

Skewen Football Club

Affiliated to leagues – Neath & District, WWWGL, WWYAFL, WGJFL
Skewen Football Club,
Skewen Memorial Park,
Skewen
SA106DP 01792813757

Club Email: - skewenfc@gmail.com

Chairman: -	Chris Cook	07508 288855
Vice Chairman: -	Rachel White	07999 982628
Secretary: -	Phil Davies	07561 284325
Treasurer: -	Rebecca Roberts	07505 778063
Matchday contact: -	Phil Davies	07561 284325



Dear Members of Coedffranc Town Council,

Wednesday 11th February 2026

Reference:

Skewen Football Club request for Public Meeting with Coedffranc Town Councillors regarding the refusal to allow children's football in the Skewen community.

I am writing further to my correspondence of November 2025, submitted on behalf of Skewen Football Club, requesting permission to utilise the lower "Clinic" field at Skewen Memorial Park for junior football training and matches.

As previously stated, the request relates to junior age groups from Under-7s through to Under-13s, of which we have over 150 active participants included in both girls' and boys' teams. These teams operate under qualified coaching, safeguarding standards, and active parental supervision, and represent the earliest and most critical stage of children's sporting development.

On 20 November 2025, I was advised that Coedffranc Town Council had declined to permit children's sport, in the form of junior football matches, on land under its management.

Following this decision, there has been significant concern expressed by parents, carers, and community members directly affected. As a result, a formal request has now been made by parents for a **public meeting** to allow open discussion and transparency regarding the Council's position on children's sport, both at the lower field and across other suitable areas within Coedffranc.

Parents are seeking clarity on why junior football is not being supported on land that has historically been used for organised sport over many decades, and how this decision aligns with the Council's wider responsibilities to community wellbeing, youth development, and inclusion.

Junior football forms a core part of the recognised "Pathways in Football" framework, supporting children's physical health, mental wellbeing, confidence, discipline, and teamwork. Structured sport provides positive direction and supervision, helping to reduce the risks of anti-social behaviour, substance misuse, vandalism, and harmful online exposure. These benefits extend beyond the individual child and contribute directly to safer, healthier communities.

During my November 2025 correspondence, I also highlighted the significant number of children with Additional Learning Needs (ALN) within the boundaries of Coedffranc Town Council, as identified in the most recent Estyn Report. Skewen Football Club works closely with families, schools, and support services to provide inclusive sporting opportunities for children with additional needs—many of whom struggle to access suitable activities elsewhere.

Parents are now questioning how such support can realistically be maintained when access to established playing facilities is denied, despite clear evidence of need within the community.

Further concerns relate to family poverty within Coedffranc. As a Club, we operate on the principle that no child should be excluded from sport due to financial hardship. We consistently support families facing difficult circumstances and never turn a child away. However, restricting access to local, affordable playing facilities places additional strain on families and undermines efforts to promote equal opportunity.

Beyond the Club itself, the use of the lower field has wider community significance. Loneliness and social isolation—affecting both males and females of all ages—are increasingly recognised issues. Skewen Football Club actively helps to reduce isolation through inclusion, volunteering, and family participation. Match days and training sessions provide regular, positive social interaction and foster community connection.

The Club also maintains strong links with local schools and community organisations, including those supporting children with special educational needs. These partnerships rely on accessible, safe outdoor spaces to function effectively.

Many parents and residents believe that the lower field could be positively recognised as a children's and family sport area, benefiting not only football participants but the wider Skewen and Coedffranc community through increased activity, engagement, and wellbeing. Given the level of public concern, the number of families affected, and the broader implications for children's sport and community provision, we respectfully request that Coedffranc Town Council convenes a public meeting. Such a meeting would allow residents, parents, and stakeholders to hear the Council's rationale, raise questions, and explore constructive solutions in an open and transparent manner.

We believe a public forum is both appropriate and necessary to ensure community voices are heard and to work collaboratively toward an outcome that supports the wellbeing of children and families across Coedffranc.

We look forward to your response and confirmation of how the Council intends to proceed.

Yours Sincerely,



Chris Cook – Skewen Football Club Chairman on behalf of:

Josh Reed – Club Liaison Officer

Gary Clement – Junior Club Chairman

Phil Davies – Club Secretary

Rebecca Roberts – Club Treasurer

Rachel White – Vice Chairwoman

Children's Club coaches, Safeguarding Officers, Carers.

Copy:

- Cllr Angharad Rebecca Aubrey – Coedffranc Central
- Cllr Nathan Goldup-John – Coedffranc Central
- Cllr Mike Harvey – Coedffranc North
- Cllr Helen Ceri Clarke – Coedffranc West
- Cllr Cen Phillips – Coedffranc West