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Introduction

£102m boost for grassroots sport

Football Foundation to deliver new Premier League & The FA Facilities Fund

A £102m grassroots boost via the Football Foundation was announced by new Sports Minister Helen Grant MP, Premier League CEO Richard Scudamore and FA General Secretary Alex Horne. The new Fund will develop new or refurbished facilities for schools, grassroots clubs and local councils.



New Minister for Sport and Equalities Helen Grant MP's first major engagement was the announcement that the **Football Foundation** is to deliver £102m of investment from the **Premier League, The FA** and **the Government**, via **Sport England**, to improve community sports sites over the next three years.

Helen was joined by Premier League Chief Executive Richard Scudamore, FA General Secretary Alex Horne, Sport England's Property Director Charles Johnston and the Foundation's own CEO Paul Thorogood to launch the new **Premier League & The FA Facilities Fund**, which will develop new or refurbished facilities for schools, grassroots clubs and local councils.

Speaking at the announcement, Helen Grant said: "This partnership between the Premier League, The FA, Sport England and Government shows what can be achieved when the public and private sectors work together to help strengthen our national game at the grassroots. The investment of £102 million into facilities, delivered by the Football Foundation, will encourage many people to get into sport in some of the most deprived areas of the country. Sport has a unique power to change lives for the better and this will make a positive impact in many local communities."

Richard Scudamore, Premier League Chief Executive, said: "Premier League clubs are committed to playing an active role as hubs of their communities, particularly in the area of sports participation, from the grassroots level through to their Academies. The Premier League & The FA Facilities Fund will help them to support a new generation of facilities across the country, particularly in the most deprived areas. Having been a Trustee of the Football Foundation since the very start, I have seen first-hand how these new sports facilities can help to regenerate communities and increase participation."

Alex Horne, The FA's General Secretary, said: "The funding that The FA has invested through the Football Foundation has dramatically improved local football facilities up and down the country and is a key part of The FA's four-year National Game Strategy, a £200 million investment into the grassroots game. These enhanced facilities increase opportunities for young people to become involved in football, whether as players or coaches, and it is this work which feeds into helping to produce the next generation of English football talent."

Football Foundation Chief Executive, Paul Thorogood, said: "The Football Foundation has pioneered numerous sophisticated performance management and analysis systems since our launch in 2000, so I can absolutely guarantee that this investment will be directed to where it is needed most and where it will have the greatest impact."

Charles Johnston, Sport England's Property Director, added: "I am delighted that Sport England's on-going investment into grassroots football facilities will continue through the new Premier League & The FA Facilities Fund. I am particularly pleased that the new Fund will see even greater collaboration between the funding partners with the Football Foundation delivering a highly effective and efficient programme on their behalf."

Organisations wishing to register their interest in the new Premier League & The FA Facilities Fund can do so via [this page](#) on our website.

Georgie Bingham, a presenter for **talkSPORT**, spoke of how she, as a Foundation Ambassador, enjoys seeing local kids staying active and "wants to see more people out there, getting healthy and running around. Football is our national sport, the more football facilities, the better."

Meanwhile Former England player, and fellow Football Foundation Ambassador, John Scales, highlighted the significance of having good facilities, saying, "Like millions of people around the country, I cherish the memories of playing grassroots sport."

Click the 'right' arrow below to scroll through a gallery of images from the launch event.

News Stories

Former England Manager's Lincs boost

Graham Taylor unveils community pavilion in Lincolnshire

Former England Football Boss Graham Taylor OBE joins local people in Winterton, Lincs, to officially open their new community sports pavilion.



Former England manager Graham Taylor OBE, returned to Lincolnshire to officially open a new community pavilion, financed with a £312,736 grant from the Football Foundation.

The new facility, Winterton Community Pavilion, consists of four changing rooms with showers, a referee's room, a medical room, a large storage area in addition to a community room, a cloakroom and a modern kitchen.

Graham Taylor said: "What a great event. Today's opening was particularly special to me because I have many happy memories from this area. I know how much football means to people in these parts, and this new site will enable a new generation to enjoy the game as much as I did. I'm just envious that this sort of bespoke space for football did not exist when I was a young lad!"

The site, which has already taken advanced bookings from the Winterton Disabled Club, Winterton Lions and the local bowls club, is owned by Winterton Town Council who, for the past eight years, have been raising money to match the Football Foundation's investment.

Graham continued: "I always say the quality of facilities at the grassroots level has a direct impact on quality of player we can produce. The formula is simple; more investment in grassroots facilities equals a better pool of potential England players. The Football Foundation is continuing to invest at the grassroots level of the nation's game and long may that continue."

Winterton Town Council, the Winterton Playing Field Association and Dale Park Junior Football Club worked in partnership with the **Lincolnshire FA** to secure the Foundation's £312,000 grant. The resulting hard work has created a home for several local teams including Dale Park Junior Football Club.

Local Councillor and Chairman of the fundraising team, Don Johnson, said: "Today marks the end of years of hard work to realise this dream, but the beginning of a new era for grassroots football in Lincolnshire. I would like to place on record our most sincere thanks to the Football Foundation for their generous investment, without which we would not be stood on site today."

"This facility will bring new opportunities to the Winterton area for years to come. Specifically, Dale Park Junior FC, who cater for boys and girls from the age of three up to 17, can call this home and grow as a club."

Rob King, the Lincolnshire FA's County Development Manager, added: "Thanks to the Football Foundation's investment, Dale Park Youth FC now has a fantastic home to develop their club from. On behalf of the Lincolnshire FA I'd like to place on record our thanks to all the key partners involved in the project. Without their hard work, dedication and generosity the project wouldn't have reached its full potential."

Click the 'right' arrow below to scroll through a gallery of images from the day. You can also watch [ITV's report](#) of the official opening.

Vince shows he's a real sport

Business Secretary launches multi-sport pavilion

Rt Hon Dr Vince Cable MP officially opens the National Physical Laboratory (NPL) Sports Club's stunning new changing room pavilion in Middlesex



Rt Hon Dr Vince Cable MP has officially opened the **National Physical Laboratory (NPL)** Sports Club's stunning new changing room pavilion in his Twickenham constituency.

The state-of-the-art sports pavilion, which was built at a cost of £481,468, replaces an old building so run-down that visiting teams avoided using it, and junior footballers were forced either to change in the toilets, under the supervision of their parents, or go home unchanged.

Now, though, the site boasts four players changing rooms, plus two changing rooms for match officials and one fully accessible changing room for disabled participants – all complete with showers and toilet facilities, under-floor heating, and served by a medical room and generous locker space.

This means that sports enthusiasts of all ages across the local community will benefit, with a particular onus on reversing the decline in senior membership, and encouraging the growth of football and other sports, including cricket.

Vince Cable said: "Simply, this is an absolutely outstanding facility. From a grassroots sports point of view, I saw today the quality of this site and how it will benefit local sports men and women of all ages. I am delighted to have such an outstanding sporting venue in my constituency."

Paul Thorogood, Chief Executive of the Football Foundation, added: "The NPL Sports Club and the Middlesex FA should be congratulated on their hard work to make this project a reality. I would like to thank Rt Hon Dr Vince Cable MP for officially opening the facility and giving it a suitably fitting launch."

Click the 'right' arrow below to scroll through a gallery of images from the day.

Sir Trevor launches huge site in Kent

Former England star opens major community football hub

Former England and West Ham midfielder shows he hasn't lost his touch, joining in Jubilee Primary School youngsters' kickabout at a huge new community sports hub in Thamesmead, Kent.



Football legend Sir Trevor Brooking CBE showed his support for grassroots sport at the official opening of Sporting Club Thamesmead, where an outstanding new changing pavilion, floodlit third generation (3G) artificial grass pitch (AGP), and multi-use games area (MUGA) have been built with a grant of £769,112 from the Foundation.

And the cultured former England and West Ham midfielder showed he hasn't lost his touch by having an impromptu kickabout with some youngsters from neighbouring Jubilee Primary School, who also benefit from the stunning new playing surface.

The redevelopments will allow **Trust Thamesmead** to achieve its ambition of providing first class sports and leisure facilities at grassroots level in an area that had significantly lacked community facilities, particularly sports facilities, and seen under-investment for many years.

FA Director of Football Development Sir Trevor, said: "I am so pleased to be opening such a fantastic facility. Projects such as this one in Thamesmead are so important for the local community. They help increase participation in our national game by allowing more people to play, purely for the love of it. They are also critical to supporting The FA's agenda for developing more home-grown talent."

Additional funding for the club's new floodlit, 3G AGP and top-of-the-range floodlit MUGA came from the Premier League-funded **Football Stadia Improvement Fund** (FSIF), in the shape of a £75,000 grant, in order to create a much safer environment for players throughout the year.

"The funding provided by the Premier League, The FA, and the Government, through the Football Foundation, is making a real difference, with stunning new facilities, such as this one, springing up right across the country. I congratulate everyone involved, including the **London FA**, for their work in making this happen," Trevor added.

Vic Grimes, Trustee at Trust Thamesmead, commented: "I'm very pleased to see the completion of this project which will provide a step change in sports provision in Thamesmead.

"The fantastic response from the Football Foundation and our other funders mean that Thamesmead will at last have the quality facility it has been sorely lacking for so long."

Scroll through an image gallery of the event with Sir Trevor below by clicking the 'right' arrow below, and visit our [Flickr page](#) to see even more images.

Former Sports Minister opens Boston site

New pavilion to cater for all ages, genders and abilities

Former Sports Minister Hugh Robertson officially opens the new changing facility at Wyberton Playing Fields.



Former Minister for Sport and the Olympics, **Rt Hon Hugh Robertson MP**, was in Lincolnshire recently to officially open the new changing facility at Wyberton Playing Fields.

Wyberton Playing Field Association (WPFA) worked with the Lincolnshire County FA and secured £186,000 from the Football Foundation towards this project.

The previous facilities at the site were 40 years old, and despite a concerted maintenance effort by volunteers, were in a poor condition. They failed to meet modern standards for the safeguarding of children and disabled accessibility, and in some instances could be classed as a health and safety hazard.

The stunning new facilities that are now in action boast: four changing rooms, two officials' room, and social area comprising a kitchen and club room. This will cater for users of all ages, genders, abilities and needs, who come from as far afield as Louth and Mablethorpe in the north to Holbeach and Sutton Bridge in the south of the county.

Speaking at the opening, former Minister for Sport, Hugh Robertson, said: "These new changing facilities in Wyberton will benefit the community for years to come and boost grassroots sport in the area."

Additionally standing to benefit are the two bowls teams and seventeen football teams including Wyberton FC: an FA Charter Standard Community Club whose ambitions to grow were severely hampered by the poor state of the previous facilities. Now, thanks to Foundation funding, the club are expected to increase the number of teams they operate to 28 within five years.

"It's projects like this where the Football Foundation, with funding from the Government, Premier League and The FA, is making a real difference. In Lincolnshire alone £9 million worth of Foundation grants have been given to 100 projects as part of a drive to improve thousands of facilities right across the country," Hugh Robertson added.

Click the 'right' arrow below to scroll through a gallery of images from the day.

'Beautiful' book on typography in the game

New football art book donates profits to Football Foundation

*Did you know Antoni Gaudi helped design Barcelona's 2012 shirt numbers? And which landmark motivated Real Madrid's 2005 kit digits? New art book **Football Type** reveals these and other remarkable typographical tales - with all proceeds going to the Football Foundation!*



Did you know Antoni Gaudi helped design Barcelona's 2012 shirt numbers? And which landmark motivated Real Madrid's 2005 kit digits?

Football Type, by award-winning designer Rick Banks, reveals these and other remarkable typographical tales about the nation's favourite game - and the good news for the grassroots is that all of the book's proceeds will go to the Football Foundation.

Bolton Wanderers and font fanatic Banks gathered the world's most unusual names and numerals for this beautiful, fascinating, art book. The book is a limited edition of 1,000, with each cover hand-numbered using official Premier League lettering. Real Madrid, Manchester United, Chelsea, England, Liverpool, The FA, adidas, PUMA, Umbro and Nike all contributed to the rich history of typography in the sport.

Writer Sheridan Bird, whose work includes England programmes, Manchester United publications, UEFA Champions Matchday, Creative Review, World Soccer and Mirror.co.uk, provided accompanying text for the wonderful images.

And, as explained, 100% of the profits from book sales will go to the Football Foundation, so when you learn why Diego Maradona should have worn No.12 at the 1986 World Cup and Fenerbahce have flags on their backs, you are feeding your mind and helping grassroots sport!

You can read reviews of **Football Type** in the [Telegraph](#), the [Guardian](#) and [soccerbible.com](#).

Football Foundation TV

Premier League & The FA Facilities Fund

Watch a film of the £102m grassroots funding announcement



Click the below image to watch our exclusive film of the recent launch of the £102m Premier League & The FA Facilities Fund, featuring interviews with new Minister for Sport and Equalities, Helen Grant MP, Premier League Chief Executive, Richard Scudamore, General Secretary of The FA, Alex Horne, Football Foundation Chief Executive, Paul Thorogood and Sport England's Director of Property, Charles Johnston.



Before and After

Regeneration for Bruntcliffe School

West Yorkshire school's 3G pitch enables sporting growth

Sports facilities at Bruntcliffe High School were in desperate need of a redevelopment. With a £319,000 grant, the school was able to build a floodlit all-weather pitch to replace their tired facilities.



Bruntcliffe High School in Leeds had been using worn out facilities. But after working together tirelessly, the Bruntcliffe Community Sports Partnership and **West Riding County FA** secured £319,000 of funding from the Football Foundation to regenerate the current sports pitches.

The grant has helped the school create a floodlit third generation (3G) artificial grass pitch on their, previously boggy, sports field. The facility is being put to great use by the whole community and has also become home to local football clubs, Gildersome Spurs FC and Churwell Lions FC, with sports participation in the area significantly increasing.

Click on the 'right' arrow below to see the change take place at Bruntcliffe.



— ■ FUNDING PARTNERS ■ —

