

Bid to thwart vandalism hit by... vandalism

❑ Windows smashed, blood found

THE start of work on a new teen play area for Handcross has been marred by vandalism.

Installation of a sports wall for basketball or football started on Monday together with a half-court play surface for kick-about. Skateboard swings and climbing equipment is also included.

Parish council clerk Norman Wrigglesworth said the area had been designed as a facility for children aged 10 upwards to give them something to do and prevent vandalism. But the lorry used for work on the site was found with its front and rear window smashed over the weekend. Three toughened glass windows, which can normally withstand the force of a cricket ball, on the nearby pavilion were also smashed and blood found on the door. The damage is believed to be in the region of £1,000.

Mr Wrigglesworth said: "It is sheer vandalism – just for the sake of it."

Police are investigating the incident.

The Handcross Fun Day Committee had the idea for a

Report by Katherine Simmons

play area for older children, raising nearly £6,000 towards the project, £1,500 was received from the Sussex Police Authority, and West Sussex County Council gave a grant of £5,000. Donations of £1,000 were also received from Slaugham Parish Council and the Pavilion Committee, the rest of the funds for the play area will be met by Mid Sussex District Council.

Pictured: At the presentation from the Sussex Police Authority (from left) Norman Wrigglesworth, clerk to the parish council; Peter Green, Handcross Fun Day Committee; Richard Buckingham, community beat officer; Peter Howlett, chairman of the parish council, Dave Pearce, parish councillor and Chris Rotheray, Handcross Fun Day Committee.

