



**Sutton United**

**SUNS**

*the Sutton United Newsletter for Sustainability*

**Issue Three**

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## **ENVIRONMENT**

Our 2022/3 CSR Report has been sitting with our online publishers for some weeks, but they have entered “silent” mode and so we maybe need to assume that they have decided not to progress this project, Instead we are working on another version to be self-published, as in previous years.

### **Assessment**

In the EFL’s Green Code scheme we took our initial score of 47 to a self-assessed 77, this qualified us for the 3<sup>rd</sup>-party audit and that is now complete. We have just received the outcome and our independently audited score is **76**, so we have achieved accreditation with no margin of error ! To date, only 3 EFL clubs have been successfully accredited so this is a significant achievement. In the very similar Green Mark scheme introduced by Sutton Council we were delighted to receive a score of 100%, which also means that we qualified for a 70% business rates rebate.

### **Initiatives**

We continue to circulate posters as part of our Energy Efficiency campaign. Poster 4 has now been circulated and a copy is on display on the club noticeboard.

We are now on our new ‘green’ tariff for our main electricity supply, although we had misunderstood our broker. It is not a certified zero carbon tariff but is a green tariff, with emissions approximately 57% below the standard DEFRA conversion factor for Grid electricity.

Our new manager’s new car is an EV and the kit van has been switched to a hybrid vehicle, with the intention of going fully electric once some EV charging points have been installed.

We are intending to run a matchday “bring your own cup” scheme next season, with a discount on tea and coffee for anyone who brings their own reusable cup rather than have one of the standard disposable ones. This will be sponsored, so no cost to the club or caterers. Following any groundworks this summer, we have also been offered some raised beds, which enhance local biodiversity and we plan to use these as herb gardens so that the produce can be used in our kitchens.

## **SOCIAL VALUE**

Our Her Game Too Ambassador Sarah has successfully applied for a special quiet zone pod, which will be supplied free of charge. This is aimed at spectators who might be distressed by noise or large crowds, for example those with a neurodiverse condition such as autism.

As part of the EFL’s partnership with Kellogg’s, we plan to deliver a Kellogg’s Football Camp this summer at Aberdour School, with the sponsor’s covering 30,000 places nationwide.

Our Foundation has been awarded a £10,000 grant by the Sky Bet EFL Building Foundations Fund towards the building of a safe play area at the Collingwood Road end of the stadium. This will be part of a drive to encourage a more diverse crowdbase and offer women & girls, adults with disabilities and members of the LGBTQ+ community a safe space to socialise and play before matches. The Foundation has also received £25k

from the Premier League Fans' Fund to encourage more diverse support at home games and we are increasing the hours of our Community Coach in order to facilitate this over the next 12 months

When we welcomed Barrow as our visitors we also hosted a number of volunteers that work in our Foundation programmes across the borough, highlighting our walking football and disability initiatives. 35 students from Carew Manor school, and their families, were our guests that day alongside around forty girls and parents from three other local schools. In January we welcomed 61 children from the Leo Academy for a "Maths Day", the aim being to involve pupils in maths exercises and how that can relate to football. The hope being that it would help the children to understand that maths is not boring and can be very useful. This followed on from an earlier literacy project.

We were delighted that our Foundation was recognised at the 2024 London Football Awards when our Pan-Disability Football project won the Community Project Of The Year award.

In February we welcomed participants in the MAN v FAT weight loss through football programme to our game at home to Colchester. They play every Friday at the Sutton Goals Centre.

We have a launched a partnership with the world famous Kings College, part of the University of London, supporting their students to develop employability skills and enhance the programme of work opportunities available to their students. The first initiative was a project with students preparing a study on sustainability in football, and we collaborated with them over a period of six weeks and their final report was circulated to our Board of Directors.

Back in March, against Accrington Stanley, the club launched a special, aubergine coloured shirt, with £3 from the sale of each shirt being donated to the charity. For those that don't know, The Royal Marsden NHS Foundation Trust is a world-leading cancer centre. Donations to the Charity help to provide the best possible treatment and care for patients at the hospital, aiding the development of new treatments that can help cancer patients around the world. The sale of this special aubergine kit raised a little over £1800 for the Royal Marsden Hospital.

And finally, Craig Dundas was recently awarded a PFA Community Champions Award for the work he has done with the club within our local community.

*Dave Farebrother CEnv*

**Sustainability Lead**