



## Stoke United Football Club Playing Field Update - November 2022

Firstly please accept our apologies for absence at the playing field meeting. Throughout the football season, our teams train every night of the week apart from Mondays and we do fully understand that you cannot work the meeting dates around our club diary.

An update from the club:

This season we are approaching 300 players registered for the club spread over more than 20 teams ranging from our Mini Kickers (4 years old) right up to our Veterans Team (35 Years old and over).

As you'll be aware we're unable to have Stoke Holy Cross playing field as the home to all of these teams but all of the foundation phase teams (4 years old up to 10 years old) play their matches at Stoke Holy Cross playing field which is a great local start for them.

We use other venues for the older age groups but these do tend to be wide spread including The Nest in Horsford, Colney playing fields, Easton College and more. The club is very open to local knowledge and ideas as to whether any land would be available for us to utilise for additional teams as we are very keen to reduce our club carbon foot print as well as travel cost for parents/guardians as the majority of players from Stoke Holy Cross and Poringland.

Playing Field Work:

Our long term pitch development plan continues to be in place as you will have seen with re-seeding, top dressing and fertilising all taking place over the Spring/Summer months. The result is a drastically improved playing field from the one that we knew prior to the programme being in place.

The pitch markings continue to be actioned by a professional contractor who uses a professional GPS system to have the pitches looking great.

The club continues to manage the playing load on the playing field, ensuring that pitches are not over played on and protected during poor weather conditions.

A big thank you from the club to go to Sandy Collins for her hard manual efforts in getting the pitches cut when there were issues with the contractors. This is above and beyond what the club expect and we are extremely grateful for the efforts to allow the young players of the club to be able to play.

If there is anything the Parish would like the club to be doing or any ideas which we can assist with, please do not hesitate to ask as we are more than happy to help and get involved.