



## Press Release

July 29th 2020

# Football Foundation awards Yateley United FC grant to develop new community building

Yateley United FC are delighted to announce that following the award of a significant six figure grant from the Premier League, The FA and Government's Football Foundation they are now able to commence work on the construction of the £715,000 Community Access Building which forms the next phase of the clubs development of a Community Sports and Wellness Centre at Sean Devereux Park, Yateley.

The Football Foundation is the UK's largest sports charity and exists to improve the experience of playing football for everyone, by championing fair access to quality facilities.

This building will be a clubhouse for sport and importantly a multi-use facility which will be available for a range of activities with an emphasis of promoting and aiding wellness within the club's community. The clubs are also grateful for financial support from Hampshire County Council and Yateley Town Council. The local community also made a huge contribution to this over the last nine years by supporting the club's main fundraiser – the popular community music festival 'Gig on the Green, Yateley' <http://www.yateleyunitedfc.co.uk/> organised by our fund raising sister company, Yateley Sports Community Interest Company.



Robert Sullivan, Interim Chief Executive of the Football Foundation, said: "We know the huge benefits playing regular football can have on individuals' physical and mental well-being. That's why we're committed to transforming the face of grassroots football facilities in this country. It's therefore very welcome news to hear that this funding will support Yateley United FC in developing this important facility for their local community.

"Working with our partners – the Premier League, The FA, government and Sport England – we will be investing in over £1bn worth of local facilities across the country over the next decade. We believe we can transform lives and strengthen communities by unlocking the power of pitches and this is another project that brings us closer to that ultimate goal."



Yateley United FC Chairman Colin Ive said “We are extremely grateful to the Football Foundation for their support which has enabled the club to go ahead with this construction and is great news not just for the football club but importantly our community. This building will provide excellent support facilities for sport but also treatment rooms and a significant space for both social activities and for groups who contribute to the wellness of our community, be it through support groups for those with critical illnesses or as a centre for more direct medical interaction.”

“None of this would have been possible without the dedication and perseverance of our teams of volunteers who run the club and have organised the fundraising events in such a professional way.”

Fundraising has not stopped and the club is pleased to offer the opportunity for individuals, families and local business to directly support this development by supporting our ‘Buy a Brick’ campaign. Paving bricks, each inscribed with up to 32 characters, can be purchased and these will be laid on the pathway up to and around the building. A great way for local people to have a personal stake and visible memory built into the centre for just £50 per brick.

Yateley United FC commenced life in 2013 when four local football clubs, Yateley FC, Yateley Juniors FC, Yateley Green FC and Beaulieu Boys and Girls FC joined together with the aim of creating improved facilities for football in Yateley. Following successful fundraising the club was able in 2014 to purchase its ground at Sean Devereux Park which is home to its thriving youth and adult teams. As one of the largest football clubs in Hampshire, Yateley United FC provides football for all ages from 4 years old, with its Under 6 training groups, to 80+ years old and its Walking Football groups. For the 2020-21 season it plans to have 17 youth teams, with at least one team at all age groups from U7 to U18, and 6 adult teams with the 1<sup>st</sup> team playing in the Hellenic league and the Ladies team playing in the Thames Valley Counties league, providing football for over 500 players and coaches.

ENDS

#### **Notes to editors:**

The Premier League, The FA and Government’s Football Foundation is the largest sports charity in the UK. It champions and supports fair access to quality football facilities for everyone, regardless of postcode, gender, race, disability or place.

The Foundation receives money from the Premier League, The FA and the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport, through Sport England. This is matched with partnership funding and awarded as grants to create outstanding grassroots facilities that enable better games and attract more players, helping to transform communities.

The Football Foundation celebrates its 20th anniversary next year. Since 2000, it has awarded more than 17,300 grants to improve facilities worth more than £684m – including 829 artificial grass pitches, 3,175 natural grass pitches and 1,100 changing facilities. This has attracted an additional £870m of partnership funding – totalling over £1.5bn investment in grassroots football so far.

Through the Foundation, the Premier League, The FA, DCMS and Sport England have come together to create the National Football Facilities Strategy (NFFS) that will guide work over the next 10 years to transform many more local facilities. Local Football Facility Plans (LFFP) are being created to identify priority projects where demand is



greatest, and the impact will be strongest and help stimulate the action required to deliver them.

For more information please contact:

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