

Welcome to our pre-season newsletter in which we wanted to take the opportunity to welcome you all back to the Moat Ground for what we hope will be our 110<sup>th</sup> and final season here. As a board of directors, we are all volunteers working hard in our free time to try and do our very best for our club. Many of us are supporters at heart and we are in a privileged position to act as custodians of the club on behalf of its most important asset which is indeed you our supporters. An important tenet we operate with is that every decision we try and make as a board, both now and in the future will be with the best interests of club at heart. With that in mind we make a commitment to always be as open and transparent as a board of directors with our supporters as possible. We will inevitably make mistakes along the way but ensure we learn from any that we do make in the spirit of continual improvement. We hope you find the information contained in this newsletter informative and useful and welcome any feedback you have on this or any other aspect of the club. As such feel free to stop any of us at any time or send us an email via our [info@gresleyrovers.com](mailto:info@gresleyrovers.com) email address. **Gary Norton, Chairman, Gresley Rovers FC**



## Next Fans Forum Date Set

As we near the kick off to the new league season I'm sure you are all keen to hear from the gaffer on his plans and hopes for the season ahead. You can ask him yourself by coming along to our next scheduled fans forum which is being held in Harrys Bar on **Thur 4th Aug, 7.15pm** start. In the usual format for these meetings you will firstly have the opportunity to hear from members of the board on things behind the scenes. You will have the opportunity to ask questions about anything you like from things from plans for the new ground, sponsorship, supporters club updates and many more topics of your choice. Following a short break, Abbo and some of his staff /players will also be available to answer any questions you might have on the playing side of the club. These evenings are normally very informative and open sessions so feel free to come along, get involved and ask any questions you might have ahead of the season kicking off.

## BE PART OF THE SQUAD!!

To celebrate our return to Step 4 and the Northern Premier league the club would like to offer our volunteers and supporters the opportunity to become **"part of the squad"** by having your very own personalised first squad team photo taken ahead of the new season. As such you are all invited to an open training session at the Moat on **Thurs 11<sup>th</sup> August** which will start with the official club and first team squad photoshoot. Once all the club's official photos have been taken you will then have the opportunity to sit centre stage between the manager and chairman and have your very own photo taken with the squad. If you want to take this opportunity please ensure you are at the Moat ground for **7.15pm** on the above date. Once the official and supporters team photos are complete feel free to grab a drink from Harrys bar and watch the lads train in what will be their last training session before the new league season.

## SPUCING UP THE OLD LADY ONE LAST TIME (HOPEFULLY)

During the summer weeks we took the decision to give the Moat Ground one last spruce up ahead of the coming season. Through a combination of our amazing band of hard working volunteer ground staff, board members and lots of supporters coming up to help during some volunteer days everyone has done an amazing job of giving the place a much needed tidy up ahead of the new season and you can certainly see the difference this has made. Hundreds of volunteer hours have gone into this work in recent



Some of our amazing volunteer ground staff pose for a picture

## Gaffer looks ahead

I am very excited ahead of the new season and looking forward to the challenges ahead of us as we look to re-establish the club back in the Northern Premier League / Step 4. We have managed to retain most of our key players from last season's promotion winning team and have added (or are in the process of adding) some other key parts of the jigsaw to the squad to ensure we have a squad ready to compete back at this level. The lads have been working hard in training and the mood is positive and team spirit amongst the group is great. Im looking forward to seeing what questions our supporters have for me and the team at the upcoming fans forum meeting scheduled for 21<sup>st</sup> July so get your thinking caps on. Finally, I wanted to thank everyone for their brilliant support last season, both home and away and very much hope we see the same again this time round in what will be a tough and challenging season for us. **Abbo**



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weeks and we wish to place on record our huge thanks to everyone who spent their free time helping with the 60+ tasks we identified as needing doing when the board took a walk around the ground with our volunteer ground staff. A truly brilliant effort indeed from all involved. Thankyou all



Exterior wall post paint job.. and before!!

Supporters club Chairman Steve Shrive mucks in

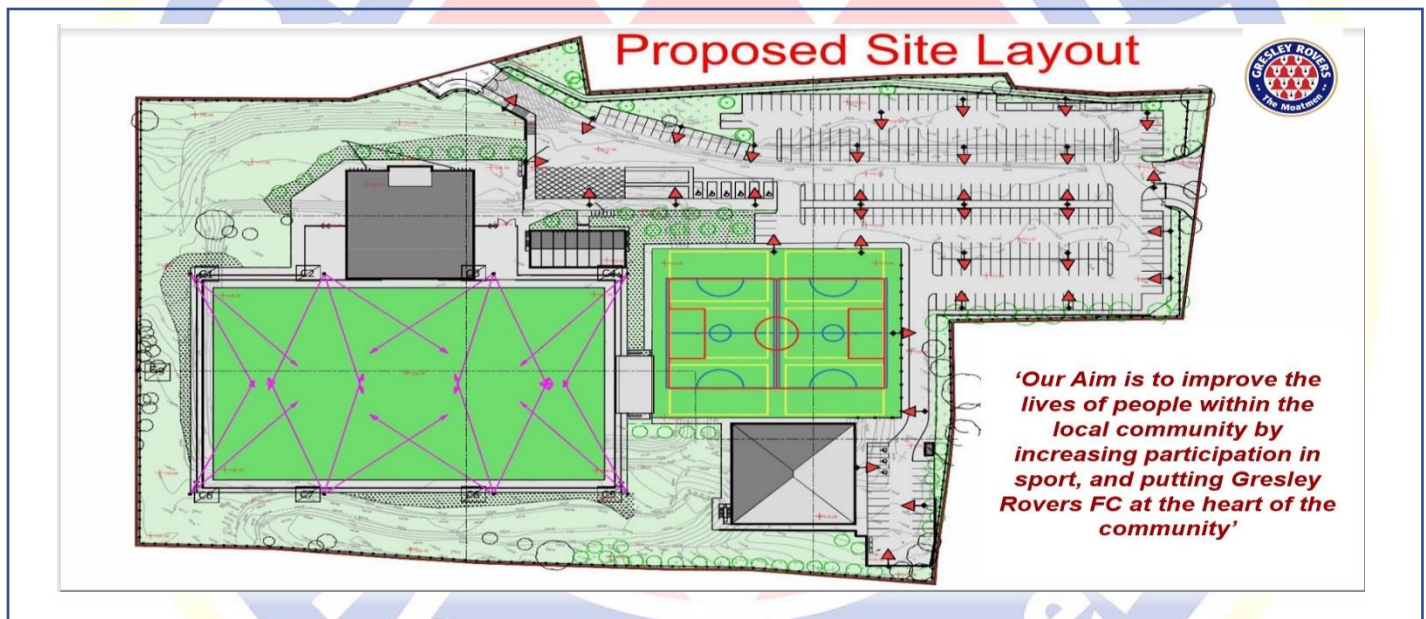


## New Ground Update

You may have already seen via our website or other social media outlets that we (via our amazing owner Pete Robinson) are now the legal owners of the piece of land that we have been trying to move to for a number of years now (situated on the border of Church Gresley & Albert Village). As a club we have been trying since as far back as 1991 to execute plans to move to a new stadium and for a whole host of reasons (many outside of our control as a club) we haven't managed to do this.

**We are now closer than ever** to finally fulfilling this long-term goal (dare we say dream for most connected with the club) as we await the long-awaited final planning permission decision in the coming weeks. In relation to that planning permission there is still a little work to do on ecology reports and other associated aspects related to that being achieved and as frustrating as things are in relation to this, we need to continue being patient until that final decision is announced.

With the planning permission still outstanding we are of course proceeding in the hope that we get the positive news we have been waiting for and as such plan this season to be our very last at the Moat Ground – our home since 1908. This stadium holds some great memories for the club over the last 110 years but even the most ardent of Gresley fans will agree that the ground is well past its best by some considerable way and we are long overdue a move to pastures new. The Moat Ground, despite some of its facilities being past their best is still seen by many non-league football supporters as a traditional and historic ground and as such we should celebrate that fact in our last season here. We are hoping that once formal planning permission on our new stadium is granted it will draw plenty of non-league diehards and ground hoppers from all over the country to our games during the course of the season to visit the Moat Ground one last time before it's knocked down and the hallowed turf on which its located is turned into new housing. **Fingers crossed for that planning permission!!**



## FUNDRAISER COMING UP

Keep an eye out for an upcoming fundraiser game (date TBC but aiming for a Sunday in September) in which we will be holding a **Gresley Rovers Legends** exhibition game involving many Ex Moat Ground stars of old to celebrate what will be our last season at our famous 110-year-old ground. Members of our historic Wembley squad of 1991 will be gracing the Moat ground turf one last time together with many ex-favourites from the last 20 years or so. In addition to the exhibition game there will be plenty more to do for the family on the day and details of the event will be released in the coming weeks. Proceeds from the event will be split 50/50 with the club and a local charity organisation. Keep an eye out for more details soon

## Northern Premier - Midland Division



Northern Premier League - Midlands



The club are very excited to be back at step 4 following our promotion last season and to once again be playing in the Northern Premier league (Midland division) Our new league is made up of many familiar teams we have come up against regularly in the past as well as the opportunity for us to travel to some new and interesting places. An interesting addition to the

NPL "Midland League" of course is Dereham Town which is located in Norfolk!! This will be our longest trip of the season (127 miles / 3hrs from the Moat), followed by Cambridge City (106 miles) and Spalding (75 miles) which are both estimated to take around two hours and then St Neots, Stamford and Corby. We will be looking to run coaches for these away games which supporters can book onto so keep an eye out for information on these from the supporter's club. For information, league fixtures for the season are due out later in July.