



## Hadley Disabled Sports Association secures £49,000 from sporting legacy fund

People of all ages in the Barnet area can look forward to decades of high-quality sport after Hadley Disabled Sports Association secured £49,000 of National Lottery investment from Sport England's Protecting Playing Fields fund.

It comes as even more local sports fields across the country are to be safeguarded and improved after Sport England announced a 50% boost to the Olympic and Paralympic legacy fund.

The £5 million increase, made possible by strong sales of National Lottery tickets, is in response to huge demand for the programme from sports clubs and other local groups.

Sport England Chair, Nick Bitel, said: "The popularity of this legacy fund shows just how important good local playing fields are to grassroots sport. I'm delighted that even more communities will now benefit thanks to this extra lottery funding. But Sport England's support for playing fields is about much more than money; every day our experts play a vital role in protecting sports provision through the planning system."

Hadley Disabled Sports Association will use the investment to improve drainage and the playing surface of the football pitch at their sports ground in Brickfield Lane, Arkley.

Project Manager, Steve Gray, said: "We are delighted to have secured this investment, which means we can upgrade the quality of our sports field to a much better standard. The football pitch often suffers from postponements during the winter months, so this will be a huge improvement for all who use our facilities."

Following a record number of bids, 76 projects across England have been successful in the fourth funding round and will share a total of £3.5 million. Over the four rounds, 727 pitches and nearly 2,600 acres across England have been protected and improved.

Minister for Sport, Hugh Robertson, said: "The Protecting Playing Fields fund is a key part of the legacy from London 2012 improving facilities up and down the country. Good pitches, that can be used all year round, are vital to sustain

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and encourage sports participation. This additional lottery investment will help increase opportunities for people to get involved in sport.”

The playing field will also be protected from developers for at least 25 years<sup>1</sup>, creating an enduring benefit for sport.

The next round of funding will open on the 10 June. Sport England will invest between £20,000 and £50,000 of lottery funding in projects that will create, improve and protect playing fields by:

- Bringing disused playing fields back into use
- Improving the condition of pitches (e.g. levelling, drainage, reseeding)
- Buying new playing field land (not less than 0.2 hectares)
- Buying existing playing field land where there is a known threat, such as the expiry of a lease or a development proposal.

To find out more and to apply for funding, visit our website.

## **ENDS**

### **Notes to Editors**

For more details about the project, please contact Steve Gray on 07905 446331.

For more information about Sport England, contact Natasha Quinn on 020 7273 1889.

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<sup>1</sup> Sport England will support community and voluntary groups and local authorities to protect all funded playing fields by placing a legal protection on the site for a minimum of 25 years.