



# ELGIN CITY FOOTBALL CLUB LTD.

BOROUGH BRIGGS - ELGIN - MORAY IV30 1AP TEL : 01343 551114 FAX : 01343 547921

Educational Services  
The Moray Council  
High Street  
Elgin  
Moray  
IV30 1BX

13 Jun 07

## SYNTHETIC SURFACE FOOTBALL PITCH LESSER BOROUGH BRIGGS

### References:

- A. ECFC letter dated 13 February 2007.
- B. Natural Grass and Synthetic Turf Pitches Strategy 2007-2012 dated 7 Jun 07.

At Reference A I asked if the land to the east of Elgin City's Stadium could be made available for a synthetic surface pitch. I have had no written confirmation following my correspondence but I believe the proposal was not acceptable due to it conflicting with, and possibly delaying, the Elgin Flood Alleviation Plan (FLAP). I would like to offer an amended plan for your perusal to see if it will allow ECFC to progress with the installation of a synthetic surface pitch at Lesser Borough Briggs (LBB).

The Board of Directors of Elgin City FC are willing to offer 15.5 m of land at the eastern extremity of the stadium bordering LBB and remove the current toilet facility at that end of the ground. This would give the extra space required to accommodate a pitch meeting FIFA requirements and not conflict with or delay the progress of the FLAP.

I have included a drawing, Enclosure 1, detailing my proposal. This new proposal shows that the eastern boundary is now clear of the bunding but it would require the removal of the trees alongside Borough Briggs Road. However, I would be prepared to replace those trees on a 2 for 1 basis in an area of your choice. I also draw your attention to the cross-hatched area on the drawing which would be of the same synthetic turf material. This would provide an area suitable for children's small-sided games, training drills and specialist goalkeeping coaching. If there is any problem with the size of the area requested please do not discard the plan as it possible to carry out minor alterations to the dimensions and keep it within the FLAP.

I am aware that the land in the area requires to be raised to the north and sloped at 1 in 60 towards Borough Briggs Road. This is an acceptable gradient for a pitch and would not cause a problem. Moreover, we are also aware that the area within the stadium directly behind the goals to the east is slightly contaminated and we would be prepared to meet the expense of clearing that area if necessary.

I also include Enclosure 2, a statement from MSP's, detailing the provision of sporting facilities within Scotland. I would suggest that the proposal in this letter outlines the type of facility identified within the article. These facilities do not exist in Moray and would be hugely beneficial to the local community. I also bring Reference B to your attention. This is a consultation document

produced by your own staff. If more evidence is required I enclose the response to your document, Enclosure 3, from the SFA Regional Manager.

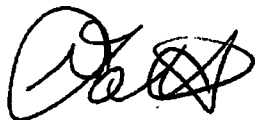
There is still no decision on the schools project therefore it could be delayed beyond 2012. The need for a synthetic pitch has been identified and is required now or a generation of children will miss out on its availability.

Through the kind donation of a benefactor the opportunity is there for Moray Council to make this facility available to the community within months. Please grasp the nettle and make the land at LBB available and let this project proceed.

Should you require further information please do not hesitate to contact me I am available during working hours on 01309 691506 or my home number 01343 545294.

Thank you in anticipation.

Yours truly



G TATTERS  
Technical Director  
Elgin City Football Club

Enclosures:

1. Lesser Borough Briggs Drawing.
2. MSP Statement (2 pages)
3. SFA Regional Manager Statement dated 12 Jun 07 (e-mail).

Copied to

Angus Robertson MP

Richard Lohead MSP

The Convener MDC

Councillors:

A Bisset

Michael Shand

Anita Dawn McDonald

John Andrew Divers

Douglas Gordon Ross

Graham Leadbitter

Barry Jarvis

Jeff Hamilton

John Grant Russel

D Gowans (FLA)

# ENCLOSURE 1 LESSEE BOROUGH BRIGGS

963414/0031 DO NOT SCALE



PROJECT NO. 963414/0031  
 DRAWN BY: [Name]  
 CHECKED BY: [Name]  
 DATE: [Date]

**BBC SPORT**

ENCLOSURE 2-1

## Youth & facilities are key - MSPs

**Politicians who investigated the state of football in Scotland believe there is a consensus about the way forward for a revival of the nation's fortunes.**

The Scottish Executive and the Scottish FA have told a Scottish parliamentary committee that a youth action plan and regional sports facilities are key.

But a proposed pyramid structure to allow smaller clubs promotion to the senior game is on hold.

Clubs rejected opening the Scottish Cup to junior clubs last season.

The idea of nationally-funded football academies has also been rejected and youth football will instead be developed through a series of regional football facilities.

Football must wait on a sportscotland audit, due in May, designed to help map the future for facilities available for all sports around the country before formulating its own next step.

**It's not so much the number of pitches as the quality of them**  
Kilmarnock striker Steven Naismith

But MSP Alex Neil is confident that the game can be revitalised and take Scotland's national team back among the top-ranked sides in the world.

"It was felt that an investigation was required to look at the future of football and, in particular, what the public sector could do to help the game both nationally and internationally," said the convenor of the enterprise and culture committee.

"I think our main concern was with the future of facilities.

"If you look at what's happened down south, for example, the Premiership in England is putting a lot of money into new facilities, match funded by the UK government.

"For us to stay up with the game, we have to invest heavily in new facilities.

"There is a general feeling that there's also a need for an improvement in the governance of the game, but that's for the football authorities to sort out."

The Scottish Parliament set up its inquiry 18 months ago as several Scottish football clubs plunged into financial crisis and the national team struggled in international competition.

It quickly focused on what should be done to develop youth football and increase the participation of fans and communities in their local clubs.

Both the Scottish Executive and SFA have also expressed support for women's football and the campaign against sectarianism.

## ENCLOSURE 2-2

And the SFA is already progressing its youth action plan.

Rangers striker Kris Boyd, who is nominated for the players' young player of the year award, welcomed any improvements that might result.

"We certainly need a few more facilities around the country to take us forward and help us challenge for European championships and Uefa Cups," he said.

"Rangers reached the last 16 of the Champions League this season, which was great.

"But there's still a big gulf between Celtic and Rangers and the top teams in Europe."

Former team-mate and fellow award candidate Steven NalSmith recalled the days of playing on red ash pitches.

"It's not so much the number of pitches as the quality of them," he said.

"Youth team games are often called off in the winter and there aren't many indoor facilities."

Story from BBC SPORT:

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/go/pr/fr/-/sport1/hi/football/teams/c/celtic/4923558.stm>

Published: 2006/04/19 17:21:01 GMT

© BBC MMVII

ENCLOSURE 3

SFA REGIONAL MANAGER

Graham Tatters

From: Graeme Sutherland [Graeme.Sutherland@scottishfa.co.uk]  
Sent: 12 June 2007 19:43  
To: Alan Gray; McGheeVeksil@aol.com; Brian Rae; Steve Blacklaw; Neil Blewett; dmt42@btconnect.com; moraytrophies@btconnect.com; david@campbell-mcconnachie.co.uk; John Ross; buckiethistiefc@highlandleague.com; forresmechanicsfc@highlandleague.com; keithfc@highlandleague.com; lossiemouthfc@highlandleague.com; rothesfc@highlandleague.com; Pete Buckley; John Cruickshank; young\_ten@hotmail.com; kime@ktme.fsnet.co.uk; John Cruickshank; Andy Campbell; wilmafrank@tesco.net; AJohnstone.7@tiscali.co.uk; thecameronbase@tiscali.co.uk; Martin Sutherland; nellcruickshanks@yahoo.co.uk  
Subject: Fwd: Consultation: Natural Grass and Synthetic Turf PitchesStrategy (2007-2012)



Natural Grass and  
Synthetic T...

Folks,

For your information, and I would encourage any feedback to be emailed to Robin and/or Kim at Moray Council.

The following elements to any facilities/pitches strategy I would suggest are particularly relevant for us all in the "football community":

- 1/ The quality (not only the amount) of grass pitches available - throughout the year.
- 2/ Availability of floodlight surface(s) to utilise throughout the year.
- 3/ The availability of full size 3g Astro facilities to allow both training and meaningful games to be played (as opposed to old style hockey sandbased surfaces).
- 4/ Provision and condition of changing and toilet facilities attached to pitches.
- 5/ Costs clubs and organisations incur for current actual or proposed new facilities.

Without sounding anti-hockey etc, when asked I have stressed to the point of boring people the importance of a next generation surface being laid as a floodlight facility as I feel this would build capacity within clubs, increase training frequency and allow games to be played. Whilst sympathetic to a more generic surface, and I understand there will be a need and provision provided, I felt compelled to push for the best option for football when in previous discussions with Moray Council.

Obviously there will be more "issues" that may be worth a mention, and if you feel its relevant then raise it with our friendly council employees!

Thanks

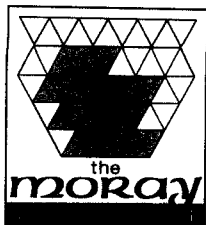
Graeme

Graeme Sutherland  
SFA Regional Manager (North)

Mobile: 07809551983  
Office: 01343 540101  
[http://www.footballcentral.org/sfa/north/north\\_home.cfm](http://www.footballcentral.org/sfa/north/north_home.cfm)

Regional Mailing Address: Elgin Community Centre, Trinity Road, Elgin, Moray, IV30 4LZ.

Scottish Football Association Limited  
Company Number SC5453  
Hampden Park, Glasgow G42 9AY.



**David A Gowans**  
*Consultancy Manager*

Direct Services  
The Moray Council,  
Moray Flood Alleviation, The Wards, Elgin, IV30 6AA

Tel : (01343) 551593 Fax : (01343) 556648

Website: [www.moray.gov.uk](http://www.moray.gov.uk)

Contact: Dave Gowans Direct Dial: (01343) 559058

Our Ref: DAG/FLD/E-02-03-01

E-mail: [dave.gowans@moray.gov.uk](mailto:dave.gowans@moray.gov.uk)

26 June 2007

Elgin City Football Club Ltd  
Borough Briggs  
Elgin  
IV30 1AP

Dear Graham

### **ELGIN FLOOD ALLEVIATION SCHEME**

Thank you for your letter dated 13 June 2007.

When the Council's Educational Services Committee on 4 April 2007 considered this matter, I attended and advised that your proposals were in conflict with the Elgin Flood Alleviation Scheme (FAS) and could lead to delay of that scheme if accepted by the Council.

Since then you have amended your proposals so that the pitch is moved westwards utilising some land within your stadium. From the plan you enclosed I can comment only to limited extent as follows: -

1. The football pitch area looks as if it might be achievable alongside the FAS. However I cannot say that categorically without your more detailed plans and cross sections.
2. The area shown hatched, to the north of the proposed all weather pitch, may be more problematic and unlikely to be achievable as shown. Once you have more detailed plans and cross-sections I will be able to comment in more detail.



**Page 2**

**Elgin City Football Club Ltd**

**26 June 2007**

---

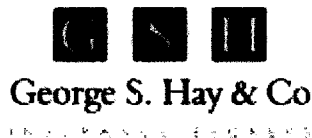
In conclusion I cannot go as far as recommending your proposal as acceptable in relation to the FAS, but I can say that it could be developed in a way that would be acceptable. It would be a matter for Elgin City FC to decide whether to progress the proposal and in that event I would be able to offer assistance to you by providing details of the FAS and liaising with you so that any conflicts between proposals are managed appropriately.

Yours sincerely

**Dave Gowans**  
**CONSULTANCY MANAGER**



ISO 9001:2000  
FS 33734



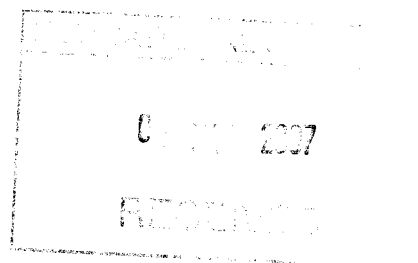
## **ELGIN CITY FOOTBALL CLUB LTD.**

BOROUGH BRIGGS - ELGIN - MORAY IV30 1AP TEL : 01343 551114 FAX : 01343 547921

Robin Paterson  
Leisure and Healthy Living Project Officer  
Educational services  
The Moray Council  
High Street  
Elgin  
IV30 1BX

7 Nov 07

Dear Robin



### **ELGIN CITY FOOTBALL CLUB SYNTHETIC TURF PITCH PROPOSAL**

At Reference RP/ECFCSTP2 you identified information you require for submission to the Committee. I am now in a position to supply some of the information requested.

The hours allocated for use by the wider community during the school term:

- 0800 - 1700 Monday to Friday.
- 0800 - 1300 Saturday
- 0800 - 1100 Sunday

The figures quoted above would be negotiable to accommodate Schools Cup Finals and trial games sponsored by the Scottish Schools FA. I am aware that the facility would also be required by the SFA Development Officer for coach education at all levels of soccer within the community.

Outside the term periods, hours would be negotiated around the Elgin City FC Community coaching requirements.

I would appreciate if you bring to the Committee's attention the following facts:

Elgin City FC provide coaching to 215 youths ranging in ages from 8 to 19 with only 1 travelling from outside the local area.

With regards to the cost of the project we have a formal estimate of £420,000 for the project, of which we have just over half. I have had informal discussions with our bankers and they are willing to provide a loan for the outstanding amount. However, that is a last resort as we are

pursuing further investment from individuals and considering a share issue in an effort to secure funding.

To ensure the design does not conflict with the FAS Mr Colin Keir of Plans Plus is drawing a plan of the area which will include a cross section. The drawing will be submitted to the FAS for consultation with Mr Keir and Mr Gowans, to ensure it meets the requirements of the FAS, prior to seeking planning permission. I will keep you appraised of the situation as it develops.

If you require any further information please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'G. Tatters', written in a cursive style.

**Graham Tatters**  
**Acting Chairman**  
**Director of Football**

**REGISTERED OFFICE: BOROUGH BRIGGS ELGIN IV30 1AP**  
**REGISTERED IN SCOTLAND No. 207126**

**EMAIL : [accountsecfc@btconnect.com](mailto:accountsecfc@btconnect.com)**