



Ashwell Academicals FC

Dear Sir/Madam,

We write to you on behalf of the Ashwell Academicals Football Club, known more colloquially as "The Accies," the youth football club of the village.

The club has seen a significant increase in participation over the past few years, with more children and in particular girls taking up the sport. There are now 15-teams representing the club from ages Under 6's through to Under 18's and specialist Girls sides now too. This surge in membership highlights the need for enhanced facilities to accommodate training sessions, matches, and community events.

With over 150 children playing football the club surely has the largest number of participants in the village of any activity/resource. This remarkable level of participation reflects the vibrant sports culture within the village but also underscores the urgent requirement for more playing fields. With just five pitches available currently between those fifteen teams, it means that we are now unable to train through the autumn/winter in the village to protect these existing facilities. The club are currently spending over £5,000.00 per year on winter training at the likes of Baldock, Royston and Letchworth, which is all money going out of the village, as well as additional cars on the roads. There are also now four teams having to play their matches out of the village, at Litlington, Hinxworth and Steeple Morden respectively, another £2,000.00 in funds leaving the village each year and all of whom have better facilities than Ashwell. It is incredibly sad that teams representing the village are not playing their matches here.

With that in mind it is clear the primary issue is finding new land for Football Pitches. The club and its local community are therefore calling on the support of local authorities and potential benefactors to invest in the development of new amenities that will cater to the club's expanding requirements and foster further success in the sport. Acquiring new land for additional pitches would allow all 15 teams to train and play in Ashwell, ensuring that each child gets ample opportunity to develop their skills to enjoy the sport without having to travel.

This expansion is crucial not only for the current teams but also to accommodate future growth and foster a thriving football community in Ashwell. Investing in these facilities will not only benefit the football team but also the wider community. Enhanced sports facilities will encourage more residents to engage in physical activities, promoting a healthier lifestyle. Additionally, improved amenities will enable Ashwell to host regional tournaments and events, boosting local tourism and economy.

The Football Club totally understands this is not something that the Parish Council will have an immediate answer for, but by working together we hope we can find a solution and potentially create a state-of-the-art sports facility that will serve the needs of our growing football team and community for years to come. Failing that, at least a pocket of land somewhere that another pitch may be able to be located.

Our club is a cornerstone of our community, providing valuable opportunities for physical activity, teamwork, and social interaction for over 150 children in Ashwell. Investing in additional facilities is essential to accommodate the team's growth and ensure that all children have the resources they need to succeed. We urge everyone to contribute to this cause and help us build a brighter future for the youth of Ashwell.

Your support is greatly appreciated.

Yours sincerely

[Redacted Signature]

[Redacted Name]