



Image courtesy of the Football Foundation

Market Road, London Borough of Islington

Iconic site receives extensive £2.1m redevelopment

“The refurbishment of Market Road has been integral to football development in central London. With enhanced pitches, plus three new small sided pitches, complementing the improved changing rooms and education space, we now have a state-of-the-art facility at which to deliver our objectives and benefit affiliated youth and adult London FA grassroots leagues.”

David James,
County Development Manager, London FA

The aim of this high profile redevelopment of the Market Road Pitches by Islington Borough Council was to provide community benefits in terms of replacing the previous heavily vandalised facilities with a new “fit for purpose” development, including changing rooms, a sports education pavilion and replacement pitches. As well as designing a dynamic building, the first artificial pitches ever laid in London were replaced, which was a significant milestone for the high profile site. Furthermore, this energy efficient development provides up to date facilities using the latest energy efficient technologies that deliver both energy efficiency and value for money. The cutting edge development has been designed to support the council’s positive plan to encourage local people to engage with football- with growth to over 200 teams using Market Road, Islington.

The Market Road pitches are in an area of significant deprivation (top 5% IMD). The area is highlighted as an area requiring significant economic and social investment in order to provide community accessible and affordable facilities. The Market Road development supports and delivers this ethos.

The scope of works included the full redevelopment of the site to include 2 full size third generation football turf pitches, three small sided football 3G FTP’s and the dynamic metal clad modern sports pavilion. Total project cost £2.1m.



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Overleaf: Aerial night view of the Market Road facility
Top: View of Market Road facility and 3 small sided AGP's
Above: Liam Brady officially re-opens the Market Road Football Centre



The aim was to achieve a 30% reduction in the carbon footprint above the building regulation baseline standard.

Taking into consideration all factors within the London Plan 2011 and Islington Council Planning Policies, LK2 designed a building that met the conflicting requirements by:

- Providing a robust and vandal resistant design, whilst being highly energy efficient
- Providing a “State of the art” building management system which optimised the heating and ventilation systems.
- Ensuring that spike periods of usage were carefully considered to achieve optimum usage of energy levels.

- Incorporating an underground rain water harvest system.

Market Road, Islington has already had a huge impact on the community, securing the future of over 125 teams in the area from dispersing.

The refurbishment of the Market Road facility was delivered with full support from Arsenal FC, the Premier League and the FA Facilities Fund, Football Foundation and the FA, with grants in excess of £832,000.

Arsenal legend Liam Brady officially re-opened the Market Road Football Centre and the site has since won the first ever ‘Outstanding London Sports Venue Award’ from My Local Pitch.

“We are really proud of the final outcome of the Market Road project- not only is the building a high spec facility, but the scheme has also enabled so many local teams to continue and that’s the grass roots of football. The scheme is noted as an example of iconic good practice and replicates the FA’s vision for high quality, sustainable football hubs.”

Andrew Kitchen,
 Director, LK2 Architects