



View of stadium from across water storage lake



Clubhouse interior views



First floor balcony and solar panels



The pitch on match night

Dartford Football Stadium Princes Park, Dartford, Kent

Princes Park Stadium is a 4,100 capacity arena designed with two clear goals: providing a community regeneration project to become the permanent home for Dartford FC and becoming the UK's first sustainable small stadium. The **£6.5m** scheme incorporates a broad range of environmental features, including sustainable materials, additional insulation, solar panels and a purpose built lake to harvest rainwater. What sets the design apart from other contemporary stadia is the bold use of engineered timber and green roofs for the clubhouse and terraces. These will allow the scheme to blend in with its parkland surroundings, while at the same time remaining highly distinctive.

Dartford Football Club, founded in 1888, had been without a home ground since 1992, instead having to ground share with other boroughs. In April 2004 Dartford Borough Council announced it would provide a site and funding for a new stadium. Full planning permission was granted in July 2005, work began on site in October 2005 and the grand opening took place in **November 2006**.

The scheme had to provide first class facilities for both players and supporters, enabling the club to operate up to Conference level football. The 2,000m² clubhouse is adjacent to the south terrace with the ground floor housing the main entrance, club shop, changing rooms and offices. The first floor is divided into two main areas: a large community room and a club bar, both providing expansive views over the terraces and on to the pitch. These spaces were provided for the local community to hire for business, family, education and sporting events. Two first floor balconies give panoramic views across the third generation artificial community pitch which can be hired for education purposes, fitness, or friendly matches and is complemented by new community changing rooms.

The successful opening of Princes Park Stadium has seen the local community throw their support behind their football team. Now, with proper facilities, all within walking distance of the town centre, supporter numbers have increased healthily. The use of public transport is encouraged with local Fastrack buses stopping at the designated stadium stop so that fans can arrive easily and without worrying about driving or parking.

Contractor: Jackson
Structural Engineer: Conisbee
Services Engineer: Fulcrum
Quantity Surveyor: AYH
Landscape Architect: Watkins Dally