

Maynooth Town Football Club



Preparing For The Future



Our Club—Our Community—Our Future

Maynooth Town Football Club



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Club Committee

Chairperson	Michael Doyle
Vice-Chairperson	Keith Farrell
Secretary & Registrar	Miriam Murphy
Treasurer	Hugh Franklin
FundRaising	Fiachra Kirwan
PRO/Communications	Aisling Folan
Nursery & Social Media	Aibhínn Conway
Player & Coach Development	Clive Moran
Fixtures Secretary	Keith Byrne
Facilities	Colm Ledwidge

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Our Vision

We are a community based volunteer organisation that works to provide and support the opportunity for all young players in our community to participate in soccer in a safe and encouraging environment. We want young players to enjoy football at a level appropriate to their ability and talent while maximising their potential. Our wish is that they acquire an identity and sense of belonging within our community and that they develop a wide range of skills that will assist them in later life.

Our History—The Journey So Far

Maynooth Town FC was established in 1969 arising from the merger of two local clubs, Maynooth St. Mary's and Ballygoran Utd. Legend has it that the formation meeting took place at Feeney's milk stand on the Celbridge Road ! At the outset, it was about local rivals coming together to create a stronger team to provide for senior football in the town. Finding a home pitch to play on proved to be a greater challenge with Rockfield, Railpark, Carton Court, the Harbour Field, Geoghegans' field, Moyglare Road and St. Patrick's College all featuring as home venues. By the mid 1980's, the club established a more permanent presence at Dublin Road opposite the old Maynooth Mart.

In the early years, the focus was on senior football with teams playing in the Leinster Football League. The club competed for league titles and cups with some success and reached a number of finals before winning the Cruise Cup in 1976/1977, defeating Trim Celtic 4-3 after extra time at Tolka Park. There was further success in 1982/1983 winning Division 2 Saturday and the Giffney Cup.

1988 to 1998

The success of Ireland in the Euro '88 Championship provided the stimulus for increased interest in the game nationally and at local level. Schoolboy football grew with the expanding town population from 1990 and the first schoolboy success in the history of the club was achieved with U14 Boys winning their league in 1993.

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During the 1990s, the club supported 2 senior teams, 4 schoolboy teams and 1 schoolgirls team. We were early adopters in supporting female participation in football winning the Premier B Dublin Women's League in 1999. MTFC star player Emma Kilduff was called up for the Irish squad and subsequently took up a US soccer scholarship.

The emergence of the 7 A Side underage league structure led to rapid expansion in underage soccer and space was scarce at Dublin Road. The Harbour Field became home for the Small Sided Games while 11 A Side continued at Dublin Road and for a period in North Kildare. It was evident that there was an urgent need for increased capacity in playing facilities to meet demand.



1998 to 2008

The club set out a Club Development Plan **“Forward 2000”** with key objectives to (1) Establish a Club Constitution for the future structure of the Club and (2) Acquire a suitable site to meet the needs of the members and wider community. These objectives were achieved between 1999 with the landowner to secure the 10 acre site on the Newtown / Rathcoffey Road under a 99 year lease.

A new plan, **“The Way Forward”** was adopted in 2002 and mapped out a phased development of the club facilities. The first phase was completed in 2003 with the provision of 3 x 11 A-Side pitches and a 7 A-Side pitch. At this stage, the club was supporting 16 teams.

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2009 to Date

By 2009, the club had grown further to 29 teams. A new clubhouse and car park had been completed with funding of €250k from Sports Capital Programme and €300k bank borrowings secured by personal guarantees from 7 Trustees. The club rode out the Global Financial Crisis and consolidated it's financial position through the prudent management of resources to meet expenses and loan repayments.

The Dublin Road ground continued to be used until 2017 when agreement was reached with Kildare County Council to vacate the site.

At senior level, the real breakthrough came in 2014 with MTFC winning the Polikoff Cup, the top cup competition in junior football, defeating Liffey Wanderers 1-0 at the Belfield Bowl.



Since then, the collaboration and partnership of Maynooth Town Football Club and Maynooth University from 2015/2016 has continued to raise the standards of club senior football. Competing in the top tier of the Leinster Senior League, winning the FAI Intermediate Cup in 2018 was another landmark moment in our history. The memories from the Aviva Stadium on 11th May 2018 when MUTFC equalized in injury time and then went on to defeat Firhouse Clover 4-1 in extra time will stay with us for a long time.

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We have also become an official affiliate club of League of Ireland Premier Division champions Shamrock Rovers. This is another part of our development to provide high quality coaching to our young players to ensure that they reach their potential.

From Feeney's milk stand to the Aviva to competing in the FAI Senior Cup against Cork City away in 2017; hosting a first ever FAI Senior Cup tie at Rathcoffey Road against Waterford in August 2019; to the most recent success of 2021 defeating Cobh Ramblers and playing Bohemians at Dalymount Park in the last eight of the FAI Senior Cup – that's a remarkable football journey.

The momentum of our growth has continued exponentially to the present day, with over 40 teams now participating and challenging for success at all levels. Managing this growth has its own challenges and brings demands for increased playing capacity.



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Preparing For The Future

As a community club, MTFC have created and maintained the opportunity for participation and development in football at all levels for over 50 years. The value of sport to our community has never been more real than during the COVID-19 pandemic. It has demonstrated how important sport is to our health and wellbeing, and in particular for all our young members. It is great that all our teams are back to full training and playing activity.

In order to be able to continue to deliver on our vision, it is imperative that our facilities are able to meet the increasing demand. This demand is driven by population growth in the Maynooth area, increased participation by female players and the retention of teenage and young adult players. To achieve this, we are setting out on an important and exciting development to invest in new playing facilities.

The Plan

Our development plan represents an essential investment in our future and will be in two phases.

Phase 1 is to develop an all-weather pitch that will provide best in class facilities for year round activity to support training and games. This may also benefit other community organisations (such as schools, walking football) through agreements for the wider use of the facilities in line with our ongoing commitment as a community organisation.

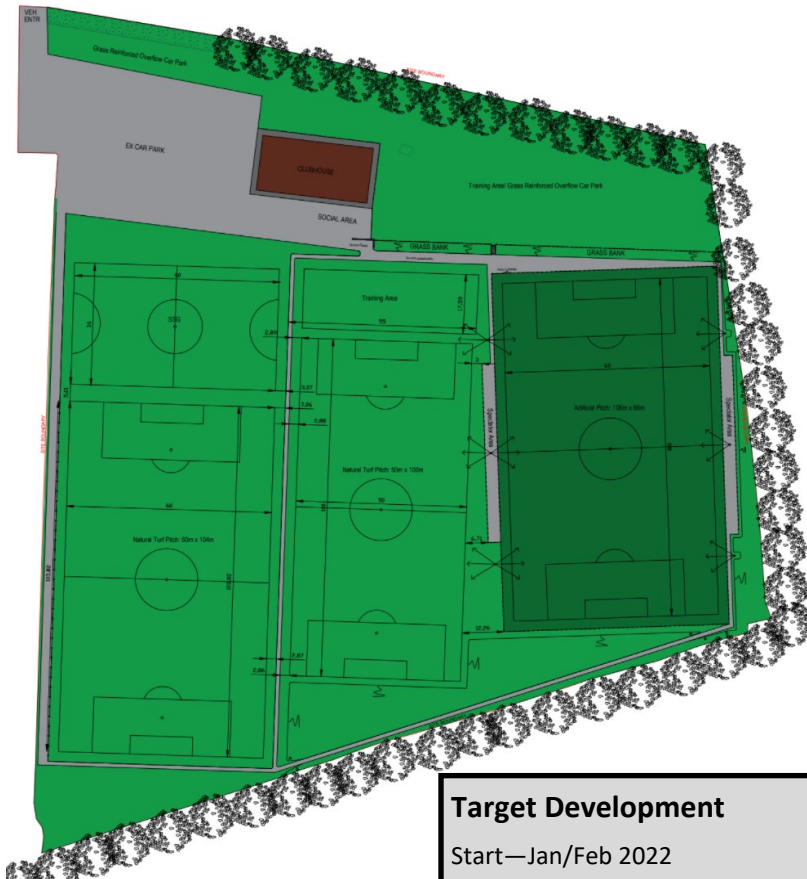
Phase 1 will enable us to make better use of the existing facility, particularly for winter training and matches when grass pitches are unplayable. This will only provide temporary relief given the projected growth in population and membership levels and will need to be followed by a second phase.

Phase 2 will involve obtaining additional grass pitches to meet the projected growth in our membership at underage level and to complement our partnership with Maynooth University at senior level.

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Phase 1

Redevelopment of existing Rathcoffey Road facility



Target Development

Start—Jan/Feb 2022

Complete Works—April/May 2022

Pitch 3

Convert to a state of the art all-weather pitch (100m x 60m)

Fencing — to also enclose an internal spectator area along each sideline

Floodlights — to enable winter training

Pitch 2

Redevelop — to improve drainage and raise the surface level

Realign — to run parallel alongside Pitch 1

Create a training / warm-up area at the clubhouse end

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Why do we need this development ?

To enhance the existing infrastructure and provide a facility for the number of people looking to play soccer.

Our Club is Growing

Our club has grown from c. 350 underage players to c. 800 underage players over the past 5 years and the existing playing facilities are at full capacity.

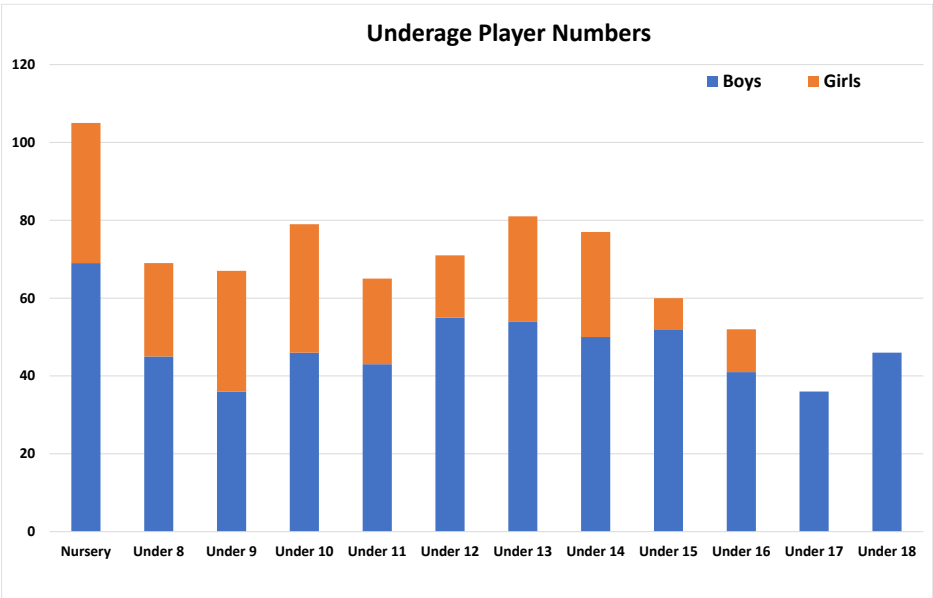
Nursery : 105 members (70 boys & 35 girls)

Playing members : 700 underage (500 boys & 200 girls) & 100 adult

620 family memberships

43 teams with 120 coaches & mentors

Female participation in playing soccer is growing and we need to create an environment where teenagers and young adults choose to stay involved in playing soccer.

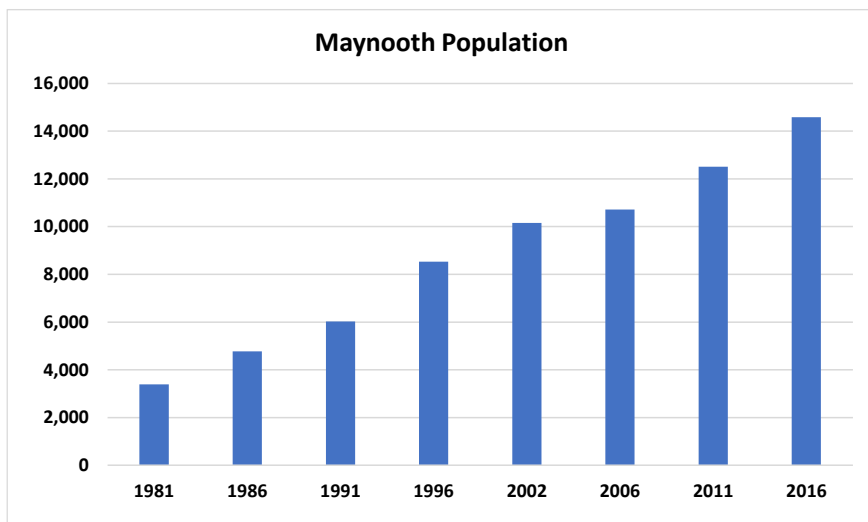


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Our Community is Growing



(Source : CSO Small Area Population Statistics).

The population of Maynooth grew from 3,388 in 1981 to 14,585 in 2016

The CSO have predicted that the national population will grow by 18% to 41% between 2017 and 2051. Maynooth has been identified as a large growth town with high quality transport links and the capacity to act as a strategic residential & economic development area within both the Metropolitan Area and the Eastern-Midland Region. It is reasonable to expect that Maynooth's growth will be at the upper end of these ranges.

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TOTAL STUDENTS	
SCHOOL	2020-2021
PRESENTATION GIRLS PRIMARY SCHOOL	653
MAYNOOTH BOYS NS	592
SCOIL UI FHIAICH	465
MAYNOOTH EDUCATE TOGETHER NS	304
PRIMARY SCHOOLS	2,014
MAYNOOTH POST PRIMARY SCHOOL	992
MAYNOOTH COMMUNITY COLLEGE	652
POST PRIMARY SCHOOLS	1,644
	3,658

Maynooth has also traditionally had a young population (c. 42% under 25 years of age compared with c. 32% nationally) with a large underage school going population.

The participation levels in soccer are c. 35% at primary school and c. 15% at secondary school.

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