

## Hooper's Field

There has been a considerable amount of postings on facebook in relation to Parish Council's decision to allow another team to start using Hooper's Field for the coming season and I would like to clarify a few points:-

Parish Council have always supported Wanborough JFC and confirm that they will always continue to do so.

For the coming season Wanborough JFC will have four teams using Hooper's Field 1 x U15's, 2 x U16's and 1 x U18's, this has increased from three using the facility last season. In addition to all the matches they will play at Hooper's Field (expected in the region of 44 league games for all four teams) they will also train at Hooper's Field on a Saturday morning and on Monday evening (until there isn't enough light). For all four teams Parish Council charge £563 for the whole season, (they cover the cost of line marking themselves but this is the same for all teams using Hooper's) this is only an increase of £100 from last season. In addition to this Parish Council allow Wanborough JFC to use Lower Recreation Field and Church Meadow for both matches and training free of charge (again they cover the cost of line marking themselves). I hope residents can see what a great value for money they are getting for the use of all the facilities around the village.

Parish Council were approached by another team asking if they can use Hooper's Field, a new Saturday football team from Priory Vale. Parish Council had also been notified by Wanborough adult team that they were due to fold and therefore leaving a reduction in income for Hooper's Field and also a potential vacancy. As the new team play on a Saturday afternoon this fitted in around Wanborough JFC's matches and training. Parish Council therefore felt it was a team that could be considered and was discussed at the Hooper's Field committee meeting. Parish Council did offer the opportunity to allow Wanborough JFC to make up the difference of the shortfall in income from the Wanborough adult team, however due to a tight timescale, slight miscommunication and a not very positive initial response, Parish Council decided to offer the new team the use of Hooper's Field for the coming season at a cost of £600.

I realise that Wanborough JFC Chairperson is not happy with this decision, however this new team will not interfere with any of Wanborough JFC's usage at Hooper's Field, they will play on a Saturday afternoon when the juniors do not use the facility. Wanborough JFC will have full use of the facility on a Sunday giving them more flexibility on when to play their matches. I also confirm that this is also not the first time a team from outside the village has used the facility, in order to bring in as much income as possible to the facility Parish Council have hired out to football teams outside the village in the past. As Priory Vale are a new football team there is also the potential for any players from the village or from the Wanborough adult team that folded to play for this team and this is currently being discussed with the team manager. Also please remember that just because you have the name Wanborough as your team name doesn't mean that all the players are from Wanborough which is the same for any sports team.

If you have any questions please e-mail me, [wanboroughpc@btinternet.com](mailto:wanboroughpc@btinternet.com) - Clerk