

WIVENHOE & DISTRICT SPORTING FACILITIES TRUST

PRESS RELEASE 18.2.96

BROAD LANE ACQUIRED FOR THE COMMUNITY

On 15th February 1996, a transaction was concluded under which ownership of the Broad Lane Wivenhoe Town Football Club site was transferred to the Colchester Borough Council and simultaneously the newly formed Wivenhoe & District Sporting Facilities Trust entered into a 99 year lease on it with the Borough Council.

The Trust, which hopes to become a registered charity, will manage the site for the benefit of the Wivenhoe Town Football Club as well as looking to develop the site for the community by introducing other sporting activities like tennis.

Agreement to sell Broad Lane and the Football Club for an undisclosed sum was reached by the Trust recently with Mr David Watts who has owned the Club and the ground during the last few years. The Borough Council put up £80,000 of the total purchase price and the Trust have raised the balance through contributions from the Football Club, the University of Essex, Wivenhoe Town Council, Wivenhoe Tennis Club as well as significant contributions from several individuals.

The Football Club has worked hard to keep the Club going during two years of uncertainty as well as raising money towards acquiring the ground, and it can now look forward with confidence.

The idea for the Trust was conceived early in 1995 and many meetings have taken place since to achieve the ambition of acquiring the Broad Lane site.

The Trust have been working on a development plan covering the next ten years and intend working closely with the Borough Council, the University of Essex, Wivenhoe Town Council as well as local sporting clubs. Of the eight Trustees, three are also members of the Town Council.

For more information contact:

<u>Wivenhoe & District Sporting Facilities Trust</u>	Daytime Tel	Home Tel
Cllr Peter Hill, Chairman	0171-772 7758	01206-823073
Cllr Geoff Langsdon, Deputy Chairman	01206-825561	01206-825561
<u>Wivenhoe Town Football Club</u>		
Harry Welsh, President	01206-822997	01206-822997