

Proposed 3G Football Turf Pitch – Torpoint Community College
Updated 27th June 2023

Local partners have been working to improve sporting facilities for Torpoint and the Rame Peninsula for many years, and there has been a strong desire to have a Multi Use Games Area type facility located in Torpoint to support local schools, clubs and other organisations.

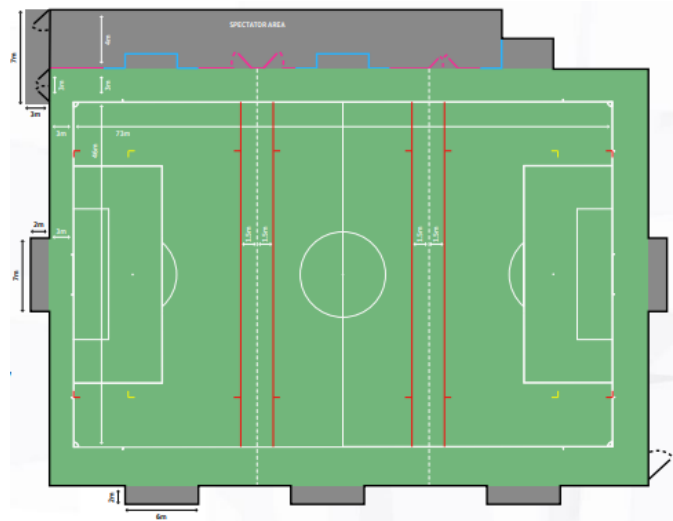
Following recent meetings with the Football Foundation, there is now a real opportunity to pursue the development of a 9v9 3G Football Turf Pitch (FTP) in Torpoint. This facility would be located on the sports field behind the YMCA Sports Centre for use by the College (and other local schools) during term time, and by the local community on evenings, weekends and during the holiday periods. This facility could be used year-round, irrespective of the weather, and should provide a welcome addition to the area. Provided the appropriate footwear is worn and manufacturer guidelines are followed, the facility can be used for a myriad of sports and activities.

As it is proposed the facility will be located on Torpoint Community College's grounds, the College is now taking the lead with this initiative. However, it is very much a collaborative project with a team comprising members from the Torpoint Town Council, Plymouth YMCA, Torpoint and Rame Active Community Network and Cornwall FA working towards achieving this very exciting goal. We will also be working with the local Football Clubs and Argyle Community Trust who will be key to the delivery of football and wider sporting outcomes and support.

Notwithstanding the work that has already been completed, it is important we continue to engage with the wider community to find out what type of sports and physical activities they would like, how this project could deliver activity that will benefit both individuals and the wider local community, and how it will impact the growth and retention of both affiliated and recreational football in the area.

Tackling inequalities and under-represented groups will also be a focus for the community engagement to help address any local inequalities that may exist. Local organisations and charities will be contacted to see if the project can support their delivery. Local Disability groups will be invited to voice their requirements.

A basic outline of the proposed 9v9 3G FTP is shown below:



The Football Foundation guidance states the facility would have a 73m x 46m main pitch size, and a site footprint of 84m x 58m. There will also be lighting so the facility can be used during agreed hours of darkness. More detailed plans will be published as the project progresses.

We are aware, based on feedback already received, local football clubs would ideally like to have a 11v11 3G FTP. However, the Football Foundation and Cornwall FA has recently met with these stakeholders to discuss why they would only support a funding bid for a 9v9 3G FTP in Torpoint, and to share the benefits and sustainability approach such a facility would bring to the local area.

This is an exciting time for Torpoint and Rame with a real opportunity and prospect to develop a fantastic facility for the area. An estimated £250K has already been provisionally secured from local stakeholders to help fund the pitch, with plans to raise additional funds from the wider local community to show its commitment to the project. There will be further community engagement over the coming weeks and months from the 'working group', and this input and feedback is critical to the application process and potential success in securing the required funding for the project.