

KENNET

LEISURE CENTRE



THATCHAM TORNADOES

COMMUNITY GRANT FUND



Managed in Partnership with your Local Authority

[LegacyLeisure.org.uk](https://www.LegacyLeisure.org.uk)



BACKGROUND

Football is the UK's most popular sport. The Football Association has a standpoint of making the sport as inclusive as possible, with Disability Football high on the agenda.

Through its Activity Alliance, the umbrella organisation for the eight national disability sports organisations, and the establishment by The FA of the football development department a year later, led to the development of the first disability football initiative: 'Ability Counts'. The initiative is grounded on a simple model of inclusivity, companionship and most importantly, fun.

The Thatcham Tornadoes exemplify everything Ability Counts stands for. A locally run football club providing local football for U6's to adults, with the club recently celebrating their 50 years anniversary.

In September 2017, the club launched their BOBiCats football squad. This squad welcomes children in Years 2-6 at Primary School with a physical or learning disability to have the opportunity to enjoy playing football. The emphasis is very much on fun and learning to play football in a safe and friendly environment.

A hit with locals and run by trained coaches, the purpose of the squad is to encourage more youngsters to get active and improve quality of life. Weekly sessions are held to help express themselves through 'the beautiful game'.

Legacy Leisure has awarded The Thatcham Tornadoes £500 to the club in recognition of the impact on the local community. The funding will allow new volunteers / coaches to gain Level 1 coaching qualification and purchase equipment such as footballs, bibs, cones and goals.

The kids progress into playing against other Inclusive Football Teams in the monthly BOBi tournaments. BOBi is the name given to inclusive football in Berkshire, Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire.

Thatcham Tornadoes are part of the Berks and Bucks FA Pledge Promise, pledging their support to promoting Disability Football.