

Case Studies

Developing places – Baglan 3G pitch

Baglan field in Penyreglyn was chosen as a venue for a new 3G pitch due to its proximity to Treorchy Secondary School, Penyreglyn Primary School, and other primary schools in the Treorchy Cluster. It was felt that the new all-weather pitch would be a great benefit to the schools, as well as many community sports clubs. There was also a lack of quality football facilities in the area, which prohibited football clubs getting promoted to higher leagues. The council, along with funding from the Cymru Football Foundation in partnership with UK Government, spent just over £1 million developing the grass football pitch, which had no floodlights, into a floodlight league standard football pitch with three floodlit small-sided football pitches also in site. The introduction of a shock pad also meant that full contact rugby training could take place on the pitch. Baglan 3G delivers the last facility in the council's commitment to deliver a 3G within 3 miles of every resident and provides a community facility that can be used all year round.

The Baglan 3G pitch is used every day of the week by community sports clubs for training and matches. Clubs include Treorchy RFC, Baglan FC, Treherbert BGC, Boys and Girls Clubs of Wales, Treherbert RFC, Rhondda Schools Rugby, and Ynyshir Albions FC 2nds. Clubs have thrived from having a quality pitch to use, allowing them to deliver sport all year round, in any weather. The Senior, Youth, Junior, and Mini teams of Treherbert Boys and Girls Club, totalling over 200 members, use the pitch weekly for training and

matches. The club has seen an increase in their number of players across all age groups, helping them to establish their first ever girls' team. As well as players they have also had an influx of new volunteer coaches, which the club attribute to the attractive new facility.

The 3 small-sided pitches are used daily by Penyreglyn school, and they have preferential use until 5pm every weekday during term time. Children access the pitches during break times, PE lessons and after-school clubs. The school love having access to the facility and they have seen more children taking part in sport and physical activity as a result. Treorchy Comprehensive School use the pitch regularly for football matches, and several other local schools have utilised the pitch for cluster events, tournaments and festivals.

Following some antisocial behaviour at the site, the Council's Youth Engagement and Participation Service developed a project to attract 11-16 year olds. Consultation with local young people highlighted the need for a safe floodlit space where they could play sports, learn new skills, and meet with other young people. Most felt they weren't good enough to join a sports club and wanted the opportunity to play sport in an informal setting. Sessions take place every Tuesday evening, and they are well attended by an average of 45 young people. Sport RCT coaches deliver the sessions along with youth workers, and other agencies such as Barod have been invited to engage with the young people.



“The field has been massively beneficial for us. Our membership numbers have doubled, compared to recent years and our number of coaches has increased. I believe this is due to them wanting to use this facility. Recruiting more coaches was essential to allow us to get more teams running and get more members into the club. Our senior team has been very successful in recent years, but unfortunately there was no facility in our immediate area that met the FAW criteria. Now with this facility we have been able to start playing again in our community and have a field we can call home.” – Coach, Treherbert BGC

“The pupils absolutely love using the facilities at break times. They pelt out of the classroom and can't wait to get on the field. The children love the feel and comfort of the pitch itself, I've seen more cartwheels and round offs this last month than in 14 years of teaching. Two of our pupils who require support with walking have been able to take part with their classmates due to accessibility being so good.” – Teacher, Penyreglyn Primary

“Since coming here to play football I go to more activities with YEPS, like youth club on a Wednesday. Amy has commented how my behaviour has improved in school.” – YEPS participant