

From: BTFC Chairman

Subject: Council COVID-19 fund

Date: 29 June 2020 at 15:59

To: Info Info@bingham-tc.gov.uk, Town Clerk TownClerk@bingham-tc.gov.uk

Cc: J Stockwood JStockwood@bingham-tc.gov.uk

BC

Good afternoon

Steve McRobie, Chairman of Bingham Town Sports Club, has made Bingham Town Football Club aware of the Bingham Town Council COVID-19 support fund.

I am writing to you as Chairman of Bingham Town FC to make an application for assistance/a grant from the COVID-19 fund.

The Football Club, like many organisations throughout the local and national area, has suffered a considerable financial impact from the lockdown caused by the coronavirus pandemic. Due to the lockdown, all football activity was forced to cease in the middle of March - matches were cancelled, the season ended prematurely and all training was suspended. We were unable to collect membership fees for April and May as we were very conscious that members would be unlikely to be comfortable with paying for something that they were not receiving. This created a hole in our finances of £7000 per month - £14,000 in total. On top of this we have been forced to cancel Bfest this year which is a major contributor to our finances - last year it benefited the club by a five figure sum. We also have ongoing costs of maintaining the pitches - seeding, fertilising, vertidrainage, cutting all of which is essential to ensure that when we do return to football, we have a surface to be able to play on. The football club is responsible for this work and we recharge the summer works to the cricket club which this year we have not done as they are also suffering through lack of matches.

We have restricted our part-time groundsman to doing the bare minimum in terms of maintaining the pitches but this is still costing us an average of £700 per month. We have been paying him since April from funds which are dwindling on a monthly basis. We are not anticipating football restarting until September at the earliest when we would traditionally start charging membership fees again. Obviously if the restart is delayed, this will have an ongoing impact on our club finances.

Whilst we are able to absorb some of the impact of this lost revenue using our reserves, the overall financial pressure on the club's reserves is significant and therefore we are looking for support from the Council fund by making an application for £3,500 to cover our ongoing ground maintenance cost from April through until August (5 months x £700 = £3,500).

This application is made on the basis that it is to and will be provided from the COVID-19 support fund and will not impact on nor diminish any other funds which are currently being held by the council that are ring fenced for the football club.

Please let me know if this is sufficient for your purposes or if you need a specific form filling in to formally apply.

Kind regards

Rob

Rob Harwood
CHAIRMAN - Bingham Town FC

