

Press Release

Friday 8 February 2013

Herbert's Farm to undergo refurbishment thanks to £131k grant

Grassroots sport in Saffron Walden received a significant boost today following the news that Herbert's Farm Saffron Walden Partnership (HFSWP), a Trust formed by Spartak 78 Youth Sports Club and Plantation Youth FC, have received a grant of £131,438 from the Football Foundation, the country's largest sports charity.

The funding from the Football Foundation, combined with grants from Sport England, Viridor Credits, Saffron Walden Town Council and direct fundraising by the two football clubs, will allow HFSWP to fully refurbish the dilapidated sports pavilion at Herbert's Farm on Debden Road, bringing it up to Football Association standards. The grant will also enable extensive drainage and much needed pitch improvement works to be undertaken.

The new improved sports pavilion will comprise of two separate changing rooms with toilets and showers and a changing room for officials. There will also be a club room, cafeteria and kitchen which will be available for the wider community as well as football users.

Funded by the Premier League, The FA, and the Government (via Sport England), the Football Foundation is the country's largest sports charity. Since it was launched in 2000, the Foundation has awarded around 8,000 grants worth more than £420m towards improving grassroots sport, which it has used to attract additional partnership funding of over £520m.

Matt Clare, Chairman of HFSWP, said: **"This grant represents a reward for several years of hard work by volunteers from both football clubs and HFSWP. It is a huge vote of confidence from the Football Foundation and the FA, who have supported us all the way. It will enable us to deliver a first class football facility here in Saffron Walden and we are extremely grateful to the Football Foundation for backing us in this way. The construction work has already started."**

Paul Thorogood, Chief Executive of the Football Foundation, said: **"I commend HFSWP and the Essex FA for working tirelessly to secure this funding and I look forward to seeing the end result in the near future."**

"The Football Foundation is dedicated, with funding provided from the Premier League, The FA and Government (via Sport England), to raising the standard of grassroots community sports facilities and to getting more people actively playing the national sport."

For more information about the work the Football Foundation is doing all over the country visit www.footballfoundation.org.uk or follow us on Twitter at <http://twitter.com/FootballFoundtn>.

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