



Cardiff Draconians Football Club

Statement

Lydstep Park development and community access

Cardiff Draconians Football Club has been a long-standing resident of Lydstep Park since the 1960s, with many hundreds of people connected to the club and the wider community using the park throughout that time.

All previous developments at the park have been progressed through lease or licence arrangements, with the appropriate permissions sought from Cardiff Council.

The club is proud to be at the heart of the local community. In partnership with Cardiff Council, we have renewed our lease for a 30-year term, giving the club the opportunity to improve and develop facilities at Lydstep Park for the benefit of all users.

Our aim is to create safer, better-quality spaces for leisure, play, sport and community activity, while seeking the investment needed to support these improvements.

As part of the new lease arrangements, two pathways between the primary school and the medical centre have been closed. This was planned following consultation with Cardiff Council and its agencies, South Wales Police, and public discussion, with the intention of helping to address anti-social behaviour in that location.

Access to Lydstep Park remains available. The new lease does not include the play park or the green area surrounding it, and the lower pitch remains open for public access and use. The club retains preferential use of the lower pitch as a parks football venue for junior and parks football, as has been the case for many years.

Football remains at the core of Cardiff Draconians FC, but the club also recognises its responsibility to support the wider Gabalfa community. Over recent years, we have worked extensively with Cardiff Council on a long-term plan for Lydstep Park, including improvements to sports and community facilities, the play park and the surrounding area.

As part of the club's development plans, we have produced a five-year action plan, which has been shared publicly. This was followed by a community consultation and open day at the ground, which received overwhelming support.

The club has continued to grow significantly over the past year, developing football opportunities for all ages. This coming season, Cardiff Draconians FC will continue to strengthen at Tier 2 of Welsh football, placing the club among the top 48 clubs in Wales — an achievement we are proud of for both the club and the community.

We will also continue to grow junior football, providing opportunities for children and young people in the local community. The club currently operates 11 football teams successfully, and we continue to improve the lower parks football pitch to support this activity.

As part of our wider plans, the club is looking to develop a Community Fan Zone at Lydstep Park. This would provide the infrastructure needed to support matchday participation and would include toilets, an 80-square-metre community room, spectator concourse and wheelchair viewing area, using modular buildings.

We intend for these facilities to be available on non-matchdays for wider community use, including community gatherings, youth work, education and training opportunities, and health and wellbeing activities.

This development has followed extensive consultation with the community, Cardiff Council, South Wales Police and the Football Association of Wales. We will continue to build partnerships with organisations that can help support the local community.

Cardiff Draconians FC looks forward to continuing this exciting journey, in partnership with Cardiff Council, to create first-class facilities at Lydstep Park in the heart of the community.

ENDS

Media enquiries: Members of the local community who would like further information about this development should contact the Club's Community Development Director.