

Press Release

8th May 2008

STAPLEHURST MONARCHS FOOTBALL CLUB AND STAPLEHURST & MONARCHS UNITED FOOTBALL CLUBS SCORE WITH FOOTBALL FOUNDATION GRANT

Footballers in Staplehurst were celebrating today following a £390,000 award by the Football Foundation, the UK's largest sports charity.

The cash bonanza will allow Staplehurst Parish Council in partnership with its local football clubs to build the much needed changing room facility at Jubilee Sports Field in Headcorn Road, Staplehurst. This award is the culmination of many years work by Staplehurst Parish Council in partnership with the Football Clubs. Funding support for the whole project has also been received from Kent County Council, Maidstone Borough Council, Staplehurst Parish Council, the Football Clubs and Staplehurst Guide Centre.

There are nine junior teams in Staplehurst as well as three senior sides. The improved facilities will mean that footballers will be able to enjoy modern facilities appropriate to the 21st century and to develop their teams further.

The Football Foundation is dedicated to revitalising the grass roots of the game, constructing modern football facilities, developing football as a force for social cohesion and as a vehicle for education in communities throughout the country. Funded by the Premier League, The Football Association, Sport England and the Government, the Football Foundation is the nation's largest sports charity with a £45m budget going straight into the heart of football.

Paul Thorogood, Chief Executive of the Football Foundation said: **“We warmly congratulate the Parish Council, Staplehurst football clubs and the local FA for their hard work and dedication in securing this award.**

“Sport is playing a central role in helping people to stay fit, strengthen communities and promote responsibility amongst young people. I am delighted that Football Foundation investment is opening up access to sport in Staplehurst and encourage other organisations in the region to apply to us.”

Nigel Best, Chairman of Staplehurst Monarchs FC and Mick Hooker Chairman of Staplehurst & Monarchs United FC, jointly said: **“The Football Foundation award is a fantastic moment in the history of the football clubs in Staplehurst. It will secure the long term future of football within our village. We thank the Football Foundation as well as all our local funders and members for their support and**

financial backing to achieve our dream. We look forward to the opening of the improved facilities mid way through next season, which will enable all teams to play again within the village”

The Chairman of Staplehurst Parish Council, Councillor Margaret Arger said:
“Staplehurst Parish Council is delighted that after many years of hard work the efforts of a few have finally come to fruition. There will soon be a facility for the benefit of the many keen footballers within Staplehurst. It will also encourage the further development of teams and will become a centre of excellence, thanks to the support of the Football Foundation and other partners. We wish the project well.”

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