



COMMUNITY RALLY AND WEEKEND OF EVENTS TO PROMOTE CAMPAIGN FOR NEW 3G ARTIFICIAL GRASS FOOTBALL PITCH IN SAFFRON WALDEN

This weekend (26-28 April) has seen a series of events to promote the #MyCommunity3G campaign to deliver a new high quality 3G artificial grass pitch at the County High School.

Highlights from the weekend's events were:

- A campaign rally through Saffron Walden which attracted around 350 young players, parents and coaches;
- A charity penalty shoot-out and coaches versus U18s match, raising around £1,300;
- A sold out quiz night which raised £1,000;
- The U12 Blues Girls' team acting as Mannequins for the day at 'Phase 8' store, raising over £400.

The campaign rally on Saturday departed from SW County High school, before scheduled stopping points at the UDC offices on London Road – where letters requesting UDC support for the project were delivered to Cllrs Howard Rolfe (Leader of UDC) and Barbara Light – and Saffron Walden Town Hall, where the 350 attendees were met by Saffron Walden Mayor Cllr Fairhurst. Former Mayor, Cllr Mike Hibbs, also accompanied the rally.

Cllr Rolfe told the crowd outside the UDC offices that he was supportive of the proposal, and was confident that it would be financially backed by UDC, regardless of the outcome of forthcoming local elections.

The events are part of an ongoing campaign to raise at least £100,000 locally to support projects costs of £900,000. The clubs have requested a contribution from UDC, with the remaining funds sought from the FA / Football Foundation.

Martin Johnson, SWCFC Chairman, said:



Saffron Walden Community Football Club
www.swcfc.org.uk

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'What an amazing weekend we have had. All the events our volunteers have put on have been brilliant, and the response from everyone – to the rally, the collections, and everything else – has been fantastic. To see hundreds of people walking through the town and into the Market Square on Saturday was really special. We also really welcome the support which Cllrs Rolfe, Light and Hibbs, and Mayor Paul Fairhurst have given us'.

'We have now raised around £5,000 in a very short time which is a great start. We will press on over the next 3-4 months with further events and we would ask everyone to please get behind our campaign. The 3G facility will benefit the whole District and we desperately need better sporting facilities for more people to use'.



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Background

Website

www.swcfc.org.uk

<http://swcfc.org.uk/swcfc3GAGP2020.html>

Twitter

@SWCommunityFC

@swpsgfc

Facebook

Saffron Walden Community YSC

- Saffron Walden Community FC is a Charter Standard Community Club, and was named 'Essex FA Club of the Year' in 2018. The club now has 42 teams and a thriving mini soccer school. The club's sister club Saffron Walden PSG (for girls' football) has a further 10 teams. In total the clubs currently have around 800 young players registered from Saffron Walden and across Uttlesford.
- Saffron Walden Community FC and Saffron Walden County High School have reached agreement on the siting of a new 3G artificial grass pitch (3G AGP) at the High School. The Essex FA is also supportive of the proposal.
- The football club, along with sister club PSG, has launched a fund raising campaign – known as '#mycommunity3G' - to raise funds locally to support the plan, and will seek planning permission in the coming weeks.
- We hope to have the new 3G AGP facility in place by Spring 2020.
- It will be a high quality 3G AGP facility, meeting FA, UEFA and FIFA standards.
- This project is a real community partnership.
- This new facility will benefit the whole community - in Saffron Walden and across the Uttlesford district.



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- Saffron Walden Community FC and the County High School have concluded a detailed agreement to make this vision a reality. We now need local funding support to bring it to fruition.
- Our young players deserve good quality facilities.
- This facility will enable local participation of all kinds, including disability football.

- Uttlesford is one of only two districts in Essex which doesn't have a state of the art 3G artificial grass pitch. That is unacceptable in 2019.
- We need new facilities to help expand the provision of football, including growing areas like girls football. This supports health and well-being.
- It's vital that our local authorities get behind this scheme. Our young people deserve their support.
- The FA is ready to support this huge investment in our area. This is too good an opportunity to miss.

