

Planning Committee

Stockton on Tees Borough Council

REF – 21/3005/FUL

Date 03/03/2022

Dear Committee,

We thought it would be best to write to you all to explain this latest planning application and hopefully help understanding of the Football Clubs situation and its future thinking.

Never in our wildest dreams did we ever imagine the success the Club has achieved not only on the pitch but also across our wider community with the engagement of the people of the town.

As you will be aware we now play our football across the entire north of England and with this brings nothing but a positive image of our Club and our town.

The Club has grown considerably in recent years and we now have nearly 40 teams in total covering boys, girls, ladies and men. This allows our community from 3/4 years of age to interact with the Football Club whether as a player, parent, volunteer, supporter or employee, giving access to the entire community. The Football Club also now partners with Stockton 6th Form College to run a post 16 Football Academy that combines both football and education to again provide opportunities to the youth of the town and Stockton Town also run, manage and coach Teesside University's football programmes and teams.

The facilities we have managed to develop over time with many partners are a source of huge pride for us all and shine a very positive light on not only our Club but also the town. These facilities have allowed this community engagement and provided huge benefits to not only the Football Club but all of its partner organisations.

The proposal before you at the moment is as a consequence of some of these successes, we must provide a minimum standard of spectator accommodation to play at the levels we do within the National League System run by The FA. This proposal is not about growing a Stadium beyond the capabilities of the infrastructure around it but simply providing the minimum standard of spectator accommodation and failure of the Club to provide these minimum facilities would lead to a forced relegation, a consequence that none of us would want.

If these proposals are accepted, it will not increase the crowds that attend our games but simply afford them additional shelter from the winter weather and allow our older generation of spectators to continue to attend as there will be seating available for them. Our crowds are purely and will always be related to success on the pitch and not because of Ground infrastructure.

As a Club we are conscious of our wider community responsibilities, and we are in constant open dialogue with various authorities about the challenges we face and possible solutions that are right for all. We do not attract complaints from our use of this facility, despite what may be portrayed elsewhere, and we believe that the Club is a tremendous asset to our town and community and that its continued success will continue to play a part in the lives of Stockton's residents.

Stockton Town Football Club – Executive Committee