



Press Release

Friday 20th November 2020

Rocester FC Juniors awarded funding to revamp football facilities

People living in Kingstone are set to benefit from fresh investment into local football facilities. Rocester FC Juniors have been awarded a grant from the Premier League, The FA and Government's Football Foundation, to upgrade Kingstone recreation ground.

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.

Grassroots football matches and training cannot take place at the moment due to the COVID-19 outbreak and will only restart when it is safe to do so following government advice but this funding is great news for local football in the meantime.

This grant will enable Rocester FC Juniors, who play in the Burton Juniors and Derby City Football Leagues the chance to play football each week, by improving the quality of the pitch.

Players will be able to enjoy a better quality pitch, which will represent a significant improvement on the existing playing field, being as it is, uneven and prone to waterlogging.

Rocester FC Juniors worked with the Football Foundation and Staffordshire FA to secure a £10,000 grant towards the project.

Richard Champion, Chairman, said: "We are a growing club and receipt of this grant from the Football Foundation is proof positive that our message of football for all is having an impact on the local community. We firmly believe in giving opportunities to all youngsters, irrespective of their ability and this financial injection have a significant impact on the 200+ boys and girls we are proud to coach. Our thanks go to the members of Kingstone Parish Council, whose help with and support of this project has been a significant factor in such a successful outcome."

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**



Rochester FC Juniors in developing match day and training facilities 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.”

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:

- Communications Team at events@footballfoundation.org.uk
- Nathan Konstantino on 07561 131896 or tino1980_3@hotmail.com