict' and he praised the young man's initiative in writing to Aldwick Parish Council. Benedict was accompanied at the event by his sister and also by his Mum and Dad who are very proud of their young sportsman's enterprising spirit.

The photo on the right shows Benedict posing with (from l) Cllr Mrs Carol Birch, Cllr Mr John Bass & Cllr Mr Lee Garner.