



MEDIA RELEASE

CHESTERFIELD PANTHERS RUFC SECURES £50,000 FROM SPORTING LEGACY FUND

Under strict embargo until 00:01, 17 July 2012

Chesterfield Panthers, the town's only rugby union club, has secured Olympic legacy funding from Sport England's **Inspired Facilities** Fund. The funding, which was confirmed last week, will allow the club to install match quality floodlighting to a full sized rugby pitch as well as providing lighting for a brand new £49,000 Multi Use Games Area and a grass training area which will see use both for rugby and football training.

The **Inspired Facilities** fund is part of the £135 million **Places People Play** legacy programme that is bringing the magic of a home Olympic and Paralympic Games into communities across the country. Every sports facility that receives funding will carry the London 2012 Inspire mark – celebrating the link to the Games.

The club, which was originally founded in 1919 at Blackwell, moved to their Sheffield Road site at Stonegravels in 1927 but the continuing success of the last three decades has seen them outgrow their old and now run down facilities. A move to bigger and better facilities at Dunston is now well underway and this will not only provide the premier rugby facility in the area but will also see the provision of community sports facilities for a number of activities including football and cricket. There will also be a brand new clubhouse offering affordable social facilities for the area as well as providing a meeting place for sporting and community groups from around the area.

Sport England's Chair, Richard Lewis, said:

"This National Lottery investment will create a lasting sporting legacy for Chesterfield. This fund has really hit the mark with sports clubs in the North Midlands and South Yorkshire. It shows we're offering the legacy that people want for their local community. For hundreds of clubs and tens of thousands of people, 2012 will be the year their local sports facilities got better."

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A spokesman for the Club's relocation committee made the following comment.

"The members of the Relocation Committee are delighted to have secured this funding as part of our drive to provide sporting facilities which Chesterfield deserves and which are long overdue. This funding will make it possible for us to host representative games midweek but much more importantly than that it will allow us to offer all year round outdoor grass facilities for football and rugby training as well as extending the time that the newly funded MUGA will be able to be used. It really is a win win situation and one that the whole town can benefit from."

Chesterfield Rugby Union Football Club is one of hundreds of projects across England benefitting from lottery investment through the second round of the *Inspired Facilities* fund. And Sport England today launched a further £10 million funding round to help local community sports groups to upgrade their facilities. You can find out more at www.sportengland.org/inspiredfacilities. Bids will be accepted from 23 July 2012.

Places People Play is being delivered by Sport England, working partnership with the British Olympic Association (BOA) and the British Paralympic Association (BPA) with the backing of The London Organising Committee of the Olympic Games and Paralympic Games (LOCOG) and the London 2012 Inspire mark.

LOCOG Chair, Seb Coe, said: "This is a fantastic funding project that will deliver a real legacy from the London 2012 Games. It will provide a whole range of sporting opportunities for young people through improved facilities and will I hope inspire them to take up sport."

ENDS

Notes to Editors

For more details about the project and the Club please contact Fred Pell by email at thepells@btinternet.com or phone on 01246 857480.

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