



**GLOVERS FIT:** An artist's impression of how the development of the open stand at the Copse Road end of Huish Park will mesh in with a new shopping development that could be built on training pitches used by Yeovil Town if plans drawn up in conjunction with retail group CDS International come to fruition.

# Football club unveils plans for a new stand and shops

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YEOVIL Town FC has unveiled plans to develop a retail park and new stand at Huish Park after entering a multi-million pound partnership with a Devon entrepreneur.

The Glovers have joined forces with Chris Dawson, the boss of Plymouth-based CDS International, which operates The Range, a nationwide chain of home, garden and leisure stores.

Club chairman John Fry revealed this week that five acres, currently used as training pitches, could become a retail park that could create more than 300 jobs for the town.

Money generated would then allow a 3,500 all-seater stand to replace the Copse Road End open terrace with associated facilities used both by supporters and the wider community.

Mr Fry said: "We have a very good site here that needs bringing up to standard and requires redevelopment and regeneration.

"We have been given an

opportunity to undertake a development by CDS which would like to develop retail units on the site. We have looked at this in partnership and, looking at the town and at the supporters, we feel we feel we can not only develop this as a retail entity but also from a leisure and sport point of view.

"It will be an important development for the town and for the area, not just for Yeovil Town FC and the supporters."

The Glovers moved to Huish Park from their previous home in Huish, near the town centre, in 1991. The new stand would increase capacity to about 11,000.

Mr Fry warned of a "long haul" as the club prepared to submit a planning application that has taken four years to devise to South Somerset District Council. But he hopes to complete developments within five years.

The chairman, who took over at Yeovil Town FC in the mid-1990s and has overseen progress from non-league football to npower League One, said a new stand would

improve the offering for supporters.

He said: "When fans come here they do not get a match day experience, just a match experience. The supporters have stuck with us and the experience will now be much more for home and away fans.

"The stadium needs a stand that rewards the fans for their loyalty with eating and leisure areas that the fans can use and be proud of."

Yeovil Town has informed neighbouring residents of plans and Mr Fry said the club would listen to all concerns.

He said: "We are doing this not only to push on this club but for the residents of Yeovil. We need their support to deliver our plans. We are doing this as much for the community as much as we are doing it for the football club.

"We know that this development is absolutely essential from the football club's point of view and we know that there will be a lot of issues. I am confident that we can overcome objections, complaints or criticisms."

Mr Dawson said: "I can

verify that we are proposing retail units to the north of Huish Park, which, if the planning application is successful, will deliver more than 300 jobs for the town as well as some established retail brands.

"We are delighted to be working in partnership with Yeovil Town. My wife comes from Yeovil and her uncle previously played for the club. I must, however, stress that at present any development plans are in the very early stages.

"Our proposals are being developed with the supporters, the community and the club's needs very much in mind."

Mr Fry said: "The retail park partner would like to be on this site and would like to come into the town. It is not a football deal, it is a retail park deal."

The Glovers are currently exploring options for new training pitches in Yeovil if the application is successful.

## WHAT'S YOUR VIEW?

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