OFFICIAL CLUB STATEMENT (AMENDED) - TOOTING TRIANGLE

Balham FC has been involved in the Tooting Triangle Development for a long time, however:

1. We are **not** the developer.
2. We are **not** putting any money into the actual development of the site not have we 'brokered a deal'
3. The planned development is **not** for the exclusive use by any 'semi-pro club' or Balham FC

This development has a lot of very exciting potential for the local community. It will open up the space to allow a diverse range of activities to take place safely for the benefit of young, old and future generations.

Our club, like many others, has spoken to the operator about the use of it at an agreed time on two nights a week and for a couple of hours on a weekend, when we hope to run a free-to-access Community Football School for infants and young children.

For most of the week though the facility would be available for other local youth multi-sport clubs and in the daytime for schools.

We would not be using it for the senior level part of our club (Under 18 upwards), only for our junior age groups.

Our club started back in 2001 with one Under 10 team. We now have 20 teams, 16 of which are junior sides. They start at Under 8 and go through to Under 18. Our main training venue has always been Chestnut Grove School, who partnered with our club to obtain a Football Foundation Grant to get a pitch laid by Boundaries Road. We still use the school, as do other local youth football clubs, but we only have limited usage and as a result train at many other local floodlit venues.

We are not a 'semi-pro' club. Our 1st team's hard work, dedication, and resulting success has meant we have risen through the leagues to play at semi-pro level, in The FA Cup etc, but we do not pay any of our players. Most of them have come through our age group system and are a testament to our commitment to player progression from junior to adult football within our club.

Naturally, the Tooting Triangle development would be of great benefit to our club, as well as many others, but it is not and has never been planned as a base for Balham FC. We hope it will be a multi-sports site in the local community that will benefit many groups.

Finally, crucially, as a local club we would not support this development if we felt it was a land grab. The plan sticks within the existing footprint and is to improve the existing buildings and floodlit pitch, that has fallen into a state of disrepair, so it can be used by the local community of Balham and Tooting. It is currently unsafe for any organised sport to be played on it.

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