

Western Gazette

SPORT



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Ground plans are 'as big a challenge as League climb

Yeovil Town
CHRIS SWEET



ities here at Huish Park. There is no reason why this football club should not be one of the major forces in the South West."

YEOVIL Town chairman John Fry believes bringing to fruition development plans for Huish Park poses as big a challenge as reaching the Football League.

However, he said realising ambitions to build a retail park and new 3,500 all-seater stand were vital for the club's future.

The Glovers this week announced a partnership with Devon businessman Chris Dawson, boss of CDS.

The parties want to develop retail units on more than five acres of land currently used for training pitches, which in turn will fund a stand boasting community facilities to replace the Copse Road end terrace.

Fry said: "I have been here now for 18 years and this is one of the most important developments that I have been involved with at Huish Park.

"It is going to be as big a challenge as getting out of the Conference and into the Football League.

"This is the next stage of our development and it would be my dream to see far better facil-

Fry admitted current training pitches and other facilities were "run down" and said the proposals that would form a planning application would increase the club's income.

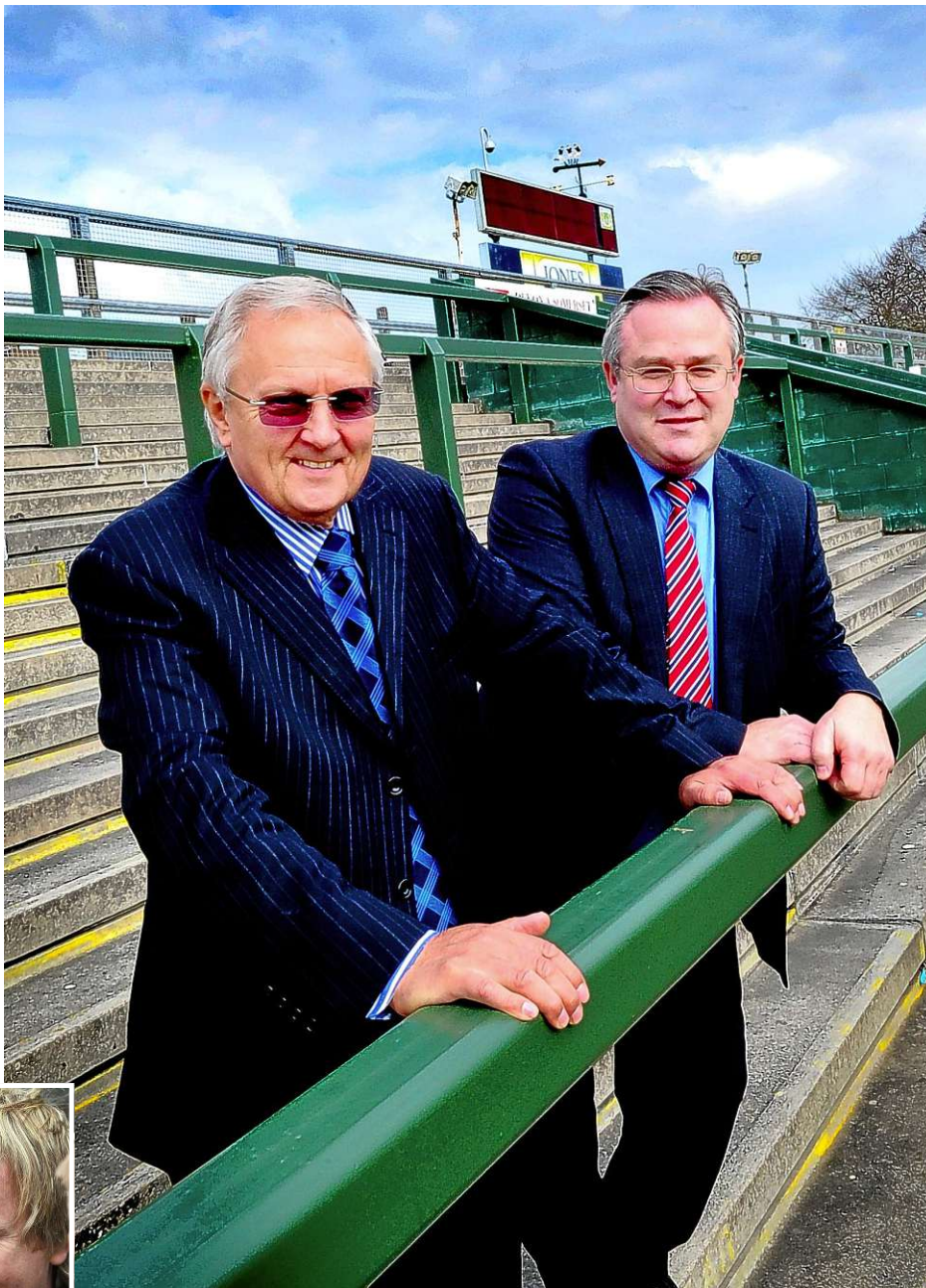
"If people want a football club in the higher leagues in Yeovil, and there is no reason we cannot go higher than we are, we need to urgently develop the site," he said.

"It is well over ten years overdue but the plans will be negotiated extremely carefully. We are going for better facilities to meet Football League criteria and we are doing it to get better football resources."

Fry added that the Glovers were in talks with South Somerset District Council about possible other training venues in the town, as well as developing land at Huish Park.

GROUND BACKING:

Glovers' boss Terry Skiverton wants Yeovil's residents to back plans for a new stand and retail park.



STAND PLAN: Yeovil Town chairman John Fry and chief executive Martyn Starnes stand on the Copse Road end terrace at Huish Park. The club revealed plans this week to replace it with a 3,500 all-seater stand. Picture by Len Copland

Boss urges resident backing for plans

GLOVERS' boss Terry Skiverton has urged the town of Yeovil to back the football club's plans to develop retail units and new stand at Huish Park.

Chairman John Fry this week revealed plans to regenerate training pitches as well as replace the Copse Road end terrace with a 3,500 all-seater stand with community facilities.

Skiverton said the town's residents would be integral to ensuring the club continues progress made since he joined the club 11 years ago and became boss in 2009.

"From my side and the footballing side this club is really taking off and it is at a time where finances have been tight and clubs have been folding," he said.

"We have caught up maybe 15, 20 years on these clubs in the space of 10 years and we have now got to progress, we cannot stay stagnant.

"With everything that is going on behind the scenes we need this development to go through - me on the playing side definitely does. We want to progress.

"We have got to this stage where we are under the chairman and the current board and we want to see if we can go further.

"What we cannot do is have supporters coming to the game and not enjoying themselves.

"The supporters cannot complain and say they have not been heard because it has taken this time to now move on and give the supporters what they want so they can be there on the terraces supporting their team, having a good match day experience.

"I am excited to be part of it and to be the manager now that is going to be here trying to push and progress.

"Yeovil Town has been good to the town of Yeovil. We want to see if we can kick on. We might need that little bit back from local people to say 'yes, let's see Yeovil Town progress and to get them where they want to be'."

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