

# The Posh Supporters Trust

## Statement

2nd December 2009

The Posh Supporter's Trust greatly welcomes the statement made by the Leader of Peterborough City Council Marco Cereste, this week (01/12/09), of his intention to recommend to the Council that the London Road ground is purchased by PCC as a Community Stadium and asset. The establishment of a community stadium is something that the Trust has campaigned for over the years and the prospect that this may become a reality is, therefore, very good news.

We anticipate that a further more comprehensive statement, with financial details, will be made before the full Council is asked to vote on the matter. Although the initial capital investment to be made by the council, or more accurately by local taxpayers, is likely to be substantial, we see no reason why this should not be a sound commercial investment. With new development and managed as a multi-use entertainment and leisure centre, with the football club and ground at its heart, there is a great opportunity to generate profits, into the medium and long term, for the benefit of the City and the club. Therefore, when the additional detailed statement is made, we will urge our members to lobby their councillors for a 'Yes' vote on the proposed purchase for sound commercial reasons as well as to fulfil the wishes of thousands of Posh fans.

The resolution of the stadium ownership issue will enable short-term improvements to be carried out to the present stadium. PUFC chairman, Darragh MacAnthony, has said that he has been unable, (and was perhaps unwilling), to carry out works to improve the existing facilities under the current ground ownership. With an assured future such improvements can now be made with the agreement of PCC.

In the longer term the design and building of a new stadium can commence and the establishment of a management body for the running of the facility be undertaken. Cllr Cereste has stated his commitment to encouraging wider public participation in council decision making and Darragh MacAnthony has also previously stated that he would consult fan groups when planning a new stadium. The PST believe that these 'good intentions' can become reality by the establishment of a Community Stadium working group comprising representatives from the council, PUFC, supporters groups and nominees from other envisaged prime user groups.

We hope that councillors will seize the opportunity to support the idea of a working group and vote in favour of the proposal for the Council purchase of the London Road Stadium, which can only be for the social and financial benefit of the community of Peterborough.

We repeat that we encourage our members, and indeed all Posh fans, to contact their councillors and highlight the benefits that can accrue to Peterborough from this transaction.

The existing ground is in a prominent position when viewed from the adjacent Parkway and from the main railway line. We can foresee a time, in the not too distant future, when visitors to this city will see a landmark structure that is identifiable as Peterborough's Posh Community Stadium.

Paul Froggitt  
PST Press Officer

*The Posh Supporters Limited is registered in England and Wales by the Financial Services Authority as an Industrial and Provident Society. Registration number: 29533R.*