

POSH SUPPORTERS TRUST - PRESS RELEASE

The Posh Supporters' Trust warmly welcomes, and backs, the campaign by PISA2000 to persuade Peterborough City Council to give material support to a much needed and deserved new stadium for Peterborough United Football Club, and to give Posh fans and all the people of Peterborough more information on the progress of the proposed stadium, both in terms of location and the timing and nature of the decisions that need to be taken.

The Trust has stated over many years that Peterborough City Council has an obligation to give the maximum help possible in this process as it failed to act in an open and transparent manner by consulting fans, the whole Council and the citizens of Peterborough when given the opportunity to buy back the ground in 2003. The Council had the right to buy back the ground from the club if it wished to sell, as it then did. This right, contained in the 1955 Conveyance when the ground was sold by the City Council to the club, also included the right for the Council to take six months to decide whether to purchase or not. In the event the decision was made secretly in a matter of days, as the Trust disclosed in 2006. As a result the ground was sold to a property developer, a possibility likely to have been the reason for the council's 1955 buy-back clause, and it is ironic that, according to the Press, the Council is now negotiating to buy back the ground from the same property developer at price mooted to be a multiple of the price at which the ground changed hands in 2003.

In light of the urgent need for the club to have a new ground the Trust believes that this negotiation is the right course of action in order to allow the existing London Road site to be developed, or for a new site to be provided and the current ground to be developed by the Council for other purposes in line with The South Bank Development Scheme.

The Trust also strongly supports the idea of the new stadium being a Community Stadium open for multiple use, and serving the people of Peterborough as widely as possible. This will help to bring the football club and the community closer together, a key aim of the Trust, and is a policy that ultimately will bring bigger gates for the club and help to make it more successful.

Barry Bennett
Acting Chairman.