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Bromsgrove Rovers Football Club

Bromsgrove Rovers FC has been an established part of Bromsgrove life for many people over a very long period of time. Bromsgrove District Council have supported the club in recent years by giving them a lease of fourteen years, this enabled the club (since the lease was granted) to gain a more secure foundation with the Football association.

This was the first step in the regeneration of the club since the current owner took control. A lot of work has been done to place Bromsgrove Rovers on the road to recovery. The team has been strengthened and are currently in the promotion zone.

The next phase of the development plan was to establish a junior centre of excellence.

The plan is the first co-ordinated town-wide project to help young footballers bridge the gap between local leagues and professional academies and centres of excellence. The plan is set to have an impact on hundreds of junior players in Bromsgrove. It proposes that clubs run trials in partnership with Bromsgrove Rovers for groups ranging from under-11s to the under-17s age bracket.

The groups would then be formed in squads, which would play as Bromsgrove Rovers Colts in the Midlands junior Football League from September 2007.

The first step was to organise an open meeting to see if interested parties would welcome this latest development plan. At a meeting on the 21<sup>st</sup> January representatives from the Club, Local Schools, Bromsgrove District Council, New College, Worcester FA and other sports clubs voted in favour of the junior development plan.

A management group was formed which would have representation from Bromsgrove Rovers, Bromsgrove District Council sports development, Local Schools and junior clubs. The next stage is to formulate a committee, which can tackle the challenges ahead.

Potentially the plan would mean that local footballers would be exposed to high quality teams from Bristol, Oxfordshire, Histon, Derby and South Staffordshire.

This is the biggest plan of its kind to happen in Bromsgrove or any where, there are similar plans in other parts of the country but not focusing on football, so this is really a first for Bromsgrove.

There are plans for GCSE curricular activity to take place and training in physiotherapy, coaching, refereeing, grounds man ship and sports development in general. We are also looking to develop a girl's academy and woman's team. What is happening here is for the community of Bromsgrove as a whole.

If Bromsgrove District Council stops supporting Bromsgrove Rovers in letting them have the ground rent free then it will stop the project moving ahead. The money being put into the project by Bromsgrove Rovers will need to go to Bromsgrove District Council instead.

As mentioned above hundreds of junior players in Bromsgrove will benefit from this plan, however, if BDC insist on the rent being paid then the plan will not be able to move ahead!

I was bringing all this to the next group meeting on 19 February to give a briefing on what was happening and the benefit it would have for the town and residents. I did talk with Tessa about what I was doing a week ago.

I have arranged for the first meeting of the Management Group to take place on 20 February, I specifically wanted the meeting to take place after our group meeting so I could take back any suggestions.

I will have to inform the management group at the meeting on the 20 February of the current position and ask them not to progress the plan any further because of the proposal to stop granting Bromsgrove Rovers the ground rent.

I fully understand the problems with the budget but to pull the plug on Bromsgrove Rovers at this current time would have a devastating effect not only for the club but on all the junior football players in the district and on the name of BDC.

Please review the above and if you have any further questions then I would only be top pleased to answer your questions.

Regards

Cllr Bill Newnes (Sidemoor)