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The FIS newsletter will be issued monthly, with the aim to provide partner clubs and the wider football community a regular update on the Football Investment Strategy. If you have anything you wish to contribute please contact me via email. shaun.miles@leicester.gov.uk

Bharat lead

Work started on Tuesday 20th October on the first phase of the city's £11.2 million football investment project.

Rushey Fields, where Bharat FC is based, is the first site in the city to undergo a transformation and will be a facility for the whole community to utilise.

The development at Rushey Fields will cost in excess of £1 million and will include new changing rooms and an office, a clubroom and kitchen and five pitches (two mini soccer, one junior and three adult).

The Rushey Fields build programme will take approximately 27 weeks to complete.

Pradip Dullabh, Chairperson of Leicester Bharat FC said: "We've been waiting a long time for this day, so we can't wait for this project to get started"

"This will totally transform and boost our club and our community. We would like to thank Keith Vaz, MP, our honorary member for his support and the whole project team."

Ground breaking

Work started on Friday 20th November on the next phase of Leicester's £11.2 million football investment project.

New College, home to local club Allextion and New Parks Football Club, is the second of 11 sites in the city to be transformed as part of the project.

The £1.5 Million scheme at New College will include a six-block changing room with ancillary facilities, floodlighting to one existing pitch and a third generation synthetic pitch with fencing and flood lighting.

The build programme will take around 28 weeks to complete.

Maurice Allen, chair of Allextion and New Parks FC said: "We are very pleased that our contribution to local football and to providing positive activities for local youngsters has been recognised by our involvement in this project and that work is now underway. "It is fantastic that we and New College will benefit from the provision of these outstanding facilities and we would like to thank all of those who have helped bring the project to fruition. We look forward to everything being ready in time for next season."



PROJECT TEAM

Thanks to EVERYONE involved for their commitment, patience and continuing support to the FIS project.

Roles going forward:

Shaun Miles,
Project Manager

Ian Wallace,
Procurement lead

Jon Dutton,
Project consultant

Wilmot & Dixon
Contractor

Laurence Jones & Kelly Ellis (County FA) – link with the wider football community

SLA's

Thank you to all clubs that have now signed their service level agreement. Leicester Bharat, Allexton & New Parks and Aylestone Park FC have signed the SLA and Beaumont Town and St Andrews are the next clubs to indicate that they are ready to sign up. Work will continue with clubs who have still to sign the SLA.

Staffing

Alongside the proven need for capital investment into facilities it is also acknowledged that a support structure is needed to assist the partner clubs and ensure that any investment is protected through value for money and high levels of activity.

The City Council have been successful in attaining a significant grant to employ the following posts for a fixed 5 year period:

- Football Operations Manager
- Football Development Officer
- Social Inclusion and Diversity Officer

Recruitment for these positions will begin soon with the Football Operations Manager being employed in advance of the facilities opening with a view to heading up the recruitment of the other staff.

Club focus - GNG

GNG was founded in the 1960's by a group of players from the Guru Nanak Gurdwara and entered into the league for the first time in 1969 where they played on public park pitches for a number of years. Over a period of time and as the club became established more men's teams were developed and entered into the leagues.

During the last few seasons, the club has developed considerably, surpassing all achievements of the previous years. The senior team won the City League Championship and gained entry into the Leicester and District League Division One. After an initial year to reinforce itself, the club won promotion into the Premier Division of the league.

A successful junior section has been added to the club and they now accommodate players from the age of 7 years. There is a core group of parents who run and administrate the junior set up and Leicester City Football Club works closely with the club to supplement coaching requirements.

The club is recognised locally and nationally as a progressive club and has achieved Charter Standard Club Status.

This Month's Q&A

Q: When is the work due to be completed?

The programme as a whole will be completed by August 2010. It is a rolling project, with work due to start next at Linwood, then Aylestone Recreation Ground, Beaumont Park, Hamilton Park and Aylestone Playing Fields. Investment in the ball courts at Cossington Street, Overton Road, St Andrews and Victoria Park will be integrated into the above build programme.

Q: Why are the PCT partners in the project?

A recent survey by Sport England showed that Leicester had a lower level of participation in sport and activity than the national average – and NHS Leicester City puts the cost of treating ill health related to physical inactivity at around £6m a year.