

FACILITIES

About the club:

- Pontardawe Town FC
- Located Pontardawe, West Wales
- FAW Platinum Accredited Club
- 34 teams from Under 6s through to Seniors for both males and females



What did the club do?

Pontardawe Recreation Ground was previously managed by the council, but they were unable to maintain the facility. As a result, the management was taken on by The Pontardawe Sports and Community Recreation Association a registered Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) made of up individuals / trustees from the local rugby, cricket and football club.

The sports association then needed to decide who was best positioned to maintain the 4 senior pitches, 3 junior pitches plus 2 full size rugby pitches.

Pontardawe Town FC proposed a maintenance plan which would see them lead on the maintenance of all pitches and in return the club did not need pay pitch hire permits for games and training.

The agreement has enabled the member clubs of the Association continued access to the sporting facilities at the site but also aims to ensure the recreation ground can continue to be enjoyed by the community whilst broadening its use to other users.

With a little bit of creativity and the time given up by our incredible volunteers, we now have some fantastic pitches. Of course, it remains hard work but by maintaining the pitches ourselves it has allowed us to continue to support the local community and the local sports clubs which is why we continue to do it.

- Bob Woolford, Junior Section

How did the club do this?

The club completed appropriate reviews and risks on what the maintenance plan could look like and then proposed solutions to the association for their consideration.

A clear seasonal maintenance plan was developed to ensure cutting, preparing and marking all pitches occurred on a weekly basis.

They then raised significant funds to purchase the correct machinery and maintenance items. The funds were raised through fundraising and grant applications which allowed the club to purchase a tractor, cutter and all line marking machines.

Many volunteers were recruited and provided with training on pitch maintenance and the use of the different machinery.

Throughout the whole process communication has been key. From the change in management of the facilities from the council to the association, to raising awareness of the voluntary work going on to maintain the pitch keeping the community and stakeholders in the know was key!

The club regularly review the progress and maintenance of the pitches and ensure that feedback is gathered from all sports club.