

# Oxford City Council

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## Playing Pitch & Outdoor Sports Strategy

### Summary of public consultation on the Draft Playing Pitch Strategy

January 9<sup>th</sup> – February 21st 2012

## Appendix 5



## Appendix 5

Sport	Summary of comments	Response
<b>Cricket</b> 1.	Agree and welcome the overall thoughts to protect all existing cricket facilities in the city. Support the action to investigate all possible sites to be opened up for public use/community use agreement established.	A: Statement of support has been noted in regards to protecting pitches and investigating community use of facilities.
2.	With the Sport England survey some of the quality assessment scores for some of the college pitches/ancillary facilities and for Risinghurst seem to be higher than that experienced in practice.	B: Sport England is currently working with the English Cricket Board to improve the assessment tool specifically for cricket and this will be available the next time the playing pitch strategy is reviewed. We have referenced this within the strategy.  C: In general the cricket pitches across the City are of good quality. However, in respect of the comments the quality scores for the following sites have been updated in the key for the community accessible cricket pitch map; Pembroke, Merton and Risinghurst have all now been reviewed in line with the comments and given an 'average' score.  D: Ancillary facilities have been assessed further in the Pavilion Review and an action within the playing pitch strategy identifies the development of a phased plan for the improvement of the Council owned pavilions across the city.
3.	Accessibility/availability of pitches (particularly colleges/university and schools)	E: Sentence has been added regarding the adhoc/seasonal access to college/university pitches and this could preclude teams from progressing in to the Cherwell League.  F: Recommendation and actions note the need for cricket pitches to be identified for community use, where there is currently no use, or unsecured use.  G: Schools and colleges/university access has been added as unsecured as access to these sites is at the discretion of the head teacher/bursar/grounds staff. The level of accessibility to each of the sites within the audit has been confirmed.

4.	Following grounds are declared as unfit/not accessible: Cowley Marsh, Pitch 2 at Horspath, St Peters College, Barton Recreation Ground, Warneford Hospital, New College and St Johns College Sports Ground.	H: Cowley Marsh, Barton and Warneford Hospital pitches have not been included in the strategy as they are no longer designated pitches in operation. St Peters College and St Johns college pitches are not accessible and therefore, have not been included within the assessment. Pitch 2 at Horspath is not deemed appropriate for OCA league cricket and this has been referenced in the strategy and action plan; however this is still a cricket pitch and can be used for recreational cricket. The pitches at New College Sports Ground are available for community use on an adhoc basis and this has been referenced within the audit; however there is no longer a pavilion on site (this has been updated in the keys supporting the maps).
5.	Re-instate the cricket pitch on Barton Road.	I: This has not been included within the strategy as the site has been out of use in excess of 10 years, with no plans to re-instate. The site does not meet the minimum dimensions set by the English Cricket Board for a full sized adult cricket pitch.
6.	Believe that reduced availability of grounds has led or at least contributed to a couple of clubs relocating outside the city borders. This is also having an impact on the development of clubs.	J: Statement has been noted. The displacement of teams and their limited growth, as a result of access to suitable facilities and cost has been referenced already within the strategy.
7.	There is concern that there will be displacement of East Oxford CC and Oxenford CC. Welcome the recommendation of like for like replacement but are concerned how realistic this would be.	K: The strategy does look to protect facilities and to seek like for like replacement.
8.	The National Governing Body (English Cricket Board) was happy with the overall conclusions/recommendation of the strategy and content with the participation increase percentages used within the modelling.	L: The statement of support has been noted
9.		M: Further reference has been made within the strategy.

	The importance of Non Turf Pitches for youth and recreational cricket needs to be given further reference in the strategy.	
<b>Football</b>		
1.	Comments regarding the number of Community Standard clubs and those that have been included/suspended.	A: Information received from the Oxfordshire Football Association (OFA) regarding Community Standard clubs and this has been updated. This can rapidly change in regard to included/ suspended clubs and the reference has now been removed.
2.	Availability & Quality of pitches/ancillary facilities – it was noted that improvements were required at Court Place Farm (improved drainage and safety) and Grandpont Rec (quality/safety) – both of which were supported by the clubs playing on site.	<p>B: Court Place Farm – comments regarding improvements to drainage already appeared in the strategy, however further comments have been added regarding quality of pitches. Improvements to the pitches has been added to the action plan.</p> <p>C: Comments regarding the quality of the pitches at Grandpont Recreation ground have been added to the strategy. Opportunities and cost for improvement has been identified within the action plan.</p> <p>D: The quality assessment of pitches was undertaken in line with the Sport England Non Visual Technical Quality Assessment tool in the 2010/2011 football season (further details in section 3.4).</p>
3.	Parks department were commended on keeping the pitches to a good standard and the additional mini pitches at Cutteslowe Park help meet demand.	E: The good quality of pitches is a general view from the consultation and has been referenced within the strategy. The addition of two mini pitches meeting demand has also been referenced.
4.	Adult pitches at Court Place Farm do not meet FA dimensions and are not accepted by most leagues.	F: It has been confirmed by the parks department that the two adult pitches at Court Place Farm are marked out to specified dimensions, however due to the installation of the 3G pitch the minimum dimensions are used.
5.	Court Place Farm has three mini pitches. Requested that the management of the Community Arena is corrected and reference to the project is updated as this is now complete.	G: The three mini pitches at Court Place Farm have been included in the audit (this has been included as 2 stand alone mini pitches and 1 over-marked pitch). Management of the stadium and pitches at Court Place Farm has been updated in the key to Fig 3 (map of community accessible football pitches). Reference to the Community Arena project has been changed to reflect that it is now open.

6.	Hinksey Park Pavilion noted N/a under 'Ancillary Facility Score'.	H: Pavilion score has not been given at Hinksey Park as there is no pavilion on site.
7.	Users of pavilions need to ensure that they are keeping them clean.	I: This has been picked up with Parks colleagues to reinforce with clubs.
8.	Suggested that priority is given to the improvement of the pavilion at Quarry Recreation Ground.	J: The comments have been noted and this will be fed into the action within the playing pitch strategy that identifies the development of a phased plan for the improvement of pavilions across the city.
9.	Further detail around the Pavilion Review requested.	K: The next stage of this process is to identify a phased plan for the improvement of pavilions across the City. We will ensure we keep clubs updated in regards to this.
10.	Mention of car parking charges/provision at various sites.	L: The pavilion review has been referenced in the strategy and an action to develop a phased improvement programme for the Council's pavilions is within the action plan.  M: This has not been included in the strategy. We appreciate that car parking charges cause difficulties for clubs; however a permit scheme has been put in place for clubs using the facilities that significantly reduces cost.
11.	Problems with the growth of clubs, due to overcrowding/sites are at capacity.	N: Issue of Hinksey Park FC parking provision at Grandpont Rec has been added to the strategy and referenced within the recommendations and action plan – to work with Oxfordshire County Council and the club to investigate longer term parking arrangements. O: This has been referenced within the strategy.
12.	Floodlight facilities – facilities other than Court Place Farm should be referenced.	P: The floodlit training facilities at Banbury Road North, Rose Hill Recreation Ground and the Astro turf facility at East Oxford have been referenced in the strategy along with The Oxford Academy and the Community Arena (Court Place Farm).
13.	Comments regarding pitches at Peat Moors. Bullingdon Community Centre and their wish to have teams playing at the facility. The participant urges the council not to write off	Q: Unfortunately Bullingdon Boys FC folded in 2009 (due to outgrowing the facility and no room to make the pitch bigger) the Oxford City Parks team took the pitch out of action in 2011 after there was no further demand. The site does not currently have pitch markings however, it is on the councils 10 day cutting cycle and increased maintenance will begin mid March 2012. The

	Peat Moors pitch but to work positively with local organisations (Bullington, the Children's Centre, Wood Farm School) to start new teams, which can use the pitch.	pitch has not been written off and this has been referenced as a pitch that could be reinstated in table 9 in the event that teams in the area are developed. It has also been requested for a goal to be put up at Peat Moors to aid informal kick-about sessions
14.	Update reference to the National Games Strategy – now working on 2011 – 2015.	R: This has been updated.
15.	Reference needs to be made to the BOBI league re: fixtures at Court Place Farm.	S: This has been referenced within the strategy and it was agreed with the OFA that there use of pitches would be captured in the 10% strategic reserve applied to the assessment.
16.	Ensure referencing to junior football and the Youth Review (adding in 5v5 football) is correct.	T: This reference has been updated in the strategy. It has been noted that the 9 a side pitch at Court Place Farm is available and underused and this has been included within the audit. This will be a key pitch in the review for 9v9 pitches in line with the FA Youth Review.
17.	Reference to Headington Amateurs in the Hellenic League needs to be updated. The club are already in the league at step 6 and aspire to develop to step 5, however grounds do not meet league grading requirements.	U: This has been updated.
18.	Need to ensure that recommendations about Barton are in line with the emerging Barton Area Action Plan.	V: The emerging Barton Area Action Plan has been cross checked and the recommendations have been updated to take account of this.
19.	Vital that there are sufficient intermediate and mini size football pitches and they are of good quality.	W: This supports conclusions and recommendations of strategy. There is an action within the strategy to identify adult pitches that can be converted or overlaid with mini / junior pitches to meet local demand.
20.	Preference for the Council to put nets up and not clubs.	X: The costs for staff to undertake this would be prohibitive at this time. The clubs being responsible for putting up nets is similar to many other local authorities.
21.	Reference was made in relation to the Cemetery Consultation at Five Mile Drive and the impact it would have on football.	Y: These comments have been noted and the cemetery development consultation is based on a number of sites and further investigation is being undertaking at a site at Horspath.

22.	Interest was raised around how the FA's Youth Review would be implemented in Oxford.	Z: Referenced within the strategy - the need for youth and mini pitches in line with the youth review and local demand will be assessed with the Oxfordshire FA and clubs.
23.	The OMBL is a mixed league and has been categorised as male only.	AA: The OBML is recognised as a mixed league and both male and female youths/mini teams have been included within the audit. This is only referred to as a boys league with the strategy when referencing the its full name 'Oxford Mail Boys League'.
24.	Given the FA rules, should there be a junior mixed category in Table 6.	BB: A junior mixed category will be included once the FA's Youth Review has been implemented in 2013. This will therefore appear in the reviewed/refreshed strategy.
25.	There is a mini soccer pitch marked out in Hinksey Park.	CC: This pitch has been included within the audit.
26.	Recognition that teams/clubs have players from cross boundaries.	DD: This information was collated during the initial consultation with clubs where they were asked to identify what percentage of their member lived within/outside of the city. Undertaking the assessment on a city wide and area based level also enabled this statement to be considered.
27.	Options for more pitches in the East area would be more suited than the Central, South and West area. Oatlands Rec was also suggested as a possible option.	EE: An action is included within the strategy to investigate securing community use at sites in the East were there is currently no community access.  FF: Oatlands Recreation Ground is owned and maintained by Oxfordshire County Council and no longer provide pitches on this site. Oxford City Council owns a small part of this site (King Georges Field) however; there is no scope to mark out pitches here.
28.	It is good to see that the continued improvement/development of Barton is still on the agenda. Maybe 3G is the way forward for pitch facilities and it was interesting to see those sites listed that are no longer used, but still available for possible resurrection.	GG: Comments noted in support of strategy.
29.	The NGB was happy with the overall conclusions/recommendation of the strategy and content with the participation increase percentages used within the modelling.	HH: The comments support the strategy.

<b>Rugby</b>		
1.	There are 2 constituting bodies for Rugby in Oxford and these need to be referenced within the strategy.	A: These have been referenced in the opening chapter for rugby.
2.	Harlequins juniors/minis and seniors needs to be referenced correctly	B: References changed to reflect accurately.
3.	Suggested that a map and key of those pitches not available for community access are produced.	C: These have been produced and included within the appendices of the strategy.
4.	Need to re-visit paragraph regarding use at Oxford University RFC (Iffley Road) and Christ Church Sports Ground as these are heavily used. Oxford University RFC pitch is used by the community and should therefore be classified under scenario 2. RFU 6 key drivers are to be added to the strategy.	D: Oxford University RFC pitch has been included in the audit under scenario 1 (previously 2) and reference to Christ Church Sports Ground has been updated.  E: This diagram has been added.
5.	Remove reference to minis at the Oxford Rugby Academy and reference at U16 – U19.	F: Reference updated.
6.	Oxford RFC is to be referenced as a planned development.	G: Reference updated.
7.	3G pitch at Court Place Farm is not suitable for rugby and the 3G at the Oxford Academy will only be suitable once CRB certified – update strategy.	H: Reference to these facilities has been updated.
8.	Team Equivalent training needs to be run through the modelling/assessment.	I: This has been undertaken and referenced within the strategy.



9.	NGB was happy with the participation increase percentages used within the modelling.	J: No action required.
10.	A request was registered by a rugby club for additional space to accommodate their growing rugby club.	K: Reference has been made to the club within the strategy, with an action to work with the club and the ORFU to identify a suitable site to accommodate them.
<b>Hockey</b>		
1.	Merger of City of Oxford Hockey Club and Rover Oxford Hockey Club.	A: During the production of the strategy the clubs had not merged, however a note has been added to the strategy regarding the merger (beneath table 21).
2.	Hockey is very dependant on private schools and universities. Whilst Oxford Hockey Club has good relationships with Oxford Brookes and Headington School it does present a risk to the club and other clubs if these sectors strategies or priorities change. The club are trying to sort more long term arrangements with Oxford Brookes University and Headington school.	B: Oxford Brookes has a community use agreement in place already. C: The strategy identifies the need for Community Use Agreements to be explored.
3.	The use of Headington School pitch is constrained by restrictions on the use of pitch lighting during the week, which severely curtails the quality of training the club offers to their members each night of the week, with the Headington pitch only available to support this activity in a very limited fashion. The club would be strongly supportive of relaxing the constraints placed on the school to enable an increase in capacity at close to zero cost. Propose an extension in lighting from 8pm to 9pm.	D: This is a planning condition and is not included in the strategy. However, the Sports Development team will work with the club to see whether the restriction can be lifted.

4.	Request that reference to Oxford Brookes University to provide small sided areas for training (4.6.17) is removed.	E: Reference to Oxford Brookes has been removed.
5.	Oxford Brookes were not referenced in section 3.2 (consultation)	F: This was an oversight and they have now been referenced within the strategy.
6.	Change requested to the wording of 4.6.30 and 4.6.40 regarding the replacement of the surface of the AGP at Oxford Brookes University.	G: In line with request 4.6.30 changed to read: "The surface of the AGP at Oxford Brookes University is coming towards the end of its operational life. Therefore it is important that relevant bodies, including the local authority and NGB's, work with Oxford Brookes University to try and ensure a suitable replacement". 4.6.40 has changed to read: "Work with Oxford Brookes University, alongside NGB's and other relevant bodies, to try and ensure the suitable replacement of the surface of the AGP, which is coming towards the end of its operational life." The related action in the Action Plan has also been reworded to that of 4.6.40.
7.	Updates required regarding Great Milton.	H: Updates made to 4.6.13.
8.	Request to change England Hockey to England Hockey Board	I: Reference changed throughout document.
<b>Bowls</b>		
1.	Requested by the NGB that changes were made to the structure of some sentences and factual information (para's - 5.2, 5.2.1, 5.2.9, 5.2.10, 5.2.11, 5.2.12, 5.2.13).	A: All requested changes made, but with reference to Oxford rather than the county or a national bowls perspective.
2.	Please change Oxfordshire Bowls Association to Bowls Oxfordshire. Updates required to the key for the map of bowls greens	B: Reference changed C: Updated (within key to bowls map – Fig 10.
<b>Netball</b>		
1.	The new central venue at Court Place Farm alleviates space for match nights; however, it	A: This comment has been added to the strategy, with a recommendation and action to investigate access/community use agreements with schools and other providers of netball court



	facilities were made available were being kept. Local sports clubs could be a very effective way of bringing communities together, both across families and across generations.	
2.	Suggestions to include various sports within the strategy including: Oxford Canal and River Thames, facilities for wheeled sports (skateboarding, bmx, in-line skates and scooters), jogging paths and equestrian.	<p>B: The strategy has been developed in line with the Sport England Towards a Level Playing Field methodology and a typical scope has been used to keep the document manageable. We recognise the importance of these sports therefore within the review process we will look to review new/other sports facilities. Action added to action plan.</p> <p>C: The Council in partnership with the Oxford Wheels Project is looking to develop a skate park at Meadow Lane and also at Fry's hill.</p>
3.	Taking in to consideration climate change predications, the management of sports pitches should consider ways to reduce the need for irrigation of pitches. Whilst it might seem that artificial sports surfaces provide an all weather surface at reduced costs, I would be against further spread of them as they cannot possibly provide the full water infiltration that a growing grass sward can. These facilities have a carbon footprint and need replacement over time. Could the use of worm killer and other chemicals on pitches be reduced?	<p>D: Pitch quality in Oxford is important in regard to how many games each pitch can take.</p> <p>E: Oxford City Council owned pitches are maintained in line with a maintenance specification, which are received in line with carbon/green management systems.</p> <p>F: It is important that there is balanced provision of Artificial Grass Pitches (AGPs) in the city. Other than the Commercially funded astroturf facility discussed in the strategy, there are currently no further plans that we are aware of for any additional ones in the city and any new facilities would need to demonstrate a clear need/demand.</p> <p>G: The maintenance of the pitches is undertaken with an aim of meeting 'green' agendas. However, we have added an action to the strategy to investigate how we can improve our 'green' management of these.</p>
4.	The number and quality of green spaces needs to be maintained for a sporting and recreational purpose.	H: Statement that supports the recommendations and conclusions of the strategy.
5.	Comments were made with regard to pitches adding to the biodiversity of the city and using them for planting of flora.	I: An action has been added to the action plan for the Parks department to investigate opportunities around biodiversity within playing pitch areas.
6.	Much needed work, an informative and	J: Statement in support of the strategy.

7.	<p>structured plan for the future of Oxford's pitches and sports requirements.</p> <p>Oxfordshire Playing Fields Association (OPFA) would appreciate the opportunity to receive further updates on the strategy as it progresses.</p> <p>OPFA support the proposal to secure community use agreements to pitches to ensure adequate provision for the community is vital. In line with policy – strongly resist the loss of open playing space unless replaced, which is of at least the same dimensions, quality and accessibility, conveniently located in order to serve the same community. OPFA therefore stress the importance that adequate recreational space is included in the Barton housing scheme and would like to see the cricket pitches at Lincoln College and OUP Sports Grounds are replaced with like for like facilities.</p> <p>OPFA can offer help and advise on setting up a new MUGA in the East area and considering open space for green gyms/fitness trials. OPDFA can also help with sources of funding and advice for improving pavilions.</p> <p>Existing provision in the city should be protected and suggest that the City Council look to work closely with Fields in Trust, particularly around their current initiative QE II Fields Challenge.</p> <p>OPFA strongly agree that it is important to work to achieve maximum benefit from the Community Infrastructure Levy.</p>	<p>K: The OPFA has been identified as a key organisation to be part of the steering group for the review and monitoring of the strategy.</p> <p>L: Statement in support of recommendations and actions.</p> <p>M: Statement in support of the proposals for sports provision as part of the Barton Housing Development and retention/replacement of facilities at Lincoln and OUP Sports Ground.</p> <p>N: Support and advice will be sought.</p> <p>O: An action has been included to investigate the opportunities around QEII Fields and other similar initiatives.</p> <p>P: Statement in support of para 6.2.</p>
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