



Dynamo Foxton
Football Club

Dear Members of Foxton Parish Council,

Dynamo Foxton Football Club would like to re-submit the application for our U18 team to play on the adult football pitch.

Details of our application

Our team would play one home game on the main pitch, on average less than once every two weeks. Four games are scheduled for the remainder of this year, with up to another seven games between January and May 2021. This means that we are asking permission to play in effect slightly over once a month on the pitch, although cup games may add a couple of matches. However, at most it will be less than once every two weeks. It is also likely that some games may not be played later in the season as U18 teams often fold as a level exams approach. The heart of the U18 team (eight players) learned football and enjoyed coaching and playing for Foxton from an early age until the team unfortunately folded in 2018.

Our History

Dynamo Foxton Football Club were formed in 2008, and since then have grown to support well over one hundred children at any one time, from Foxton and local villages, in their sporting and team development.

Rec Contribution

As Dynamo Foxton FC grew more popular and successful, the teams grew too large to only use the School pitch, Foxton Rec has been used and the club have made an annual contributor to the pitch maintenance. The club have been able to make significant financial support to the upkeep of the Rec including some ambitious restoration initiatives such as the earthquaking of the Rec, which although not seen as a need for our club to spend money on, were supported in the spirit of community.

Below is a list of the contributions that the club have made over the last three years, a total of nearly five thousand pounds;

Year	Contribution	Amount
2017	Fuel for mowing of Rec	£50.00
2017	Grass seeding of Rec	£325.00
2018	Pitch Marking	£263.40
2018	Grass seeding of Rec	£338.00
2019	Slitter to aerate roots and stimulate grass growth	£120.00
2019	Fuel for mowing of Rec	£50.00
2019	Grass seeding of Rec	£350.00

2019	Purchase of fertiliser	£200.00
2019	Earthquaking of cricket and football pitches	£250.00
2019	Weed control	£120.00
2019	Grass cutting	£300.00
2020	Contribution to purchase new mower	£650.00
2020	Purchase of fertiliser	£600.00
2020	Grass seeding of Rec	£350.00
2020	Weed control	£120.00
	Total	£4,871.40

Precedence

Councillors have expressed concern over Sunday morning football and the impact on car parking/ church and disturbance to residents

When the application to play on the adult pitch, we did not envisage any problems with this as Sunday youth football had taken place before on the Rec for three previous seasons 2015-16, 2016-17 and 2017-18.

During those three seasons, the club received no complaints regarding car parking, nor from local residents about the events. On match days, there were no negative community issues, in fact there was a huge positive atmosphere of a young cohort of teenagers getting great exercise, developing as team players and having enjoyment on their local Rec. The proposed format of games would be exactly the same as previous seasons, with additional safeguarding in regard to social distancing and Covid-19 guidance.

State of the pitch

The grounds for refusal were based upon concerns about the state of the pitch and especially the compaction issues. We respect that the Rec is a finite resource. However, Dynamo Foxton FC are conscientious users of this resource and have been a significant contributor to its upkeep and welfare since we began playing. Most of the teams are young with very little footprint or impact upon the rec at all although we respect the impact of an older side is more significant.

The question that we ask you to consider is whether the Parish Council consider that games that we propose to play, at very most once every two weeks over a **nine month period**, is really going to make a significant degradation of the pitch.

We would also like to repeat the view that Foxton recreation ground is unlikely to be any worse than any other Rec of equivalent level, it just that due to the exceptional care and attention that is given to this Rec, the council have looked harder at the issues.

Game pitch monitoring

DFFC recognise the sensitive nature of the Rec and will be happy to keep a photographic library and monitor the games both before and after, should that be deemed necessary by the parish council. We are responsible in assessing the playability of the pitches in extreme weather conditions, for example potential waterlogging or ground frost. This would be of value in informing future teams as long as all adult teams were doing it.

Adult goals

Dynamo Foxton FC would request the hiring of Foxton FC goals, as we did for the previous three seasons. If this is refused then we would purchase another set, although this would be an

unnecessary additional storage headache on the Rec and it is hoped that the former option will be possible.

Covid-19

Dynamo Foxton FC will follow Covid-19 guidance from the Football Association. Currently this means that no players will use the changing rooms and come to matches and leave with their kit.

The importance of this team to this group of players

This team is hugely important to these young players. They have a tremendous team spirit and made a brave decision to refuse to split up and play adult football. This cohort are facing unprecedented disruption to their social lives and education in the year they take their A level exams. Their training provides great motivation and drive as a team and they cannot wait to play a game. For them, it is a hugely important release from their studies. Their desire to stay together and play as a group was the principal reason for Marcus to agree to coach again, as he was more than happy to have hung up his boots. However, he sees supporting them this year as important over and above the football and would ask the council to consider this benevolently in their decision making process.

The view of us as local residents, parents and coaches is that surely, we want a Rec used positively by young adults. We feel that a talented group of local players, that love playing at Foxton and playing there as they get older is a great thing to nurture and that this is one of the things that a recreation ground is for, especially at a time when such opportunities are in short supply. As a club we have consistently paid generously towards the upkeep of the Rec and we should have the right to play there, in a considerate and responsible manner.

We ask you to please re-consider our application.

On behalf of the Committee of Dynamo Foxton Football Club



Bruce Gilliam
Secretary