



Chairman's Report -2022/23

I hope everyone has had a great season and achieved their goals be it in performance, participation, player development, fun, or just pure enjoyment and now looking forward to some rest, recuperation, and the FIFA Women's World Cup in Australia/New Zealand in July .

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. This has included securing new venues for matches and training including Benton Park and even with that our waiting list is constantly growing.

One of the key elements of our ongoing club development we have been continually working on is the potential new artificial turf pitch provision (ATP) at Guiseley School. As a Management Team we have been working with a range of partners to try and 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.

For those new to the club or not aware 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 and the partners providing the capital investment which will be supported by the grant from the Football Foundation which will be in the region of £500k.

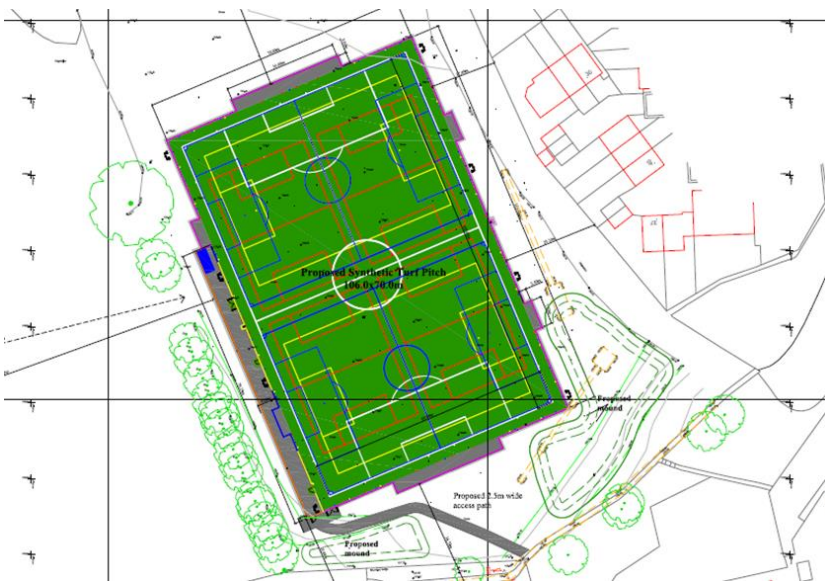
The current status of the project is we have submitted our bid to the Football Foundation, secured the support from WRCFA and other partners and are currently waiting for the proposal to go to Leeds City Council Planning Committee. There have been a number of technical questions raised as part of the planning process including issues around landscaping, ecology, drainage, arboriculture, access and environmental health -these we believe have now been positively addressed.

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 11 v11, 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 be provided from the school grounds to enable the use of car parking 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.

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 that reads 'C. Spargo'. The signature is written in a cursive style with a large loop at the end.

Chris Spargo
Club Chairman