

Sustainability Inaugural meeting - 25th October 2023 2pm to 3pm – representatives from the Fan Advisory Board and BHAFC

Attendees

BHAFC – Thomas Harris, Sarah Gould, Jenny Gower

FAB - Clive Steed, Jo Davis

Location: Teams Meeting

Welcome and Introductions

Tom Harris introduced himself as he only joined the club around 4 months ago as the Sustainability Manager and will be working on ensuring the Club is as sustainable a football club as we can be.

Presentation

Tom gave a slide presentation giving an overview of the impact on climate change within sports and how sport in general is responding. BHAFC had already started on improvements both at the Amex and at the training ground: solar panels at the academy, change to LED lighting, efficient use of heating & ventilation and reusing ground water to reduce water consumption. All these being compliant with the relevant governing bodies.

Tom listed examples of progress to date:

80% of fans travel to home games via sustainable transport options such as subsidised free public transport including the park & ride and coach travel schemes.

Reduction of physical season tickets from 24,000 to 1,200

Recycling schemes batteries, IT equipment, etc

Recycling bins in all offices and public spaces

Recyclable/Biodegradable plastic cups

Home and away kits made from recycled polyester

Option to plant 5 trees instead of a membership pack – 17,250 trees to be planted

“On the Ball” campaign providing plastic free sanitary products

Supporting diversity through our Equality, Diversity & Inclusion (EDI) programme

The BHS Foundation has supported 80,000 participants through their work in the community

The Foundation, along with American Express, delivered the Premier League Inspires programme which works with Sussex students to be more aware of environmental issues

Next Steps

Fan consultation to find out what matters to them

Working with Suppliers and Club partners to identify opportunities for sustainability

Calculating the Clubs carbon footprint, including electricity, Gas, Staff Travel, Fan Travel (one of the largest omissions)

FAB and sustainability

Talking with fans and gaining feedback and ideas

Feedback and ideas from other Clubs

Promoting sustainability events

FAB sustainability workshop

Fans perspective on other projects: Pledgeball, Liftshare, Green Football Weekend

The Club also recognise that there are quite a few projects which could be fan led

The meeting closed at 3pm with a view for a working party to be created in the future.