

Playing Pitch Strategy Consultation Comments

Consultee and Comment	Response (if required)
<p>New City CC</p> <p>I have had a brief look at the 'Playing Pitch Strategy Consultation' Draft doc. and noticed particularly on p42 that the 'Broughton Pavilion' is not listed as one of the pitches being in use for cricket. However, it is listed on p12 for the specific priorities table.</p> <p>Also it does not feature on list of club comments (Fig. 14).</p> <p>New City Cricket Club (NCCC) plays on the Marsh Drive, Gt. Linford as well as the Broughton Pavilion Pitch and would wish the comments were included for both the grounds.</p> <p>Is this an omission or just an oversight?</p>	<p>The strategy is based on the 2013 cricket season, at which time Broughton was not in use, hence it was still recorded as needing to be brought into use. The sites list, map and the use of the site by New City CC has now been included in the report.</p>
<p>Woburn & Wavendon FC</p>	
<p>I have taken a look at the Draft Playing Pitch Strategy with interest. As you know, Woburn & Wavendon FC (formerly Woburn Lions) replied to the survey.</p> <p>Although the report acknowledges the Club's concerns about parking at Wavendon Recreation Ground, it seems to only refer to the Recreation Ground as a unused former cricket ground. This is certainly not the case. Our Football Club has used it extensively over the last 4 years, and indeed has invested heavily in levelling and re-seeding the whole site. Certainly cricket has not been played there for many years, but football is in high demand. This year has already seen regular capacity use and a tournament attracting 1500 people. The report does mention the parking difficulties at Wavendon Rec, and this is an area the community needs urgent help with to ensure the full use of the facility. It would be great if this could be considered as a priority in an area of Milton Keynes where we are finding demand for junior football is exceeding supply.</p> <p>Thanks for your consideration of these points.</p> <p>Regards</p>	<p>The use of Wavendon Rec Ground was missed out of the strategy, both the teams and pitches because neither the club nor site were included in the FA's supplied, and then agreed, clubs/sites list.</p> <p>There are 3 mini pitches on the site.</p> <p>The club's relevant teams and site information have been added into the report, and the modelling updated.</p>

<p>England Hockey</p>	<p>Apologies if I have missed something but is there a reason that hockey isn't included at all in the PPS?</p>
<p>Hockey was fully covered in the main Sport and Active Communities Strategy under AGP's adopted last year. As there had been no significant changes the PPS concentrated on grass pitches.</p>	<p>(MK Lacrosse)</p>
<p>AGP's were covered in the Sport and Active Communities Strategy adopted last year. If the demand for lacrosse increased then there may be a clash of times with the hockey use of Woughton on the Green. The needs of this sport should be kept under review as part of the action plan for that strategy.</p> <p>Not relevant to PPS</p>	<p>Thank you for sending me this draft consultation.</p> <p>I run the Milton Keynes Lacrosse Club (www.mklacrosse.co.uk) and I am pleased that you have included lacrosse within this consultation. Subject to the continued growth of the club over the next year we hope to enter both a men's and ladies team into the English Southern League for the 2015/16 season, starting October 2015.</p> <p>The consultation states lacrosse to use the Woughton on the Green AGP. This is an ideal venue given the AGP and facilities available within the pavilion. As lacrosse is a winter sport in the UK, more and more clubs are moving to artificial pitches to avoid wet weather pitch cancellations.</p> <p>There are two factors for using the Woughton on the Green AGP that the lacrosse club will consider leading up to the 2015/16 league season;</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Cost - The usual constraint of minimal finances for minor sports. 2. Availability - Men's league games are played on Saturday's at 2pm. Ladies league games are played on Sunday's at 2pm. I suspect this may clash with hockey fixtures. Can you confirm? In an ideal world, the club would also run a midweek evening training session, probably for 90 minutes, subject to AGP availability and hire cost. Currently we use the smaller/cheaper Shenley Leisure Centre astro for weekly evening training. <p>Finally on a different topic, are you aware of any plans for an indoor roller hockey rink within Milton Keynes? If so please can you give contact details for someone I can speak to regarding any such plans.</p> <p>Regards,</p>

<p>Newport Pagnell Town Council</p>	
<p>CONSULTATION ON PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY</p> <p>Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the draft Playing Pitch Strategy. Newport Pagnell would like to address the following issues in response to this consultation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Methodology used and interpretation of data • Consultation undertaken in preparing for this strategy • Distribution of funding in relation to proposals • Deliverability and Sustainability of proposals • Overall conclusions 	
<p>1. <u>Methodology Used and interpretation of data</u></p> <p>The Town Council appreciates that in order to undertake a borough wide survey, the methodology used will reflect the situation across the whole of the borough, rather than interpreting information in pockets, relevant to specific parishes. However, this broad brush approach tends to result in severely skewed statistics in areas of anomaly. We believe this has been the case in Newport Pagnell, and vehemently disagree with the statement in the report at point 10, which says that your consultants see very little change in the rural and north of Milton Keynes.</p>	<p>Text amended to clarify that there is significant proposed growth in Newport Pagnell.</p>
<p>The current playing field provision in Newport Pagnell is .68 hectares per 1000 head of the population. The MK Local Plan provision is 1.5 hectares per 1000 head of the population, so the logical deduction is that there is a significant shortage of playing field provision in this rural region.</p>	<p>Agreed in relation to Newport Pagnell itself. Text amended.</p>
<p>This deficit exists even before one takes into account that the Neighbourhood Plan in Newport Pagnell is proposing to add a further 1281 homes in the region, and possibly even a further 1412 homes. In addition, Newport Pagnell has always been the largest sustainable venue of the rural area of Milton Keynes, and as such has always serviced the rural villages, but now we are finding that the service provision in the town has to stretch to encompass new developments outside of the rural area too.</p>	<p>The modelling used in the strategy uses the population forecasts provided by MKi Observatory. At this time the Neighbourhood Plans are not yet adopted and the level of growth is therefore uncertain. If/when larger housing numbers are agreed, these can be picked up in the next review of the PPS, or as an interim measure if required.</p> <p>Text now reflects that there could be additional growth in NP which might require further playing field space.</p>

<p>Taking into account the recommended travelling time to reach a pitch, of the 4000 new homes planned in the core strategy on the Eastern Flank of Milton Keynes, at least half of the occupiers of these homes can and will be making use facilities in Newport Pagnell.</p> <p>We further note that there has been no use of latent demand survey information as related to travel distance, and intend shortly undertaking our own latent demand survey on playing pitch requirements, specific to Newport Pagnell and surrounding areas. In fact, the latent demand information quoted in the Playing Pitch Strategy appears to have been derived solely from waiting lists provided by some (not all football clubs.) This surely is a fault-ridden interpretation, as latent demand exists as a function of the surrounding household's structure, composition and economics, rather than as a function of the amount of advertising a club is willing to undertake to increase their waiting lists.</p>	<p>Sufficient playing field space is already planned into the Eastern Flank to cater for the expected demand arising from this area. Consequently this demand has been catered for. No change required.</p>
<p>The Playing Pitch Strategy does not assess need for 3G or artificial turf pitches at any level of depth, yet such provision must surely change significantly the number of pitches required. The Strategy then goes further to expand on why some AGPs should become 3G pitches, but does not assess latent demand in any of these areas. We therefore fail to understand the reasoning behind this allocation of capital projects.</p>	<p>The new information generated by NPTC will be valuable in the future and help to inform investment decisions. However the methodology and outcomes in the strategy reflects the Sport England Guidance and has been approved and agreed with Sport England and the relevant national governing bodies of sport. No change required.</p>
<p>The methodology used by your consultants to provide a Playing Pitch Strategy also fails to take into account the 2011 census information, which shows a 10% increase in children ages 0-4 in Newport Pagnell over the previous census.</p>	<p>AGPs are addressed in the now adopted Sport and Active Communities strategy. No change required to PPS. To be considered as part of the Action Plan for the S&AC Strategy.</p>
<p>2. <u>Consultation undertaken</u></p> <p>By the survey's own admission, not all of the football clubs responded to this consultation, and we would seek to know specifically whether there was any communication with Newport Pagnell Town Football Club other than an introductory letter. The club has no recollection of being contacted, and there is no reference in this survey to comments made by this club, which is a vibrant club, with a broad base of junior football, seeking to expand its ladies football teams. Indeed the club trustees have spent a considerable amount of capital in upgrading changing facilities for women, as well as improving its male changing rooms.</p>	<p>The modelling used in the strategy uses the population forecasts provided by MKi Observatory. No change required.</p>
<p>NPTFC responded to the clubs consultation, via the web based consultation, although the response was not fully completed.</p>	<p>NPTFC responded to the clubs consultation, via the web based consultation, although the response was not fully completed.</p>

<p>To the best of our knowledge no such in-depth discussions were held with the club about its potential future, and nor was the Town Council consulted about pitches in our ownership.</p>	<p>Playing pitch issues were specifically addressed at meeting with the TC on 28th May 2013.</p> <p>The delays in the PPS/strategy process means that there has been a long period between consultation and write up. However the key issues are the same.</p>
<p>The Town Council agrees with the proposals that there are too many adult size pitches, and too few mini pitches for the future. However, there was no reference in the Playing Pitch Strategy about the emerging trend for 9 v 9 or 5 v 5 football, or the specific need for changing facilities for ladies teams. The Town Council also agrees that to some extent the quality of pitches is more of a problem than the number of pitches.</p>	<p>The strategy was based on the season 2013-14 for football, and it was agreed with the FA that the assessment should be on a mini/junior/senior basis as the new FA recommended pitch sizes had not all been introduced in MK. No change required.</p>
<p>There is a reference made to schools provision including the provision of a synthetic pitch at Ousedale School, but this pitch is not ideally suited to the playing of football in the way that a 3G pitch would be.</p> <p>Grass pitch hire opportunities are discussed in the Playing Pitch Strategy at the Tickford Park School, but there is no mention of this on their website, so clearly there is little effort going into making such pitches available as a public provision.</p>	<p>Agreed that this is not an ideal surface – but it is usable for football training.</p> <p>The school specifically responded to the consultation that they would be willing to make their grass pitches available to community use. Community Use of school pitches will be an action for the Delivery Group.</p>
<p>On the issue of cricket pitch provision, the survey accurately reflects the views of the Cricket Club on site at Willen Road. This club has the misfortune to suffer from not having their own independent cricket pitch, leading to ground quality issues, and lack of space to invest in facilities that would enhance the club. The club has lost many players to clubs that have the ability to offer stands, score boards, improved changing facilities, and facilities for families to gather on site, and although the Town Council had applied for the Lottery Inspire Fund to improve some of these aspects, the funding request was turned down. The fortunes of this club will not improve until an independent cricket field can be established for them.</p>	<p>Noted and covered in strategy.</p> <p>The aspirations for extending Willen Road are noted and have been more strongly supported in the strategy following these comments, including improved changing for both football and cricket, and a dedicated cricket ground.</p>

3. Distribution of funding in relation to proposals

We note that capital proposals have been put forward for various projects, including:

1. Brooklands – development of pitches and cricket Priority 1
2. Bow Brickhill – cricket reinstatement Priority 1
3. Emerson Valley District – floodlights and 3G pitch Priority 1
4. Bletchley – drainage of pitches Priority 2
5. Medbourne – increase in junior pitches Priority 2
6. Olney – changing rooms and drainage Priority 2
7. Sir Herbert Academy – drainage and resurfacing Priority 1
8. Sir Herbert Academy – resurfacing AGP to 3G Priority 2
9. Stantonbury – resurfacing AGP to 3G Priority 1
10. Tattenhoe Sports Ground – drainage and changing rooms Priority 1
11. Western Expansion – new pitches and ancillary items Priority 2
12. Wolverton Sports Club – cricket investment Priority 1
13. Woughton on Green – cricket investment Priority 1.

Each of these projects have been ranked at a higher priority than the improvement of the public changing facilities at Willen Road Sports Ground (ranked at Priority 3) despite the fact that the public changing facilities on the Willen Road site have to service cricket, tennis and football, whilst being deeply unsuitable with poor quality heating, and an inadequate number of showers and toilets. The public facilities fail in all respects to meet Sport England specifications. Further, this public changing facility went on the CAT programme and was transferred to the Town Council with an asbestos roof which needs urgent replacement.

Other problems at the Willen Road Sports Ground include the fact that 2 out of the 6 pitches available on site flood badly during the winter, and the fact that the cricket field is placed on top of the football pitches, which does not allow for ground recovery during the off-season period. We seek further information on how such priorities were determined, and would ask that you provide clarification on this at the soonest available opportunity.

The Willen Road sports ground has been made priority 1.

The priorities have emerged from the strategy process overall and have the support of MKC, Sport England and the national governing bodies.

<p>4. <u>Deliverability and Sustainability of proposals</u></p> <p>Newport Pagnell Town Council has in place a partnership arrangement with a nation-wide leisure provider to manage Willen Road Sports Ground. Our partner in providing leisure services is well supported with capital, and is currently funding a £1M gymnasium in Newport Pagnell. There will also be significant developer funding coming forward from the additional homes build in Newport Pagnell, which will help to fund sporting and recreational development.</p> <p>We would like to point out that whilst some of the proposed projects listed above in point 3 have capital funding allocations, there is no mention of on-going sustainable revenue streams to support the projects. For on-going management of any new facilities, revenue funding streams are required, as well as having staff in place for this purpose. This is already the case at Willen Road whereas for many of the higher rated priority projects listed in figure 3 of the Playing Pitch Strategy, such structures do not exist and would have to be created.</p> <p>A further requirement for development of additional pitches and ancillary facilities is land. At Willen Road Sports Ground there is excellent potential to increase the size of the Sports Ground by 9.7 ha, making it suitable for large scale sustainable development. Further, by linking this increase in area to developer funding, the procurement of such additional land has the potential to cost nothing at all.</p>	<p>Noted</p> <p>Noted</p> <p>Strategy amended to support extension of Willen Road.</p>
<p>5. <u>Overall conclusions</u></p> <p>Newport Pagnell Town Council proposes that the Playing Pitch Strategy be revised to include the following large scale project at the Willen Road Sports Ground:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The provision of a mix of 3G football pitches, fully lit, for all-weather, all-hours play. • The rebuild of the public changing facility to bring it up to Sport England standards, along with a viewing area/public lounge with a view onto the 3G pitches. • Moving the cricket field to its own independent area including score 	<p>The extension of the grass playing fields area with improved pitch provision and clubhouses for football and cricket is supported. 3G provision on the site should be subject to a detailed feasibility study including the sustainability of the proposals. 3G pitches may need to be a longer term aspiration.</p>

<p>board and viewing stands, as well as most of the grass football pitches, (particularly the 2 that flood) onto the newly acquired 9.7 ha of land at the rear of Willen Road football ground, and creating suitable vehicle driven access and car parking for this latter facility.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Altering the remaining grass football pitches surrounding the 3G pitches to mini size pitches (4 in total.) <p>It is our contention that to place a 3G pitch in an area where there is not the ground roots mini pitch provision is folly, because it is ultimately those small players who will in time grow up to maximize demand on a full size 3G pitch. It is the whole of the site that contributes to longevity of a sport, with provision right from a very young age, through the teenage years, and onwards as players form their own young families, who need the viewing facilities available to make a family event of the day. In turn, these young spectators, as they grow, become engaged in sport themselves thereby creating a full circle of healthy living.</p> <p>The above project could be fully funded through a combination of developer funding and partnership work, and the Town Council already has structures in place for the efficient and effective management of this facility.</p> <p>We look forward to a revision of the Playing Pitch Strategy following this consultation.</p>	
<p>Broughton Pavilion Management</p>	
<p>Having read through the draft it says 'August 2014' Broughton is listed at the beginning but then later in the document Page 42 it is not listed Section 102 it states – Develop Broughton Page 50 – New City Cricket playing at Marsh Drive Page 68 – 170 there is a reference to the end of the season. It states that cricket pitches should be covered? Is this happening at Broughton?</p>	<p>The strategy is based on the 2013 cricket season, at which time Broughton was not in use, hence it was still recorded as needing to be brought into use. The sites list and map has now been revised to include Broughton.</p> <p>Bucks CB undertook all of the site assessments and managed the consultation with the club.</p> <p>Covering cricket pitches would be a pitch management decision.</p>

<p>Woburn & Wavendon Football Club</p>	<p>Thanks for this. As a club Woburn & Wavendon Football Club had previously corresponded with the council about capacity challenges in the south east of MK but it would be good if you could feed the following points in via MK Sports Board:</p> <p>We currently run 28 boys and girls teams aged from 6 – 16. We currently have to use 4 different playing locations at Woburn, Wavendon, Aspley Guise and Wavendon Gate due to limited access/availability and the pitches are of varying quality. We are growing year on year and each year struggle to find suitable facilities in the south east of MK. Add to this the massive population changes in the eastern flank that we serve including, Broughton, Brooklands. Plus the 3000 + new homes planned for Wavendon and the area to the M1 Jct 13.</p> <p>We would make the following points:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. certainly a lack of provision of facilities (either areas to play on, or the associated infrastructure to allow their proper use). Wavendon Recreation Ground is a good example.... poor parking facilities restricts usage substantially. 2. demand for places is always higher than we can meet. Again this is limited by the number of pitches available. 3. despite substantial investment by the Club to improve the drainage at Woburn, the underlying soil type and surrounding drainage means that only extensive and expensive drainage/soil work will relieve the issue and allow more uninterrupted use of the facility. In addition the club has made substantial investment to level the ground at Wavendon Recreation Ground. 4. severe shortage of all weather playing surfaces and floodlit areas. The Club has taken it's full allocation at the PowerLeague in Walnut Tree, and is now overflowing to Leon at Bletchley. (Not ideal as not really local to us and is using up facilities for another growing area near Newton Leys). <p>We would be happy to provide more detail as part of the consultation if it is helpful.</p>
	<p>See above in relation to this club</p> <p>AGPs are addressed in the now adopted Sport and Active Communities strategy, which had the full support of the FA.</p>

<p>County Development Manager Berks & Bucks Football Association Limited</p>	
<p>Please find below comments from Berks & Bucks FA/The FA in relation the Draft Milton Keynes Playing Pitch Strategy: -</p> <p><u>MK PPS Consult Nov 2014</u></p> <p>No. 17: In terms of priority AGP only mention is: Sir Herbert Leon Academy re-surface project and Central MK, but no mention of any other AGP project: Stantonbury (refurb), Tattenhoe (new AGP), Lord Grey School (refurb) and Ouesdale school (refurb). <i>Please note that there is a need for more 3G provision and options for resurfacing of existing sand-dressed AGP's should be explored through discussions between FA and England Hockey.</i></p> <p>No. 19: Great to see mention of IOG and shared opportunities through Football & Cricket; could we be specific and name the sites that could benefit from this opportunity.</p> <p>No. 22: Can something more concrete be done to support Education Establishments put in place Community Use agreements on all 13 School sites which are currently being used for community use; benefiting both School & Club as outlined in no.25.</p> <p>No. 27: Can these playing pitch sites be identified within this PPS document? Are these outlined within No. 28?</p> <p>No. 35: Is there a Terms of Reference for the PPS Delivery Group?</p> <p>No. 36: According to our Football Participation Report (Season 2013-14), the data we hold is different (It maybe that the data was taken from the Football Participation Report, Season 2012-13) Data for Season 2013-14 is as follows: -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Milton Keynes has a total of 91 affiliated clubs with a total of 458 teams of which 441 play in Milton Keynes • The number of teams has increased by 6 teams overall in Milton Keynes from season 12/13 to season 13/14. This comprises: an increase of 	<p>AGPs are addressed in the now adopted Sport and Active Communities strategy, which had the full support of the FA.</p> <p>Text has been amended to include as a specific role of the Delivery Group.</p> <p>This is referred to under each of the relevant sites. Again to be part of the Delivery Group's role to support. Text amended to clarify.</p> <p>Yes, the new sites are those listed in para 28. No change required.</p> <p>Text amended to require formal terms of reference for the group.</p> <p>The FA Participation Report and CAS information was extensively checked and later confirmed with the FA prior to the analysis. There were a significant number of anomalies in the FA dataset. Since the consultation there is only one site with 3 mini pitches missing from the sites data, played on by Woburn and Wavendon FC, which still does not appear on the FA lists. All sites information and modelling has been reworked and text amended as needed in the report.</p>

<p>4 adult teams; a decrease of 23 youth teams (all formats) and an increase of 25 Mini-Soccer team(s).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Please refer to page 9 of the Football Participation Report (Season 2013-14) attached; which outlines that within Milton Keynes there are 25 youth female teams not 3. I have attached our latest FPR for this Season. <p>No. 37: What site has Tattonhoe Youth (21 team Club) returned to for this Season?</p> <p>No 43: Format are as follows for Season 2014-15 with maximum number of players: -</p> <p>Milton Keynes Border Counties: U-12 = 9v9 U-13 = 9v9 or 11v11 U-14 = 9v9 or 11v11 U-15 = 11v11 U-16 = 11v11 U-17 = 11v11 U-18 = 11v11</p> <p>Milton Keynes & District Development League: U-7 = 5v5 (incl Futsal) U-8 = 5v5 U-9 = 7v7 U-10 = 7v7 U-11 = 9v9 U-12 = 9v9 U-13 = 9v9 or 11v11 U-14 = 9v9 or 11v11</p> <p>No 46: "The club returns, additional information from the FA, and web research has demonstrated that there are no significant winter training demands for grass pitches, as almost all training takes place on AGPs. The requirement in terms of grass pitch capacity is therefore directly related to matches". The AGP mapping process is demonstrating that the LA require an additional 2 full-size AGPS & five re-surfaced to meet the needs of the teams.</p> <p>No 52: In regard "a forecast growth in the game of 1% per annum across the age groups" (We agreed this as 1% for adult at a previous meeting, however it was recommended that it was a higher percentage for youth football).</p> <p><u>MK PPS Exec Summary Consult Draft Nov 2014</u></p> <p>No 13: Surrounding AGPs there is only mention of development of re-surface</p>	<p>We do not have this information to hand as the project looked at 2013/14 season.</p> <p>Noted.</p> <p>Noted. Text amended to state that for season 2014/15 all age groups are playing on the recommended pitch sizes other than for some of the u13 and u14 which may play either 9v9 or 11v11.</p> <p>The AGP modelling and outputs were agreed and confirmed with the FA. AGPs are addressed in the now adopted Sport and Active Communities strategy, which had the full support of the FA. No change required.</p> <p>The meeting on 4th Feb 2013 agreed that there should be 0% adults and 1 % for minis and juniors. This was subsequently change to 1% for all age groups to reflect the general increase in sports participation in MK. No change required.</p> <p>See above in relation to AGPs.</p>
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<p>project at Sir Herbert Leon Academy and Central MK. What about additional full-size new 3Gs & re-surface projects to meet the need as per AGP mapping?</p> <p><i>NB: Consultation Group: In regard to the FCs that attended & replied to Consultation Group, do we have a list of these? I am always slightly nervous when the document within the appendices is showing a 21 team clubs playing all their fixtures on one site.</i></p> <p>Please feel free to give me a call or an e-mail to discuss any of the above points further.</p> <p>Many thanks, best wishes – Liz</p>	
<p>Cllr, Monkston ward</p> <p>In general I support the overall direction of the strategy. However I wish to STRONGLY oppose a change that appears to have come in at the last minute in my ward!</p> <p>Kents Hill Playing Fields have always been open for general recreation and for football, with a requirement on the leaseholder to keep one pitch available for general recreation at all times - a requirement that they are happy to comply with.</p> <p>In the draft version of the document that went to Cabinet, this dual use was retained. However, in the version that has come out for consultation, use is restricted to football only.</p> <p>This is NOT supported by either the ward team, the residents, or the leaseholders.</p> <p>Please DO NOT remove this valuable community resource that is used by hundreds of people every week.</p>	<p>Playing pitches based on any of the public sites would not remove access to the site by local people in the community.</p> <p>Text in table amended.</p>

<p>Crown CC</p>	<p>With reference to the Draft Playing Pitch Strategy, August 2014, I have some comments and concerns, mostly about the accuracy of data in the document. I am also concerned that I only heard about this consultation at the last minute, by accident - one of my players came across it in his "football" capacity. Why wasn't it widely circulated?</p> <p>To give some context, I am Chairman of Crown Cricket Club. We have played cricket in Milton Keynes for approximately 35 years, with the club name evolving through several iterations (Scicon -> SD-Scicon -> EDS -> Crownhill -> Crown), and I have been involved with the club throughout that period. We have played at Walnut Tree for 7 of the last 8 years, with 1 year played at Denbigh School/Shenley Leisure Centre, and prior to that we played at Crownhill for many years. We play midweek cricket (on Wednesday evenings) in the Milton Keynes Midweek Cricket League and Saturday afternoons in the South Northants Cricket League - a total of ~18 home matches during the season. We pride ourselves on being a very open club: members vary in age from 14-64, from a wide variety of backgrounds, ethnicities (at present that includes English, Scottish, Welsh, Indian, Pakistani, South African and Polish) and genders (we have at least one current female player). I am also Vice-Chair of Governors at Denbigh School and a Trustee of Shenley Leisure Centre.</p> <p>My comments, which relate only to cricket, are as follows (all numbers refer to the Draft Strategy):</p> <p>5. "Each site used by the community has been visited and assessed". <i>Clearly not very thoroughly, given my comments about Walnut Tree, below.</i></p> <p>13. "... both football and cricket have more than sufficient capacity") 14. "The key issue raised ... is the relatively poor quality of the provision...") <i>Exactly. While there may be sufficient numbers of cricket pitches in MK many are of very poor quality (some I would not risk the safety of my team on), and some lack basic facilities, such as any or adequate changing rooms. There certainly is no surplus of good quality grounds, so that whenever a new one becomes available, many clubs will chase it.</i></p> <p>21,22,23,24,25,26. School sites used by the community. <i>The list omits</i></p>
	<p>The club provided a full club return on 9th Jan 2013 along with cover email. The club's views have been taken into account but the club is correct in identifying that the Walnut Tree site has been omitted from the mapping for cricket. This has been amended.</p> <p>The strategy is based on the 2013 cricket season, at which time Denbigh School was not in use. Text amended to clarify this.</p>

<p><i>Denbigh School, where we played for 1 season, 3 years ago. The reason we returned to the (inferior) pitch at Walnut Tree was because of the lack of a pavilion and facilities close the pitch at Denbigh - it was a 5 minute walk to and from the changing rooms, with kit to carry, etc. As a Governor at Denbigh and a Trustee of Shenley Leisure Centre I know that we would welcome wider community use, if it could be successfully managed and the right facilities were available.</i></p> <p>29 and Figure 3. There are several omissions and errors. In the order in which they occur:</p> <p><i>Denbigh School/Shenley Leisure Centre - no mention of cricket (Denbigh is the pre-eminent cricket school in MK and would welcome use by a club, if suitable facilities were available);</i></p> <p><i>Loughton Sports & Social Club - again "football only", but I know from conversations with the management that they would welcome a cricket club playing there, if the necessary investment was put into a cricket square;</i></p> <p>Walnut Tree Playing Fields and Pavilion - "retain for football only" - there is no acknowledgement that Crown CC have played there for 7 out of 8 of the last years!! Do I take it that we are to be cast out, or do we in fact not exist at all??? <i>The ground itself is very good - a nice setting with generally good outfield. What is needed is much more care of the cricket square and better care and management of the pavilion by Hertsmere Leisure.</i></p> <p>74. I support the proposal to have fewer but better cricket grounds as long as this maintains sufficient quality grounds for all clubs needing them. <i>It would be only too easy to cut back too much and squeeze some clubs out of existence.</i></p> <p>79. <i>I would cast some doubt on your "peak months", apart from use by casual teams. I think that you will find that all (serious?) teams playing in a league have matches pretty well throughout May - August.</i></p> <p>80 and figure 11. Again this list omits Walnut Tree but does include Denbigh School!!</p> <p>81,82,83,84. <i>As you so correctly say, the key to maintaining and growing cricket in MK is the quality of the grounds and facilities.</i></p>	<p>See above. Schools are not a priority for Bucks CB investment and are therefore not included in the priority list for MK.</p> <p>This site used to have cricket but the square could not be protected. Unless football use was significantly reduced on the site, there is no realistic opportunity to reintroduce quality cricket on this site. No change.</p> <p>Text and map amended to include.</p> <p>Noted</p> <p>Wording as advised by Bucks CB. No change required.</p> <p>See above</p> <p>Noted</p>
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<p>87. I strongly suggest that there is a latent demand for cricket grounds that will only become apparent if the facilities are good enough. If you concentrate on too few grounds there is a very high risk of choking off new clubs before they can get started. Let me give you a simple example: Crown Cricket Club nearly folded 8 years ago, because the facilities at Crownhill put off many players. While I would rate Walnut Tree as poor-to-average (it could be improved with the right management), it is at least better than Crownhill, so we moved there.</p> <p>Figure 12. I am concerned about your use of broad categories. For example "18-55" as an age group: sorry, but my club runs from 14-64 at present, with a least 2 players under 18, and 2 over 55; "men's cricket/women's cricket": sorry, but get real in this day and age - we run a mixed team, as do several other clubs we play against.</p> <p>95. This is a little disingenuous and is better born out by the remarks in 96. Crown are playing at Walnut Tree only because there is no where better - we would "prefer" anywhere better! There is no point in saying we would like to play at x, because there isn't an x available. If there was, we would move like a shot (but so would many other clubs, as stated in 96); or if the facilities at Walnut Tree were better managed and cared for, we would then be at our "preferred" ground.</p> <p>98,99. One of the major challenges in MK is knowing what facilities there are for cricket and who owns/manages them - I get several calls a year from other clubs and casual sides asking me for help! Could MK Council not run a register so that clubs could find out what is available and who to contact?</p> <p>Figure 14. I note that in this figure you do acknowledge that Crown CC exist AND play at Walnut Tree! The comments about Walnut Tree I recognise as my own, but the implications are wrong! It is completely wrong to state that there is "not sufficient space to accommodate matches" - I have idea how this implication was drawn and it is wrong. Ignoring for the minute the threat a skateboard park there ruining the area, the ground itself is very pleasant and has a large outfield. It is the square and the changing rooms that need managing.</p> <p>I hope that there is still time to take these comments into account.</p>	<p>Noted</p> <p>The modelling follows the required approach by Sport England and ECB. No change required.</p> <p>Noted</p> <p>Should be within the role and remit of the Delivery Group. Text amended to clarify.</p> <p>See above</p>
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