

Working together helps build new clubhouse

Woodmansterne Sports Club could soon be putting girls' football on the map, thanks to their partnership with the council.

Together, we made a successful joint bid to the Football Foundation for money to build the recently-opened clubhouse, with modern changing facilities for girls and boys. It has meant that, as well as continuing to develop its 11 junior boys' football teams and three adult teams, the club now has plans for the ladies.

Woodmansterne currently has one girls under-13s, but hopes to have three girls' teams and two ladies' teams by 2011.

"This new building has six changing rooms, each with showers, so will give us the opportunity to have more mixed sport, and the



Council's partnership with Woodmansterne Sports Club scores a goal for girls' football

disabled access will mean people with disabilities can come and enjoy the club too," said Phil Wells, chairman of Woodmansterne Sports Club.

And funding from the Football Foundation has meant that, instead of a £900,000 bill for the building of the clubhouse, the council has had to

pay £500,000.

Three years ago, Woodmansterne Sports Club took on the responsibility for maintaining its own playing fields and facilities. Instead of the council's groundsmen mowing the fields, the club has a team of volunteers who keep the grounds pristine.

"Our grounds are beautiful and people look forward to playing here, but until now, they didn't look forward to the showers afterwards," added Phil.

The current financial climate has meant the council is looking at new ways of working with the community to share the cost of improving and maintaining facilities. Woodmansterne Sports Club may be the first of its kind in the borough, but it is unlikely to be the last.