

Vale of White Horse Playing Pitch and Leisure Facilities Strategies

Summary report

A review of the feedback received to the Vale of White Horse Playing Pitch and Leisure Facilities Strategies consultation.

August 2024



If you require this report in an alternative format (for example large print, Braille, audio, email, Easy Read and alternative languages) please email jointheconversation@southandvale.gov.uk or call 01235 422425.

Note: When stating percentages in the analysis, we are referring to the percentage of respondents that answered the specific question, rather than the total number of responses to the overall survey. Response percentages may not add up to 100% due to rounding up over .5 and rounding down under .5.

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report has been produced by council officers to analyse the comments received to the South Oxfordshire Playing Pitch Strategy (PPS) and Leisure Facilities Assessment and Strategy (LFAS) consultation.

Vale of White Horse District Council invited comments on the strategies from Wednesday 6 March until 11:59pm on Wednesday 3 April 2024. These strategies show the need for new playing pitches and leisure facilities across Vale of White Horse, as well as identifying which of our existing pitches and facilities need protecting, upgrading, or expanding. They take account of new and planned housing developments in our districts and consider the need for new pitch and leisure provision between 2023 and 2041.

147 completed responses were received. 31% of respondents responded as a user of a sports club, and 23% as a member of the public but not a user of a sports club.

The two strategies provide an audit of the quality, quantity and accessibility of playing pitches and leisure facilities across Vale of White Horse, establish the current levels of demand (and therefore whether pitches/facilities are being over or under used) and projects forward demand likely to arise by the end of the strategy period so that the appropriate level of pitch provision can be planned for the future.

The Playing Pitch Strategy covers pitch sports including: football, rugby union, cricket, hockey and lesser played pitch sports (including lacrosse, gaelic football rounders, softball/ baseball, rugby league and American football).

The Leisure Facilities Assessment and Strategy covers: archery ranges, athletics 'track & field' facilities, basketball courts, badminton courts, bowling greens, boxing gyms, climbing walls, croquet lawns, cycling facilities, dance halls and studios, golf courses, gymnastics halls, health and fitness suites (gyms & fitness studios), martial arts facilities, multi-use games areas (MUGAs), netball courts, parkour provision, polo pitches and horse-riding centres, skateparks, sports halls (including community and village halls with sports facilities), squash courts, swimming pools, table tennis provision, tennis courts, volleyball courts, water sports (rowing, sailing and canoeing).



The strategies include a list of proposed recommendations which are presented in three areas: protect, enhance and provide.

Protect: Avoid (where possible) the loss of sports facilities and protect the community use on educational sites.

Enhance: To improve community access through Community Use Agreements (CUA) and improve the quality of existing facilities.

Provide: Ensure new sports facilities lie in the heart of local communities, that new developments contribute where appropriate towards facilities and that new sports facilities provided as part of future educational provision are designed with community use.

Key findings:

The main changes that have been identified from the results of the public consultation have been listed below.

PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY:

All sports:

- Additional emphasis has been added into the recommendations that the needs of people with disabilities and safety issues (particularly regarding women and girls) are addressed through good design and improvements.
- Climate change – the strategy seeks to focus on provision for sport and acknowledges the need to consider fully the impact and mitigation.

Cricket:

- A clarifying statement has been included regarding hybrid pitches which are currently not endorsed by the English Cricket Board (ECB) as these are in the pilot phase. This is likely to change in strategy lifetime.
- Indoor cricket was assessed and included in the LFAS.
- Pipeline projects and the pavilion project for Drayton Village have been included.

Football:

- Louie Memorial Playing Field, Botley – reference to the replacement pavilion has been included.
- Upton Recreation Ground – recommendation has been included to support improvements to the changing facilities.
- East Hendred – reference has been added to support the new/ improved changing facilities.
- Stanford-in-the-Vale – reference added for the ambition of additional grass football (and cricket) plans, subject to demand.

Hockey:

- Reference to gaps in provision, spatially, in particular in West sub-area have been included.

Rugby

- The recommendation for Grove RFC regarding improving facilities and additional sports-lighting, and security of tenure risks on part of the site has been enhanced.

LEISURE FACILITIES ASSESSMENT AND STRATEGY:

- Louie Memorial Playing Fields – the plans for new skatepark and pavilion have been included.
- Abingdon Lawn Tennis Club – the upgraded floodlights have been referenced.
- Harwell Village Tennis Club courts - floodlighting recommendation has been added.
- Farmoor Reservoir has been included.
- Dalton Barracks running track has been included.
- Upton Park pump track has been included and reference for maintaining facilities.
- Moredon Sporting Hub – the new Cycle Circuit in Swindon has been included.
- The East Hendred Sports Club development plans have been included.
- Stanford in the Vale - reference to the parish council aspirations for at least two tennis courts and a fitness trail have been added.
- Faringdon Community College MUGA – comments have been added that the MUGA should be made available for community use (currently private use only).
- Reference to Faringdon Judo Club at Tucker Hall has been included (spare capacity).
- King Alfred Academy – enhancement of quality of sports hall when necessary has been included.
- Recommendations for modernisation of the swimming pool at Wantage Leisure Centre have been added.

BACKGROUND TO THE CONSULTATION

The Playing Pitch strategy follows the most up to date Sport England Playing Pitch Strategy Guidance (October 2013) which outlines five different stages for the PPS to follow:

Stage A: 1. Prepare and tailor approach

Stage B: 2 & 3. Gather supply and demand information and views.

Stage C: 4. Understand situation at sites. 5. Develop current & future pitches of provision.
6. Identify key findings and issues

Stage D: 7. Develop the recommendations and action plan. 8. Write and adopt the strategy.

Stage E: 9. Apply and deliver the strategy. 10. Keep the strategy robust and up-to-date.

The Leisure Facilities strategy is compliant with the Sport England Assessing needs and opportunities guide for indoor and outdoor sports facilities guidance (July 2014) which follows a 3 stage approach:

Stage A: Establish a clear understanding of the purpose, scope and scale of the assessment

Stage B: Establish a clear picture of the supply of facilities within your area. Establish clear understanding of what the current and future demand for facilities are.

Stage C: Using the data from Stage B to build a picture of the level of provision, looking at four key elements. Developing key findings and facility implications around the framework of protect, enhance and provide.

During the development of both assessment and strategies the consultant worked with steering groups made up of relevant council officers, Sport England and National Governing Bodies.

The council made the decision to take both the draft strategies through a public consultation to ensure that the information provided and produced in the assessment reports and strategies across both the PPS and LFAS were as accurate as possible (at the time of writing the reports) to ensure the documents make a robust evidence document.

ENGAGEMENT METHODOLOGY

How we undertook the consultation:

Vale of White Horse District Council invited comments on the Playing Pitch and Leisure Facilities Strategies from Wednesday 6 March until 11:59pm on Wednesday 3 April 2024. 147 completed responses were received.

The consultation was shared with 276 leisure groups located across Vale of White Horse (including South Oxfordshire), as well as 4,314 emails and 46 letters sent to consultees registered on the council's consultation database. Social media campaigns were also shared through the council's platforms to encourage further participation.

An online survey was created to gather feedback on the Playing Pitch Strategy and Leisure Facilities Strategy. These strategies show the need for new playing pitches and leisure facilities across Vale of White Horse, as well as identifying which of our existing pitches and facilities need protecting, upgrading, or expanding. This consultation was broken down by the following sub-areas; North, South and West to allow respondents to view the content which is most relevant to them or their sports club.

Paper copies of the consultation documents were also made available to view at the district councils' offices at Abbey House and in the following Leisure Centres: Farrington Leisure Centre, Wantage Leisure Centre and White Horse Leisure and Tennis Centre.

Reporting methodology

- The consultation was extended by a week to provide some additional time for residents, sports clubs, club owners and sports enthusiasts to respond due to the Easter Holidays.
- Two late submissions were received from Wallingford Sports Trust and Natural England and have been accepted and considered.
- Two extensions to the consultation deadline were granted to Culham Parish Council and Oxfordshire County Council.
- A summary of the comments to the consultation is included in this report. Any personal information supplied to us within the comments that could identify anyone has been redacted and will not be shared or published in the report. Further information on data protection is available in our [general consultation's privacy statement](#) on our website.
- Some spelling, grammatical and punctual errors in the original comments raised were corrected in the main body of this report.

QUALITATIVE DATA

The consultation was broken down into sub-areas to allow respondents to view the content which is most relevant to them and their sports clubs.

North Sub-Area

The North Sub-Area includes the following parishes:

Wytham, Cumnor, Botley and North Hinksey, South Hinksey, Kennington, Radley, Appleton with Eaton, Besselsleigh, Wootton, Sunningwell, St Helen Without, Marcham, Drayton, Steventon, Milton, Sutton Courtenay and Appleford-on-Thames.

The main key recommendations identified for the North Sub-Area formed part of the consultation for the PPS and all recommendations were provided for the LFAS, allowing respondent to comment on each of the recommendations if they wished.

The responses or summary of comments received are detailed below next to an officer response and/or the consultant response.

PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

Response ID	Response / Summary	Officer and Consultant Response
ANON-R2WB-JK9G-J	<p>In the Assessment and Strategy document at page 13 under the heading EX9, you mention a:</p> <p>New MUGA at Land North of Dunmore Road (Strategic Housing Site)</p> <p>I understand that actually it will be at the far Eastern end of the North Abingdon site, so North of Twelve Acre Drive (not Dunmore Road) in fact. Not very convenient for much of the new estate, but the Western end of the estate is next to Tilsley park, so provision is good. White Horse leisure and tennis centre is not that far away also...</p> <p>It was put there to preserve a small chunk bit of the 'Green Belt' and maybe to provide a buffer between the new estate and Peachcroft farm.</p> <p>Maybe it could be developed as a football club for females? But I've no idea who might do that!</p>	<p>The wording has been amended to North West of Abingdon on Thames which is the development rather than a specific location for the MUGA.</p>
ANON-R2WB-JKMV-N	<p>Disappointed that there is no identification of a need for 3G/4G football</p>	<p>The Playing Pitch Strategy recommendations for the North</p>

	<p>pitches - possibly with facilities to allow clubs to advance given The FA's requirements at the different levels of football. The county is well behind other counties in its provision of these facilities now and with no action will go even further behind.</p>	<p>sub area includes providing 3 x full size 3G pitches to serve Abingdon, 1 x 3G pitch to serve the edge of oxford and 1 x 3G pitch to serve western catchment of Didcot.</p>
ANON-R2WB-JKMZ-S	<p>I believe that there should be improvement made to the football pitch on the Squire Barret field in Milton village itself. It is completely neglected by the favour shown to Milton Heights and Milton FC facilities.</p>	<p>The consultant states that a list of pitches was researched using Active Places Power which was confirmed as part of Stage B, sign-off by the Steering Group. Records of demand and home grounds were used for football pitches provided by the FA. This playing field is not on that list. See freeparks.co.uk/park/squire-barrett-recreation-ground/. However, from a search online, this does not look like a formal pitch, although there are goals in place. It looks like a kickabout area with no pitch markings and likely to be used only informally. 28 x 37 m (5v5) would be the smallest size of formal pitch which could be accommodated on the playing field and measuring the site online suggests that this size cannot be accommodated on the site as it is too narrow, particularly if run-off areas are added.</p>
BHLF-R2WB-JKGC-V	<p>8 - It was previously planned to have the football pitches on the land between the present pitches and the health centre. This plan did not materialise.</p>	<p>These comments have been noted.</p>
ANON-R2WB-JKYQ-V	<p>(2) Edge of Oxford</p> <p>Football (3G): Explore provision of 1 x full-size sports-lit 3G pitch, subject to demand in mid-latter part of strategy period arising from both north-eastern part of sub-area, plus potential exported demand from Oxford City</p> <p>The over occupancy of football playing venues in the Cumnor Area and for winter training with the lack of suitable playing surfaces with lights. Our Club currently have over 200 subscribed players from the age of 5 years to 17 years with both boys and girls teams. As a club we would be interesting in a joint operation with the Vale/and all secondary</p>	<p>These comments have been noted.</p>

	school to get full utilisation from a new facility.	
ANON-R2WB-JKY6-1	More pitches are needed for grassroots football also the lack of all-weather pitches is woeful. We want kids to do sport but you are not giving them the facilities to do so. The government and council's get a lot of money they need to start managing it properly! There is lots of unused land that could be used. Land on the Hurst in Cumnor as an example, for sale by a trust.	The Playing Pitch Strategy recommendations for the North sub area includes providing 3 x full size 3G pitches to serve Abingdon, 1 x 3G pitch to serve the edge of Oxford and 1 x 3G pitch to serve western catchment of Didcot.
ANON-R2WB-JKUH-F	<p>No mention of the proposed plan for pitches (football and cricket) at the Walnut Meadows development.</p> <p>A BMX track and/or a skatepark facility should reach quite a subset of the village youth - perhaps even a tennis court or two, if space permits? And expansion of village hall car park.</p>	<p>This is a Parish Council led project utilising S106 contributions from developments and includes 1 x full size grass pitch, 1x small sided pitch, 1x cricket NTP, 2 x MUGAs, 1 x pavilion.</p> <p>https://www.draytonvillage.co.uk/drayton-parish-council/walnut-meadows/</p> <p>No cricket clubs known to be linked to the project. Could potentially be used by Steventon CC as a second ground as currently starting to outgrow current facilities.</p> <p>This project has been included in pipeline projects for both cricket and football.</p>
ANON-R2WB-JK9R-W	Strongly support improvement of rugby pitches as only rugby facility in the area, welcomes all ages and fosters great fitness experience for all sizes, especially for those not deemed slim/fit enough for football teams.	These comments have been noted.
ANON-R2WB-JKKD-1	I believe all areas would provide a fantastic opportunity for multi-sport growth.	These comments have been noted.
ANON-R2WB-JK9Y-4	There is no provision for Lacrosse, the closest facility is Oxford. It is not mentioned anywhere in the report.	The assessment conclusions state that there is one club within the district, Oxford Brookes University that plays at Botley Campus, Hardcourt Hill. The assessment highlights that for any future facilities England Lacrosse would look for access to floodlit pitches with the preferred surface being 3G.
ANON-R2WB-JK7W-Z	Management of the athletics track is poorly run by Abingdon school. This	The LFAS recommends protecting and maintaining track

	<p>results in athletes travelling to use the Oxford City AC managed track at Horspath.</p> <p>A J shaped training facility on the existing Brookes Harcourt Hill campus site would reduce the need to travel for a good number of athletes. This site has also been used informally for athletics training for the last forty years.</p>	<p>at Tilsley Park and the need to enhance access for community use.</p>
<p>ANON-R2WB-JKMG-6</p> <p>ANON-R2WB-JKUD-B</p>	<p>Retain provision of pitches at Brookes Sports Centre once Brookes University moves.</p>	<p>In regard to loss of education sites the PPS states that both available supply and the demand catered for would need to be replaced within reasonably close proximity to the site.</p>
<p>ANON-R2WB-JKMR-H</p>	<p>There is no mention of protecting the extensive rugby, football and running track pitches at Harcourt Hill which would be an enormous loss for Botley, Cumnor and North Hinksey</p>	<p>The PPS recommends to protect the existing supply of grass pitches and AGPs identified in the assessment and their capacity (for existing known, projected and potential additional currently unidentified future demand) unless the strategy proposes their replacement or alternative re-use for sport, leisure and recreation or unless replacement equivalent capacity can be provided elsewhere to an equal or better standard (i.e. “net improvements”) reflecting the demand and type of use required “on the ground” by clubs.</p>
<p>ANON-R2WB-JK7A-A</p>	<p>Botley suffers from a lack of facilities - the playgrounds are of poor quality compared to Cumnor and West Oxford, the Louis Memorial Field is sparse and could be made so much more of - there is only Brookes Sport, and even they close from 2-4pm on Monday-Thursday.</p>	<p>Comments have been reviewed by the team working on the Green Infrastructure Strategy and Open Space Study.</p>
<p>ANON-R2WB-JKQT-Q</p>	<p>Abingdon is in desperate need of green areas for outdoor ball games, field games dog walking etc. I am in full support of any additional pitches/facilities. Please consider North Abingdon which is always overlooked, in particular Barrow Hill car park and pitch, the goals got too old and one fell down. Never to be replaced. Loads of local children use this space and the grass is full of holes and dips and generally unsafe to play on. This area could be a</p>	<p>Comments have been reviewed by the team working on the Green Infrastructure Strategy and Open Space Study.</p> <p>Quality ratings were signed off by the Steering Group, this comment is passed on to FA should it have an impact on the ability of the pitch to host a team(s).</p>

	<p>fantastic pitch with car park for local grass roots football.</p> <p>Hundreds and hundreds of local people are involved at Abingdon Youth football club, Lambrick way, Abingdon. Each year the ground and pitches are becoming more and more unusable as the ground is so compacted. Rainwater sits on the pitches from literally October to March! So many disappointed children and parents with cancelled home games. The club needs serious help. Please help them.</p>	<p>The assessment tables report states that the pitch is available for community use but unused. Any potential for such pitches to be brought back into use should be considered during Stage E.</p> <p>There are recommendations in the PPS to improve the quality of pitches at Southern Town Park where Abingdon Youth FC play.</p>
ANON-R2WB-JKYC-E	<p>Please Dalton Barracks redevelopment features but it seems to miss out Marcham.</p>	<p>Marcham (Anson Field) is assessed in the sport tables supporting with the strategy.</p> <p>The PPS states to enhance capacity on existing pitches by improving quality and improve maintenance to ensure that the better quality is sustained in the long-term. There should be a focus on improving secure use pitches rated as “poor” and “standard”, where feasible. This would include Anson Field football pitches which are marked as having community use but poor/standard quality.</p> <p>Cricket highlights the site as currently potentially having some spare capacity on site for more usage.</p>
ANON-R2WB-JKGU-E	<p>Support improvements in Abingdon and Didcot, plus the protection and enhancement of Appleford Recreation Ground. It would be great to be able to light Appleford Recreation Ground, and to provide more local all-weather, lit astroturf football/ hockey pitches, and some all-weather, lit tennis courts.</p>	<p>The PPS states to enhance capacity on existing pitches by improving quality and improve maintenance to ensure that the better quality is sustained in the long-term. There should be a focus on improving secure use pitches rated as “poor” and “standard”, where feasible. This would include Appleford Recreation Ground which are marked as having community use but standard quality.</p> <p>There is also a recommendation to improve the ancillary facility on site.</p>
ANON-R2WB-JKCP-5	<p>- Appleford Parish Council (APC) supports the provision of new sports</p>	<p>These comments have been noted.</p>

	<p>pitches locally, particularly those for Rugby, Cricket, and Football</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - APC particularly supports more all-season, well-lit, multi-use football, hockey and Astro-turf pitches in and around Abingdon, and Milton Park, plus those proposed in Culham by the South Oxfordshire consultation. Ideally these would be easily accessible on foot and bike to locals, now and in the future - APC believe that it is important to ensure ongoing maintenance costs are allocated to maintain existing, and new pitches, and particularly to optimise all-season use of such facilities, e.g. Appleford Recreation Ground flood-lights. - Since Appleford is at the Eastern boundary of the Vale Playing Pitch and Leisure Facilities Strategies Consultation, it is hoped this consultation will be considered alongside the South Oxfordshire Playing Pitch and Leisure Facilities Strategies Consultation. 	
ANON-R2WB-JKJT-G	<p>Could Sunningwell Cricket Club be included in the consultation? Councillor Emily Smith brought to the attention of the Sunningwell Parish Council the consultation was happening and we consulted with the cricket club.</p> <p>I had the following response from the club:</p> <p>It's good of you to share this with us - we weren't as aware of the consultation as perhaps we might have been.</p> <p>For us the biggest challenge is the capacity of the ground in Sunningwell for all the activities we're putting on in the summer. This coming summer the usage will be higher than before, with main changes being additional junior teams (playing mid-week) and a new Girls Dynamos programme (softball cricket ages 8-11) on a Friday evening.</p> <p>With there not being much scope to expand the square (in the centre of the field, which is relatively small compared to other grounds) or the ground itself, it would be good for the Vale to be aware of this. Additionally we'd like to avoid overuse, just from the point-of-view of the village community.</p>	<p>Sunningwell CC has been assessed as part of the playing pitch strategy, these comments have been noted.</p>

	<p>It would be useful for us to be kept in the loop on any plans to add cricket facilities in North Abingdon and Dalton Barracks, which are referenced in the consultation document.</p> <p>In your strategy you have noted the following:</p> <p>Support the improvement of club ancillary facilities to provide fit for purpose facilities, to service current membership and the growth in the Women & Girls game at Sunningwell CC, Cumnor CC and Steventon Village Green. This list will need to be monitored as more and more clubs establish new women & girls' sections.</p>	
<p>ANON-R2WB-JKCS-8</p> <p>ANON-R2WB-JKJK-7</p> <p>BHLF-R2WB-JKJ7-K</p>	<p>Please get on with sorting out the issues with the facilities on the Louis Memorial Fields which I note appear to be not covered in this strategy.</p> <p>There is an existing full-size football pitch and smaller pitch area at Louie Memorial Playing Fields in Botley, which is a public resource owned by the parish council. There is no mention in the PPS of this important community resource, which hosts both adult and local children's teams for training and matches. These playing fields should be listed under Protect in the strategy, and could be considered for strategic Enhancement (e.g. provision of 3G pitch if warranted by future demand). The District Council has historically justified non-investment for leisure facilities in the Botley area by virtue of the presence of Brookes Sports Botley, but the future of this facility is now uncertain given Oxford Brookes University's plans to vacate the site. This means that investment in public-owned facilities such as the Louie Memorial Playing Fields is all the more crucial to ensure that these facilities are not to the community. There is also no mention of the Council's budgeted investment for replacing the existing Louie Memorial Pavilion, which (in contrast to general community halls) supports the use of the playing pitches and other surrounding sports/leisure facilities (MUGA, fitness trail, planned skatepark). Redevelopment of the Pavilion was listed as a strategic</p>	<p>The Louie Memorial pitches are assessed in the sport tables linked to the PPS. The PPS highlights to protect the existing supply of pitches.</p> <p>This has also been added to the north sub area enhance recommendations and the pavilion improvements have been added to Louie Memorial Playing Fields.</p>

	<p>priority in a previous District-wide leisure facilities report in 2016; the PPS should indicate the District Council's partnership with Botley & North Hinksey Parish Council towards redevelopment of the Pavilion and include it within Enhance to support ongoing use of the community-owned playing fields.</p>	
ANON-R2WB-JKJM-9	<p>The Vision rightly talks about Vale providing pitches and ancillary facilities - yet there is very little about these ancillary facilities in the rest of the document.</p> <p>There is no mention of the Sunningwell Cricket Pavilion, the Wytham Village Hall and Cricket Club, or particularly notably Botley's Louie Memorial Pavilion. The latter has planning permission to be rebuilt, with £250k of Vale CIL funding earmarked towards it and the Parish Council are actively seeking funds to develop it. Sports England are supportive of the plan as it will provide Sports England standard changing facilities - enabling more football teams to use the Louie Memorial Playing Pitch as well as ensuring disabled access to the site. Planned facilities on new developments are listed, but not this in an existing community. Having the Botley Pavilion included will be extremely useful when applying for funding and ensuring the facility is built quickly.</p> <p>The Pitches in Botley are in need of better maintenance. The pitches at the Rugby Club on North Hinksey Lane are often under flood water and the Louie Memorial playing field gets very wet and unusable meaning that games are often cancelled.</p> <p>There is a very real risk that Brookes Sport are going to leave Harcourt Hill during the period of this strategy - this would be a significant loss to Vale residents. Harcourt Hill is used for club sports, the local school and the for local people to just use for recreation. Parkrun takes place here and the community use it for walking dogs and family activities at weekends. This is at risk and the site should be a priority for protection.</p>	<p>Sunningwell CC was mentioned in the assessment report for having a poor-quality pavilion, this is then reflected in the strategy document with a specific recommendation to improve the quality of the pavilion provision at Sunningwell CC.</p> <p>Wytham Village Cricket Club was not included in assessment as it was never identified through the PPS process. This was despite an extensive process undertaken to identify all cricket activity. Upon investigation the club only plays adult male friendly matches and is not affiliated to the Oxfordshire Cricket Board. Activity levels of the club are unknown.</p>
ANON-R2WB-JK9M-R	<p>In the North area the Boxhill and Barrow Hills recreation grounds Abingdon need improvement.</p>	<p>Boxhill and Barrow Hills pitch are reviewed within the assessment tables. The PPS</p>

	<p>New developments need to contribute towards playing pitches not just open spaces.</p> <p>Changing facilities need to be provided. Playing pitches need floodlights to maximise participation rates beyond work/school times. Is there a strategy for that?</p> <p>Will the Vale ring fence budgets to maintain these facilities?</p>	<p>suggests improvements to the recreation ground along with changing and ancillary facilities.</p>
ANON-R2WB-JKJX-M	All their recommendations seem sensible	These comments have been noted.
ANON-R2WB-JKYQ-V	Cumnor Minors would be happy to be a local club representation on a playing pitch strategy for football.	These comments have been noted.
BHLF-R2WB-JKJS-F	Please see attachments 1 and 2 available in the appendix.	<p>Figures proposed are a starting point from the Sports England Calculator.</p> <p>Further discussion can be had during Stage E and the planning process.</p>

LEISURE FACILITIES STRATEGY

ID number	Comments	Officer response
ANON-R2WB-JK9M-R	No mention of Sailing or the Sailing and Paddle Boarding Clubs on Farmoor Reservoir!	Farmoor Reservoir has been added to the report.
ANON-R2WB-JK9R-W	Schools shouldn't have to give tenure to sports clubs. Reduce costs of gym etc if possible to allow for all to use them. Better advertisement of eg walks for health and expand these to weekends	Sport England advocate schools providing tenure to sports clubs through Community Use Agreements.
ANON-R2WB-JK99-4	<p>With regard to recommendation 17</p> <p>1. The White Horse LTC currently closes at 17:00 at weekends. Moving the closing time to 18:00 or 19:00 would spread demand and also make it easier to do outdoor household tasks while it was still light and fit in a gym session at weekends, particularly in the winter.</p> <p>2. It is not possible to take just gym membership at the White Horse LTC. Membership includes access to both the gym and swimming pool. Those who want to go to the gym but not swim are therefore forced to pay for a facility they are not using, and vice versa. This makes the cost higher than membership at</p>	These comments have been revied by the Leisure Facilities Team.

	private gyms. The cost may also be prohibitive for those on low income.	
ANON-R2WB-JKGN-7	<p>District Council leisure centres run by Better are closed after 5pm on weekends, since covid. They used to be open until 10pm, and this needs to be changed back. This would improve availability. The prices also need to come down, eg currently the charge for a badminton court, for only 40 minutes (which is not long enough to warm up and have a decent time for play) is more than £13 which is utterly extortionate.</p> <p>Facilities like the tennis courts at Florence park in Oxford are desperately needed in the Abingdon area, good surfaces, flood lit, online booking via Premier Tennis and much more reasonable pricing than any of the private schools that have courts for hire.</p> <p>In addition, improving a tennis club such as Abingdon LTC does not benefit the whole community but only those able to join/ make use of club access. Pay as you go tennis provision would be more beneficial to a wider audience</p>	<p>Affordability of prices is a recommendation within the strategy but ultimately down to the operator to set prices. Nationally there are issues of rising costs.</p> <p>The tennis courts at WHLTC have been recently refurbished and available for public use (to meet demand that Abingdon LTC does not).</p> <p>Comments have been reviewed by the Leisure Facilities Team.</p>
ANON-R2WB-JKYQ-V ANON-R2WB-JKKK-8	White Horse LC is a great facility however there is limited availability for swimming/ classes.	These comments have been reviewed by the Leisure Facilities Team.
ANON-R2WB-JK7N-Q	<p>17) swimming - many will not use the swimming indoor at WHT&L. I use the outdoor Abbey Meadows pool for the tiny season it is open. It should be open much earlier than the July date and not close in late August. Use local groups to support this need!</p> <p>17) WHT&L - use indoor basketball court for Walking Basketball as part of Abingdon Eagles Foundation. There should be an outdoor court free of charge available at the same site as many tarmac areas outside are overgrown/not used.</p> <p>17) WHT&L Gym - age limit being moved to 65 for senior membership prices is deliberately excluding those who have already retired but cannot claim any pensions etc yet and do not qualify for benefits. You should be promoting off peak times for older people to use at a flat</p>	These comments have been reviewed by the Leisure Facilities Team.

	<p>rate eg £2 for 30 minutes-1 hour between say 10-12 mon-fri. Many older people do not want to use the classes or have a long gym session but would appreciate say 30 minutes on a bike or light weights etc.</p> <p>Why are Better allowed to offer gym only packages to other sites but not to WHTLC? and also the tie in for many years to the Abbey Meadows pool with such a limited season should be investigated and not allowed to happen again.</p>	
ANON-R2WB-JKQJ-D	<p>17 - White Horse Leisure & Tennis Centre - Abingdon Judo Club is one of around 25 martial arts clubs in the Abingdon Area. We desperately need a multi-use martial arts dojo within the leisure centre complex to allow community clubs to continue to grow and provide an essential service which includes martial arts for adaptive needs. Judo is an olympic sport and martial art that caters for people with many different SEN and Adaptive needs and the current facilities within the town do not allow us to grow. We cannot afford the overheads of our own dojo therefore recommend a multi-martial arts dojo that can be rented out. This would free up around 20 hours per week within the squash courts of the White Horse Leisure & Tennis centre. The cost is also very high and limits the amount we can put back into the club and support players who are from low income families and refugees, which we are trying to do more of.</p> <p>This could be built on the land at Abingdon Rugby club or Dalton Barracks, and could support the extended use of the facilities there, if the leisure centre doesn't have space or ability to build on land there.</p> <p>Abingdon Judo Club has bought 6 Olympians (including 2 Olympic medallists), a Paralympic Champion and multiple World and European medallists to the White Horse Leisure & Tennis centre in the last 7 years. Providing a permanent, multi-use dojo would allow us to do more of those type of activities bringing guests from all over the country to the town and Leisure Centre.</p>	Abingdon Judo Club was consulted during the data gathering stage. Multi-sport indoor facilities have been recommended in the report.

ANON-R2WB-JKMT-K	<p>(17) White Horse Leisure and Tennis Centre</p> <p>I would love to see the Les Mills exercise classes reintroduced at WHLTC. These were a regular feature before Covid and the classes were much appreciated and in my experience very fully attended.</p> <p>The Les Mills Body Balance class on Sunday mornings was usually full, as were other several other classes each week.</p> <p>During Covid I tried switching to an online version and to other classes but it is not the same. Like many, I have stopped attending but would come back if the Les Mills contract was renewed. There is nowhere else within a reasonable drive of Abingdon that offers these classes.</p>	These comments have been reviewed by the leisure facilities team.
ANON-R2WB-JKGU-E	Super supportive of all proposals to upgrade and improve existing facilities, particularly the White Horse Leisure Centre, a fantastic resource for all families. Useful to consider new leisure facilities within Culham area, near to Europa School, and potential new housing developments.	These comments have been noted.
ANON-R2WB-JKQE-8	<p>With reference to Abingdon-on-Thames only & particularly regarding the Vale of White Horse Leisure & Tennis Centre, I welcome the objectives outlined (12.9, 15 & 16) concerning swimming and refurbishment of outdoor tennis courts & reference to a new Padel court.</p> <p>I note the omission of any reference to the Abbey Meadows Outdoor Swimming Pool. Why?</p> <p>This is a valuable resource whose current short season (as in 2022 & 2023) could be extended at least back to the pre-pandemic season of opening from second May BH weekend to closure in early September IF not extended further.</p>	The Abbey Meadows Pool was assessed as part of the audit of existing facilities, however, given that it is a lido only open 6 weeks of the year, it was not relied on in the main leisure facilities strategy.
ANON-R2WB-JK96-1 ANON-R2WB-JKK4-H ANON-R2WB-JKKV-K ANON-R2WB-JKM7-P	<p>Why is the abbey meadows outdoor pool not mentioned?</p> <p>It would be good if the pool could be open for lane swimming longer than the current 6 weeks. The outdoor pools at Hinksey, Oxford and Wallingford manage to open successfully for longer. Given the increased popularity in outdoor</p>	The Abbey Meadows Pool was assessed as part of the audit of existing facilities, however, given that it is a lido only open 6 weeks of the year, it was not relied on in the main leisure facilities strategy.

<p>ANON-R2WB-JKQQ-M</p> <p>ANON-R2WB-JKGE-X</p>	<p>swimming but coupled with concerns about water quality in rivers and lakes I feel this would provide a safe space for outdoor swimmers. For this group of swimmers it wouldn't be necessary to heat the water to any great temperature</p> <p>The pool should be opened during May half term.</p>	
<p>ANON-R2WB-JKG5-E</p>	<p>Whilst not listed under a recommendation point within the strategy I'd really like to see free use or discounted use of swimming/leisure/athletics facilities for UK armed forces & Veterans as part of the defence discount scheme. I also believe this should be extended to blue light card holders. A viable system is already in place across Wales in which councils grant free or discounted use of leisure facilities to the above groups. I find it concerning that those unemployed or students have readily available discounts offered to them unlike the Armed Forces/Veterans/Blue Light community.</p> <p>In regards to section 8 - environmental impact, I firmly believe the proposed AWS data centre infrastructure due to be built in and around dicot can fundamentally help with the energy needs of leisure facilities. REDACTED. Recently a few high profile news stories have shown this heat can be used to heat pools/sports halls or converted into a leisure facilities energy needs. I believe serious consideration of this should be taken when upgraded or building new facilities.</p>	<p>These comments have been noted.</p>
<p>ANON-R2WB-JKKX-N</p>	<p>(10) Louie memorial field. With reference to the MUGA, and it's apparent wear and tear. There is no mention of how this might be actually improved. MUGAs are almost entirely used by boys and men - research by Make Space for Girls shows how public park facilities can incorporate ALL parts of society more equally.</p>	<p>Further work is required to determine improvements required to MUGA, which are beyond the scope of this work.</p>
<p>ANON-R2WB-JKJK-7</p>	<p>As in the Playing Pitch Strategy, the lack of recognition of the facilities at Louie Memorial Playing Fields beyond the MUGA (deemed 'below average' standard) is an unacceptable omission. The recommendation to site a new skatepark at the Fogwell Road Recreation Ground is non-sensical, given that planning permission for a skatepark at Louie Memorial Playing Fields has</p>	<p>The recommendation to site a new skatepark at the Fogwell Road Recreation Ground has been removed and wording has been added to the recommendation at Louie Memorial Playing Fields to support new skatepark.</p>

recently been granted (with most of the funding already secured) to meet demand for a skatepark in Botley. The recommendation to Enhance the MUGA at Louie Memorial Playing Fields by improving its condition and adding lighting to increase hours of usage is welcome and in line with user aspirations (e.g. the local Youth Club who are based at the Louie Memorial Pavilion and who have to place free-standing lights on the MUGA in order to use it during sessions in winter). The partnership between VOWH District Council and Botley & North Hinksey Parish Council for redeveloping the Louie Memorial Pavilion should be recognized, and this planned facility should be listed as strategic Enhancement; in addition to supporting use of the playing fields by providing accessible changing and social facilities, it will also provide space for additional sports and leisure use such as fitness classes (i.e. some of the functions of a sports hall). Strategic protection and enhancement of these community-owned facilities is essential giving the uncertain future of the facilities at Brookes Sport Botley.

10 Louie Memorial Playing Fields (Botley) Skateparks: skatepark at the Louie Memorial Playing Field. This planned facility needs to be added as forthcoming. The Vale approved the planning application for the new Skatepark in 2023.

Multi Use Games Areas (MUGAs) - We support the note to protect and enhance the MUGA at Louie Memorial Fields.

Sports Pavilions: The document has sections on Sports Halls, and on Community Halls, but there is no mention of sports pavilions in this or in the Playing Pitch document. Full usage of playing pitches relies on the availability of appropriate sports pavilion facilities. This is a major oversight that needs rectifying by inclusion of pavilions and changing facilities in either this document or, as may be more appropriate in the Playing Pitch document. We have also included this comment in our response on Playing Pitches.

• Specifically, for the North Area there is no mention of the new Pavilion project currently being carried out by Botley & North In the Vale's own Leisure Facilities Report 2016, produced as a support document in the development

	<p>process of the 2031 Local Plan it was noted that the current Pavilion and former Scout Hut required urgent replacement, which the current project is aiming to resolve, with the current buildings now in an even worse state of repair and the former Scout Hut being unusable because of a combination of asbestos issues and an EPC rating of G. Hinksey Parish Council (BNHPC) at the Louie Memorial Playing Fields (LMPF) despite the following factors: The adopted Botley & North Hinksey Parish Neighbourhood Plan also mentions the projects to replace the current Pavilion plus former Scout Hut with a new Pavilion. There is no recognition that the Vale is effectively a strategic partner in the provision of a new Pavilion as it has provided significant funding for this purpose, even though the project is being managed by BNHPC. A sum of £20,000 was awarded to BNHPC to allow the initial consultation and development process to take place in 2018, followed by a further sum of £250,000 being made available as a capital grant to go towards construction costs. Mention of the Vale as a strategic partner in these documents is critical in supporting BNHPC's current fundraising activities. The Vale has also approved the planning application for the new Pavilion. In summary, we request this document is updated to include: - Planned new Pavilion at the Louie Memorial Playing Fields (unless it is being added to the Playing Pitch Strategy). - Planned Skatepark at Louie Memorial Playing Fields. - The flagging of the significant risk of the of the Brookes Harcourt Hill facilities including swimming pool as Brookes have made public their planned exit from the site in 2025.</p>	
BHLF-R2WB-JKJ7-K	<p>10 Louie Memorial Playing Fields (Botley) Skateparks: skatepark at the Louie Memorial Playing Field. This planned facility needs to be added as forthcoming. The Vale approved the planning application for the new Skatepark in 2023. Multi Use Games Areas (MUGAs) - We support the note to protect and enhance the MUGA at Louie Memorial Fields. Sports Pavilions: The document has sections on Sports Halls, and on Community Halls, but there is no mention of sports pavilions in this or in the Playing</p>	Please see comments above.

	<p>Pitch document. Full usage of playing pitches relies on the availability of appropriate sports pavilion facilities. This is a major oversight that needs rectifying by inclusion of pavilions and changing facilities in either this document or, as may be more appropriate in the Playing Pitch document. We have also included this comment in our response on Playing Pitches. • Specifically, for the North Area there is no mention of the new Pavilion project currently being carried out by Botley & North In the Vale’s own Leisure Facilities Report 2016, produced as a support document in the development process of the 2031 Local Plan it was noted that the current Pavilion and former Scout Hut required urgent replacement, which the current project is aiming to resolve, with the current buildings now in an even worse state of repair and the former Scout Hut being unusable because of a combination of asbestos issues and an EPC rating of G. Hinksey Parish Council (BNHPC) at the Louie Memorial Playing Fields (LMPF) despite the following factors: The adopted Botley & North Hinksey Parish Neighbourhood Plan also mentions the projects to replace the current Pavilion plus former Scout Hut with a new Pavilion. There is no recognition that the Vale is effectively a strategic partner in the provision of a new Pavilion as it has provided significant funding for this purpose, even though the project is being managed by BNHPC. A sum of £20,000 was awarded to BNHPC to allow the initial consultation and development process to take place in 2018, followed by a further sum of £250,000 being made available as a capital grant to go towards construction costs. Mention of the Vale as a strategic partner in these documents is critical in supporting BNHPC’s current fundraising activities. The Vale has also approved the planning application for the new Pavilion. In summary, we request this document is updated to include: - Planned new Pavilion at the Louie Memorial Playing Fields (unless it is being added to the Playing Pitch Strategy). - Planned Skatepark at Louie Memorial Playing Fields. - The flagging of the significant risk of the of the Brookes Harcourt Hill facilities including swimming pool as</p>	
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	Brookes have made public their planned exit from the site in 2025.	
ANON-R2WB-JKJM-9	<p>The new pavilion at Botley, Louie Memorial Fields is not included in the strategy and it really needs to be. The vale have granted planning permission for this new facility - that meets Sport England and Changing Places requirements - and Vale have £250k of CIL funding earmarked in our budgets towards the build cost. Vale also paid £30k to get the plans drawn up. It is odd that there is no mention of this project in the Strategy.</p> <p>(I fully support the submission to this consultation from Botley and North Hinksey Parish Council)</p> <p>There is also planning permission for a Skatepark in Botley - yet there is no mention of this. Fundraising is going well, with a recent grant for £100k being successful, but getting additional funding is much easier if it is included in council strategies. So I would ask that it is included in the next draft.</p> <p>Another huge risk for the North Sub Area is the imminent loss of Brookes Sport from Harcourt Hill. I feel protecting the public open space, swimming pool, Gym and other sports provision here for the community and local schools is essential. It is not realistic for people without access to a car (adults and especially young people) to travel from Botley to Abingdon for leisure activities - to get to the White Horse Tennis and Leisure centre from Botley is two busses and it takes 1hr 20mins, and the busses are not very regular.</p> <p>In Abingdon - there is no mention of the outdoor pool at Abbey Meadows. I think there should be. There are ongoing discussions about energy improvements there and increasing open times if financially viable. This is a Vale owned facility and should be in the strategy to enhance.</p>	The pavilion at Louie Memorial Fields along with the skate park has been included in the report.
ANON-R2WB-JK7A-A ANON-R2WB-JK73-V	Summary of Oxford Brookes: Concerns that the plans for Oxford Brookes University departure will leave the local community without much needed sports facilities.	The LFAS recommends that the Brookes facility should be retained or enhanced as part of redevelopment unless an assessment has demonstrated

ANON-R2WB-JKM4-K ANON-R2WB-JKMG-6 ANON-R2WB-JKMR-H ANON-R2WB-JKUD-B ANON-R2WB-JKJX-M BHLF-R2WB-JKJ7-K	To retain facilities at Brookes.	that there is an excess of provision and they are surplus to requirements or clear evidence supports their relocation.
ANON-R2WB-JK7C-C	<p>Need for the Abingdon and Witney college basketball provision to be enhanced. The floor is damaged. During exam times there is no access for any sport club for 10 weeks.</p> <p>No mention of the MUGA at Wootton and dry Sandford community centre Surface cannot be used due to glass and facility is damaged.</p> <p>Leisure Centre playing surface in sports hall needs to be replaced must be 30 years old.</p> <p>Abingdon School - access to sports hall very limited and very rude staff when asking for access for local club.</p> <p>We have nearly 500 children playing basketball each week and the provision in the county is poor and we need more facilities and those we have need to be upgraded to 2024 standards. Not mend and make do from 1970s.</p>	<p>Wootton MUGA is listed in the Leisure Facilities Assessment report along with the community centre.</p> <p>A Community Use Agreement is recommended for Abingdon School to secure community access.</p>
ANON-R2WB-JK71-T ANON-R2WB-JK7X-1 ANON-R2WB-JK75-X ANON-R2WB-JKKW-M ANON-R2WB-JKM5-M	<p>There is no mention of basketball in the reports.</p> <p>Facilities should be accessible and in a condition where National League games can be played.</p> <p>Backboards are broken and the facility is not cleaned properly, the brightness of lights is also an issue.</p> <p>Halls are too expensive for clubs to rent out.</p>	Basketball is reviewed in the Leisure Facilities report. Site-specific needs assessment for basketball required to determine need for a dedicated facility but LFAS has a holistic approach of multi-sport facilities. This includes the Facility Planning Model for halls which covers demand from all sports including basketball.
ANON-R2WB-JKMV-N	There appears to be no focus on current/future trends of sports, the	Pickleball is outside of the study scope.

	<p>strategy appears to concentrate on current sports not the future sports. For example, Pickleball is not mentioned.</p> <p>There are more leisure centres than just the ones run by GLL - partnerships with them should be explored.</p>	
ANON-R2WB-JKQH-B	<p>Recommendation 5: "Consideration should be given to the design of the cycling infrastructure at this site, so that cycling can continue to be accommodated (e.g. distance-markers and low-level lighting)".</p> <p>Given the distance to Hillingdon for the nearest closed-circuit facility I think that we should pioneer a facility such as an outdoor or indoor velodrome. This would be accessible for all ages and abilities and reduce the need to travel excessive distances.</p>	<p>British Cycling were consulted and signed off recommendations within the strategy. They did not suggest a velodrome.</p>
ANON-R2WB-JKQF-9	<p>Why is fitzharrys school not considered? They have the worst sports facilities of all the secondary schools in Abingdon. Their multi use sports ground is cinder floor and no longer in use as it is unfit to be used for anything other than a car park.</p> <p>As the second busiest room I. The district, Why is white horse leisure centre pool in abingdon not being considered for expansion?</p> <p>Cycling facilities are woefully inadequate across the district. The identification. That their is no offroad cycling provision within 40 minutes barely scratches the surface. The report does not mention providing any facilities for mountain bikers, cross country mountain biking, cyclo Cross. Other areas put pump tracks in parks which are great for encouraging children to cycle and are far more accessible for all than bmx tracks. The existing bmx track in Abingdon is in a state of disrepair and should be turned into a pump track.</p> <p>We do not make effective use of the facilities/opportunities we have. There could be a great cross country mountain bike track through Bagley Wood or Wytham wood/Hill end, several football pitches are unfit for use in Abingdon and would benefit from maintenance. All sports facilities are desperately in need of</p>	<p>Fitzharrys school is included in the Leisure Facilities Assessment report along with cycling facilities.</p>

	protection against dog faeces which puts participants at risk.	
ANON-R2WB-JKY6-1	Make schools open their facilities and if they do they need to be affordable. Know private school allows you to use their facilities which they are supposed to support local communities. Make them.	These comments have been noted.
ANON-R2WB-JKYK-P	<p>Dalton Barracks (5) - Abingdon and vale triathlon club also use this venue for cycling. Given the safety of the roads in the area for cycling (potholes, traffic), it would be fantastic to have somewhere to be able to cycle safely for the public who are not part of a crit race. Something like odd down in Bristol would be ideal.</p> <p>Tilsley park (16) facilities are great but parking is too limited for peak times.</p> <p>WHLTC (17) does this include the outdoor pool? A great facility which is not accessible enough as only open during the summer holidays and with limited booking slots.</p> <p>Also, no diving in either pool which means children do not have access to the full national standards in swimming lessons.</p>	These comments have been noted.
ANON-R2WB-JKYX-3	17. Outdoor Courts at WHLTC desperately need upgrading to keep up with demand and enhance existing tennis facilities	The LFAS recommends exploring the opportunity for the refurbishment of existing outdoor tennis courts.
ANON-R2WB-JKUQ-R	1) We have installed the new and upgraded floodlights and they are now in use (completed March 2024) (ALTC)	The report has been updated to reflect these comments.
ANON-R2WB-JKCN-3	Appleton with Eaton and Besselsleigh has a Tennis Club in Appleton which is used all year round .	This club is recorded in the assessment report.
ANON-R2WB-JKUH-F	No mention of the long-proposed plan re floodlit 'MUGA' courts/pitches at the Walnut Meadows development in Drayton -- possibly due to the long-term failures of Vale's Planning enforcement team (?) to force Miller Homes to keep to the S106 conditions? Oh, and no mention either of the pavilion for that site, which was originally planned for table-tennis?	The planning permission for a pavilion and MUGA at walnut meadows has been added to the LFAS.
ANON-R2WB-JKC7-C	<p>5 Dalton Barracks</p> <p>A swimming pool in the new Garden Village would significantly enhance it. There could even be an open-air natural pool in the proposed country park.</p>	<p>The Facilities Planning Model conducted as part of the study does not identify need for a new pool in Dalton Barracks.</p> <p>Where possible, community use agreements are encouraged as education sites.</p>

	The facilities in the planned primary school should be available to the community for leisure.	
ANON-R2WB-JKC8-D	More areas for off leash dog play.	Comments have been reviewed by the team working on the Green Infrastructure Strategy and Open Space Study.
ANON-R2WB-JKC7-C	6 Dalton Barracks There are existing playing fields and running tracks on Choswell Rd Shippon. There were designated a green space in the Joint Wootton St Helen Without Neighbourhood Plan. These must be retained. We believe the DIO are open to disposal of these for the community. St Helen Without Parish Council wish to be involved in the disposal and subsequent management.	The running track had been added to the report.
ANON-R2WB-JKCP-5	'- Appleford Parish Council (APC) supports improvements to, and ongoing maintenance of, local leisure facilities, including those at the 17 sites mentioned. - APC further welcomes the new development - and ongoing provision - of the new local leisure facilities and multi-use games areas, perhaps to include a swimming pool in Culham, close to the Europa School, and proposed local development in this area? - Improved local sports facilities could enable local populations to continue playing a wider range of sports throughout the year, and reduce the traffic congestion associated with current travel to access facilities. - Provision of new walking and cycling paths to and from new sports facilities could improve local active travel, health, well-being and commutes to and from Abingdon, Didcot, and neighbouring villages. - Train stations at Appleford, Culham, Radley and beyond, could enable people travelling from further afield to reach new facilities - Appleford is at the Eastern boundary of the Vale Playing Pitch and Leisure Facilities Strategies Consultation, and hopes that this consultation will be considered alongside the South	The Facilities Planning Model conducted as part of the study does not identify need for a new pool in Culham.

	Oxfordshire Playing Pitch and Leisure Facilities Strategies Consultation	
ANON-R2WB-JKCE-T	<p>There is no mention of multi-sport pitches to be provided locally within easy walking distance for young people on estates, to practise any sport that requires a hard surface. There is a good one in Peachcroft, Abingdon that is very well-used for a variety of sports.</p> <p>Also, when I took part in the initial consultation, we mentioned that there used to be two pairs of grass tennis courts in Abingdon and now there are none. We felt that there should be at least one such court, which could be based at the White Horse Leisure Centre, since there is plenty of grassed area and an unused car park area too (which could be turned into more hard courts). I realise this takes a lot of maintenance but so too do the other outside courts, and booking fees could be higher to reflect the extra maintenance cost.</p>	<p>Free to use Mutli-use Games Areas and skateparks have a catchment area of a 20-minute walk and have been highlighted and recommended as part of the assessment.</p> <p>Comments on tennis have been reviewed by the Leisure Facilities Team.</p>
ANON-R2WB-JKJJ-6	<p>Marcham Community Centre is not in the strategy document - it has a MUGA and there are football pitches and in the summer a cricket pitch. Inside the centre is indoor bowls and other fitness classes such as pilates and Zumba.</p> <p>Travel congestion from Marcham to Abingdon can mean a 30 minute car drive to the Leisure Centre which does not help the climate situation. the Leisure centre is focused in the north area of the town, and I feel there is a gap in the south.</p>	<p>Marcham MUGA has been included in the report.</p>

South Sub-Area

The South Sub-Area includes the following parishes:

East Hendred, Western Valley, Harwell, Chilton, Upton, Blewbury, West Hendred, Ardington, Lockinge, Wantage, Grove and Lockinge.

The main key recommendations identified for the South Sub-Area formed part of the consultation for the PPS and all recommendations were provided for the LFAS, allowing respondent to comment on each of the recommendations if they wished.

The responses or summary of comments received are detailed below next to an officer response and/or the consultant response.

PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

ID number	Comments	Officer response
ANON-R2WB-JKM6-N	Wantage town facilities are that poor due to drainage and old equipment that the girls teams have to pay additional money to hire a schools facilities in Harwell. However the boys get to train on the better facilities, so we do have a major issue so I'll be glad to see these plan put in place for future generations.	These comments have been noted.
ANON-R2WB-JK9T-Y	I live on Great Western Park, and struggle to see anything for residents here. I understand there are sports pitches at Boundary Park in the middle of GWP, but these are not referenced. What is the plan for these?	Boundary Park is covered in the strategy and there are a number of references and recommendations including but not limited to; protecting from loss of club pitches used by Didcot RFC, improve quality of pitches for the 11x 11 football, improved maintenance for cricket.
ANON-R2WB-JK9V-1	So many football pitches but very little amenities like free courts to play on, extended leisure centre for the massive growth in population. What exactly is Wantage getting from the extra money generated???	There are protect, enhance and provide recommendations covering Wantage across sports.
ANON-R2WB-JKUT-U	A 4G pitch should never be given permission to be placed at Wantage Town FC, This 4G pitch should be placed in a more accessible site like Mably Way, behind the medical centre for the whole of the community to use, even if it for joint use for step clubs across the area.	These comments have been noted.
ANON-R2WB-JK9N-S	Whilst it's good to have 'commitments ' the reality is there is no local availability for 3g pitches in /around wantage unless you travel to Tilsley Park in Abingdon, whereby availability is at a premium and not always convenient. Wantage towns proposed 3G will only have availability on Mondays and Fridays a which will also be massively oversubscribed. Add into that the impact of weather and flooding, it leaves very few options for	These comments have been noted.

	local wantage and grove residents and its sports clubs!	
ANON-R2WB-JKYW-2	Wantage and surrounding areas need a 3G full size pitch , for the many clubs within our region , especially which has been hard hit with the recent flooding taking place all over our region no 7 on the agenda.	The PPS recommends delivering (at Alfredian Park, Wantage Town FC), 1 x full-size sports-lit 3G pitch and associated necessary ancillary facilities.
ANON-R2WB-JKQG-A	Playing pitch strategy (1) - although there will be lots of pitches available there is no provision for a 3G or 4G pitch in Grove. Most of our teams at Grove Challengers have to travel out of the area to Abingdon, Harwell or further afield for Winter training. This puts an extra strain on resources for parents. There is a 3G pitch proposed in Wantage but they have 20+ teams themselves that will want to use this for training along with the evening fixtures for their team in the Hellenic league, actual times that the pitch will be usable for other teams will be extremely limited. It would be fantastic if Grove could offer similar facilities for it's ever growing population and in turn Grove Challengers FC may be able to open up spaces for more teams such as girls teams and expand upon their popular SEN football training.	3G pitches are not viable in every location and provision must reflect this. However, that is not to say that provision would not be viable in the future and the strategy allows for that.
ANON-R2WB-JK9N-S	There is not enough mention of 3/4g and all-weather surfaces which would be able to be used year round, whatever the weather.	The PPS recommends the delivery of 3G pitches including one in Wantage and Valley Park, Didcot.
ANON-R2WB-JKGD-W	The South sub area facility development plan does not include any development of the Rugby facilities at Grove RFC, the club is over 30 years old and needs to be extended to include additional RFU changing rooms and storage area's as well increased kitchen and social facilities. This requirement is current so will only become more important with the area's development. Please see attachment 3 available in the appendix.	Recommendations have been updated to support improvements to the ancillary facilities.
ANON-R2WB-JKYW-2	The 3G pitch will encourage people of all ages to be enabled to join in and keep fit, people can try out all new facilities and quality time will ensure no 7 on agenda.	These comments have been noted.
ANON-R2WB-JK98-3	Upton rec has pitches but no toilet nor changing facility and limited parking. The parish council cannot afford to	The recommendations have been added to support

	provide these. It was used by happily Blewbury Amazons Girls FC but with an unauthorised port-a-loo but complaints from villagers about this, the excess on street parking and the abuse from parents forced them to leave. Can funds be provided to make it more attractive by subsidising these needs?	improvements at Upton recreation ground. Although Vale of White Horse and South Oxfordshire District Councils commissioned the studies, it is not their sole responsibility to fund all projects listed and requires collaborative working between Sporting Bodies, the District, Town and Parish Councils and clubs.
ANON-R2WB-JKKE-2	More affordable availability for young people to play safely.	These comments have been noted.
ANON-R2WB-JKQV-S	Given that Blewbury Amazons Girls FC are fielding more than 13 girls teams consisting of over 200 girls it is very surprising that we have not been involved in this consultation. Pitch space is an absolute NIGHTMARE and we are massively disadvantaged as a relatively new and female club when it comes to securing places to play in the area. Parish Councils are reluctant to support football it seems. If you are serious about supporting local girls in sport then I suggest you find out about how clubs like ours continue to struggle to obtain access to facilities for training and playing matches, especially the shortage of all-weather surfaces. For the two Didcot schools to have no 3g facilities between them is shocking, especially considering the girls schools' commitment to girls football provision. We have no shortage of girls who wish to play but are genuinely hampered by places that will allow us access.	Blewbury Amazons Girls FC was consulted as part of the assessment data gathering and feedback is included in the football tables. These comments have been noted.
ANON-R2WB-JKKF-3	I don't trust anything you mention, you have failed to deliver any type of sports facility and we are lagging way behind other towns/villages. Supply an all weather pitch, like Whitelands in Bicester. Or just some facility we can use without having to travel miles and miles to support youth development/football.	These comments have been noted.
ANON-R2WB-JK72-U	1. Grove Airfield. Facilities in the pipeline are NOT enough. Years ago, the training pitches were reduced in size for housing development. No suitable alternative has been given as promised. Pitches are far too often out of bounds	These comments have been noted. The proposals for the Grove area seeks to respond to the key issues around a need for additional capacity now and in the future. What the PPS

	because of flooding caused by the developers not building sufficient drainage.	does not do is seek to limit additional provision where demand is there on the ground. It allows for potential for additional provision to be made in the future. The PPS has flexibility and should not be seen as containing the only projects which should come forward, ensuring that provision is fit for purpose.
ANON-R2WB-JK7S-V	In Grove we've already been waiting a long time and what permission has already done is not good enough, so I have no faith in them being able to finish in my son's time at the football club. Plus, the club house is not fit for purpose and is falling apart yet the new pitches club house isn't due to be built until the end of the housing development. The facilities are rubbish for our kids. Didcot town are already having new facilities built for them. Wantage has nothing for kids/youths. It all needs to be sped up enough of the endless consultations and delaying tactics	Please see comments above.
ANON-R2WB-JKM3-J	In favour of recommendations.	These comments have been noted.
ANON-R2WB-JKMB-1	Some strange omissions from the list above.	These comments have been noted.
ANON-R2WB-JKKC-Z	Regarding EX11 If I am understanding correctly then rugby pitches will become more available due to relocation of football. However, as we are all painfully aware of how flooded the site gets, is there any provision for extra floodlights to make use of more ground and enable rotation? And will 3G or alternative pitch surface be considered for rugby?	The PPS recommends enhancements to the pitches and the provision of sports lighting.
ANON-R2WB-JKGD-W	The outlined plan for South sub area Grove RFC does not meet the current requirements or future requirements of the club, in particular the allocation of mini and junior Rugby pitches and a training area which needs to be capable of wet weather usage, it currently is a major issue for the club. A floodlit pitch is also a requirement to support the development of rugby in Grove.	The recommendations already identify a need to enhance the quality of existing pitches where possible, which increases carrying capacity and therefore demand, as well as identifying a need for 1-2 additional senior pitches, which can accommodate juniors and minis. The recommendations also refer to the move of football away from the shared site, which should also introduce

	<p>One of the 3 pitches is not secure with no long-term guarantee of usage as well as a large portion of the current land being used. This would make the clubs future untenable if it was not secured and available for Rugby.</p>	<p>additional opportunity for capacity improvements.</p> <p>Refence to one unsecure pitch and has been added and a recommendation to secure it.</p>
ANON-R2WB-JKG2-B	<p>Didcot RUFC welcomes the strategy and recommend the PROVIDE option. We hope that the football team will relocate to Valley Park to allow Didcot RUFC and the Cricket club to expand into the remaining space. Enhancing the facilities already at Boundary Park through the provision and maintenance of 3G pitches and lighting would allow the current facilities to be better utilised, as would adequate drainage to new and existing pitches at this location. Consideration into a parking strategy between Valley Park and Boundary Park would allow tournament events that would further enhance the sports and generate revenue to upkeep any new facilities.</p>	<p>These comments have been noted.</p>
ANON-R2WB-JKGW-G	<p>There is a massive shortfall of playing fields in the district.</p> <p>The council should focus on providing floodlight 4G surfaces for football and hockey.</p> <p>Cricket would benefit by hybrid pitches being installed. It is surprising that they are not referred to in the strategy.</p> <p>Managing the facilities is a major element in making sure that they are available. Many cricket pitches are poorly maintained due to lack of volunteers. Few Football/Rugby pitches are not maintained in public facilities have anywhere near the level of maintenance required and are overused when in poor condition, worsening their overall state.</p> <p>An innovative strategy where the district councils, parish councils and sports clubs work together would bring huge benefit to the existing facilities.</p> <p>A centralised booking facility for village recreation grounds could improve usage for casual sports groups.</p>	<p>Hybrid pitches have not been mentioned as their long-term impact is still being assessed by the ECB. A number of pilots are being undertaken but the ECB will not formerly endorse them until they have more evidence on their long-term impact. This was the case when the strategy was written and it is a fast-moving situation so this is likely to change in the next few years, but the strategy was written in line with ECB guidance, which is still in effect now.</p>

ANON-R2WB-JKY9-4	I can't see much reference to cricket? There is a major shortage of good quality indoor net practice facilities in the Vale, particularly with good lighting and light background decoration/colour.	Cricket pitches are covered in the Playing Pitch Strategy and indoor cricket has been covered in the LFAS.
ANON-R2WB-JKUB-9	Two documents to wade through with many similar pages of explanation etc. What a waste of effort/time/money etc. Why not one document as the two cover effectively the same subject. Poor Grove - they have generated much of the money available and get little in return. Not a very exciting document - almost as if the answer was pre-determined and then the words to fit the answer	The PPS guidance and scrutiny process dictates outputs required for each stage of the process. Assessment reports contain further details.
ANON-R2WB-JKCA-P	I would just like to mention I am very much in favour of making new 3G football (and for other sports) pitches available in this area, with floodlighting to enable play after dark - for both casual games and official league matches. There is a real lack of this in the area and in teams I have played for we have struggled to find this type of facility and have had to travel a long way out the area to find availability.	These comments have been noted.
ANON-R2WB-JKJ6-J	Recommendation 3 & 4 The following applies to Common Park in the Valley Park Development: Provide FOOTBALL 2 x 3G adult pitches with floodlighting and fences, marked for 3x5 aside usage Provide FOOTBALL 2 x Youth grass pitches (u11/12, u15/16) The following applies to Alma Park in the Valley Park Development: Provide FOOTBALL 2 x youth pitches (u11/12, u16/18) provide CRICKET 1 x full pitch with artificial nets and off-field artificial wicket, outfield to be 5m larger than Sport England minimum to facilitate hosting of higher-level competition Please see attachment 4 available in the appendix.	The recommendations identify the pitches which are already commitments and cannot be changed. It then goes on to identify the likely projected quantum of pitches by sport and / or capacity required in the town. It is also clear to suggest that a consolidated plan for provision must be developed which benefits all sports. This is a clear priority now and in the future for Stage E, for the steering group to work closely with Didcot clubs and the Sports Association to find the best solutions for sport in the town moving forward.
ANON-R2WB-JKJV-J	(5) A417 Corridor Hendred Sports Club offers both football and cricket for adults and children.	Improved pitch quality and pavilion facilities at Hendred are highlighted in the strategy. The enhancement recommendation

	<p>The girls and women's cricket is growing strongly. One of the barriers to increasing usage further is the outdated facilities.</p> <p>The success of the Hendred & Harwell youth football teams also means that there is demand to use Hendred pitches to increase capacity. This requires investment in more hard-wearing playing surfaces and a 7by7 pitch would also add to the capability.</p> <p>Trustees of the club have developed a plan to address this through significant investment in new changing rooms as part of major redevelopment of the site.</p> <p>Investing in sports facilities in the centre of the A417 corridor also has the potential to deliver sustainability benefits. It will help reduce car miles and East Hendred is already on Sustrans cycle route that links Wantage to Didcot so can also reduce the number of car journeys without investment.</p> <p>It would therefore be great to see East Hendred feature in the recommendations with access to funding options.</p> <p>Please see attachments 5 and 6 available in the appendix.</p>	<p>now includes the pavilion project.</p> <p>Football - identified need for additional pitches on A417 corridor with location to be determined - that could be East Hendred, subject to Stage E process. This gives the club an opportunity to develop plans for an additional pitch in discussion with the FA. The football recommendation now includes the pavilion project.</p>
ANON-R2WB-JKJ8-M	<p>The assessment looks solely at existing facilities and potential demand for future developments. Where it fails entirely is to identify where facilities are already lacking and demand is not being met. In relation to hockey, the assessment points out that there are no existing clubs in the sub area but rather than looking to assess potential demand it simply states that as a result there are no growth predictions. Surely in recognising that there is no club, the job of the assessment is to assess that potential demand.</p> <p>As you can see from the various maps provided in the attached document, from Wantage and Grove, all clubs are a 30 minute drive away, and what parent is going to drive their child 30 minutes to play a sport they've had no exposure to,</p>	<p>England Hockey has been involved at all stages of the work on the PPS and have approved the draft strategy. AGPs are not always a viable option for every settlement, particularly sand based which can be used for hockey and which are not a preferred surface for football where 3G is the preferred surface. Provision is not simply about the c.£1m plus cost of land to build them. If a pitch cannot be hired for c.38 hours per week during evenings and weekends it may not be a long-term sustainable or viable option.</p>

	<p>which they clearly can't, because there is no local pitch and therefore no opportunity to try the sport through school (indoor hockey with plastic two sided sicks is not a suitable alternative.)</p> <p>In attempting to quantify potential demand you need only look at schools in the area. In Wantage and Grove alone there are over 4000 children who currently have no exposure to the sport, (unless their parents happen to be a member of a club further afield). You don't need to expand the location very far to include schools in Lambourn, the Hendreds etc before you're easily up to 5000 / 6000 children who are being denied exposure through lack of facilities.</p> <p>Hockey is a very inclusive sport, played by adults of all ages and all abilities - Sport England's 'Back to Hockey' initiative and the growing interest in Walking Hockey being examples - so when you start to add adults into these numbers the potential demand is huge,</p> <p>Tilsley Park in Abingdon is simply too far away and doesn't have the capacity to cope with growing local demand as is.</p> <p>It's clear from the above that if hockey is truly seen as a 'key' sport, as per the Sport England guidelines, that Wantage/Grove requires a purpose build astro turf to service the demand of the local community, specifically children and the growing school population.</p> <p>As demonstrated by Tilsley Park, an astro turf suitable for hockey would also be in considerable demand by local football teams of which there are many, so usage would not be a concern.</p> <p>Please see attachment 7 available in the appendix.</p>	
ANON-R2WB-JKQV-S	We would welcome a conversation - we need a home for our club and it would be great PR for the council to be seen to be supporting the growth of a 100% girls club	Stage E will continue to involve the steering group and relevant clubs/ parties where necessary.
BHLF-R2WB-JKZU-1	Please see attachment 8 available in the appendix.	A written response was provided to Grove Parish

		Council and we are continuing to engage with both Grove Parish Council and Wantage Parish Council in relation to leisure provision given the specific leisure needs in the area.
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LEISURE FACILITIES STRATEGY

ID number	Comments	Officer response
ANON-R2WB-JKMD-3	Floor surfaces in Wantage are ignored and neglected, not cleaned properly making them a slip hazard. Not match standard but a high priority for our safety.	The Leisure Facilities team have reviewed these comments.
ANON-R2WB-JK9T-Y	We go to Wantage and Abingdon leisure centres from Great Western Park as there is poor provision in Didcot. This adds road journeys etc. Wantage leisure centre is very tired and requires investment, so I support comments here to improve it. The car park is very busy at peak times so additional provision for parking should be made if facilities are expanded	There is new hall and pool provision recommended in the LFAS.
ANON-R2WB-JK9M-R	<p>General comments on the strategy -</p> <p>The overall objectives of the strategy are good and will, when implemented in full, result in good range and quality of local sports provision.</p> <p>Facility development and enhancement must be supported by club coach development, training, helping clubs engage new participants and improve standards, especially in safeguarding.</p> <p>Facility development should also go in tandem with sports development outreach, especially at local/village group level to encourage greater participation, break down barriers to participation and increase use of the enhanced facilities. No point in enhancing facilities if you don't have an objective of increasing participation!</p> <p>Will the Vale have sufficient budget to deliver the strategy?</p>	Comments have been noted. It is not the role of Vale of White Horse or South Oxfordshire to cover all contributions and financial elements highlighted in the reports, likewise for the recommendations. A steering group made up of Council Officers and National Governing Bodies will follow the Sport England process to monitor the recommendations listed.

	How will its objectives be monitored over time, what will be the key deliverables?	
ANON-R2WB-JK9V-1	More cycle paths and free spaces for families, open areas.	These comments have been noted.
ANON-R2WB-JK98-3	<p>Utpon Parish Council maintains a pump track for mountain bikes and a large play area. The latter will soon reach its end of its safe life and repairs are becoming more frequent. Is funding help available to support the PC when replacement is necessary.</p> <p>The Village Hall is a separate trust and blocks the use of its facilities to support the playground /rec when it is nearly in use by someone else, which is most of the time. There would also be safeguarding issues to resolve when the girls gymnasts or brownies use the hall.</p>	Upton Park pump tramp track has been added to the LFAS.
ANON-R2WB-JKKA-X ANON-R2WB-JK72-U ANON-R2WB-JKMC-2 BHLF-R2WB-JKGC-V ANON-R2WB-JKUM-M	<p>Summary of wantage Leisure Centre comments: Wantage Leisure Centre is showings it's age, desperately needs replacing and upgrading.</p> <p>Since being taken over by 'BETTER', it's not run as well as it was by SOL, poorly advertised. Very few live classes and no one on reception.</p>	<p>The LFAS highlights that the facility is showing signs of age and poor quality and recommends to improve the quality of the facility to meet consumer expectations along with expanding the gym.</p> <p>Comments have been reviewed by the Leisure Facilities Team.</p>

<p>ANON-R2WB-JK7F-F</p> <p>ANON-R2WB-JKKG-4</p> <p>ANON-R2WB-JK79-2</p> <p>ANON-R2WB-JKQ9-V</p> <p>ANON-R2WB-JKMB-1</p> <p>ANON-R2WB-JKQS-P</p> <p>ANON-R2WB-JKJE-1</p>	<p>I agree with the statements regarding Wantage LC pool and gym made in the strategy, upgrade and expansion needed.</p> <p>It has limited opening hours, a new learner pool would be good, changing rooms need upgrading.</p> <p>It is not properly maintained, changing facilities are often dirty and the pool/shower temperatures vary.</p> <p>The timetable / availability is quite restricted and the pool can get very busy. The proposal for an 18mx10m teaching pool may help a little, but won't necessarily increase the availability for general use of the main (existing) pool.</p> <p>Please see attachments 9 and 10 available in the appendix.</p>	
<p>ANON-R2WB-JKQS-P</p>	<p>I have been a regular user of the pool at Wantage Leisure Centre for some 40 years now and sincerely hope that investment is put into "protecting, enhancing and improving" the facility as the objectives of this Assessment and Strategy Exercise. Investment is long overdue.</p>	<p>These comments have been noted.</p>
<p>ANON-R2WB-JKKE-2</p>	<p>GLL as a company does not do enough for the area in terms of community and needs to either step up their local community game or get out.</p>	<p>Comments have been reviewed by the Leisure Facilities Team.</p>
<p>ANON-R2WB-JKKW-M</p>	<p>Wantage Leisure is not fit for basketball. Abingdon Eagles basketball Club use KAs West Site for beginners and girls basketball but due to poor support from KAs, slippery floor, irregular booking cancellations have had to reduce its bookings. The Basketball Club has no security for bookings at KAs and desperately need a permanent basketball home for</p>	<p>The LFAS recommends continuing to support clubs and work with facility provider to secure CUAs for existing users at King Alfred's School West Site.</p>

	the 300 plus kids who now play for this South Oxon Club.	
ANON-R2WB-JKKW-M	Where is Basketball!!!!!! You have missed this out completely. Grove rugby pitches has a great outdoor basketball court that needs urgent renovation (despite me asking for this many times). This could be converted into a fantastic home for basketball for Abingdon Eagles Basketball Club. There isn't 1 Basketball England standard basketball court in the South Sub! KAs West Site and Wantage Leisure Centre both need upgrading to achieve this.	Grove Recreation Ground MUGA covered in the Assessment report and is rated as 'Below Average' quality. The assessment report recommends improving the condition of open-access MUGAs with open access that are 'Below Average' quality.
ANON-R2WB-JK7C-C	Upgrade of Wantage King Alfred school west site sports hall as playing surface is ok for ice skating but terrible and dangerous for indoor sports.	Enhancement of the quality of the sports hall when necessary has been added to the LFAS.
ANON-R2WB-JKM6-N	Sounds like you know where the gaps are in facilities and what is required but this has been long coming and we are still yet to see it. I'm not sure if this survey covers this but there appears to be no facilities for other sports like netball which is the Number 1 female sport in the UK.	Netball is covered in the Leisure Facilities Assessment and Strategy.
ANON-R2WB-JKJU-H	General observation. The strategy very much focuses on the main sports of Football, Cricket and Rugby with some references to less popular sports. I could not find anywhere a reference to Netball. Grove PC has a Netball pitch off Denchworth Road that is close to Mably Way roundabout. This pitch is on the line of the proposed navigable restoration route of the Wilts & Berks canal. Perhaps an alternative location could be found as part of the Grove Airfield pitch development.	Netball is covered in the Leisure Facilities Assessment and Strategy.
ANON-R2WB-JKQG-A	(3) A Sports Hall that could offer space for indoor football would	These comments have been noted.

	<p>be most welcomed by our younger age groups at Grove Challengers FC currently some are using the hall at King Alfred's (West Site) but this really is too small for some of the older age groups.</p> <p>I'm not sure how the hall sizes compare but hopefully the new Sports Hall will be larger than the one at West Site.</p> <p>Currently our SEN Football training only runs from March/April - October, the provision of a new Sports Hall may mean that we can extend this training session into the Winter months indoors.</p>	
ANON-R2WB-JKKF-3	Just get on with providing a state of the art facility for a growing population.	These comments have been noted.
ANON-R2WB-JK7S-V	There isn't anything for youths In Wantage/grove. We go further afield to keep them entertained and healthy.	These comments have been noted.
ANON-R2WB-JKM3-J	2. MUGA - use could be maximised with adequate flood lighting, with consideration given to sustainability and energy efficiency, and by making the facility bookable with use of a system to make this quick and easy.	The LFAS recommends consideration to providing sports-lighting in order to maximise community use.
ANON-R2WB-JKQV-S	The provision is shameful considering the influx of new housing. Finding indoor training options is difficult- see our comments re pitches.	These comments have been noted.
ANON-R2WB-JKUT-U	<p>Again, the site on Mably Way which was earmarked for a new leisure centre but mothballed as the Vale could only find £10m for an £18m build is disgraceful, I understand now that most of the money earmarked for this new leisure centre has now been spent across other leisure sites across the area including, Abingdon, Didcot and Harwell.</p> <p>Maybe a Lido of some description needs to be built on Mably Way, Grove with a 50mt</p>	These comments have been noted.

	open air pool, to be used 9 months of the year.	
ANON-R2WB-JKUB-9	<p>Two documents to wade through with many similar pages of explanation etc. What a waste of effort/time/money etc. Why not one document as the two cover effectively the same subject.</p> <p>Poor Grove - they have generated much of the money available and get little in return.</p> <p>Not a very exciting document - almost as if the answer was pre-determined and then the words to fit the answer.</p>	These comments have been noted.
ANON-R2WB-JKCR-7	<p>The leisure facility strategy generally fails to capture the use of facilities and open space by parkrun events across the area. These events often operate wholly or partially on spaces owned and operated by the district councils - these should be in scope as requiring protection or enhancement. This is particularly relevant where climate change is causing increasing rainfall and flooding, particularly over winter months, causing the events to be cancelled frequently.</p>	Parkrun was not included in the scope of work.
ANON-R2WB-JKJ6-J	<p>Recommendation 9</p> <p>The following applies to Common Park in the Valley Park Development:</p> <p>Provide CYCLING/RUNNING 1 km x 6m tarmac track for mixed use with fencing and lighting to British Cycling standard for regional-level racing</p> <p>Provide NETBALL 2 x courts</p> <p>Provide RAQUET SPORTS (e.g. padel tennis, tennis) 2-4 x courts with covers and lighting</p> <p>Please see attachment 4 available in the appendix.</p>	These comments have been noted.

ANON-R2WB-JKJY-N	<p>Recommendation 9</p> <p>Recommend inclusion of 1km cycling track which can be used for both cycling and running activities.</p> <p>For cycling, the track should meet BC's regional track standard and allow bunch racing of 60 participants, training sessions for experienced cyclists, youth coaching. Track should be 6m in width (slightly wider at the start/finish) and the layout should accommodate multiple smaller routes within it by use of cut-throughs. Track should be lit to facilitate evening training sessions. Track should be fenced to segregate riders from other facility users.</p> <p>For running, the full or part use of the track layout would allow for running sessions. The full use of the track would facilitate junior park run and/or adult park run, the latter is important as current park run facilities in Didcot and Abingdon regularly flood and cause events to be cancelled.</p>	The wording was provided by British Cycling and no extra wording should be added at this stage.
ANON-R2WB-JKJP-C	<p>The strategy states that “All Vale residents are within a 20-minute drive-time of a large swimming pool ... a 4+ court sports hall ... a gym ... a gymnastics facility ... an outdoor tennis court ... an outdoor bowling green” yet the County Council has maximum limits on the number of car parking spaces on new developments and has a strategy of encouraging people not to drive so how are these two strategies compatible? We support the statements that the modernization of the Wantage Leisure Centre swimming pool is required and a new teaching pool is recommended at the Leisure Centre, also that Wantage LC</p>	<p>The LTA is currently investigating padel provision across the country and so will be able to advise further in the future. However, at this stage, we were unable to recommend new provision in OX12.</p> <p>The LFAS reflects the approved plans at strategic housing sites and therefore recommendations on MUGAs are correct.</p> <p>Wantage LC gym is included in the recommendations.</p> <p>Fitness trails are not covered in this report.</p>

	<p>gym is in need of modernisation as it is older and showing signs of age and poor quality. Extension of the gym at Wantage LC would alleviate capacity issues.</p> <p>We are disappointed to see that no Padel Tennis Courts are recommended for the OX12 area without any reasons being given.</p> <p>We are concerned about the statement that “new MUGAs should be considered at the Strategic Housing sites, including Dalton Barracks (North sub-area), Crab Hill Wantage (South sub-area) and Grove Airfield (South sub-area).” Surely MUGAs have already been included in approved plans for both Crab Hill and Grove Airfield – does this mean there should be more or have the consultants not done the necessary research? The recommendations do not include Padel Tennis Courts in the South Sub area – why not? But do include a new Skatepark and MUGA at Crab Hill (which have already been approved but do not include anything at Grove Airfield (application submitted but not yet approved). There is also no mention of the modernisation or extension of the gym at Wantage LC even though these are mentioned earlier in the report.</p> <p>No mention is made in the report of Fitness trails other than brief mentions of the design of the fitness trail planned at Valley Park. Surely these could easily be incorporated into existing green spaces and do not require significant investment. Why weren't these considered? For a report which has been anticipated for at least 3 years, this is very disappointing.</p>	
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<p>ANON-R2WB-JKJV-J</p>	<p>Recommendations 1, 5, 10. Hendreds Sports Club is at the heart of South sub area, yet has no mention in the strategy. It already offers multi sports at the ground, with thriving cricket, tennis and football clubs. They use an outdated clubhouse with changing rooms unfit for todays needs.</p> <p>The trustees of the Club have developed an ambitious plan to increase the number of sports available at the ground and improve the clubhouse to provide improved disability access and gender specific changing rooms.</p> <p>Sports facilities planned are Archery Bouldering Wall Croquet Dance Simple Gym Netball Pickleball.</p> <p>A preapp will be submitted in next few months with planning submission targeted for 2025.</p> <p>Investing in sports facilities in the centre of the A417 corridor also has the potential to deliver sustainability benefits. It will help reduce car miles and East Hendred is already on Sustrans cycle route that links Wantage to Didcot so can also reduce the number of car journeys without investment.</p> <p>It would therefore be great to see East Hendred feature in the recommendations with access to funding options.</p> <p>Please see attachments 5 and 6 available in the appendix.</p>	<p>East Hendred development plans have been added to the LFAS.</p>
<p>ANON-R2WB-JKJB-X</p>	<p>The following comments relate to various sections of the report.</p> <p>1. The recommendations for this area appear to accept that</p>	<p>These comments have been noted.</p>

	<p>indoor sport provision within schools is sufficient to meet need. I do not agree as this will mean that during school hours and beyond there will be no effective access to the general public. Grove/Wantage/and Hinterland will have a population of 40,000 by 2031. Societal changes mean many more people will be able to, or prefer to or should be encouraged to undertake physical activity during the day. Active retired people, less active retired people whose health would be improved, those working flexible hours and from home (post COVID pandemic) those with long term health conditions of working age who are not fit to work. To rely upon solely 2 sports hall with joint use agreements with local schools will fail to meet this demand during school hours</p> <p>2. The report acknowledges QUOTE • The local share of provision (considering deprivation), is poorest around Wantage. Local share is very poor from Uffington through to west Didcot. To improve 'equity' of provision across the district, new activity halls (1-3-courts in size) / dance studios should be considered in these areas END QUOTE I would hope that this shortfall is made good by the spending of the dry indoor sports elements of S106 monies already collected or due from developers (which I have calculated could amount to £3.5 million from publicly available S106 agreements in the Planning files)</p> <p>3 Ideally 2, should be delivered in Grove Parish</p> <p>4. The council should consider using separate monies in S106 agreements (eg for tennis and outdoor sports, gyms etc) in concert with above to deliver a</p>	
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	multi purpose facility which would reduce operating costs and provide shared common areas eg parking, reception, changing	
ANON-R2WB-JKUU-V	Please see attachment 11 available in the appendix.	Athletics has been covered in the report and these comments have been noted.
ANON-R2WB-JKCJ-Y	Padel courts are needed	The LTA is currently investigating padel provision across the country and so will be able to advise further in the future. However, at this stage, new provision is unable to be recommend.
ANON-R2WB-JKY4-Y ANON-R2WB-JKYG-J	Harwell Village Tennis Club is not mentioned in the report. It would be highly beneficial to our club at Harwell Village Tennis to have extended playing when the light fades by having floodlights as an option to use.	Floodlighting of Harwell Village Tennis Club courts has be included as a recommendation.

West Sub-Area

The West Sub-Area includes the following parishes:

Fyfield and Tubney, Frilford, Garford, East Hanney, West Hanney, Lyford, Kingston Bagpuize with Southmoor, Longworth, Hinton Waldrist, Buckland, Littleworth, Pusey, Charney Bassett, Denchworth, Goosey, Faringdon, Shellingford, Stanford in the Vale, Hatford, Eaton Hastings, Buscot, Coleshill, Great Coxwell, Little Coxwell. Longcot, Watchfield, Shrivenham, Bourton, Ashbury, Compton Beauchamp, Woolstone, Uffington, Kingston Lisle, Fernham, Baulking, Sparsholt, Childrey, West Challow, Letcombe Bassett, Letcombe Regis and East Challow.

The main key recommendations identified for the West Sub-Area formed part of the consultation for the PPS and all recommendations were provided for the LFAS, allowing respondent to comment on each of the recommendations if they wished.

The responses or summary of comments received are detailed below next to an officer response and/or the consultant response.

PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

ID number	Comments	Officer response
ANON-R2WB-JKGY-J	First of all it is Stanford in the Vale NOT Standford.	Spelling typos have been corrected.
ANON-R2WB-JKG3-C		
ANON-R2WB-JKYU-Z	Secondly, there is no mention of Stanford in this report despite the Council being aware of the Planning Application for the QE2 Recreation Field in the village, with multi use pitches etc. The village has a very successful Football Club with associated pitches rented from the Parish, and other facilities including a skatepark, muga area etc that require continued investment, before transferring to the QE2 Recreation area. The requirement for additional recreation space in Stanford is supported by numerous village consultations and surveys - copies of which the Council have. The complete omission of Stanford in this report is completely baffling. How many other villages with important recreation /leisure facilities have been completely excluded?	Adjustments have been made to the report to acknowledge the Parish Council plans in the recommendations, which could be supported subject to demand being demonstrated locally.
ANON-R2WB-JKUG-E		
ANON-R2WB-JKUN-N		
ANON-R2WB-JKU7-X		
ANON-R2WB-JKUK-J		
ANON-R2WB-JKCK-Z		
ANON-R2WB-JKU6-W		
ANON-R2WB-JKCX-D		
ANON-R2WB-JKUS-T		
ANON-R2WB-JKUP-Q	New pitches at Stanford in the Vale 3G.	The map area for "north-eastern edge" demand has been amended to include Stanford-in-the-Vale more fully.
ANON-R2WB-JKUZ-1		
ANON-R2WB-JKCF-U	Stanford in the vale has been severely left behind with play facilities for young people. The playground is dilapidated, and parents often travel (by car), to west Hanney where facilities are much better.	Support for aspirations for grass pitches has been added to the recommendations and map, subject to demand being demonstrable.
ANON-R2WB-JKJ4-G		
ANON-R2WB-JKJ9-N	Stanford has an 11v11 and youth pitch, demand for pitches is growing and the current resources available are not large enough to sustain teams. Transport is limited reducing capacity for those to	

	<p>commute and those that do require to drive impacting on the environment.</p> <p>Please see attachments 12 and 13 available in the appendix.</p>	
ANON-R2WB-JKYJ-N	<p>The parks in Stanford in the vale desperately need updating. The equipment is falling apart and looks tired and old. There are so many new houses being built in the village but the area itself is not improving. Please consider using funds to update and upgrade the existing parks similar to what has been done within East Hanney.</p>	<p>Comments have been reviewed by the team working on the Green Infrastructure Strategy and Open Space Study.</p>
ANON-R2WB-JKYT-Y	<p>We need anything you can do here there is nothing and if you want to go to a gym have to drive.</p>	<p>These comments have been noted.</p>
ANON-R2WB-JKY1-V	<p>6 - rugby pitches & cricket expansion needed.</p>	<p>These comments have been noted.</p>
ANON-R2WB-JKCM-2	<p>I think the government underestimates the importance of sport (e.g. compare the UK with France) so I strongly support my local council supporting such facilities, especially for the young. Sport is important for our physical and mental health, and of course, is fun too. Although the value of sport to our economy may seem rather indirect, I believe that our present rather ill state (obesity, mental illness) could be improved by more people playing more sport... and that needs good facilities.</p> <p>EX11 - strongly support 3G football facilities for Didcot.</p>	<p>These comments have been noted.</p>
ANON-R2WB-JKJH-4	<p>All seem suitable suggestions, and I would advocate all improvements and provision listed in the strategy.</p> <p>I am writing these responses in partnership with Ward Cllr Lucy Edwards, and would like my response to reflect that.</p>	<p>These comments have been noted.</p>
ANON-R2WB-JKJ1-D	<p>Regarding hockey, the statement: 'While projections indicate no growth in demand in the south sub-area, this is based on baseline data of no clubs being present at a home ground in this sub-area and does not mean that there will be no demand from the population in that area.' is true. The Western Vale is a hockey desert because all the players, of whom there are many, are currently playing for Swindon, Oxford and Witney clubs. They have not been consulted and the default position has been to promote Abingdon instead of identifying actual need. This statement has</p>	<p>Yes, however, discussion with EH suggests that channelling funds into existing club sites is more likely to retain and sustain hockey. Building pitches in areas where players already play for other clubs is not necessarily going to mean that these players will move from clubs farther away to a new perhaps closer pitch. Viability is a</p>

	<p>become, therefore, a self-justifying prophesy because of inaction and self-interest. The proposed AGP in Faringdon was supposed to involve input from all potential users. The Hockey representative has not been contacted. The observations on AGP requirements for hockey are welcomed.</p>	<p>critical consideration for hockey.</p> <p>In consulting with EH, the PPS aims to cover club issues and strategic issues beyond the LA boundary.</p> <p>Text has been added to further reflect the issue in the western Vale.</p>
<p>ANON-R2WB-JKJ1-D (response continued)</p>	<p>For the AGP, the Vale should provide a community interest company style facility expanding the one recently proposed on the Canada Lane school site (i.e. expand on the proposed hard court sports area with separate parking/access to a larger, perhaps near full size, all weather surface) - with lighting for year round evening sessions given the school will have solar and batteries that could be a renewable power source and hence low running costs. Also, there are no direct neighbours to that site (re light/noise). If a full size 11-aside pitch does not fit, then one of this type of size would work for multi-sport smaller sided-games...</p> <p>http://fih.ch/media/12500612/hockey5s-courts-17-09-29.pdf http://fih.ch/media/12500612/hockey5s-courts-17-09-29.pdf, https://www.fih.hockey/news/interview-paul-kamphuis-on-pioneering-the-shift-to-dry-hockey, www.fih.hockey/about-fih/fih-quality-programme/fih-certifications</p>	<p>These comments have been noted.</p>
<p>ANON-R2WB-JKJ1-D (response continued)</p>	<p>There are five levels of certification: - we should look at category 4 for general multi-sport access. Category 1 - fields that meet the requirements of top level international tournament. Category 2 - fields that meet the requirements for international and top level national competitions. Category 3 - fields that meet the requirements for lower level national, regional and club play. Category 4 - fields with hockey turfs that also have line markings to allow other sports to be played. Category 5 - fields with surface s primarily intended for football, but also allow basic development hockey activities to take place. Examples (consider the category 3 and category 4 examples on this link for approved pitch surfaces in common use (markings can be selected separately, so ignore the</p>	<p>These comments have been noted.</p>

	<p>difference here) : www.fih.hockey/about-fih/ourmembers/dynamic/england</p> <p>Practical example of nearby hockey pitches and clubs would be the new surface at St Joseph's School, Swindon (North Wilts) or the academy at Wychelstowe (Swindon) or at Oxford Hawks.</p>	
ANON-R2WB-JKJZ-P	<p>The following parish names are spelled incorrectly on this page: Stanford in the Vale, Longcot, Childrey. It is disappointing that the western sub area of this district is so sparsely served by this strategy, in comparison to the other two areas. In particular, it is frustrating to see Shrivenham and Watchfield identified not as communities in themselves, but as an "A420 corridor". It has long been residents' concern that district and county councils see our western edge of the district purely in terms of a road to get in and out of Oxfordshire; this reinforce that dispiriting impression. There is a huge difference in whether a facility goes to Shrivenham or Kingston Bagpuize, which are 15 miles apart by the A420, a road entirely impossible to cycle along at any point, albeit well served by a bus. Shrivenham has contributed a major strategic site to the Vale's current Local Plan with 500 additional houses. In 2021 the Parish Council received £380k for the construction of a new sports pavilion. This has been transformative for the village, and shows the value of very local investments which while catering ostensibly for a named sport (in this case the cricket club) open up a new facility for multiple other local groups, sports-based and otherwise. These kinds of facility will help Vale meet its stated vision to "encourage all residents to take part in sport and physical activity." I would urge strongly that where there is a choice between Shrivenham and Faringdon, as there is stated to be for new football provision, that Shrivenham be chosen in order to provide a wider geographical spread of facilities, notwithstanding the points well made around management, logistics and training capacity for dispersed sites. Shrivenham is much more accessible by cycle along rural roads than</p>	<p>The "corridor" reference is a geographical reference to illustrate an approximate area and is considered appropriate within the context of a spatial strategy. The reference is applying a spatial expression / description to suggest where demand might occur. Projections of demand cannot be localised to a settlement in every occasion.</p> <p>Giving those organisations delivering additional new provision flexibility to make provision according to where demand arises is important. If the PPS recommends delivery of a number of pitches in one very specific location, and demand then occurs elsewhere, this could mean that no pitches are delivered in either location or that a pitch delivered in a specific location is just not viable to maintain in the long-term.</p>

	Faringdon for residents of villages south of the A420.	
ANON-R2WB-JKJZ-P	Alignment of Strategy with Vision. By focusing on the “big” sports and main clubs, this strategy can only be a part of the vision it wants to address. Village facilities – while undoubtedly deemed “poor quality” by national or international standards are vital as “feeders” to the larger clubs. Ignoring or neglecting them misses a crucial factor in how “demand” for facilities emerges. E.g. in Uffington, (not within my ward, but where I live) the youth football club has recently folded due to lack of volunteers. Many of the village children – boys and girls – started here learning basic skills by FA recognised coaches, before moving on to the competitive youth clubs in Shrivenham and Wantage. The uptake of hockey for children in Western Vale is almost entirely unfeasible even for families with private cars, as it requires a 90 minute / 45 mile round trip to Abingdon. Except along the A420 S6 bus route, there are very few frequent public bus services or cycling infrastructure, making the existence of	Uffington Sports Club has been reviewed in the sport table assessments. There are recommendations for both large and small clubs. No pitches used by clubs have been ignored. The recommendations are specific enough to identify the key issues and actions that have been raised during the process and all affiliated clubs have had an opportunity to respond to surveys during the process. The recommendations are also intended to be balanced to provide a flexible framework to allow other options for pitches and facilities to come forward. Text had been added to the report to reflect further the issue in the western Vale.
ANON-R2WB-JKJZ-P	Flexible village sports facilities are vital for fostering interest in sport and recreation and making physical activity genuinely accessible. This includes “kick-about” playing fields in places like Little Coxwell, Great Coxwell, Ashbury, Watchfield. These may be considered low quality, and invariably are grass, but they are no less crucial to children’s wellbeing, social opportunities for adults. Inclusion within the strategy in some form would recognise these sites and give an additional layer of protection from competing pressures on these areas of land such as the need to test for viability for affordable housing on Vale-owned land, or potential loss through the “rural exception site” allowances.	The PPS focuses on community use formally marked out pitches.
ANON-R2WB-JKJZ-P	Hockey - The document identifies a hockey club in the western area – is this the Shrivenham Defence Academy club? Only Abingdon is mentioned. Environmental Concerns - I welcome the attention to concerns about the environmental effects of synthetic 3G pitch	Yes, Defence Academy HC. The strategy includes recommendations that all new pitches and facilities meet the most up-to-date standards of design and

	<p>materials. As a council with a strong commitment to environment and climate, we should be making it a condition that all new facilities, and upgrades to existing pitches, meet the most up-to-date recommendations for good field design, operation and maintenance as they emerge. This should be included in the “provide” sections of this strategy for all sports. As the report identifies, the planning system has an important role to ensure appropriate mitigations are put in place. Loss of Pitches - I certainly welcome that the "bottom-line" in this strategy is “protect all pitches from loss and to protect mothballed / closed / unused pitches for future use and to accommodate potential future demand.”</p> <p>Agreed!</p>	<p>access and sets out various criteria in relation to 3G pitches, for example, to ensure that proposals meet criteria which factor in environmental and climate considerations.</p>
BHLF-R2WB-JKJW-K	<p>Harwell Science and Innovation Campus Limited Partnership</p> <p>Please see attachment 14 available in the appendix.</p>	<p>STA consulted widely during the PPS and LFAS development based on a stakeholder list provided by members of the SG.</p> <p>The Harwell site is used for cricket but has significant capacity. It's an important part of the supply and as such, if it was lost, then there would be displaced demand that needs to be accommodated on other sites along with other unmet demand.</p> <p>The recommendation on gaining secure use in the appendices (which has the recommendations in full states "(where desirable by the club and provider)".</p> <p>Further discussions can take place as part of Stage E.</p>

LEISURE FACILITIES STRATEGY

Response ID	Response / Summary	Officer and Consultant Response
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ANON-R2WB-JKKW-M	No basketball mentioned! There are no Basketball England approved basketball facilities in the West Sub which is desperately needed.	Basketball is reviewed in the Leisure Facilities report. Site-specific needs assessment for basketball required to determine need for a dedicated facility but LFAS has a holistic approach of multi-sport facilities. This includes the FPM for halls which covers demand from all sports including basketball.
ANON-R2WB-JK9J-N	<p>It is disappointing that for the biggest town in the sub district (Faringdon), the strategy was only able to come up with 3 issues. Faringdon has doubled in size over the last 15 years, and yet the social infrastructure has not kept up with the population growth. Despite the Faringdon FarCycles making a range of detailed and well argued plans for cycle lanes and active transport paths generally, housing estates continue to be built without such accommodations.</p> <p>It is also not clear to me what, if any weight yet another commissioned strategy will have in the planning process, how much the actions recommended will cost, or what minimum standards or accepted practices are driving the recommendations (i.e. how much indoor or outdoor leisure space should Faringdon have given a population of 10,000 people?)</p> <p>Its great that the committee have reached out to a large number of groups in developing the draft, although the timeline suggests this request for comments, is more about engendering acceptance of the draft, rather than really identifying what the locally felt challenges are, and building from there.</p>	These comments have been noted.
ANON-R2WB-JKYP-U	<p>Page 7</p> <p>As a representative of a community cycling group (Farcycles) in Faringdon, I would suggest that the cycling leisure facility idea should include the ability to ride on traffic-free cycle paths, at least to get out of the town (4 busy roads converge on, and pass through, Faringdon). People are put off using their bikes for leisure and fitness because of</p>	Reference has been added to the Active Travel Plan.

	<p>the lack of protected cycling facility. There is no way of crossing the A420 by bike.</p> <p>I would like the strategy to feed into the Active Travel Plan.</p>	
ANON-R2WB-JKCM-2	<p>My main source of exercise is road cycling... which is becoming increasingly dangerous with the disgraceful state of Oxfordshire roads. Please put enough money into the Roads budget to actually start to tackle the problem in a meaningful way (not money for road signs!). And when you build cycle paths, do NOT make them from asphalt/tarmac as eventually they will beak up due to tree roots etc and be awful to ride (eg round Didcot). Use sand, grit instead with a good sub-base. Supporting the cycle charities to build cycle paths cuts down road traffic and improves health. We urgently need a cycle path between Blewbury-Upton to avoid the increasingly busy A417.</p>	These comments have been noted.
ANON-R2WB-JKMB-1	<p>Existing swimming facilities in Faringdon are demonstrably inadequate (1) and (9) apply.</p>	These comments have been noted.
ANON-R2WB-JKG3-C ANON-R2WB-JKGX-H	<p>Stanford in the vale has been severely left behind with play facilities for young people. The play parks are incredibly poor and badly maintained.</p>	Comments have been reviewed by the team working on the Green Infrastructure Strategy and Open Space Study
ANON-R2WB-JKY1-V	<p>Faringdon Leisure centre - Better is a poor provider - this needs to be looked at. Staff are never available, so not answer telephones, building and equipment is poorly maintained.</p> <p>Access to fitness classes is primarily in the day - what about those that work full time to pay taxes to pay for this?? And then have to pay more fees?</p>	Comments have been reviewed by the Leisure Facilities Team.
ANON-R2WB-JKC9-E	<p>(1) Faringdon Leisure Centre - Sports Hall - Buscot Park Archers - The use of the Sports Hall during the Winter months (October through to end of March) is vital for the club. Prior to COVID we had use of the Sports Hall 2 evenings a week, but this then became unavailable to us and we now only have use on a Saturday morning. This is a big</p>	Buscot Archers were consulted during the productions of the reports and there is a recommendation with the assessment report to improve accessibility for Buscot Archers at Faringdon Leisure Centre to meet demand for winter training sessions.

	draw to our club so that the sport can be continued throughout the year so we cannot emphasis enough how important this facility is to us. There is always the worry that this could be taken away from us so some security on being able to have use of the Sports Hall would help the club enormously.	
ANON-R2WB-JKYP-U	We have built a Cycle Park in Faringdon which is not mentioned in your document. Many people visiting our facility comment to say that every town should have one, as it's invaluable in getting children cycling confidently.	Faringdon Cycle Park is listed under cycling facilities in the Vale of White Horse (assessment report).
ANON-R2WB-JKU7-X	Stanford in the vale has dramatically increased in size and has no leisure facilities for children/teens or adults.	These comments have been noted.
ANON-R2WB-JKYU-Z	Stanford in the vale and the west is very poorly served. Wantage and Faringdon are beyond capacity and more support is needed in the villages to prevent anti-social behaviour and to gain the interest of youngsters in sport early on. No mention is made of the QE 2 field which the village has fought so hard to obtain, but yet needs more investment.	These comments have been noted.
ANON-R2WB-JKUK-J	Stanford in the vale Currently have a skate park that requires extensive restoration. It is unsafe for use and with little facilities in the village it needs support to improve. There is also tennis courts that due to multi-use is rarely used for tennis due to practicalities. There is a great need to increase facilities within the village due to extensive growth in housing. The suggestions for QE2 field support development of such and is not mentioned in the reports. Young children and teenagers within the village are severely limited on local facilities with a lack of transport impacting on anti social behaviour and needs to be considered to improve the community	Reference has been added to the tennis courts and skatepark in Stanford in the Vale.
ANON-R2WB-JKCF-U	Despite a huge amount of new houses and development in Stanford in the Vale, there is no reference to Stanford in the Vale. The village is	These comments have been noted.

	poorly served by public transport and lacks a community feel due to lack of facilities. A proper tennis court/ cricket pitch and pavilion is desperately needed. A swimming pool - indoor or outdoor would be welcomed.	
ANON-R2WB-JKCN-3	I'd like to recommend sports clubs which do not necessarily cater for men and boys or younger people who want to play football or ball games requiring large grass pitches. The sports facilities seem to be very focussed on the youth and on large ball games.	The LFAS covers a range of sports and activities including but not limited to netball, bowls, athletics and tennis.
ANON-R2WB-JKCK-Z	SITV has 250+ additional houses. S106 & CIL monies are attributed to these houses for pitches and sport & leisure activities. No additional facilities supported in SITV where are these monies to go? Why is the low cost option at SITV being ignored in favour of inaccessible (to SITV residents) expensive facilities including 3G pitches elsewhere?	These comments have been noted and responded to under the PPS comments.
ANON-R2WB-JKU7-X	Most areas with increased housing seem to receive improvement in their area, why has Stanford in the vale not had this?	These comments have been noted.
ANON-R2WB-JKJ4-G	Please see attached uploaded response from Stanford in the Vale Parish Council Please see attachments 12 and 13 in the appendix.	The Parish Council aspirations for "at least two tennis courts and a fitness trail" in Stanford in the Vale have been added to the report.
ANON-R2WB-JKU1-R	Faringdon has had no additional leisure facilities in recent years even though the population has increased significantly. All-weather outdoor space is needed as well as indoor leisure facilities. The Leisure centre provides some (but the large hall is expensive for small clubs). The additional facilities mentioned (learner swimming pool and multi-use hall (Parkour)) are welcomed. I assume that how and where these, and the all-weather pitches/MUGA	A reference has been added that the MUGA at Faringdon Community College should be made available for community use (currently private use only). Misspellings have been corrected.

	<p>are provided will have been considered, even though this is not included in the strategy document. It is well known there is little spare space in Faringdon, it all being allocated for additional housing, so I hope there is some idea how the identified need can be fulfilled within Faringdon.</p> <p>There are Hockey & Basketball players in Faringdon, but these need to travel to other places as we have no clubs and facilities. Research needs to take place to identify the need in Faringdon.</p> <p>I believe FCC do have a policy for hiring their pitches and halls, but this is not well advertised (no mention on their website). I know other schools in Oxfordshire offer their facilities in a more focussed and structured way. Community use agreements with schools are referred to in the strategy document. For Faringdon an increased availability would go a long way to fulfilling the current need. I hope VWHDC can make this happen.</p> <p>s106 money, arising from Faringdon developments, once earmarked for the Wessex Leisure Centre - see table below By June 2022 the original sum of £226k had increased to £276k. The use by dates range from Feb 2025 to April 2026</p> <p>Faringdon is spelt Farrington in a number of places.</p> <p>I can see why VWHDC have produced a document 'by sport'. I think it would be more readable, and useful to the general public if it was structured 'by town'. Having to search through multiple docs - around 3/400 pages in total- takes time and it's easy to miss information.</p>	
	<p>1. FLC – Users – I realise this is not a full list, but concerned that this is really not reflective of all users – can we have a full list please? Squash</p>	<p>Elms tennis court has been added to the report.</p>

	<p>courts – are there supposed to be two squash courts? I thought one had already been removed to provide additional gym space – it sounds from the recommendations that we needed two.</p> <p>2. Faringdon Tennis Club – I appreciate that the tennis club is oversubscribed, but was wondering about the capacity of Elms Tennis Courts on the other side of Faringdon, on the Lechalde Road – is this in a similar situation?</p> <p>6. The Pump House – the Pump House Project (PHP) is an important community asset, providing intergenerational community events like coffee mornings and hosting a warm bank over the last few winters. While it has private parkour classes, this is not something that is easily accessible to the community in the Vale, nor anything that we consider widely publicised, and while it does provide a potentially unique sporting facility, I am concerned that the need for parkour classes, and the need for a more permanent home for other activities in the PHP may be being conflated here. While I think that the PHP could benefit from funding, I do not think that it should be linked so specifically to parkour provision, and again question whether that this provision is indeed needed.</p> <p>9. Site yet to be identified – the idea of a new learner pool would be welcomed, and we would strongly advocate for this inclusion.</p>	
	<p>The Western sub-region is the largest of the three assessment areas, it is also the most rural and encompasses the whole of the Watchfield and Shrivenham ward. Given its historically rural nature and the dispersed sparse population, there are few facilities for those living within my ward to rely upon.</p> <p>However, over the last 10 years we have seen a significant amount of development in both of the larger</p>	<p>These comments have been noted.</p>

	<p>parishes of Shrivenham and Watchfield in the ward, in addition to the substantial growth in both Stanford and Faringdon, however few facilities have been added to support the population growth.</p> <p>In the strategy I welcome the recommendations to expand facilities in Faringdon, with the learner pool, skateparks and Parkour facility.</p> <p>However, in the south of the western region (particularly around the B4507), the choices would be to use facilities in Faringdon, Wantage, West Berkshire or Swindon, of these for many Wantage would be the most viable from a commute standpoint. However, Wantage LC is already highlighted as lowest quality as well as lacking capacity. I would ask that further consideration be given to building out facilities in one of the larger villages such as Shrivenham to support these and other surrounding rural communities. I appreciate there is much work needed in existing facilities, unless we start to plan new facilities in other locations we will be in much the same position the next time we build out a strategy.</p>	
ANON-R2WB-JKCN-3	Kingston Bagpuize and Southmoor has a Bowls Club with an all-weather playing surface.	This has been assessed in the Leisure Facilities Assessment report.
ANON-R2WB-JKJ1-D	Regarding Outdoor space: the Fields in Trust Guidance for Outdoor Space and Play (2015) benchmark guidelines are 0.25 ha per 1,000 population for equipped/designated play areas and 0.30 ha per 1,000 population for other outdoor provision for young people (e.g. MUGAs and skate parks) On this basis, Faringdon is now severely underprovided for outdoor space and play. Based on the current population of ~9,500, our requirement is 2.38 ha of play areas and 2.85 ha of MUGAs and skate parks, hence, this consultation should include a review of existing communities and a policy to upgrade the number and quality of play	These comments have been noted.

	spaces. The Vale policy of building houses without the commensurate infrastructure to support the increased population has resulted in this increasing deficit. We note the Joint Local Plan Policy HP8 Provision for children’s play and spaces for young people, but this policy should have been in force since 2011 when the population of Faringdon was 7,121. We would welcome a discussion on Faringdon’s needs.	
ANON-R2WB-JKJ1-D	<p>FTC submission on VWHDC Playing Pitch and Leisure facilities strategy consultation April 2024 Playing Pitch Strategy • Re Priority 22 Rugby. Faringdon RFC – provision to support a net additional demand of around 4 grass pitches with sports lighting, unless sufficient capacity can be guaranteed for the club from use at a new 3G pitch • Priority 20 Football. Football (3G): 1 x full-size sports-lit 3G (“pipeline” / commitment, Community College) Faringdon Town Council (FTC) supports these needs. Hockey - Faringdon Hockey Players use clubs outside Faringdon. A survey of existing and potential hockey players in/near Faringdon is required to understand the needs in the Faringdon area, then plan for provision. In the interim, FTC support the statement below. Work with Shrivenham HC and Academy to enable non-student and staff members to join the club, is this is an issue which needs resolving. Enabling community members’ access to the club will help ensure that residents in the western part of the district do not have to travel as far to access hockey provision.</p>	These comments are covered in the PPS.
ANON-R2WB-JKJ1-D (response continued)	<p>3G and artificial pitch - The need for a capacity assessment of Folly Park is supported. A new 3rd Generation Artificial Grass Pitch (3G AGP) is planned in Faringdon, to service the demand for football training (predominantly) in the town. FTC support the need for this AGP and has requested that this is a multi use pitch (to include hockey). FTC request that it is included in planning</p>	These comments have been noted.

	discussions on the detail and locations of the required pitches.	
ANON-R2WB-JKJ1-D (response continued)	<p>Leisure Facilities Strategy - Community Use of facilities on educational sites. The only Community agreement mentioned in the West area is with St Hugh's private school. • All Faringdon Schools have pitches, courts and halls that could be available to the community. • Community agreements are needed for existing Faringdon Schools. This would mitigate the need for additional football, rugby, tennis, netball, basketball facilities, at least in the short term. • FCC has a MUGA described as private (p138 LFA report). This needs to be available to the community. FTC request that a Community Use agreement with Faringdon Academy /Faringdon schools is put in place 2024/25. Identified needs in Leisure Strategy:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Learner swimming pool. • Indoor and outdoor multi use facility, to include Parkour. FTC support these needs 	The MUGA at Faringdon Community College has been added to the report.
ANON-R2WB-JKJ1-D (response continued)	<p>Not covered by Leisure Strategy. • Basketball. Faringdon and area basketball players need to travel to Abingdon, Didcot, Swindon, Oxford. • Judo Hall, Tucker Park. Leased to Faringdon Judo Club. Has spare capacity. A survey of existing and potential basketball players in/near Faringdon is required to understand the needs in the Faringdon area, then plan for provision. Squash - Per strategy document courts in Faringdon are used to a 52% capacity. There are no squash clubs using FLC courts. According to Sport England the sport is declining (see Running on empty: Sport England figures show further squash decline - Squash Mad). The LFA (p71) states One of the squash courts at Faringdon Leisure Centre is used as a 'Function Room' and therefore not available for squash at any times during the week. There was once a plan to convert the 2 squash courts to a multi use space, and/or extend the gym. FTC request that the conversion to a multi use</p>	<p>LFAS already recommends protecting the two squash courts at Faringdon LC.</p> <p>Faringdon Judo Club at Tucker Hall has been added to the report.</p>

	space is reconsidered. FTC request that it is included in planning discussions on the detail and locations of the required leisure facilities	
ANON-R2WB-JKJ1-D (response continued)	s106 money, arising from Faringdon developments, once earmarked for the Wessex Leisure Centre – see table below; By June 2022 the original sum of £226k had increased to £276k. The use by dates range from Feb 2025 to April 2026. Earmarked for Wessex Leisure Mably Way 2015 £ Spend by. Sports Hall 91,664 9/4/26, Swimming Pool 80,418 9/4/26, Artificial pitch Contribution 13,229 13/2/25, Health and Fitness 40,764 13/2/25. June 2022 from Needs Assessment 276,500. FTC would like a discussion with VWHDC on the options and proposals to improve leisure facilities in Faringdon by the dates in the S106 agreement.	These comments have been noted.
ANON-R2WB-JKJZ-P	p.6 – Agree that local provision for activity halls is poor in the western portion of the Vale. One concern I have heard raised in e.g. Shrivenham is that the addition of entirely new buildings creates competitor venues to e.g. village halls. Consideration should be given to supporting the modernisation and extension of existing buildings to accommodate sports and activities so that existing venues can benefit from additional revenue. The problems at Wantage Leisure Centre are well recognised and accurately summed up here. With an extensive programme of decarbonisation under way, hopefully some of these can be remedied. In any case it is vital that contributions towards these costs are secured at the earliest opportunity from development. Swimming – Agree entirely with the identified need for new learner pools at both Wantage and Faringdon, and money should be secured through strategic development sites for this, in addition to a new pool at Didcot. A private provider is identified but both Wantage and Faringdon already run substantial Swim England	The modernisation of the swimming pool at Wantage LC have been added to the strategy.

	<p>programmes for children at an affordable cost. These programmes should be enhanced and expanded, with a view also to improving the offer at these centres. Anecdotally (and in my personal experience), many families in Western Vale choose to register for children's swimming lessons at St Hugh's School or Highworth rather than Faringdon or Wantage which have a poor reputation. Expanded swimming provision at an improved Wantage pool would enable the competitive swimming club to expand, rather than families having to opt to travel to Swindon ASC which has greater capacity. I may have misunderstood this document's layout but there is no recommendations for modernisation of the Wantage swimming pool? (p.58)? I find that surprising given the very clearly identified need for improvements to the centre and pool (p.52), and the dark and unattractive pool environment.</p>	
<p>ANON-R2WB-JKJZ-P (response continued)</p>	<p>Athletics – There is a clear need for major investment in athletics in the Vale, and contributions should be secured from all major strategic sites in the Vale. Cycling Facilities – The information in this strategy related to outdoor cycle circuits will be imminently out of date, with a major new council-owned S106 funded facility just opening in Swindon: www.swindon.gov.uk/info/20077/parks_and_open_spaces/1314/moredon_sporting_hub . However, the stark lack of facilities in Oxfordshire and the Vale is very apparent. Skateparks – Young people in Watchfield and Shrivenham are desperate for a skatepark, and this idea has huge local support. It is particularly important that such a facility is accessible by foot for young people i.e. a skatepark in Kingston Bagpuize could not be justified as adequately providing for the western sub-area, where Kingston Bagpuize and Shrivenham are 15 miles apart along a dangerous A-road with no cycle provision. So I fully support the</p>	<p>A new Cycle Circuit in Swindon at Moredon Sporting Hub has been added to the strategy.</p>

	recommendation to provide a skatepark in these places and would suggest that a very high quality shared space between Watchfield and Shrivenham would be a best use of funding	
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Additional Comments

ID number	Comments	Officer response
ANON-R2WB-JK9N-S	Most of all, the strategy needs to be fit for purpose, facilities need to be delivered, not caught up in red tape with developers and non-accessible 106 money which constantly delays provision of much needed facilities.	These comments have been noted.
ANON-R2WB-JK98-3	It needs to be better integrated with the parish funded facilities.	These comments have been noted.
ANON-R2WB-JK7N-Q	New sports pitches and community halls being built as part of new estates in Abingdon. These may lie empty or be rarely used and should be considered as part of the strategy even though they are likely to be run as a private entity.	These comments have been noted.

ANON-R2WB-JK75-X	The cost to clubs (often run by amazing volunteers) is absolutely ridiculous for costs and pitches that are substandard and not fit for purpose. There are Basketball and American football groups in Abingdon that are growing but in order to develop they need accessible pitches in order to compete in higher leagues.	Costs are not a factor that the PPS can control.
ANON-R2WB-JKGW-G	Engage with sports clubs. Engage with parish councils. Invest in maintenance. Demand access to education facilities.	Both sports clubs and town/ parish councils were consulted as part of the strategy. The LFAS recommends community use agreements with education sites.
ANON-R2WB-JKYU-Z	A review of the percentage of people as opposed to leisure facilities/ pitches needs to take place, plus a review of historical numbers/ teams/ growing interest.	These comments have been noted. The PPS process considers trends in team numbers. The LFAS considers participation rate trends and applies them to projected population increases.
ANON-R2WB-JKY9-4	Please support local volunteer run clubs - they are the heart and soul of local communities and provide an excellent local direct service. Most are sustainable on a year to year season to season basis but almost all suffer when trying to improve facilities which involve capital expenditure.	Funding opportunities have been listed under section 18 of the Leisure Facilities Strategy.
ANON-R2WB-JKUG-E	3G pitches are excellent and I guess expensive to install but the long term benefits surely make them the most viable option. Then football teams won't have to cancel matches due to waterlogged pitches etc. The upkeep of a 3G pitch must also be more cost effective in the long term.	These comments have been noted.
ANON-R2WB-JKCW-C	The consultation needs proper proof reading. Quickest way to alienate your audience is to spell their home towns and villages incorrectly. Please see attachments 15 and 16 available in the appendix.	These comments have been noted.
ANON-R2WB-JKJM-9	Pavilions are not covered in the strategy, but they are key 'ancillary' facilities that are required to facilitate sports and being out in open spaces. Toilets, changing rooms, disabled facilities, etc can all encourage people to participate, spectate and stay out at sports facilities longer.	Pavilions have been covered in the strategies.

	<p>There is a real risk but not including these more that we do not protect and enhance them when the opportunity (e.g development or funding applications) arise.</p> <p>Ensuring access to playing pitches with ancillary facilities by bus or active travel should be a priority.</p>	
ANON-R2WB-JKJV-J	The strategy is a good overview of what is available across the Vale and how to develop for the future.	These comments have been noted.
ANON-R2WB-JKJZ-P	<p>I welcome the recognition in the Playing Pitch Strategy of how poor sports provision for women and girls is, but the document makes no commitments to how that can be addressed in practice – are we keen to fund the construction or refurbishment of facilities to install new changing areas? How do we assess the environment of clubs holistically to ensure that women and girls feel safe e.g. through improved lighting in car parks, or well lit routes to sports clubs which may require OCC engagement? In the western sub-area section (p.52-3) only two of nine cricket clubs in the sub-area are identified as having growth in the women and girls' games. How do we proactively use this strategy to push other clubs to do this rather than waiting for it to happen? Can e.g. the comms teams be used to make clubs aware that grants could be available through e.g. S106 monies?</p> <p>It is disappointing that there is not a single mention in the Playing Pitch strategy of making sports more accessible to disabled participants, e.g. supporting the provision of facilities for blind football, or Flyerz hockey (currently only Oxford Hawks offers Flyerz training nearby). Our strategy should be driving inclusion through the allocation of S106 and CIL monies. If this has not yet been done, please consult Access Sport before the finalisation of this strategy.</p>	<p>There are references to ensuring that building regulations are followed, as well as design standards adopted by NGBs and Sport England.</p> <p>Additional wording has been added around lighting and design to make sure that it addresses safety concerns and provision for disability users.</p>
ANON-R2WB-JKJX-M	The other areas seem sensible but I don't have detailed knowledge	These comments have been noted.
ANON-R2WB-JKJK-7	The strategy does not seem to draw on earlier work (such as the 2016 Leisure Facilities assessment by VOWH District Council) and seems to have been done largely as a desk exercise, with omissions of important local assets and current	<p>These comments have been noted.</p> <p>Comments from clubs and town/parish councils were reviewed during the data</p>

	plans for investment/enhancement. Please take the comments from community groups and parish councils seriously in revising this draft of the PPS.	gathering stage and all public responses have also been reviewed.
ANON-R2WB-JKJE-1	<p>I was pleased to see the acknowledgement of the problems and benefits surrounding artificial crumb and carpet pitches, this continues to be a source of some anxiety for many including myself. While I understand that various sports standards bodies need to recognise facilities meet their expected standard, and I see the considerations of cork based pitches in addition to recycled materials, the eventual outcome will always be a huge amount of plastic left in the environment for many generations.</p> <p>We should continue to assess alternatives as and when they become available and I welcome this is already highlighted in the report.</p>	These comments have been noted.
ANON-R2WB-JKU4-U	<p>Example: The Park at the end of Dunmore Road/Wootton Road needs updating as it's allowing dog owners to walk their dogs on the park and Pooh anywhere which doesn't allow the park to be used by families to play and enjoy a safe clean space. Option to divide an area for dogs and an area for play as this would invite more families to use the park. With more house/homes being built around the park it is an ideal space for all the Community to come together. Public, Schools, Clubs of all abilities. Implement the following at Dunmore Park: Skate park area, Bike/BMX area, Roller Blade area, Small Football Pitch (all weather 3/4G), Basketball/Netball area. Round About ,Swings,Slide, Climbing Net/Wall. Could even add a building where there is an opportunity for the Council to hire it out to the Community for: Parties, Education programmes, Meetings, Social Clubs, Youth Centre. The above is just ideas, please feel free to use/put together or ignore but we do need to create opportunities for everyone here in Abingdon. Example Twenty Years ago Abingdon was ahead of Didcot and was a thriving town but Didcot is now thriving and Abingdon is a place that people generally drive through as it's filled with Coffee shops, Book shops and Turkish hairdressers etc... There's not enough choice for local people to want to go into</p>	Comments have been reviewed by the team working on the Green Infrastructure Strategy and Open Space Study.

	Abingdon and shop and spend time networking in the Community. These are just my views.	
ANON-R2WB-JK9N-S	Please give due consideration to all weather, all purpose surfaces	These have been included in the PPS.
ANON-R2WB-JKKE-2	Get rid of GLL/BETTER	These comments have been noted.
ANON-R2WB-JK75-X	Council needs to be aware of what clubs are really available in the county. State schools in Abingdon have appalling sports facilities compared with the Private sector - yet these private sectors are charging clubs huge sums to use facilities.	These comments have been noted.
ANON-R2WB-JKM9-R	It's very difficult to get early evenings sports hall hire for Basketball clubs. Those that are available tend not to be up to standards for club hire, because of poor flooring, nets, backboards/rings broken. The most common problems in many sports halls is the floors being dirty because muddy outdoor shoes have been allowed to be worn on the courts. (players and spectators) Standards of cleaning is generally quite poor. This is a common problem.	These comments have been noted.
ANON-R2WB-JKM6-N	Our leisure facilities are so poor in this area compared to other towns. The sports centre is falling a part, the changing room are disgusting. The best facilities for play grounds are great Shefford and Blewbury which are small villages yet major town and very large villages such as Grove are just poor quality.	These comments have been noted.
ANON-R2WB-JKQJ-D	Please look at martial arts facilities such as High Wycombe Judo Centre, Bishops Stortford Judokwai amongst others in the South East. These are community hubs which are extended to other types of martial arts and clubs such as indoor parkour, gymnastics baby classes etc. due to the nature of the sprung floors, gym, meeting rooms and cafe areas. A martial arts dojo can be a hub for multiple types of usage, not just for martial arts. At this point in time, only commercial businesses can afford their own dojos in Oxfordshire due to the high cost and limited options for converting building types. We need help from the council to get us into proper facilities.	These comments have been noted.
ANON-R2WB-JKQV-S	We would welcome a conversation	These comments have been noted.

ANON-R2WB-JKQE-8	A general comment relating to Abingdon-on-Thames and ongoing increasing population size with new housing developments, especially in north Abingdon: would the Tilsey Park Site (owned by VWHDC, currently leased) be considered as a convenient location for the public users as a site for a new GP & Primary Care Health Centre, alongside the current sporting facilities and car parking provision?	These comments have been noted.
ANON-R2WB-JKCR-7	See the comment for the South sub-area, which is more generally true across the whole district council area.	These comments have been noted.
ANON-R2WB-JKJM-9	<p>It is really disappointing that facilities are being looked in terms of how long it takes to drive to them, rather than access by bike or on a bus. Young people trying to access sports without transport are disadvantaged. As a council we should be aiming for zero carbon and the statement about decarbonisation in the draft just passes the buck other strategies. Surely we need to plan when facilities are to minimise travel, and this should be key to identifying priorities for the strategy to avoid more of the same.</p> <p>Brookes Sport are a key provider of facilities and pitches in North Sub Area - they should be included in the steering group.</p> <p>There does not seem to have been a dull review of what facilities the Vale has granted planning permission for. While new sports facilities in new developments are listed, those in existing communities are not - including the Botley Pavilion that the Vale has 'earmarked' CIL funding towards. All facilities with planning permission should be included to ensure there is a full picture and to support fundraising efforts and grant applications to bring these facilities forward.</p>	<p>The reasoning behind using drive-time catchments has been explained in the documents. It is a tool used to understand demand for strategic facilities such as AGPs. This reflects the current realism of use. The desire to improve accessibility by foot and bike, for example, is clear, but mapping a bicycle catchment to an AGP, for example, does not give the true picture of likely use / catchment of use.</p> <p>The PPS and LFAS have both included extensive review of facilities and pitches included in the respective typologies. Steering Group membership was discussed and agreed at the start of the process. Not every operator or provider can be included in a steering group where discussion focus is across two LA areas and other methods, such as surveys, and this consultation have been used to reach out to these key stakeholders.</p>
ANON-R2WB-JKJP-C	<p>The emphasis on drive time to facilities is counter to the Oxfordshire transport strategy and should therefore be broadened to include use of public transport and suitable cycle and walking access.</p> <p>The strategy takes no account of any of the work done for the draft local plan or of the current status of the strategic development sites. It doesn't mention any</p>	<p>Please see comment above. The work considered the issue and provides recommendations to help improve and encourage accessibility by these modes where possible.</p> <p>Account has been taken of work on the Local Plan and strategic sites.</p>

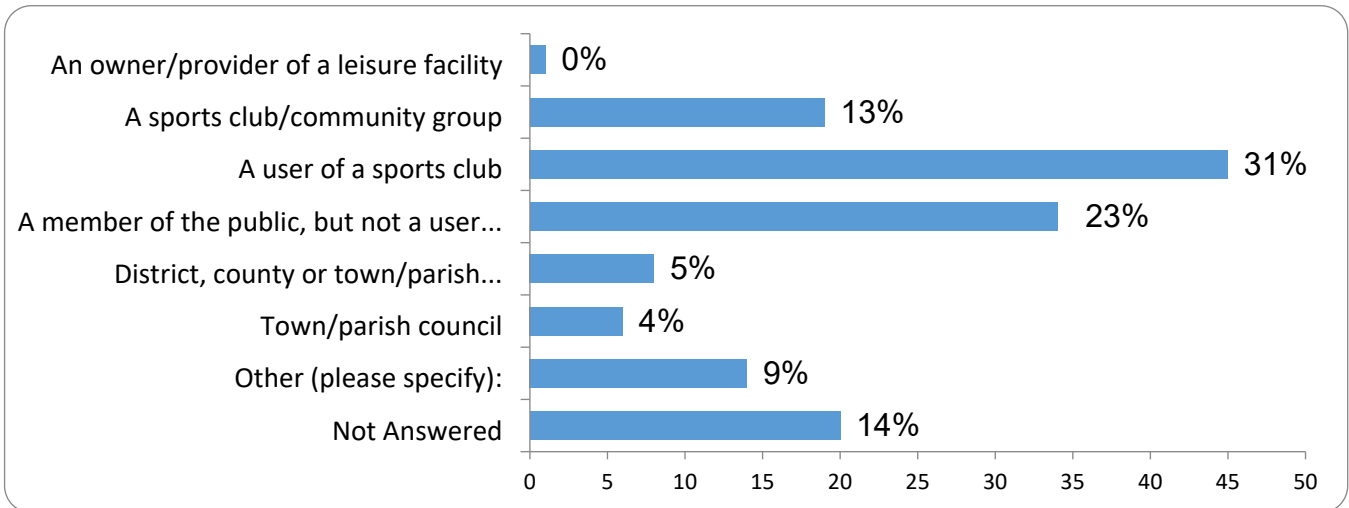
	<p>of the smaller sites which could provide some facilities or the creative use of existing green spaces for MUGA's, Fitness trails or Parkour Facilities.</p> <p>For a report which has been anticipated for at least 3 years, this is very disappointing.</p>	<p>The PPS and LFAS have been developed based on PPS and ANOG guidance, with a Steering Group checking and challenging data and outputs throughout the process, including officers from the local authorities.</p>
BHLF-R2WB-JKJ7-K	<p>On page 70 of the Leisure Facilities Strategy there are a number of funding opportunities links in footnotes. Number 11 is a dead link, number 13 links to a closed fund, and there are no footnotes 14 and 15 at all.</p>	<p>The footnotes were correct at the time of writing the reports.</p>
ANON-R2WB-JKJZ-P	<p>The LFAS strategy makes no mention of women or girls. Given the well-recognised barriers to women and girls' participation in activity and sport, it is vital that both strategies have a clear focus and commitment to use whatever levers the council have to improve access. Please consult e.g. the Make Space for Girls and Women in Sport campaigns.</p> <p>As with the Playing Pitch Strategy, the LFAS almost entirely lacks mention of catering for people with disabilities (with the exception of cycling facilities).</p> <p>I would ask that the council engage specific expertise to address the very glaring omissions related to gender and disability in both these strategy documents before final versions.</p>	<p>Girls and women included in participation rates for all sports. Netball, gymnastics and dance are predominately played by girls and women.</p> <p>Club and providers were asked about issues with disability access in surveys.</p> <p>Amendments have been made to the recommendation to draw out specific reference to people with disabilities and safety of users regarding needing good lighting and being designed with safety in mind.</p>
ANON-R2WB-JKJX-M	<p>The other areas seem sensible, but I don't have detailed knowledge.</p>	<p>These comments have been noted.</p>
ANON-R2WB-JKJK-7	<p>The strategy does not seem to draw on earlier work (such as the 2016 Leisure Facilities assessment by VOWH District Council) and seems to have been done largely as a desk exercise, with omissions of important local assets and current plans for investment/enhancement. Please take the comments from community groups and parish councils seriously in revising this draft of the LFS.</p>	<p>All comments have been considered from the data capture and the public consultation.</p>
ANON-R2WB-JKJE-1	<p>I am pleased to see the continued focus on providing and facilitation of minor sports, such as skating and parkour, and I welcome the recommendations to expand these facilities.</p> <p>However, I do not agree with the statements around climbing facilities. The</p>	<p>These comments have been noted.</p>

	<p>report under Leisure Facilities EX7, states "There are no climbing walls in the Vale. However, the majority of residents in the Vale are within a 30-minute drive-time of the existing climbing wall in Oxford, Swindon or Newbury.", would these 30 minutes refer to the minimum required time by private vehicle? If so I would agree, but I cannot expect any member of the public agreeing that the minimum travel time should be used as a guide, especially as a reason not to provide a facility that there is no alternate provision for in the Vale.</p> <p>Oxford, for most in the Vale is not viable, it requires travelling through a congested city and than being left with limited parking options, using public transport for most in the Vale would not be practical. Newbury, is viable for some in the southern Vale, but the facility is new, and with limited capacity. Swindon is viable, with two facilities available, however 30 minutes is not enough even for most living in the Western region.</p> <p>I would recommend we take another look at whether the strategy can incorporate a small Bouldering facility, either at Faringdon LC or Wantage LC during the upcoming refurbishments. Another better alternative would be to consider a Bouldering facility alongside any provision for Parkour, as there is a strong synergy between these sports and there are a growing number of facilities around the country which cater for both.</p>	
BHLF-R2WB-JKZM-S	Please see attachment 17 available in the appendix.	These comments have been noted.
BHLF-R2WB-JKZT-Z	Please see attachment 18 available in the appendix.	<p>The PPS has added reference to the need to consider "development plan" policies in the footnote regarding Maiden Erleigh.</p> <p>The feedback on the LFAS is around the design guidance and CUAs at academies.</p> <p>Further discussion can take place during the Stage E and planning process.</p>

BHLF-R2WB-JKZJ-P	Please see attachment 19 available in the appendix.	These comments have been noted.
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ABOUT THE RESPONDENTS

31% of responses were submitted on behalf of a user of a sports club and 23% are member of the public but non-users of a sport club.



If you selected 'other' please specify below

- *A trustee of a community group, and also as a concerned resident of Faringdon*
- *More a member of the public, but I do use VOWH Tennis and Leisure Centre (for Tai Chi!)*
- *Local resident and member of a sports group that uses a centre under their own booking*
- *A member of the public and user of leisure facilities*
- *A users group, and Friends Group*
- *A business and community organisation.*
- *Cumnor Minors Football Club*
- *Drayton Village Hall -- NB WHY does Q2 demand an email address when the text does NOT ask for that?!*
- *I am a user of a sports club and a member of the public*
- *Member of the public involved in restoring the Wilts & Berks Canal*
- *Botley & North Hinksey Parish Council*
- *WSP and Carter Jonas on behalf of the Defence Infrastructure Organisation (DIO)*
- *A user of a sports club and District Councillor*
- *Carter Jonas on behalf of UK Atomic Energy Authority ("UKAEA")*
- *Carter Jonas on behalf of The Harwell Science and Innovation Campus Limited Partnership*
- *Natural England*
- *Oxfordshire County Council*
- *Grove Parish Council*
- *Garden Communities Team*

If you are responding on behalf of a sports club, community group or town/parish council etc, what is its name?

46 sports clubs, community groups and town/parish councils provided their name to this question.

So we can understand if we've reached everyone we need to, please tell us the first part of your postcode in the box below, e.g. OX10

This question was included in the survey to allow us to assess the geographical spread of the responses.

118 postcodes were received. The most frequently mentioned are provided below. 78% of respondents were received from the following locations:

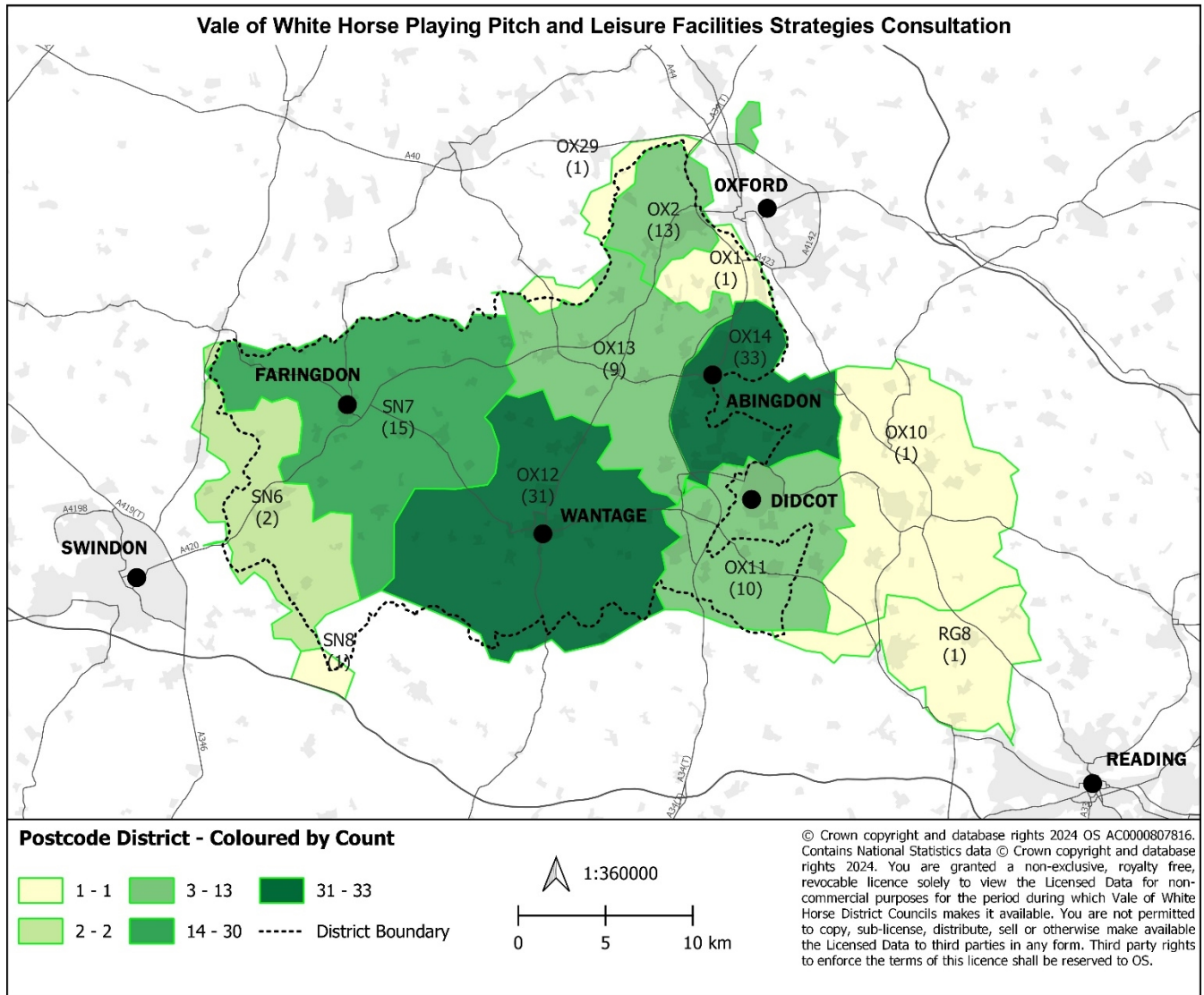
Abingdon (OX14) – 33 postcodes (28%)

Wantage (OX12) – 31 postcodes (26%)

Faringdon (SN7) – 15 postcodes (13%)

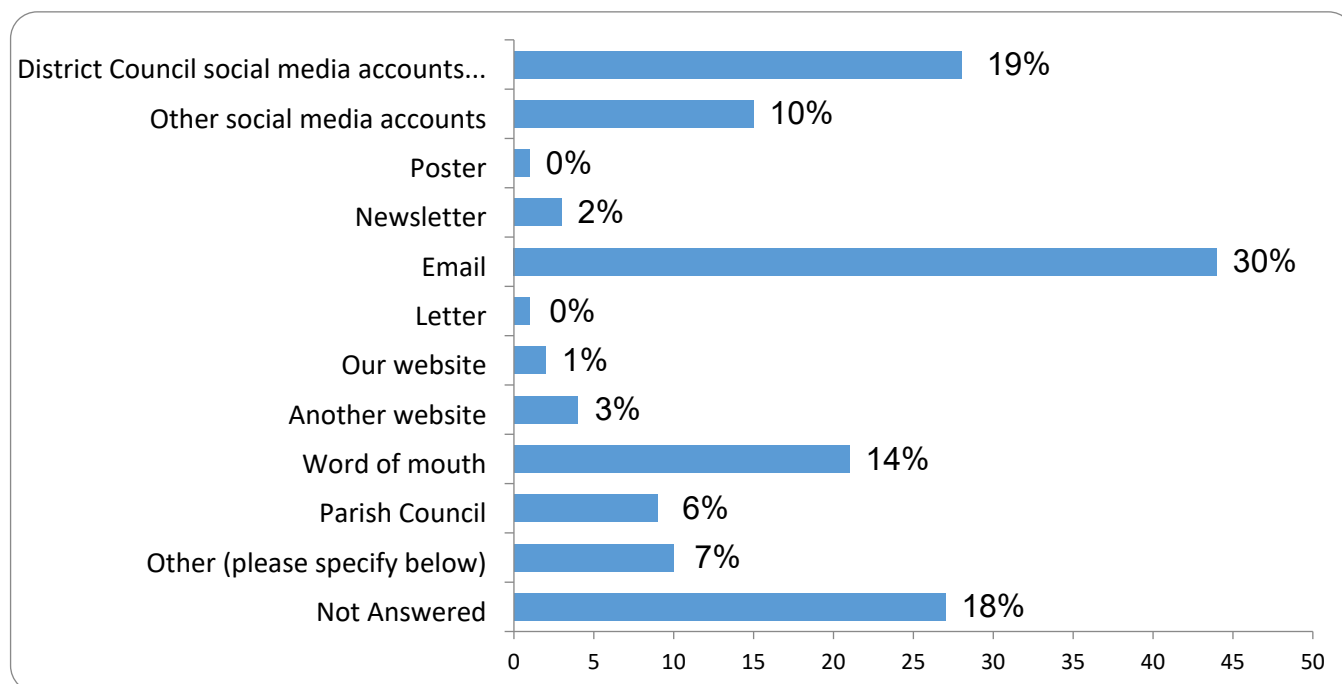
Cumnor (OX2) – 13 postcodes (11%)

The remaining 21% of postcodes can be viewed on the map below.



How did you hear about the Playing Pitch and Leisure Facility Strategies Consultation? Tick all that apply.

30% of respondents heard about the consultation via email.



HOW WE HAVE USED RESULTS OF THE CONSULTATION

The council would like to thank all respondents of the public consultation for taking their time to provide their feedback.

Comments have been reviewed by relevant council teams and the consultants of the strategies Stuart Todd Associates Ltd. Any changes to either the Playing Pitch Strategy or Leisure Facilities Strategy because of public comments have been listed in the tables above. The Key changes are highlighted below:

Key changes:

Although all comments from the consultation were reviewed, not all resulted in changes to the various documents. Below are the key changes that were made to both the PPS and LFAS documents.

PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY:

All sports:

- Additional emphasis has been added into the recommendations that the needs of people with disabilities and safety issues (particularly regarding women and girls) are addressed through good design and improvements.
- Climate change – the strategy seeks to focus on provision for sport and acknowledges the need to consider fully the impact and mitigation.

Cricket:

- A clarifying statement has been included regarding hybrid pitches which are currently not endorsed by the English Cricket Board (ECB) as these are in the pilot phase. This is likely to change in strategy lifetime.
- Indoor cricket was assessed and included in the LFAS.
- Pipeline projects and the pavilion project for Drayton Village have been included.

Football:

- Louie Memorial Playing Field, Botley – reference to the replacement pavilion has been included.
- Upton Recreation Ground – recommendation has been included to support improvements to the changing facilities.
- East Hendred – reference has been added to support the new/ improved changing facilities.
- Stanford-in-the-Vale – reference added for the ambition of additional grass football (and cricket) plans, subject to demand.

Hockey:

- Reference to gaps in provision, spatially, in particular in West sub-area have been included.

Rugby

- The recommendation for Grove RFC regarding improving facilities and additional sports-lighting, and security of tenure risks on part of the site has been enhanced.

LEISURE FACILITIES ASSESSMENT AND STRATEGY:

- Louie Memorial Playing Fields – the plans for new skatepark and pavilion have been included.
- Abingdon Lawn Tennis Club – the upgraded floodlights have been referenced.
- Harwell Village Tennis Club courts - floodlighting recommendation has been added.
- Farmoor Reservoir has been included.
- Dalton Barracks running track has been included.
- Upton Park pump track has been included and reference for maintaining facilities.
- Moredon Sporting Hub – the new Cycle Circuit in Swindon has been included.
- The East Hendred Sports Club development plans have been included.
- Stanford in the Vale - reference to the parish council aspirations for at least two tennis courts and a fitness trail have been added.
- Faringdon Community College MUGA – comments have been added that the MUGA should be made available for community use (currently private use only).
- Reference to Faringdon Judo Club at Tucker Hall has been included (spare capacity).
- King Alfred Academy – enhancement of quality of sports hall when necessary has been included.
- Recommendations for modernisation of the swimming pool at Wantage Leisure Centre have been added.

Amendments to the strategies were signed off by the PPS and LFAS steering groups and changes were also presented to council members before the final documents were taken to the council's cabinet for approval.

Next steps:

Although the strategies are now completed, the council will continue to work closely with the steering group to progress with Stage E (delivery) and continue to work through and update the action plans.

All final documents have been published on the council website.

SURVEY

A copy of the paper comment form is provided below.



Vale of White Horse Playing Pitch and Leisure Facilities Strategies Consultation

Before taking part in this consultation, please refer to the public notice available alongside this comment form. The Playing Pitch Strategy, Leisure Facilities Strategy and a glossary of terms is also available to view.

Please return this comment form by **11.59pm on Wednesday 17 April 2024** to: Freepost SOUTH AND VALE CONSULTATIONS (no other address information or stamp is needed)

Queries?

If you have any questions about the Playing Pitch and Leisure Facilities Strategies consultation or require the Strategies in an alternative format (for example large print, Braille, audio, email, Easy Read and alternative languages), please email jointheconversation@southandvale.gov.uk or call 01235 422425.

Personal details

We will not ask for your name or any contact details. You also do not have to answer any questions that you do not want to. Any personal information supplied to the council within your comments that could identify you will not be published in the consultation summary report. Further information on data protection is available in our privacy statement whitehorsedc.gov.uk/jointheconversation

About you

Are you responding as:

- An owner/ provider of a leisure facility
- A sports club/community group
- A user of a sports club
- A member of the public, but not a user of a sports club
- District, county or town/parish councillor
- Town/parish council

Other (please specify below):
.....

If you are responding on behalf of a sports club, community group or town/parish council etc, what is its name?

So we can understand if we've reached everyone we need to, please tell us the first part of your postcode in the box below, e.g. OX10

How did you hear about this consultation? Tick all that apply.

- District Council social media accounts (e.g. Facebook, Twitter, Instagram)
- Other social media accounts
- Poster
- Newsletter
- Email
- Letter
- Our website
- Another website
- Word of mouth
- Parish Council
- Other (please specify below):
.....

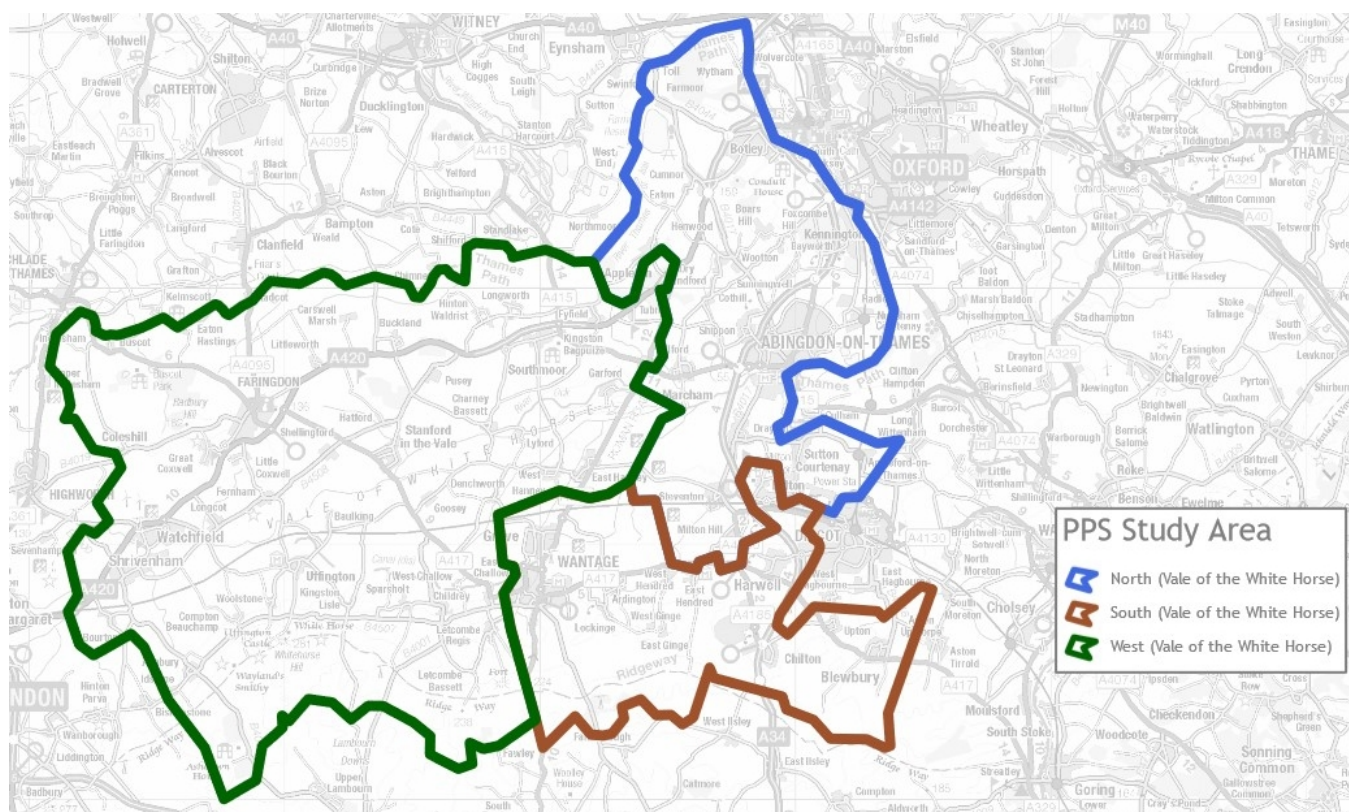
Contents

This comment form has been broken down by sub-area, this will allow you to view the content which is most relevant to you and your sports club. However, you can view as many sub-areas and answer as many questions as you like.

North Sub-Area (page 4) – Wytham, Cumnor, Botley and North Hinksey, South Hinksey, Kennington, Radley, Appleton with Eaton, Besselsleigh, Wootton, Sunningwell, St Helen Without, Marcham, Drayton, Steventon, Milton, Sutton Courtenay and Appleford-on-Thames.

South Sub-Area (page 12) – East Hendred, Western Valley, Harwell, Chilton, Upton, Blewbury, West Hendred, Ardington, Lockinge, Wantage, Grove and Lockinge.

West Sub-Area (page 18) – Fyfield and Tubney, Frilford, Garford, East Hanney, West Hanney, Lyford, Kingston Bagpuize with Southmoor, Longworth, Hinton Waldrist, Buckland, Littleworth, Pusey, Charney Bassett, Denchworth, Goosey, Faringdon, Shellingford, Standford in the Vale, Hatford, Eaton Hastings, Buscot, Coleshill, Great Coxwell, Little Coxwell, Loncot, Watchfield, Shrivenham, Bourton, Ashbury, Compton Beauchamp, Woolstone, Uffington, Kingston Lisle, Fernham, Baulking, Sparsholt, Childery, West Challow, Letcombe Bassett, Letcombe Regis and East Challow.



North Sub-Area

Playing Pitch Strategy

The key recommendations identified in the Playing Pitch Strategy for the North Sub-Area have been provided below.

(1) Wootton and Boars Hill

- **Cricket:** Secure access to additional grounds or provide more capacity on existing site, where feasible (Cricket Club)

(2) Edge of Oxford

- **Football (3G):** Explore provision of 1 x full-size sports-lit 3G pitch, subject to demand in mid-latter part of strategy period arising from both north-eastern part of sub-area, plus potential exported demand from Oxford City
- **Rugby:** 1-2 full-size grass pitches, subject to St Peter's College pitches being secured for long-term community use.

(3) Abingdon

- **Football (grass):** 1 x 11v11, 2 x 9v9 (although some of this demand may arise on edge of Oxford and / or Steventon)
- **Football (3G):** 2 x full-size sports-lit 3G pitch
- **Rugby:** 1-2 full-size grass pitches (to serve Abingdon RFC), unless sufficient capacity can be increased at Tilsley Park 3G if football demand moves to new 3Gs. Possible off-site contributions from Culham and Berinsfield allocations (South Oxfordshire) to Abingdon RFC.

(4) Milton / Milton Hill

- **Football (3G):** 1 x full-size sports-lit 3G pitch, subject to demand arising (and considering sequence of 3G provision in Didcot (South Oxfordshire), for example, at The Heights

(5) Steventon

- **Cricket:** Secure access to additional grounds or provide more capacity on existing site, where feasible (Village Green)

(6) Dalton Barracks

- **Football:** 3 x grass 11v11, 3 x grass 9v9, 3 x grass 7v7, 1 x full-size sports-lit 3G pitch
- **Rugby:** off-site contributions to Abingdon RFC
- **Cricket:** 1 x new ground

(7) Land North of Dunmore Road / North of Abingdon

- **Football (grass):** 1 x 11v11, 2 x 7v7 ("pipeline" / commitment)
- **Cricket:** 1 x new cricket ground ("pipeline" / commitment)

(8) Kennington

- Cricket: Secure access to additional grounds or provide more capacity on existing site, where feasible (Playing Road)

(9) Cumnor

- Cricket: Secure access to additional grounds or provide more capacity on existing site, where feasible (Cricket Club)

1. If you have any comments on the Playing Pitch Strategy North sub-area recommendations, please provide them below.

Please make it clear in your comments which recommendation(s) number you're referring to.

Leisure Facility Strategy

The key recommendations identified in the Leisure Facility Strategy for the North Sub-Area have been provided below.

Recommendation number	Site Name	Facility Type	Issue / Opportunity	Key Action(s)
1	Abingdon Lawn Tennis Club	Outdoor tennis courts	Abingdon LTC are currently looking to install sports lighting on two courts and upgrade to LED lighting on six courts.	Protect and Enhance – Maximise the use of existing assets by supporting Abingdon LTC to install new and upgraded sports-lighting.
2	Abingdon School and Sports Centre	Swimming pool Sports hall Studio Squash courts	Sports clubs using the swimming pool, sports hall and studio do not have a long-term agreement in place (i.e., no security of use). Improved access is required to meet demand, and to	Protect and Enhance – Continue to support user clubs and work with facility provider to secure CUAs for existing users. These clubs include,

Recommendation number	Site Name	Facility Type	Issue / Opportunity	Key Action(s)
			<p>continue to develop the community use of sport facilities at the school.</p> <p>The squash courts are the cheapest in the district to hire (£10 an hour) but have limited opening hours (after 6pm during weekdays).</p>	<p>but are not limited to, Abingdon Vale SC (pool), North Abingdon Badminton Club (sports hall) and Tiska Martial Arts club (studio).</p> <p>Protect and Enhance – Investigate whether the school would increase the community usage of these facilities. It may be difficult due to the nature of this site, but this increased community offer may help to meet demand (especially for sports hall users).</p>
3	Abingdon and Witney College	<p>Sports hall</p> <p>Squash courts</p> <p>Dance studios</p>	<p>There is a need to enhance security of tenure for Abingdon Squash & Racketball Club (current lease of courts expires in 2027) and Amanda Alder Dance Academy (hire agreement of dance</p>	<p>Protect and Enhance – Support Abingdon Squash & Racketball Club and Amanda Alder Dance Academy with the renewal of user agreements.</p>

Recommendation number	Site Name	Facility Type	Issue / Opportunity	Key Action(s)
			studios in place until 2025).	
4	Brookes Sport Botley	Swimming pool Activity hall Gym Studios Squash courts	All facilities are available for community use during extensive opening hours. Swim School is at full capacity and the pool is used on a regular basis by University Swim Teams and public use for open swimming / lane swimming (cheapest non-member public swimming sessions in the district - adult prices are £4 per swim; juniors £2.50 and seniors £3).	Protect or Enhance – This facility should be retained or enhanced as part of redevelopment unless an assessment has demonstrated that there is an excess of provision and they are surplus to requirements or clear evidence supports their relocation.
5	Dalton Barracks	New skatepark, BMX track and MUGA	In order to meet future demand from new residents, a new skatepark, BMX track and MUGA should be considered at this Strategic Housing site. Abingdon Race Team have been regular users of the site (former runways) since 2014.	Provide – Explore opportunity for a new skatepark, BMX track and a multi-use games area that can be used for netball and tennis, and can be made available for extensive public use. Consideration should be given to the

Recommendation number	Site Name	Facility Type	Issue / Opportunity	Key Action(s)
				design of the cycling infrastructure at this site, so that cycling can continue to be accommodated (e.g. distance-markers and low-level lighting).
6	Forest Side Recreation Ground	New skatepark	There are no skateparks in Kennington.	Provide – Explore the opportunity to provide a new skatepark to meet demand in Kennington.
7	Fogwell Road Recreation Ground	New skatepark	There are no skateparks in Botley.	Provide – Explore the opportunity to provide a new skatepark to meet demand in Botley.
8	John Mason School	Sports hall	<p>Sports hall is 'Below Average' quality. It is usable but does not meet consumer expectations.</p> <p>Abingdon Centre Netball Club use the hall on a regular basis but do not have long-term agreements in place (i.e., no security of use).</p>	<p>Protect and Enhance – Continue to support user club and work with facility provider to secure CUA for existing user (Abingdon Centre Netball Club).</p> <p>Maximise the use of existing assets by improving the quality of the facility to meet</p>

Recommendation number	Site Name	Facility Type	Issue / Opportunity	Key Action(s)
				consumer expectations.
9	Larkmead School	Sports hall	<p>Sports hall is 'Below Average' quality. It is usable but does not meet consumer expectations.</p> <p>Comets Netball Club use the hall on a regular basis but do not have long-term agreements in place (i.e., no security of use).</p>	<p>Protect and Enhance – Continue to support user club and work with facility provider to secure CUA for existing user (Comets Netball Club). Improve the quality of the facility to meet consumer expectations.</p>
10	Louie Memorial Playing Fields (Botley)	MUGA	<p>MUGA is 'Below Average' quality. Surface is showing signs of wear and tear. The MUGA is usable but quality could be improved, as it does not meet current expectations.</p>	<p>Protect and Enhance – Maximise the use of existing assets by improving the quality of existing MUGA.</p>
11	Our Lady's School	Swimming pool	<p>Abingdon Swimming Club are regular users of the pool, but do not have long-term agreements in place (i.e., no security of use).</p> <p>Improved access is required to meet demand, and to continue to develop the community use</p>	<p>Protect and Enhance – Continue to support user club and work with facility provider to secure CUAs for existing user (Abingdon Swimming Club).</p> <p>Enhance – Investigate whether the</p>

Recommendation number	Site Name	Facility Type	Issue / Opportunity	Key Action(s)
			of sport facilities at the school.	school would increase the community usage of these facilities. It may be difficult due to the nature of this site, but this increased community offer may help to meet unmet demand.
12	Oxford Sports Lawn Tennis Club	Tennis Courts	The tennis club is 90 members under-capacity (ie there are enough courts) however there is a lack of car parking provision (particularly in the winter when the grass area by the courts is unusable).	Protect and Enhance – Support Oxford Sports TC with expanding its car parking provision in partnership with Oxford Rugby Club.
13	Radley College Sports Centre	Swimming pool Athletics track	Used by Abingdon Vale Swimming Club and Didcot Barramundi Swim Club on a regular basis, but do not have long-term agreements in place (i.e., no security of use). No issues with the athletics facilities have been identified as part of this study.	Protect and Enhance – Continue to support user clubs and work with facility provider to secure CUAs for existing users (Abingdon Vale Swimming Club and Didcot Barramundi Swim Club). Protect and Enhance – Maintain TrackMark

Recommendation number	Site Name	Facility Type	Issue / Opportunity	Key Action(s)
				accreditation and seek to improve the infield sports lighting to meet minimum NGB standards.
14	St Helen's and St Katherine's School	Sports hall	Oxfordshire Netball League runs at St Helen's and St Katherine's School, totals 7.5hrs per week across 17 weeks.	<p>Protect and Enhance – Continue to support users and work with facility provider to secure CUA for existing user (Oxfordshire Netball League).</p> <p>Enhance – Investigate whether the school would increase the community usage of these facilities. It may be difficult due to the nature of this site, but this increased community offer may help to meet demand.</p>
15	The Manor Prep School	Sports hall	Team Matrix Netball Club use the hall on a regular basis but do not have long-term agreements in place (i.e., no security of use).	<p>Protect and Enhance – Continue to support user club and work with facility provider to secure CUAs</p>

Recommendation number	Site Name	Facility Type	Issue / Opportunity	Key Action(s)
				<p>for existing user (Team Matrix Netball Club).</p> <p>Enhance – Investigate whether the school would increase the community usage of these facilities. It may be difficult due to the nature of this site, but this increased community offer may help to meet unmet demand.</p>
16	Tilsley Park	Athletics track	No issues with the athletics facilities have been identified as part of this study.	<p>Protect and Enhance – Maintain TrackMark accreditation and seek to improve the infield sports lighting to meet minimum NGB standards.</p>
17	White Horse Leisure & Tennis Centre	<p>Swimming pool</p> <p>Sports hall</p> <p>Gym</p> <p>Squash courts</p> <p>Tennis centre</p>	Swimming pool, sports hall, gym, studios and squash courts are 'uncomfortably busy' (above 80% used capacity) during peak periods.	<p>Protect and Enhance – Work with facility provider to provide more availability for clubs to use the facilities at peak times.</p> <p>Provide – Explore the opportunity for</p>

Recommendation number	Site Name	Facility Type	Issue / Opportunity	Key Action(s)
			Current and future demand for tennis in the North sub area could be met by improving the quality of the outdoor tennis courts at White Horse LTC.	the refurbishment of existing outdoor tennis courts. Consideration should also be given to the need for Padel tennis courts, netball courts / a MUGA.

If you have any comments on the Leisure Facility Strategy North sub-area recommendations, please provide them below.

Please make it clear in your comments which recommendation(s) number you're referring to.

South Sub-Area

Playing Pitch Strategy

The key recommendations identified in the Playing Pitch Strategy for the South Sub-Area have been provided below.

Grove Airfield

Football (grass): 4 x 11v11 (adult), 4 x 9v9 (youth), 4 x 5v5 / 7v7, +1 x 11v11 replacement ("pipeline" / commitment)

Crab Hill

Football (grass): 2 x 11v11 (adult), 1x 11v11 (youth) ("pipeline / commitment)

Valley Park, Didcot

Football (grass): 2 x 11v11 / 9v9 (youth) (Alma Park) 2 x 11v11 / 9v9 (youth) (Common Park), 2 x 11v11 (adult) (Common Park) ("pipeline" / commitment)

Football (3G): 1 x full-size sports-lit 3G pitch (Common Park) ("pipeline" / commitment)

Cricket: 1 x adult cricket ground at Valley Park

Didcot

Rugby: 6-7 grass full-size pitches with sports lighting, or WR22 compliant 3G if this satisfies demand (also accounts for element of demand from South Oxfordshire West sub-area)

Cricket: Secure access to additional grounds or provide more capacity on existing site, where feasible (Valley Park)

A417 corridor

Football (grass): 4 x 11v11, delivery responding to demand arising at Ardington & Lockinge, Blewbury, East Hendred (and possibly Wantage / Grove in latter part of strategy period if other proposals in those locations do not satisfy demand)

Cricket: Secure access to additional grounds or provide more capacity on existing site, where feasible (East Hendred Sports Ground)

Alfredian Park, Wantage

Football (3G): 1 x full-size sports-lit 3G pitch ("pipeline / commitment)

Wantage / Grove

Football (3G): 0.5 x full-size sports-lit 3G pitch (subject to demand arising in latter part of strategy period)

Grove

Rugby: 1-2 full-size grass pitches (if additional capacity from relocation of FC not enough)

If you have any comments on the Playing Pitch Strategy North sub-area recommendations, please provide them below.

Please make it clear in your comments which recommendation(s) number you're referring to.

Leisure Facility Strategy

The key recommendations identified in the Leisure Facility Strategy for the South Sub-Area have been provided below.

Recommendation number	Site Name	Facility Type	Issue / Opportunity	Key Action(s)
1	Blewbury Croquet Club	Croquet lawns	The clubhouse facilities are 'Below Average' (i.e., deteriorating and showing signs of wear and tear and poor quality). The	Protect and Enhance – Maximise the use of existing assets by improving the quality of the facility to meet consumer expectations. Support Blewbury

Recommendation number	Site Name	Facility Type	Issue / Opportunity	Key Action(s)
			facility is not as attractive to customers and does not meet current expectations.	Croquet Club with plans to upgrade its clubhouse.
2	Crab Hill, Wantage	New skatepark and MUGA	In order to meet future demand from new residents, a new skatepark and MUGA should be considered at this Strategic Housing site.	Provide – Continue to support the development of a new skatepark and a multi-use games area that can be made available for extensive public use.
3	Grove Airfield (including St John's Academy)	New sports hall and new MUGAs	<p>Additional space and time required for sports clubs using sports halls and future demand for sport hall activities is highest in this sub area.</p> <p>In order to meet future demand from new residents, new MUGAs should be considered at this Strategic Housing site.</p>	<p>Provide – Continue to support the development of a new 4-court (L:34.5m x W:20m x H:7.5m) sports hall at this site. New sports facilities should be able to provide for all sports at the recreational level and for club development with CUAs.</p> <p>Provide – Continue to support the development of new multi-use games areas that can be used for netball and tennis, and can be made available for extensive public use.</p>
4	Harwell Bowls Club	Bowls green	Plan to improve clubhouse which does not meet consumer expectations.	Protect and Enhance – Maximise the use of existing assets by improving the quality of the facility to meet consumer expectations. Support Harwell Bowls

Recommendation number	Site Name	Facility Type	Issue / Opportunity	Key Action(s)
				Club with plans to upgrade its clubhouse.
5	Harwell Croquet Club	Croquet lawns	The lawns are well maintained, but have never been professionally levelled, so are quite uneven. The lawns are usable for match play but quality could be improved.	Protect and Enhance – Maximise the use of existing assets by improving the quality of the facility to meet consumer expectations. Support Harwell Croquet Club with improving the quality of its lawn maintenance.
6	Harwell Recreation Ground	New skatepark	There are no skateparks in Harwell.	Provide – Explore the opportunity to provide a new skatepark to meet demand in Harwell.
7	King Alfred's School (West Site)	Sports hall New athletics facilities	Challow Netball Club use the hall on a regular basis but do not have long-term agreements in place (i.e., no security of use). White Horse Harriers has plans and outline design for a Compact Facility with an 80m 4 Lane track and throw cages and jump facilities. This could be placed in a local Senior School who have agreed maintenance and security. The lack of Athletics facilities means	Protect and Enhance – Continue to support user clubs and work with facility provider to secure CUAs for existing users. Provide – Ensure, as far as possible, that any new sports facilities, provided as part of future educational provision, are designed for curricular, extra-curricular, community and sports development use and made available for community use out of school hours.

Recommendation number	Site Name	Facility Type	Issue / Opportunity	Key Action(s)
			that the community cannot experience and are excluded from Athletics.	
8	Upton Village Hall	Village Hall	Kinetics Gymnastics are full to capacity and unable to provide some of its gymnasts with the facilities required for higher skill levels.	Protect and Provide – Explore the opportunity for a new dedicated provision for Kinetics Gymnastics in the South sub area. Keep a record of suitable buildings (eg, warehouses) that could be converted into a dedicated gymnastics facility.
9	Valley Park (Didcot)	New MUGAs and Fitness Trail	<p>In order to meet future demand from new residents, a new MUGAs should be considered at this Strategic Housing site.</p> <p>There is a lack of 'off-road' cycling and running provision in the district, and high demand from clubs.</p>	<p>Provide – Continue to support the development of new and a multi-use games areas at Alma Park and Common Park that can be made available for extensive public use.</p> <p>Consideration should be given to the design of the fitness trail planned at Valley Park (Strategic Housing Site), so that cycling and running can be accommodated (e.g. distance-markers and low-level lighting).</p>

Recommendation number	Site Name	Facility Type	Issue / Opportunity	Key Action(s)
10	Wantage Gymnastic Centre	Gymnastic facility	Wantage Gymnastic Club has 217 members and 400 on its waiting list. The club advised that a lack of qualified coaches is the main issue for the club and that small facility improvements (to the doors of its facility) are required.	Protect and Enhance – Maximise the use of existing assets by improving the quality of the facility to meet consumer expectations. Continue to support Wantage GC with improvements to its facility.
11	Wantage Leisure Centre	Swimming pool Sports hall Gym Studios Squash courts	Swimming pool, sports hall, gym and studios are 'uncomfortably busy' (above 80% used capacity) during peak periods. The whole facility is showing signs of age and poor quality. The facility is usable but does not meet current expectations. Squash courts are only courts in the South sub area. These are not used by a squash club and 'pay and play' court bookings	Protect and Enhance – Maximise the use of existing assets* by improving the quality of the facility to meet consumer expectations, and expanding the gym offering. Provide – Explore the opportunity for a new 18m x 10m learner pool annexed to the current leisure centre building, to provide additional water space on-site that can free up space in the main pool. Protect and Enhance – Squash courts should be retained and the quality enhanced to meet the demand for 'pay and play' squash in the South sub area. Both courts should be retained to meet future demand for squash.

Recommendation number	Site Name	Facility Type	Issue / Opportunity	Key Action(s)
			total 20% used-capacity during peak periods.	

4. If you have any comments on the Leisure Facility Strategy South sub-area recommendations, please provide them below.

Please make it clear in your comments which recommendation(s) number you're referring to.

West Sub-Area

Playing Pitch Strategy

The key recommendations identified in the Playing Pitch Strategy for the West Sub-Area have been provided below.

A420 corridor

Football (grass): 1x 7v7, 2 x 9v9 in one or more of Shrivenham, Faringdon or Kingston Bagpuize. Subject to where demand arises

Kingston Bagpuize

Cricket: 1 x new cricket ground, Lions Court, East of Kingston Bagpuize

East Hanney

Cricket: Secure access to additional grounds or provide more capacity on existing site, where feasible (Playing Field)

Challow and Childrey

Cricket: Secure access to additional grounds or provide more capacity on existing site, where feasible (Cricket Club)

North-eastern Edge

Football (3G): 1 x full-size sports-lit 3G pitch or 1-2 x 0.5 full-size sports-lit 3Gs to serve club demand in north-eastern edge of sub-area (subject to demand arising on the ground)

Faringdon

Football (3G): 1 x full-size sports-lit 3G pitch ("pipeline / commitment, Community College)

Rugby: 4 grass full-size pitches with sports lighting, unless sufficient 3G capacity can be provided on planned 3G football pitches if provided to WR22 standard. Rugby club use of a 3G could reduce the number of additional grass pitches needed

Cricket: Secure access to additional grounds or provide more capacity on existing site, where feasible (Folly Park)

If you have any comments on the Playing Pitch Strategy West sub-area recommendations, please provide them below.

Please make it clear in your comments which recommendation(s) number you're referring to.

Leisure Facility Strategy

The key recommendations identified in the Leisure Facility Strategy for the West Sub-Area have been provided below.

Recommendation number	Site Name	Facility Type	Issue / Opportunity	Key Action(s)
1	Faringdon Leisure Centre	Swimming pool Sports hall Gym Studio Squash courts	Swimming pool, sports hall, gym and studios are 'uncomfortably busy' (above 80% used capacity) during peak periods. Squash courts are only courts in the West sub area that are available for community use (Defence Academy in Shrivenham has private-use only courts). Faringdon LC squash courts are not used by a squash club and 'pay and play' court bookings total 52% used-capacity during peak periods.	Protect and Enhance – Continue to support user clubs and work with facility provider to secure CUAs for existing users. These clubs include, but are not limited to, Buscot Archers (sports hall), Faringdon NC (sports hall) and Vale Tridents Junior Triathlon Club (pool). Protect and Enhance – squash courts should be retained and the quality enhanced to meet the demand for 'pay and play' squash in the West sub area. Both courts should be retained to meet future demand for squash.
2	Faringdon Tennis Club	Tennis courts	Three of the five tennis clubs in the West sub area are over-	Protect and Enhance – Maximise the use of existing assets by supporting Faringdon

Recommendation number	Site Name	Facility Type	Issue / Opportunity	Key Action(s)
			capacity (124 in total, including Faringdon TC that is 100 players over-capacity).	Tennis Club in its application to install sports lighting on its two remaining unlit courts.
3	Kingston Bagpuize & Southmoor Bowls Club	Bowls green	The bowls club has 77 members and is the largest bowls club in the district. It has plans to improve its clubhouse which currently does not meet consumer expectations.	Protect and Enhance – Maximise the use of existing assets by improving the quality of the facility to meet consumer expectations. Support Kingston Bagpuize & Southmoor Bowls Club with plans to upgrade its clubhouse.
4	Kingston Bagpuize	New skatepark	There are no skateparks in Kingston Bagpuize.	Provide – Explore the opportunity to provide a new skatepark to meet demand in Kingston Bagpuize.
5	Shrivenham Recreation Ground	New skatepark	There are no skateparks in Shrivenham.	Provide – Explore the opportunity to provide a new skatepark to meet demand in Shrivenham.
6	The Pump House	Parkour facilities	The Pump House in Faringdon is a shared facility between parkour and community groups. Due to the popularity of the sport in the area, the Urban	Protect and Provide – Support the UMA in its search for a new facility with a permanent set-up of equipment to would enable more structured training sessions and more drop-in sessions to be held; concentrating on

Recommendation number	Site Name	Facility Type	Issue / Opportunity	Key Action(s)
			Movement Academy (UMA) requires more availability of parkour provision and is looking for a new facility in central Faringdon, but it has been unable to find suitable provision in the last 12 months.	reaching the demographics that are currently not being reached.
7	Uffington Lawn Tennis Club	Tennis courts	The club is 10 members over-capacity and has plans to install new sports-lighting of its courts to increase capacity.	Protect and Enhance – Maximise the use of existing assets by supporting Uffington Lawn Tennis Club in the installation of new sports-lights
8	Watchfield Recreation Ground	New skatepark	There are no skateparks in Watchfield.	Provide – Explore the opportunity to provide a new skatepark to meet demand in Watchfield.
9	Site yet to be identified	New swimming pool	Provision of a learner pool should be considered to significantly enhance the offer in Faringdon.	Provide – Explore opportunity for a new 15m x 10m learner pool in Faringdon (e.g. Total Swimming Academies)

5. If you have any comments on the Leisure Facility Strategy West sub-area recommendations, please provide them below.

Please make it clear in your comments which recommendation(s) number you're referring to.

Anything else?

6. If you have any other comments on the Playing Pitch Strategy, please provide them below.

7. If you have any other comments on the Leisure Facility Strategy, please provide them below.

Thank you for your comments!

If you would like to attach any supporting documents to support your comments, please attach it to this comment form.

Your comments will be collated in a report to be considered at the end of the consultation period.

How to send this form back to us

Please return this comment form to:

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FURTHER INFORMATION

If you would like more information about this consultation and the results presented in this report, or you require this report in an alternative format (for example large print, Braille, audio, email, Easy Read and alternative languages) please contact:

Consultation and Community Engagement Team

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To enquire about the council's work on the Vale of White Horse Playing Pitch and Leisure Facilities Strategies, please contact:

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