

Hadleigh - Top of the table in Babergh Local Football Facilities Plan

Following publication of a report emanating from a national consultancy project sponsored by the Football Association, The Premier League and Sport England (on behalf of the Government), Hadleigh has been cited within the Babergh District Report as the area most in need of an all-weather Artificial grass Pitch. Full details of the report can be found here:

<https://localplans.footballfoundation.org.uk/local-authorities-index/babergh/babergh-executive-summary/>

Town Councillor and Chairman of Hadleigh United Football Club, Rolf Beggerow, said "This is great news for Hadleigh. The Babergh report follows a national and regional consulting exercise involving the Suffolk FA, numerous clubs and organisations involved in provision of football facilities and it has come at a good time following the Town Council's recent approval to publish their vision document for developing a 3G AGP at the Layham Road Sports Ground together with building a new sports pavilion that was damaged by fire and has been boarded up since June 2020."

You can view the Vision Document on the website together with an initial programme of use which can be updated to reflect any other clubs or expectations.

"Both reports recognise that in Hadleigh many of our local sports clubs have outgrown the facilities available to them and the prospect of developing an enclosed full size 3G All Weather floodlit facility at Layham Road Sports Ground is great news for our local sports clubs who provide such a great voluntary service to the local community.

It is also clear that the fact that Hadleigh scores as the highest priority in the area for a 3G Pitch in Babergh District does not in any way guarantee project approval and funding support. We will have to follow the normal funding bid processes for this size of project. We have a lot of work ahead of us but the prospects are looking good.

The Layham Road Sports Ground Working Group met recently to kick start the planning process and they will be producing plans for the Town Council to consider. Once we have some firm plans agreed we shall begin the process of seeking funding support from Babergh District Council and we will be reaching out to other organisations to complement the major funding we hope to secure from the Football Foundation and Rugby Football Union. Let's hope the COVID-19 situation does not hamper progress.

We welcome feedback from the Hadleigh Community at this stage and plan to initiate a full public consultation process in the coming months to once plans are more advanced."

Please email any comments to projects@hadleightowncouncil.gov.uk