

Daniel Woodhead – further information on his proposals

Daniel Woodhead runs an adult football club in Eaton Ford (Eaton Park Rangers) and they currently play at Priory Park. Currently they have one team and they are in Bedford Borough League Division 1A but he feels this is a bit too high and would like it changed. There are three committee members and 25 players. He doesn't get a signed agreement with them at the moment but he is happy to arrange this as he is aware that considerate driving and parking would be important.

He is interested in looking for his own home ground and asked whether the playing field in Duloe was available. The key reason he wants to move from Priory Park is that he wants to be able to socialise after the games and practices – the decking, tables and kitchen facilities would suit them well for now.

He would like to change the name of his club to Staploe and Duloe Football Club and make the playing field his home ground if it was a long term arrangement.

He has one team at the moment but aims to get to two teams in the next few years. If there was no scope to expand beyond two teams at Duloe then he would continue with up to 2 adult teams for 5-10 years but ultimately they would seek another ground so that he could expand and include children's football.

With one team there would be a match at Duloe every other Saturday in the season. With two teams there would be a match every Saturday in the season. There would be one training session per week of 1 – 2 hours normally either on Tuesday or Wednesday in July and August. The rest of the year they would train at Ernulf where there are lit pitches.

They would look to start playing in September 2021 as the facilities are not ready yet.

What he needs:

- Showers are essential but he thinks he could connect the two containers and turn the storage area into a changing room and convert changing room 1 into showers which would be accessible to both teams. He can raise the funds and volunteers to do this. See attached existing plan of the containers to see the current layout.
- Somewhere to meet and socialise after the games – he thinks the tables and decking will be fine for now. He would like to work with the Parish Council / Village Hall Committee in the future to raise funds for improved facilities and perhaps a bar. He has been able to access a lot of sponsorship funds.
- He may need to make some improvements to the field but he would arrange the funds for this.

I explained that everything needs to be decided by the Parish Council but what you are likely to want is:

- A small club – two teams are ideal. One or two matches at the weekend maximum.
- No play in June and July (not sure whether PC would want to accommodate practices in July and August as per Daniel's proposal)
- A contribution towards maintenance (to be determined by the PC) and payment for electricity and water used.
- Considerate parking and observation of speed limits in the village

Daniel is aware of the potential that there may be significant development in the parish – he had already seen Bedford Borough Council's Local Plan Review before he called me. Ultimately he would like to expand the club and work with the parish to improve the parking arrangements and extend the facilities if there was development infrastructure money available and he can raise sponsorship money as well so that the club could offer children's football and more teams. I explained that significant expansion is unlikely to be approved by the PC with the current facilities available and that we found a club of 5 teams in the past was really too big for the facilities available. He accepts this. However, he is hoping that if development does take place there would be funds available to make significant changes to the parking and access at the playing field and therefore he would be able to expand the club at some stage in the future. He knows the PC are not in favour of the large scale development in the parish as proposed in some of the Local Plan Review Options.