

# PFLF

PLAYING FIELDS LEGACY FUND



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Over the last twenty years the loss of nearly a third of the UK's community playing fields has left whole cities, towns and villages with a lack of facilities that would otherwise allow for people of every age, and those who are on low income or unemployed, to engage in sport. Many of the 20,000 community playing fields that are left have fallen into disrepair, are not properly maintained, or are under-used, owing to the lack of money available to the voluntary groups and clubs nationwide that manage them, all of which are desperately struggling to keep going.

We run The Playing Fields Legacy Fund charity which gives grants to playing fields and sports clubs across the country, concentrating on the most deprived areas. We firmly believe that playing fields and sports clubs are extremely important to the major cities so that all children, young people and adults alike can be encouraged to engage in games and sport. These facilities not only help to promote a healthier lifestyle, but they also serve as a focal point to build community and team spirit and engender personal pride, tolerance and appreciation of the local environment.

There is no need for me to stress how playing sport can help people with regard to health and giving the young a real challenge in life.

We are currently in the process of setting up a Playing Field Association for a major city which will employ a full time manager whose salary we will pay and whose principal role will be to advise and support playing fields and clubs in that city. Ultimately, we aim to set up further Playing Field Associations for city's across the country.

In addition, we have set up an on-line Newsletter which is already available to a large number of city councils, sports clubs and school sports, and we are working to increase the number of recipients. This on-line version replaces the old printed one, but is now going to a very much larger audience. This newsletter provides access to resources including up-to-date technical and legislative information, regional news, fundraising advice and access to training and also facilitates networking so that sports clubs can share experiences and support each other. The website is called The Playing Field [www.theplayingfield.org.uk](http://www.theplayingfield.org.uk) and the newsletter can be accessed via this link.

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