



## City Ground Redevelopment

By Noah, Alfie and Ewan

Nottingham Forest (established in 1865) have played at the City Ground since 1898 and have a total of 30,445 seats. The ground hasn't seen any major development since 1994 and the Sky Bet Championship club are hopeful that the development will commence in the summer of 2020.

Since the owner, Evangelos Marinakis, took over in May 2017, the ground has only seen a slight lick of paint and a few minor changes. Marinakis was very clear that they will not be moving away from the City Ground as it has been the home of the European Cup winning side for well over a century.

The main development will involve 'The Main Stand', which is planned to be demolished and re-built into a new two tier structure, which is expected to keep its name. The stand will be able to hold 10,000 people, taking the overall capacity to 38,000. Some minor alterations will take place to the other three stands adding some more seats and modernising the facilities.

The City Ground will become the largest stadium in the East Midlands ahead of Derby County's Pride Park (33,597) and Leicester City's King Power Stadium (32,243). The increase in capacity will attract many new supporters and potentially players. The club are hoping that an extra 8,000 fans will give the players the push they need to gain promotion to the Premier League.

The estimated development time is between 18-24 months. The capacity of the stadium will be temporarily reduced while the development takes place and the club will embark on an extensive consultation with fans to discuss the best way to deal with this.

The new stand will include new state-of-the-art dressing rooms, improved disabled access, a new media centre, corporate space and hospitality facilities. The ground will be modernised not only inside, but outside as well.

### Fans' Opinions

One fan we spoke to (Alfie, Year 9) said, 'It will be good as it will attract new players when they see the new facilities. Also, there will be more fans in the stadium at once, providing the team with more support, bringing the fans and the club together, and most importantly, to make the City Ground a fortress again.'

Another fan (Kieran, Year 9) said, 'The club will have one the biggest stadiums in the Championship, therefore the expectations will be much higher. However, Martin O'Neill and Roy Keane will need to motivate the players up to the standard that the City Ground needs and deserves.'

*Facts taken from Nottingham Post*