



Thame Football Partnership

PRESS RELEASE

Football's coming Home

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For any further enquiries or information please contact
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www.thamefootball.co.uk

Football is coming home for 2010

After four years of intensive planning the Thame Football Partnership (TFP) are pleased to announce that work on the new Community Football facility at Church Farm, on the northern edge of Thame, will commence in the next few weeks, with a planned completion date of Autumn 2010.

The project, which will provide a single venue for Thame Boys, Youth and Girls Football Club and Thame United Football Club, will see the creation of nine football pitches on the 20 acre site, including a floodlit main pitch, pitches of varying size to accommodate the needs of youth football and a floodlit artificial pitch, together with a modern clubhouse providing changing and spectator facilities, bar, function area and conference and community facilities.

Over the last four years TFP have been advised by specialist sports consultants, Sports Solutions GB, and have worked closely with key local delivery partners and funding organisations, including Thame Town Council, South Oxfordshire District Council, Oxfordshire County Council and the Football Foundation, in order to create a financially sustainable facility for the town. Frank Thompson, the TFP Communications Director said, 'it is great news that we are now in a position to move forward with the largest community investment in Thame for the best part of a decade. As a group of committed volunteers we have worked hard to turn this dream into a reality, but we should not underestimate the contribution that Thame Town Council have made, and will continue to make, in enabling the project to move forward'.

Funding and assistance for the circa £3m project has come from a variety of sources, including Thame Town Council, the Football Foundation and South Oxfordshire District Council, together with capital released from the residential planning permission recently granted at Windmill Road, the former home of Thame United Football Club. In addition, Oxfordshire County Council have provided the majority of the land at Church Farm under a long lease with nominal rent . As part of the funding package, the Football Foundation has awarded the Thame Football Partnership a grant of £776,556. Funded by the Premier League, The FA and Government, the Football Foundation invests £40m each year into community sports projects such as this right across the country. The partnership has also been awarded additional grant of £300,000 by The Football Association as part of its capital allocation within the Whole Sport Plan agreed with Sport England. This specific aspect of funding has been awarded to support the sustainability of community clubs and create more opportunities to participate in sport within a high quality environment.

Support has also been forthcoming from local MP John Howell, who has been instrumental in enabling this project to move forward and we are very grateful for his assistance to date, commented Thompson. With this now in place, TFP are looking forward to working with the local community to create a first class facility for the benefit of the town.

Local Organisations:

The new clubhouse will include function and community facilities that will be available to use by local groups and organisations, and those interested in using the facilities should contact TFP (admin@thamefootball.co.uk) to register their interest.

Help us Find a Name:

In addition, TFP are also looking for assistance in naming the new facility. If you have any ideas for a name, please contact TFP with your suggestions through the email address above. Whoever comes up with the winning name will win an Xbox360 or a round of golf for four at either the Oxfordshire or Magnolia Park Golf Club as well as having the honour of naming the facility. Further details on this exciting competition will be announced shortly.

Get involved!

Whilst funding has been secured to build the new facility, TFP are looking to raise extra funds over the next six months to ensure everything is in place when the new facility opens. Accordingly, TFP have announced a series of fund raising initiatives that can be accessed through www.thamefootball.co.uk, ranging from Corporate Sponsorship to a 'Buy a Brick' scheme. 'This facility will be for the benefit of the community as a whole and everyone is encouraged to get involved in any way they can to help in the final push', said Frank Thompson.

Local Opportunities:

The main contractors for the development will be holding an open evening in the near future to enable any local businesses interested in tendering for work on the project to register their interest. Further details on this evening will be made available on the TFP website and through the local press soon.

Further information on the project can be obtained by contacting frank.thompson@thamefootball.co.uk, and regular updates will appear on the TFP website www.thamefootball.co.uk.

ENDS

Attachments: Artistic Impression of Stadium Pitch side
Artistic impression front of Stadium
General Site Plan

www.thamefootball.co.uk