



London Borough of Bromley News Release

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For immediate release

Improvement of grass pitches at Chislehurst Recreation Ground

Work is underway to improve the football pitches in Chislehurst following a successful grant funding application.

The funding boost to grassroots sport in Chislehurst follows the news that FC Elmstead in partnership with Bromley Council received a grant of £49,349 from the Football Foundation, the country's largest sports charity.

The funding allows pitch improvements to be carried out, with drainage and levelling works being undertaken to enhance pitch quality. Ensuring the pitches are fit for purpose throughout the season will secure the long-term use of the recreation ground for sport and recreation and enable the club to develop and grow at the Recreation Ground. The improvements will also enable the club to introduce new opportunities for mini soccer, girls' football and senior football.

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.

"We are delighted to be working with local residents including FC Elmstead in this case who we are thrilled for, to improve parks and recreation grounds across the Borough. Hopefully, by working together and making sure that they remain attractive and interesting places which people want to visit, with the invaluable contribution of our ever-growing Friends' network, our green spaces can still have a bright future notwithstanding the significant cuts to local government finances from above" said Councillor Colin Smith, Executive Councillor for Environment.

Fabio Rossi, Treasurer at FC Elmstead said, "Top clubs often invest in players at this time of the year and we are no exception. The improvements to these pitches will enable us to work with more footballers and hopefully, help them play better football, both for fun and fitness and to help them play at the highest level possible. The Rec is very much our 'home' and these improvements will mean that we will be able to play there for years to come."

Paul Thorogood, Chief Executive of the Football Foundation, said: "FC Elmstead has been extremely energetic and has worked tirelessly in partnership with the London FA to secure this funding, and I am thrilled to see their hard work rewarded with this substantial Football Foundation grant.

“The Foundation is committed to supporting projects like this one in Chislehurst and right across the country with money generously provided by the Premier League, The FA, the Government (via Sport England), who have been our core funders since 2000.”

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

The £89,000 improvement works mean that during the next few months the main grass area at the Recreation Ground will be inaccessible whilst works are carried out and the re-seeded grass establishes. The project has been developed in conjunction with a range of partners, with additional funding coming from the Council and the Chislehurst Playing Fields Association (CPFA). CPFA is a small, registered, local charity that allocates monies for sporting activities in Chislehurst, Kent.

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