



Farnborough Old Boys Guild Football Club

Affiliated to the Kent County FA

www.fobgfc.org



Farrow Fields
High Street
Farnborough
Kent BR6 7BA

Tel: 01689 862949
Email: mailbox@fobgfc.org

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Dear Residents of Farnborough Village,

As you may or not be aware, for the past 18 months, the (Football) Club have been working with the Ward Councillors, Idverde, and Bromley Council in applying for a licence to legally make use of the recreation ground in relation to supporting weekend junior football in the village.

This has arisen since the club first introduced our Saturday morning Academy Soccer School way back in October 2018. Luke Johnson and I started that first week with 6 children. We now have on average over 40 children every Saturday morning, with 80 parents on our mailing list. We now employ 3 coaches as well.

Nearly all of these children stemmed from within a two-mile community radius, and many of them attend the primary schools of Farnborough, Tubbenden, and Green St Green. The club provides all training equipment, prepares the playing area, and provides refreshments for parents (when safely allowed to do so). We also run half term and school holiday Soccer Camps which again are hugely popular with parents and children alike. We also looking to bring in a 'Wildcats' group in the late summer. Wildcats being girls only junior football, where we are being supported by the Kent County Football Association. We also continue to support our chosen local charity 'Living On' where we offer free football coaching sessions to bereaved children and their families.

From this success (and parental peer pressure!), the club have now introduced two new junior teams into the fold to complement our U13's Farnborough Colts team. These being an U8's side and an U10's side. We have secured financial sponsorship for these teams, and both are being entered into the junior SELKENT league for the 2021/22 season. Many of the players are local, including Revd. Matthew Hughes' son. Matthew has been extremely supportive of our plight as has Miss James, Head of Farnborough Primary School, along with our local Ward Councillors.

All of this is being organised by volunteers within Farnborough Old Boys Guild Football Club, where I have an outstanding and dedicated team committed to progressing junior football at the club.

In April 2021, through the club's Funding Officer Matt Ellis, we applied for planning permission with Bromley Council in view of securing a legal licence to enable us to utilise the recreation ground next door for the use of weekend local community junior football, whereupon all children are welcome.

This entails a licence to secure the back half of the recreation ground between 9am and 12pm on both Saturday and Sunday mornings. On a Saturday morning we intend to move the Academy over from our senior pitches, and on a Sunday morning two junior pitches will be marked out (one inside the other), as so competition games can be played. At present the playing surface is not great, but we are being supported by the Kent County FA Charity Trust who help local clubs progress junior and Wildcats football in the community - giving free advice (and grant funding) in the playing development of the pitches thus progressing the footballing development of the children to FA coaching standards. In the meantime, and whilst the pitch is being developed, Farnborough Primary School have agreed for us to use their facility for the coming season, for which we thank them immensely.

The club has discussed all elements of this expansion, speaking with parents, Ward Councillors, and peers of the community before making any decisions. A major reference point is/was parking and (extra) traffic congestion in the village, especially any drop off/collection hot points in and around the entrance to the recreation ground/Change of Horses car park. With this mind, the club will continue to open up its two car parks for weekend use, and parents will be encouraged to park within its grounds as per usual. Saturday morning Academy registrations will still take place in or outside the clubhouse whereupon no child can attend without being registered first. This will be the same on Sunday morning as the clubhouse is the main focal point where all teams meet up with their respective managers and coaches.

Then, and if agreed by all concerned, the club intend to put in a locked single walk-through access gate linking the clubhouse to the recreation ground thus enabling both parents and children safe passage between the two facilities. This then kills two birds with one stone regarding parking, drop offs, and extra congestion. Whilst this is being progressed, the children will be led safely by the coaches from the gated entrance at Farrow Fields, along the path, and on to the recreation ground.

This is an exciting time for both the club, parents, and the community and it is something that the club have never involved itself in in its 89 year history when it was first formed by the then headmaster Mr Alfred Boots.

Please continue to support us as we continue to support you.

Yours sincerely,

Danny Saines - Club Chairman
Ian Couchman - Club President