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Press Release -

Newbury Community Football Consultation

Newbury Community Football Group (NCFG) launches a survey to gather the views of the local community on Newbury's football.

Today NCFG launched its survey to gather the views of the local community on the range and quality of the football training and playing facilities in Newbury. The aim is to assess local demand not only to maintain footballing facilities in the area, but to grow the facilities available for Newbury's junior, youth and senior men's and ladies football in the area.

The survey can be found here: https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/Newbury_Football_Facilities.

All members of local sporting groups are invited to take part.

Lee McDougall, spokesman for Newbury Community Football Group said: *"This consultation is the first step of the NCFG development plan for football in our area. We want football to thrive in Newbury. With between 300 and 400 youngsters coming up through the youth football club, AFC Newbury Boys and Girls alone, we are determined to ensure there are quality facilities for them to use for the long term, to develop their sports skills and also to promote health and wellbeing in our community."*

The survey comes on the back of some significant successes for NCFG. In September 2016, they helped Newbury FC gain a 2 year extension to their lease from West Berkshire Council. Then, in November 2016, they successfully gained the status of an "Asset of Community Value" for the town centre football ground, a designation which recognises importance of the ground to the local community and gives it additional protection from future commercial development, under the Localism Act of 2011.

One possibility for future improvement of the football ground is the installation of a 3G pitch, a top quality artificial surface. NCFG is working closely with Berks & Bucks FA who have already identified a significant lack of 3G pitches in West Berks to satisfy existing demand.

Notes for Editors

1. Newbury Community Football Group was formed in 2016 to represent the views and needs of Newbury's local footballing community.
2. NCFG passionately believes that football, like all sport, inspires young people and provides a focus for personal and physical development from early years into adulthood.
3. Sport is at the centre of national and local strategies to enhance health and wellbeing.
4. One of NCFG's key objectives is ensure Newbury retains a locally accessible properly equipped football ground that can be used by the whole community.
5. NCFG is an inclusive voluntary organisation that comprises representatives from the full local community including:
 - o AFC Newbury Boys and Girls,
 - o Newbury Ladies,
 - o Newbury District Primary Schools Football Association,
 - o Pro-cision Sports and
 - o Newbury FC.

