

# What a change!

Local sports teams can now enjoy new, high-quality changing room facilities at Sprowston Pavilion thanks to £105,000-worth of refurbishments.

The improvements, which were unveiled at an official opening on February 12, were made possible thanks to grants from the Premier League and The FA Facilities Fund, and the Veolia Environmental Trust.

The grants have enabled Sprowston Town Council to refurbish the two existing changing rooms and provide three additional changing rooms, with one dedicated to match officials, which will allow for multiple matches to take place on the Recreation Ground at any one time.

The town council worked in partnership with the Norfolk County FA to secure a £70,000 grant from the Premier League and The FA Facilities Fund, which is funded by the Premier League, The FA, and the Government, via Sport England and is delivered by the Football Foundation, the country's largest sports charity.

Since it was launched in 2000, the foundation has awarded around 14,000 grants worth more than £540m towards improving grassroots sport, which it has used to attract additional partnership funding of more than £777m – over £1.3bn of investment into the grassroots game.

By providing more high-quality facilities, coupled with coaching at the appropriate age group, the Premier League and The FA Facilities Fund aims to improve the experience for regular players as well as attracting new players to the game.

The Veolia Environmental Trust also awarded £35,000 towards the project



**GRAND OPENING:** New changing facilities at Sprowston Pavilion were officially opened by Sprowston Town Council chairman Ian Moncur, pictured above with Broadland District Council chairman Ken Leggett (right) and vice chairman John Ward; also with chairman of Norfolk FA Michael Banham (left) and John Brown from the Veolia Environmental Trust.

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through the Landfill Communities Fund (LCF).

The trust was set up in 1997 and since then Veolia has supported it by contributions of more than £65 million to 2,003 projects.

The trust has helped fund a diverse range of projects, including the repair of woodland footpaths, the renovation of community halls and the installation of playgrounds and play areas.

Sprowston Town Council chairman Ian Moncur said: "Bringing more sports facilities to Sprowston has been a long aim of mine and having grown up locally I am particularly aware of the need for these additional amenities."

Paul Thorogood, chief executive of the Football Foundation, said: "I am delighted that a grant from the Premier League and The FA Facilities Fund has enabled Sprowston Town Council to upgrade the Sprowston Pavilion. This development will provide a real boost to sport in the local area."

The executive director of the Veolia Environmental Trust, Paul Taylor, added: "Since 2002 we have awarded a total of over £932,000 to 32 projects in Norfolk. It is great to hear that this new facility will be opened in February. The project is an excellent example of how the trust and the LCF can help support sport at a grassroots level."

## History group turn their eyes to the sky



**INNOVATION:** Boulton & Paul Sidstrand aeroplane flying over Salhouse Road Works.

The January meeting of the Sprowston History Group was a wide ranging lecture on Aviation in Norfolk by Stephen Pope.

Stephen had pursued a career in the RAF, but the story of aviation within the county began way before any personal involvement, starting as it did with balloon flights in the mid-1800s.

On one of these flights in a hydrogen-filled balloon which was tethered to a steam engine, a photographer went up and took the first aerial photograph of the city.

Things moved on apace and Norwich became quite a centre for innovation in early aviation. Two local firms,

Boulton & Paul and Mann Egerton's, were both involved during the First World War and the former continued after the conflict with both aircraft and providing materials and components for airships.

Unfortunately, aircraft production moved to Wolverhampton, but the Second World War had left a legacy of airfields in Norfolk. By a quirk of fate, Bernard Matthews found these an ideal place to stand his turkey sheds, hence many of the runways still exist.

With the closure of Coltishall, Marham is now our only remaining airfield, although RAF St Faiths is still very much in being as Norwich Airport.