

Press Release

Friday 26 June 2015

Langton Green awarded £384,000 for new football clubhouse

Grassroots football in Tunbridge Wells is set to benefit from a major cash injection following the news that Langton Green Community Sports Association have been awarded a grant of £384,000 from the Premier League & The FA Facilities Fund.

Funded by the Premier League, The FA, and the Government, via Sport England, the Premier League & The FA Facilities Fund is delivered by the Football Foundation, the country's largest sports charity. Since it was launched in 2000, the Foundation has supported more than 13,000 grassroots projects worth over £1.3 billion.

This latest grant will enable Langton Green Community Sports Association to build a new state-of-the-art clubhouse at Langton Recreation Ground, which will provide a home for a thriving football community, as well as Langton Green Netball Club and various other community sports.

By providing more high-quality facilities, coupled with coaching at the appropriate age group, the Premier League & The FA Facilities Fund aims to improve the experience for regular players as well as attracting new players to the game. Many of the new state-of-the-art facilities will serve to strengthen the connection between professional football clubs and their local communities, particularly in the most deprived areas of the country, through the professional clubs' community trusts' outreach work.

Guy Lambert, Chairman at Langton Green Community Sports Association, said: **“We are so excited by this ringing endorsement of our club by the Premier League & The FA Facilities Fund. The Club was founded in 1972, and this is a fitting reward for so much hard work, by so many people, in the last forty years.**

“I must also thank our Local MP, Mr Greg Clark, for his unswerving support and advice; and also Lynn Jeffries, Chris May and all the members of Speldhurst Parish Council whose foresight in granting our charity a 30-year lease at the Recreation Ground, allowed us to qualify for funding.

“Thanks also go to Piers Woods of solicitors Cripps Law, who worked tirelessly on a Pro Bono basis on our behalf. I must also thank all my other Charity trustees for their help and support and Chris Allen, our Director of Football for his exhaustive work. But most importantly of all, I want to thank our club members – watching their enthusiasm and love for playing sport is truly inspirational.”

“This is a turning point for our charity. We exist to help all members of the local community to take part in sport. We have a thriving and successful Football division and the Langton Green Netball Club has recently joined us. We will shortly have a new home for these, and all future activities. We have in excess of 600 members and this number is growing rapidly. By becoming ingrained in the local community we have created the brightest future. This is a very special club and is open to all.”

Greg Clark, MP for Tunbridge Wells, said: **“This is brilliant news. I am a great supporter of community sports and this new building will really boost all the local clubs in Langton Green. Guy Lambert and his team have worked really hard to make this happen and I have been delighted to have been involved. I can’t wait to see the clubhouse up and running.”**

Paul Thorogood, Chief Executive of the Football Foundation, said: **“Congratulations should go to Langton Green Community Sports Association for working with the Kent FA to secure this Premier League & The FA Facilities Fund grant.**

“Since 2000, the Foundation has awarded 334 grants worth £15m across Kent towards grassroots sports projects worth nearly £30m with money generously provided by our funders: the Premier League, The FA and the Government, via Sport England.”

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