

## **Chairman's Report -2021/22**

After 2 seasons of disruption we have been back into the full swing of an almost normal football season for 2021/22 and the hope we are moving towards normality with next season on the horizon – even if next season has a World Cup scheduled in November. I hope everyone has had a great season and achieved their goals be it in performance, participation, player development, fun, or just pure enjoyment.

The club continues to go from strength to strength with player numbers both boys and girls and our overall quality of delivery, and work continues in all aspects of club development to support our coaches and volunteers to deliver on their requirements with administration, qualifications, equipment, training, and match opportunities.

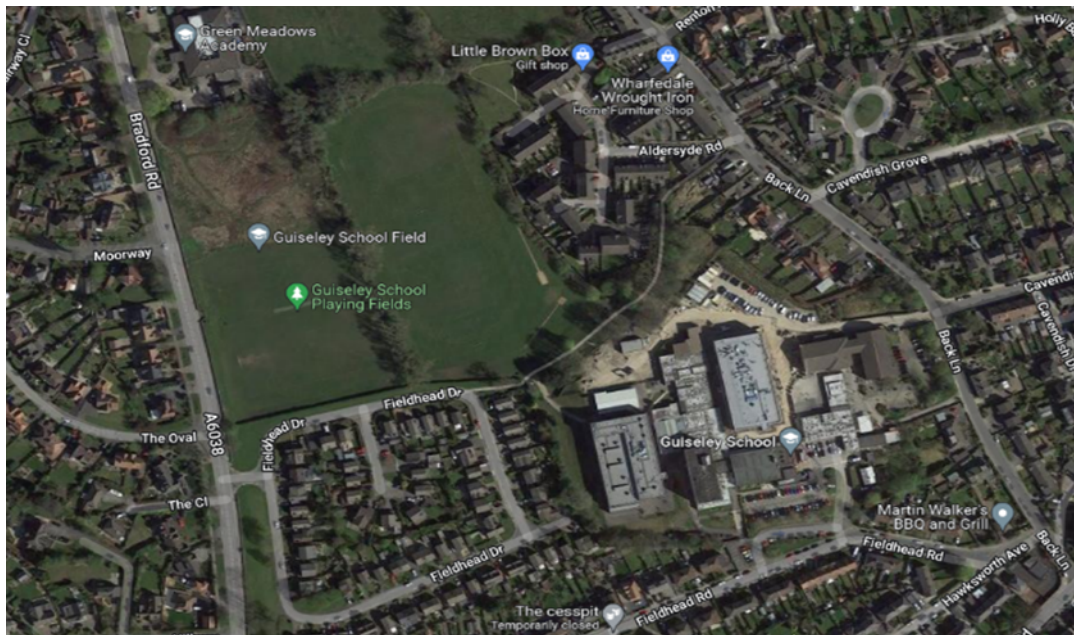
One of the key elements of our ongoing club development is the work that myself, Nicky and Mark have been working on with respect to a potential new artificial turf pitch provision (ATP) at Guiseley School. As a Management Team we have been working with a range of partners to secure this new training and match venue, a facility that we would call as 'home' and something that would help consolidate our training and match day provision. After the disappointment of the High Royds development faltering at the last hurdle we are hopeful we can progress this project. There are currently a small group of residents on the High Royds Estate that are still trying to pursue a club house development on a smaller scale and whilst we have supported and offered advice we are not directly involved, rather focusing our efforts on the ATP proposal.

The project has been developed as a partnership with Guiseley School (Part of the Aireborough Learning partnership -10 school membership) and whilst there are other partners involved including the Football Foundation, WRCFA, Ilkley Town, community foundations of Leeds Utd and Bradford City etc – the school, and ourselves, are the prime partners who have committed to providing the capital investment.

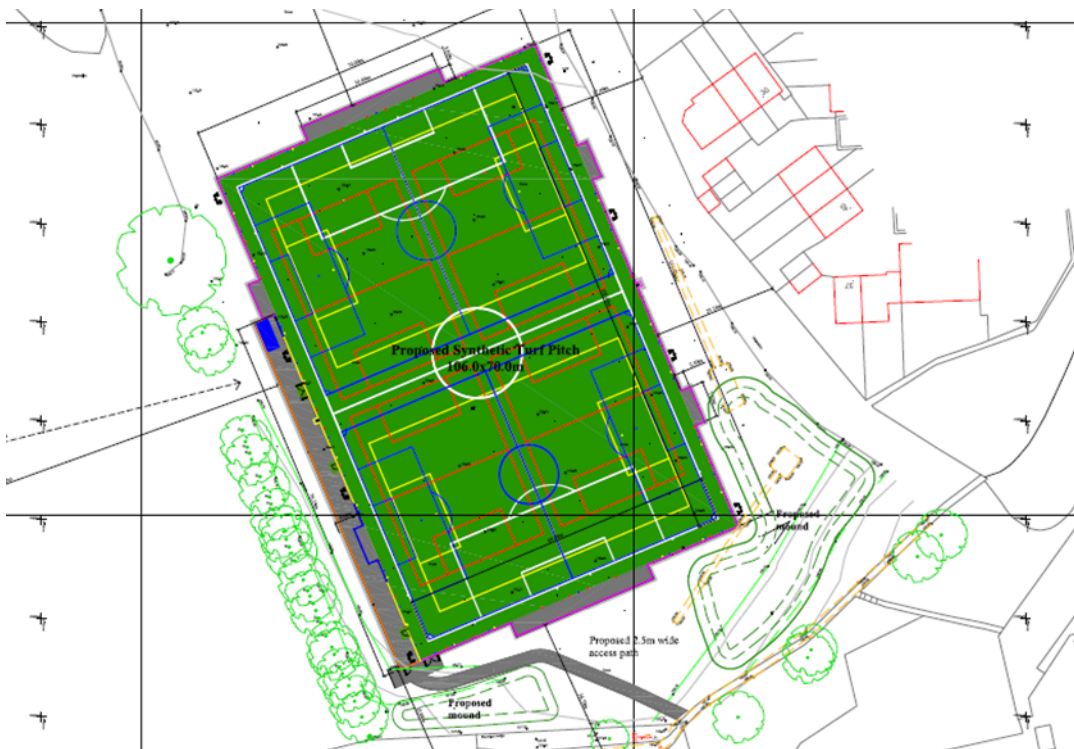
Guiseley Juniors have committed a huge sum of £125,000 towards this project, which is possible due to the management of our finances over the last few years, where we have looked to create a small surplus each year to hold as a capital fund on the basis that this type of opportunity may occur. Our joint application with Guiseley School for further funding has then been submitted with a potential grant from the Football Foundation (FF) which could be in the region of £500k.

The FF are supportive of this project and are supporting us in developing the funding application for the scheme which is in progress, and they will decide whether to award the grant funding to deliver the project in July 2022, should planning permission be granted for this application. The planning application has been submitted and the process is ongoing, and the FF are tendering the contract to build and install the pitch to its framework of contractors. The proposal represents a significant investment into existing sports facilities in the area with the aim of increasing participation in sport, catering for smaller-sided football games and youth facilities, as well as supporting enhanced community use for local professional clubs. This meets both a strategic need as well as a local need.

The location of the pitch is the lower part of the Guiseley School Fields provision which I'm sure most of you will be aware, see below -



In addition an extract from the wider planning master plan showing the pitch layout can be seen below—



The pitch development will cater for 11v11, 9v9 , 7v7 and 5v5 and will also incorporate additional makings for rugby as the pitch will be fitted with a shock pad to cater for rugby training and games. Access will utilise existing infrastructure of the school, for example car parking, toilets and the new changing provision.

We will continue to progress this development as it provides a significant opportunity to improve our training and match day provision in terms of quality, space and availability and enables us to grow, excel and sustain ongoing future development.

Please be supportive where you can - particularly in terms of the planning application - and be aware that dependant on the final costings, we may need to look to additional fund raising to meet any potential shortfall.

We will keep you up to date with progress as we don't want to miss out on another fantastic opportunity – keep enjoying your football.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'C. Spargo', with a large, stylized loop at the end.

**Chris Spargo**  
**Club Chairman**