

Dear officers,

I am writing to you on behalf of Crawley Down Gatwick Football Club, a Sussex FA Accredited Community Club, that has grown steadily since its establishment in 1993 with one team. Today, the Club proudly supports a full pathway of teams for boys and girls, from Under-5s to under-18s, along with a range of adult teams, including our recently launched women's team. Our mission is to make football accessible to everyone – breaking down barriers and building a strong, inclusive community where football brings people together in Crawley Down.

We currently give around 550 adults and children in our community the opportunity to play and enjoy football, stay active and be part of something special, with more than 700 people actively involved in the club overall and around 2000 parents of the youth section! This does not include the loyal band of supporters who attend match days, with a gate of over 5000 in total this year.

Today, the Club stands at a crossroads. With substantial demand from our local community, the opportunity exists to bring football to a greater number of children and adults locally - most recently evidenced by the launch of a Crawley Down Gatwick Women's team and U18's team for next season. However, the club needs access to an all-weather surface to support and sustain this growth.

That is why the Club is standing together and working with the local community to bring a 3G floodlit football pitch to our home ground at The Haven Sports Fields – providing a top-quality playing surface that can be used all-year round regardless of weather. This would represent a major step for the Club – enabling us to foster the growth of football through the ability to host more matches and training sessions and also open the facility up to Crawley Down Village School, and local community groups, for the benefit of more children.

We must not also forget we are part of the Worth Community that also involves Cophorne and Turners Hill. Having facilities such as a 3g would open up access for this whole community and benefit many schools and groups.

Originally suggested by Worth Parish Council in response to the proposed housing allocation west of Turners Hill Road and subsequently adopted by MSDC in their Infrastructure Delivery Plan, Wates Developments presented the Football Club with the opportunity to utilise the Section 106 funding generated from their proposals. Wates has highlighted the sums which have been requested by the Community Facilities Project Officer and whilst these would not currently be sufficient to deliver the new pitch, they will make a considerable contribution towards it. Furthermore, we understand further funding could be available in the future through other nearby housing proposals, which could help with any shortfall should it be needed, noting that we are aware of other funding avenues available to us.

As a Football Club, we feel we must make the most of this opportunity to direct Section 106 funding from the development towards sports provision and specifically the creation of a 3G football pitch to benefit the club and wider community. The funding would not only enable us to expand access to sport for more children and adults in the community but also help re-establish The Haven Centre as a vibrant community hub through the activity and football created by the 3G pitch. The Haven Centre is a hugely important part of the community and full

utilisation of the new facilities would encourage greater usage and therefore greater sustainability.

Crawley Down Gatwick FC would like to offer our support for the planning applications (DM/25/0015 and DM/25/0014) submitted by Wates, subject to Section 106 contributions being directed towards sports provision and specifically the creation of a new 3G Sports Pitch at The Haven Sports Fields, which would make an enormous difference to generations of people locally accessing sport in our community.

Yours Sincerely,

██████████ Chairman of Crawley Down Football Club

██████████ Vice Chairman and Club Secretary of Crawley Down Football Club

██████████ Club Treasurer