

Newbury Ladies Football Club

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Newbury Weekly News
Newspaper House
Faraday Road
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Sent via email: editor@newburynews.co.uk

LETTER FOR PUBLICATION

Dear Sir/Madam,

Can any of our elected representatives from West Berkshire Council please explain why they seem to hold such a narrow view as to believe that the only group of people to play football regularly in our town are the male adult football players of Newbury FC?

Do they not know that so many women and girls play all forms of sport, including football, on a regular basis?

Can they really be that sexist still in the year 2018 to think that football is only played by men?

How can they have missed the excellent coverage given to Newbury Ladies Football Club by this very newspaper?

I wonder how many of our local councillors have even heard of Newbury Ladies Football Club?

Women's Football continues to be the fastest growing sport in England. Do our councillors not know that Newbury has its own thriving Ladies Football Club, which was formed 15 years ago, and which continues to go from strength to strength? We currently have over 40 female players aged 16 years and above, from all backgrounds, playing football in the town of Newbury every single week.

And in case any of our local councillors might be reading this Letters Page, they might interested to hear that every week on Sunday evenings at 11:30pm they can tune in to BBC1 and watch the "Women's Football Show". This is prime time! This is BBC1 for goodness sake! This is 2018 – get up to date – women play football too! Stop being so sexist!

To all West Berkshire Councillors this must be breaking news, but football is played by women. I am hesitant to call it women's football because it implies it is a different game to the football played by men, when it is the exact same game.

The female footballers in our town deserve to be represented and consulted over the future plans for football facilities in West Berkshire. And yet our elected representatives sitting on West Berkshire Council think it is right, reasonable and appropriate that they only consult with Newbury FC.

This is wrong! Very wrong!

During the current football season, Newbury Ladies FC has already visited and played against Southampton FC, AFC Bournemouth and Oxford City Ladies, and on each occasion we played on a high quality pitch, in a proper stadium and infrastructure.

Newbury Ladies Football Club is part of the Newbury Community Football Group, which represents and brings together under one umbrella all of the main football organisations in the town of Newbury. We are campaigning to protect our town's football facilities and to bring severe scrutiny to our elected council representatives if they fail in their duty to protect and provide adequate sporting facilities for future generations of Newbury residents.

When our local council sits to make decisions, they have a democratic obligation to ensure that they represent the WHOLE community, so they need to widen their view and consult with all relevant stakeholders. The time to step out of the dark ages was long ago, it's time for West Berkshire Council to take heed.

SUE HEWETT
Manager, Newbury Ladies Football Club