

Mid Sussex District Council
Playing Pitch Strategy
2015-2031

MID SUSSEX DISTRICT COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY 2015-2031

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1. Executive Summary

The Council has produced a Playing Pitch Strategy for the District to map existing provision and establish demand for facilities to ensure residents continue to enjoy access to high quality playing pitches.

The Council's Leisure & Cultural Strategy (2009-20) referred to the expected increase in the local population as a result of new housing development and recommended that a playing pitch strategy be undertaken to assess current and future demand.

The strategy provides a framework within which planning, investment and sport development decisions can be made and forms part of the evidence base for the Mid Sussex District Plan. The strategy provides information about existing levels of provision, demand for facilities and the likely future levels of demand, taking predicted population increases into account.

The Council intends to protect, enhance and provide playing pitches for community use.

2. Introduction

This strategy covers the following organised outdoor sports – bowls, cricket, football, hockey, netball, rugby league, rugby union, stoolball and tennis.

The overall aims of the Mid Sussex District Playing Pitch Strategy are to:

- present an overview of existing provision
- assess current and future demand as a result of housing growth and identify local needs
- ensure information is available to enable the Council to make the best use of all available resources and effectively manage Council owned facilities
- support town and parish councils, sports clubs, schools and community organisations to maintain, manage and improve outdoor sports pitch provision across the District
- provide the evidence base needed to secure funds for capital investment to develop new provision and improve existing facilities
- develop an action plan to ensure the continued provision of accessible and high quality sports pitches across the District

3. National context

3.1 Planning Policy

The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), published by the Department for Communities and Local Government on 27 March 2012, requires local authority planning policies to be based on:

'robust and up-to-date assessments of the needs for open space, sports and recreation facilities and opportunities for new provision. The assessments should identify specific needs and quantitative or qualitative deficits or surpluses of open space, sports and recreational facilities in

the local area. Information gained from the assessments should be used to determine what open space, sports and recreational provision is required' (para 73).

It also protects existing open space, sports and recreational buildings and land, including playing fields and states that they should not be built on unless:

- an assessment has been undertaken which has clearly shown the open space, buildings or land to be surplus to requirements; or
- the loss resulting from the proposed development would be replaced by equivalent or better provision in terms of quantity and quality in a suitable location; or
- the development is for alternative sports and recreational provision, the needs for which clearly outweigh the loss' (para 74).

3.2 Sport England

Sport England was created by Royal Charter in 1997 to foster, support and encourage the development of sport and sporting excellence (previously the Sports Council for Great Britain). It is a non-departmental public body and lottery distributor accountable to Parliament through the Department for Culture Media and Sport.

Sport England's aims to increase the number of people who play sports regularly and reduce the number of young people who stop playing when they finish school. To achieve this they fund the National Governing Bodies (NGBs) of recognised sports, provide grant funding to sporting bodies and work in partnership with a range of organisations including local authorities and the County Sports Partnerships.

Sport England believes that to ensure there is a good supply of high quality playing pitches and playing fields to meet the sporting needs of local communities, all local authorities should have an up to date Playing Pitch Strategy. Sport England has been a statutory consultee on planning applications affecting playing field land since 1996..

3.3 Sports Participation

Sport England's Active People Survey is an annual survey of participation in sport and physical recreation of adults (age 16 years and over) in England that is carried out by Ipsos MORI. The latest Active People Survey (APS8 Q2) results cover the 12 month period from mid April 2013 until the April 2014.

Sport England's data shows that during this period 15.6 million adults played sport at least once a week and 17.4% of adults take part in at least three sport sessions a week – up from 15.5% in 2005/6. Weekly participation in sport is highest in the South East of England (36.9%).

Figure 1: National sports participation statistics

Sport England NGB Funded sports	2005/06 (Active People Survey 1)		2013/14 (Active People Survey 8 Q2)		Change
	n	%	n	%	
1 x 30 sport indicator					
Baseball & Softball	9,300	0.02%	*	*	*
Bowls	339,500	0.83%	250,800	0.57%	Decrease

Cricket	195,200	0.48%	167,600	0.37%	Decrease
Football	2,021,700	4.97%	1,926,900	4.33%	Decrease
Hockey	93,900	0.23%	88,000	0.20%	Decrease
Netball	111,700	0.27%	155,900	0.34%	Increase
Rugby League	73,700	0.18%	45,900	0.10%	Decrease
Rugby Union	185,600	0.46%	190,400	0.43%	Increase
Tennis	457,000	1.12%	434,200	0.97%	Decrease

* Data unavailable, question not asked or insufficient sample size.
Source: Sport England Active People Survey

Key facts

- More men play sport than women. Currently 40.9% of men play sport at least once a week, compared to 30.3% of women. At a younger age, men are much more likely than women to play sport. But this difference declines sharply with age.
- Age is a factor in participation: 54.5% of 16-to-25-year-olds (58.0% of 14-25 year olds) take part in at least one sport session a week, compared to 32.0% of older adults (age 26 plus).
- Take-up is highest among managerial/professional workers and intermediate social groups. It is lowest among manual workers and unemployed people.
- The number of both black and minority ethnic and white British adults playing sport is increasing. More disabled people are taking part in sport – latest results show 17.8% are playing sport regularly, up from 15.1% in 2005/6.

4. Local context

In analysing the need and demand for playing pitches it is important to understand the local demographic and a brief analysis of the population of the District is shown in the table below:

Figure 2: District demographics

Population
The resident population is 139,860. 62% of residents live in the towns of Burgess Hill, East Grinstead and Haywards Heath, with the remaining 38% living in the villages. The population density is 4.2 persons per hectare and the ratio of males to females is 49% to 51% respectively.
Age structure
19% of the resident population are under 16 years of age (which is equivalent to the national average for England), 20% of residents are aged 16-34 (which is lower than the national average of 25% in England), 29% are aged 35-54 (compared to 28% in England) and 31% are aged 55+ (which is higher than the national average of 28% in England).
Ethnic background
The ethnic structure of the population is predominantly white British – 90% compared to a national average of 80% for England. 4% of the population are white Other and the remaining 6% are from various ethnic backgrounds with the largest groups being of Indian, Other Asian and Irish descent (each approx. 1% of the total population).
Economic Activity
The proportion of residents aged 16-74 in employment is 72% (compared to 62% in England). 2% are unemployed (compared to 4% in England), 14% are retired (equivalent to the national average for England). The remaining 12% are students, carers, long term sick and disabled

(compared to 20% in England).
Mobility
14% of all Mid Sussex households do not own a car, which is less than the national average for England (26%).
Health
6% of the local population have a health problem or disability that had lasted, or was expected to last, at least 12 months, and limited daily activities a lot which is lower than the national average for England (8%). This includes problems related to old age.
<i>Source: 2011 Census</i>

4.1 Adult Participation

The Active People Survey shows that Mid Sussex is in the top quartile of local authorities nationally, with a 36.5% of adults participating in sport at least once per week which is higher than the regional average and compares favourably with other West Sussex authorities.

Figure 3: Comparative adult sports participation in West Sussex

Adult participation in 30 minutes, moderate intensity sport		
	2005/06 (Active People Survey 1)	2013/14 (Active People Survey 8 Q2)
1 session per week		
England	34.20%	35.50%
Adur	30.60%	31.90%
Arun	32.20%	29.20%
Chichester	36.10%	38.10%
Crawley	32.50%	31.40%
Horsham	36.90%	42.00%
Mid Sussex	38.50%	36.50%
Worthing	30.40%	36.40%
<i>Source: Sport England's Active People Survey</i>		

17.3% of adults in Mid Sussex participate in at least three 30 minute sessions of moderate intensity sport each week, which is roughly equivalent to the national average. 28% of all adult residents are members of a sports club, 15.7% have taken part in organised competitive sport and 51.5% want to do more sport. This demonstrates a strong demand for facilities which is currently being met as 74% of adult residents stated that they are satisfied with local sports provision (APS4).

4.2 Children and Young People

'Mid Sussex Active', based at St Paul's Catholic College, was one of nine School Sports Partnership set up in 2006 to deliver the Government's PE and Sport Strategy for Young People. The strategy was discontinued in 2010 but the partnership was retained with the support of all local schools and community partners. Mid Sussex Active aims to encourage greater levels of sport and physical activity, better quality physical education, sports leadership and coaching, and improved links with community clubs and leisure providers.

Several Mid Sussex secondary schools (Imberhorne, Sackville, St Paul's, Oathall, Downlands and Oakmeeds) release a member of staff to work as a School Sport Co-ordinator with local primary and special schools. The primary schools have PE Subject Leader/Coordinators who link with Mid Sussex Active

4.3 County Sports Partnership

'Active Sussex' is a charitable trust and the County Sports Partnership (CSP) for Sussex covering the areas of Brighton & Hove, East Sussex and West Sussex. Its main aim is to increase participation in sport and physical activity.

Working with partners in the public, private and voluntary sectors, including National Governing Bodies of Sport, local authorities, leisure trusts, education and businesses, Active Sussex pushes for sustained investment in sport at a local level.

Predominantly funded by Sport England, Active Sussex contributes to the government's agenda to increase the number of people participating in sport and physical activity nationally. Service areas include:

- delivery programmes such as 'Sportivate', the Primary School Premium, Satellite Clubs and Community Games;
- events such as the Sussex Sports Awards, Sussex School Games and partner network forums;
- club, coach and volunteer development;
- provision of data to help inform strategy and funding;
- communications network across a range of digital platforms.

5. Strategic context

5.1 Mid Sussex District Council Corporate Plan (2013-14)

The Council's corporate priorities are as follows:

Better Lives	Better Environment	Better Services
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Healthy Lifestyles• Opportunities and Quality of Life for All• Strong, Safe Communities	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Quality and Sustainable Environment• Distinctive and Sustainable Towns and Villages	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Efficient and Effective Services• Strong Community Leadership

5.2 Mid Sussex Sustainable Communities Strategy (2008-18)

The Mid Sussex Partnership, which is led by the District Council and involves over 100 statutory, business and voluntary sector partners, has identified the following key themes and longer term challenges:

- Protecting and Enhancing the Environment;
- Ensuring Cohesive and Safe Communities;
- Promoting Economic Vitality; and,
- Supporting Healthy Lifestyles.

5.3 Mid Sussex District Plan (2014-31)

The Consultation Draft District Plan 2014 – 2031 was approved by the Council for public consultation on 12 November 2014. The District Plan aims to ensure that housing development is accompanied by suitable and timely infrastructure investment. The Council's housing provision figure will be set in the pre-submission version of the Plan once ongoing work on the housing

land supply and an assessment of the unmet developments needs of neighbouring authorities has been completed.

The Council has also drafted an Infrastructure Development Plan which details the type, location and estimated cost of the infrastructure needed to support these new homes. The Infrastructure Development Plan includes projects to provide sports, leisure and recreation facilities. These projects will be part funded through the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL), a new system of planning charges introduced by the Government in 2010.

The District Plan aims *'to create places that encourage a healthy and enjoyable lifestyle by the provision of first class cultural and sporting facilities, informal leisure space and the opportunity to walk, cycle or ride to common destinations'* (Strategic Objective 15). This objective will be delivered by providing new and/or enhanced leisure and cultural facilities (Policy DP21).

Policy DP21 states that 'details about the provision of new leisure and cultural facilities will be set out in a Supplementary Planning Document'. It also reiterates that 'proposals that involve the loss of open space, sports and recreational buildings and land, including playing fields, will not be supported' unless they comply with the National Planning Policy Framework criteria.

The District Plan identifies a number of sites allocated for formal sports and leisure use (see Appendix B). Further leisure sites will be identified through Neighbourhood Plans and the requirement to provide on-site facilities for larger developments.

Neighbourhood Plans were introduced through the Localism Act 2011 and all Town and Parish Councils in Mid Sussex (outside the South Downs National Park) are producing plans. Draft plans will be the subject of an independent examination followed by a local referendum and, if the majority of voters are in favour, the plan will carry legal weight.

Policy DP8 shows the Northern Arc development on land to the north and north-west of Burgess Hill for a strategic mixed use development to include 3,500 new homes, business park, schools and the Centre for Community Sport 'in the vicinity of the Triangle Leisure Centre'. Policy DP7 refers to a strategic allocation to the east of Burgess Hill at Kings Way for up to 480 homes.

5.4 Leisure & Cultural Strategy for Mid Sussex (2009-20)

The purpose of the strategy is to provide a framework to increase participation in the arts and culture, sport and physical activity by those living and working in the District. The overall vision is:

'to improve the health and wellbeing of local residents by raising levels of awareness of the benefits of participating in arts, culture, physical activity and sport, increasing opportunities for residents to take part in these activities, developing the local infrastructure and strengthening local partnerships.'

The Leisure and Cultural Strategy recommended that a 'playing pitch strategy is undertaken to ensure that the number of teams and the amount of usage is determined' to assist with the planning for sports pitches in response to projected housing increases.

5.5 PPG17 Assessment

Planning Policy Guidance 17: Planning for Open Space, Sport and Recreation (PPG17), published in July 2002, required local authorities to undertake quantitative and qualitative audits of provision and to carry out assessments of the existing and future needs of communities.

In 2006, the Council commissioned Kit Campbell Associates to carry out an audit to assess the quality and value of allotments, artificial turf pitches, athletics tracks, bowling greens, multi-functional green space, playing fields and grass pitches, play areas and playgrounds: tennis and multi-sport courts, BMX/skateboard parks, informal areas intended for teenagers and indoor sports facilities.

PPG17 has been superseded by the NPPF but the audit provided a thorough assessment of playing pitch provision. It was reviewed in February 2011 and the recommended standards were presented to the Better Environment Advisory Group who resolved that they should be incorporated into Mid Sussex Planning Policy. The assessment recommended the following standards for pitch sports:

Figure 4: PPG17 Recommended standards for pitch sports in Mid Sussex

Type	Quantity (sq m / person)	Access*
Bowling Greens	0.17	900m (15 min walk) 5,625m (15 min drive)
Grass Pitches: Cricket Adult Football Junior Football Rugby	12.25 (total**) 8.9 4.25 2.7 0.85	900m (15 min walk) 5,625m (15 min drive)
Artificial Turf Pitch (ATP)	0.50	1,200m (15 min walk) 7,500m (20 min drive)
Tennis courts	0.44	900m (15 min walk) 5,625m (15 min drive)

* walk times are only applicable in the towns

The PPG17 report states that 'it is not sensible simply to aggregate these standards as football and even rugby can be played on cricket outfields. The aggregate of the winter sports is 7.8 sqm per person and adding approximately 50% of the cricket requirement comes to a total of 12.25 sqm per person which we recommend as the overall grass pitch quantity standard.'

The PPG17 Assessment recommended a 15 minute driving threshold for bowling greens, grass pitches and tennis courts and 20 minutes for ATP's.

6. Methodology

This strategy has been developed following the Sport England Playing Pitch Methodology as outlined in 'Towards a Level Playing Field – A Guide to the Production of Playing Pitch Strategies', and it comprises of eight stages.

Figure 5: Sport England assessment methodology

Stage	
1	Identify teams
2	Calculate home games per team per week
3	Assess total home games per week
4	Establish temporal demand for games
5	Define pitches used / required on each day
6	Establish pitches available
7	Assess the findings
8	Identify policy options and solutions

Stages 1 to 6 involve numerical calculations, whilst Stages 7 and 8 develop issues and solutions. The methodology is employed to analyse the adequacy of current provision and to assess possible future situations, in order that latent and future demand and the problems with quality, use and capacity of existing pitches can be taken into account.

This guidance was updated in October 2013 but the principles remain the same, to establish the level and quality of current provision and develop a strategy to ensure playing pitch provision has the capacity to meet present and future demand. The main fundamental change in the new methodology is that each site needs to be considered in detail and a strategy for each site should be considered to build an overarching strategy.

7. Demand (Stages 1 – 5)

7.1 Stage 1: Identifying teams

Demand is established through a count of the number of teams for each sport. Latent demand and the impact of future population projections also need to be considered.

To establish demand, we initially consulted with the Council’s Outdoor Services Team who are responsible for pitch bookings, the Community Services and Culture Team who dealt with sports development and the Wellbeing Team who compile the Physical Activity Directory. From the information provided we drew up a draft list of 120 local clubs that compete and train in Mid Sussex.

The sports clubs (listed in Appendix A) were contacted by post and email and encouraged to respond to an online questionnaire based on the Sport England toolkit. This provided a level of details regarding the teams and facilities but in order to gather more accurate baseline data we also contacted the National Governing Body representatives for each sport and identified a further 23 clubs in the process

The total number of teams participating in each sport is summarised below:

Figure 6: Current sports teams in Mid Sussex

	Bowls	Cricket	Football	Hockey	Netball	Rugby	Stoolball	Tennis
Adult teams	45	85	153	26	27	14	14	39
Junior teams	0	90	60	20	37	24	5	13
Mini teams	0	14	68	20	0	20	0	0
Total teams	45	189	281	66	64	58	19	52

As a guide, mini teams are generally aged 10 years and under, juniors are 11-15 years and adults are 16+ years.

Junior footballers aged 14+ play on adult pitches so, for the purpose of calculating demand for pitches, the number of junior teams has been reduced by 50% (60 teams) and the adult figures have been increased respectively to reflect this.

Also, many tennis clubs in the District do not play competitive matches but play friendlies and social tennis so one non-competitive adult and junior 'team equivalent' has been added for each club to take this into account.

A geographical overview showing the distribution of sports teams throughout the District is shown in Appendix H.

7.1.1 Bowls

There are eleven bowls clubs in Mid Sussex with 45 teams, all adult. Bowls England is the national governing body for Flat Green Lawn Bowls and Sussex County Bowls is the affiliated body which organises local fixtures.

The Bowls Development Alliance (BDA) is the body for Bowls England (flat green outdoor) and English Indoor Bowling Association Ltd (flat green indoor), working together, to grow the sport of Bowls. The BDA has identified Sussex as one of five hotspots with the objective of increasing participation in the sport.

7.1.2 Cricket

There are 25 cricket clubs in the District consisting of 189 teams (85 Adult, 90 youth, 14 mini). The ECB (England and Wales Cricket Board) is the national governing body and Sussex Cricket is the County Cricket Board.

7.1.3 Football

The Football Association is the NGB and the Sussex County Football Association is the governing body for football in Sussex. There are 70 clubs and 281 teams in Mid Sussex (94 adult, 107 youth, 60 mini). Eleven clubs have achieved the FA Charter Standard which is a kitemark awarded to clubs that are well run with quality coaching.

FA requirements demand five different pitch layouts for the following age groups - U7 Mini soccer, U10 Mini soccer, 9v9 (U11/U12), 11v11 Junior and Senior football.

7.1.4 Hockey

There are four hockey clubs in the District consisting of 66 teams (26 adult, 20 youth, 20 mini). England Hockey is the national governing body and the Sussex Hockey Association is the administrative body for field hockey in Sussex.

7.1.5 Netball

There are seven netball clubs in the District consisting of 64 teams (27 adult, 37 youth). England Netball Association is the national governing body and the Sussex Netball works to promote Netball within the County.

7.1.6 Rugby

There are three rugby union clubs in the District, consisting of 58 teams (14 adult, 24 youth, 20 mini). The Rugby Football Union is the national governing body for grassroots and elite rugby in England. Sussex Rugby governs Rugby Union in East and West Sussex, and the city of Brighton & Hove.

The RFL (Rugby Football League) is the national governing body for Rugby League in the UK but there are no teams based in Mid Sussex.

7.1.7 Stoolball

There are 13 stoolball clubs in the District, consisting of 19 teams (14 adult, 5 youth). Stoolball England is the recognised national governing body of the sport in England and the Sussex County Stoolball Association is responsible for the Mid Sussex Mixed League.

7.1.8 Tennis

There are 13 tennis clubs in the District, consisting of 26 teams (all adult) who compete in the County inter club league. Many clubs have members who play socially or in local leagues only but full details of participation are not available. The Lawn Tennis association is the national governing body for British Tennis and Sussex Tennis operates the local inter club league.

7.2 Future demand

7.2.1 Housing growth

Policy DP5 – Housing of the Draft District Plan (2014-31) states that ‘the Council’s proposed housing provision figure will be set out in this policy in the pre-submission of the Plan once ongoing work on the housing land supply and an assessment of the unmet development needs of neighbouring authorities has been completed.’

As at 1 September 2014, the number and location of residential commitments amount to 4,876 which includes 480 new homes East of Kingsway (Local Plan Policy DP7). Commitments are dwellings that have not been completed yet but benefit from extant planning permission or are allocated in the Local Plan or Small Scale Housing Allocations DPD and are developable within the plan period.

A further 3,500 new homes are planned at the Northern Arc in Burgess Hill (Local Plan Policy DP8) and further allocations will come forward through the Neighbourhood Plans (the amount of homes that will be delivered through this source is yet to be established as the work to prepare the Plans is ongoing).

A breakdown of the housing commitments is shown below:

Figure 7: Housing Commitments

Location		No. of new homes
North		
Ardingly	37	
Ashurst Wood	11	
East Grinstead	532	
Turners Hill	47	
Worth	663	
		1,290
Central		
Ansty & Staplefield	248	
Cuckfield	49	

Haywards Heath	842	
Lindfield Rural	262	
Lindfield	10	
Slaugham	64	
		1,475
South		
Bolney	10	
Burgess Hill	1,708	
Hassocks	97	
Hurstpierpoint and Sayers Common	107	
		1,922
Total commitments		4,687
Small sites		189
Burgess Hill - Northern Arc (DP8)		3,500
Total		8,376

Housing Land Supply (Mid Sussex District) as at 1st September 2014

New housing growth will not be spread equally across the District; 65% will be in Burgess Hill and the South area, 18% in Haywards Heath and the Central area, 15% in East Grinstead and the North area, and the remaining 2% is on small sites.

7.2.2 Population growth

According to Office of National Statistic forecasts, the population of Mid Sussex is expected to grow by 12% from 142,891 to 159,974 between 2014 - 2031.

Figure 8: Population projections for Mid Sussex by Age

Age Range	Population (2014)	%	Population Forecast (2031)	%
0-4 (inactive)	8,524	6%	8,155	5%
5-9 (mini)	8,786	6%	9,050	6%
10-14 (junior)	8,514	6%	9,704	6%
15-59 (adult)	80,487	56%	81,369	51%
60+ (inactive)	36,579	26%	51,696	32%
Totals	142,890		159,974	
<i>Source: ONS 2014</i>				

7.2.3 Team generation rates

Team generation rates (TGRs) indicate how many people in a specified age group are required to generate one team. They are derived by dividing the appropriate population age band in an area by the number of teams in that area in that age band.

i.e. 80,487 (active adult population) divided by 85 (current number of adult cricket teams) = 947, therefore based on a ratio of 1:947 there will be one additional team in 2031 when the active adult population reaches 81,369

On this basis, the following TGRs have been calculated for Mid Sussex.

Figure 8: Projected team generation rates for Mid Sussex by 2031

TGRs	Bowls	Cricket	Football ¹	Hockey	Netball	Rugby	Stoolball	Tennis
Adult teams	1:1789 (-)	1:947 (+1)	1:526 (+1)	1:3096 (-)	1:2981 (-)	1:5749 (-)	1:5749 (-)	1:2064 (-)
Junior teams	n/a -	1:95 (+12)	1:142 (+8)	1:426 (+3)	1:230 (+5)	1:355 (+3)	1:1703 (+1)	1:655 (+2)
Mini teams	n/a -	1:628 (-)	1:146 (+2)	1:439 (+1)	n/a -	1:439 (+1)	n/a -	n/a -

7.3 Stage 2: Calculating home games per team per week

Based on pitch hiring information provided by the Council's outdoor services team, the number of home matches and training sessions played by sports teams is estimated as follows:

- 0.5 home games per team per week is assumed for all adult bowls, cricket, football, hockey, netball, rugby and stoolball (based on alternate home and away fixtures)
- for tennis it is assumed that 3 home games will be played per team per week, on the basis that one team will use more than one court and many 'team equivalents' only play at home.
- junior football, hockey, netball, rugby and stoolball players will play 1.5 home games per team per week on the basis that they will participate in one training session in addition to home and away games. Junior football training often takes place on adult pitches or at indoor halls.
- most junior cricket teams only play approx. 6 games per season (Apr-Sept) so the number of home games per team per week is 1.25.
- mini cricket teams can play two games to a pitch so a 0.5 ratio has been used
- mini soccer teams have their own pitches, they play mostly home games and tend to play for shorter periods so a 0.5 ratio has been used on the basis that two teams can play during one session.

¹ Figures adjusted as previously (see page 11).

- mini rugby teams also play shorter games and can play three matches on one adult pitch so a 0.15 ratio has been used in this instance
- mini hockey and netball teams use standard pitches but play shorter games so a 0.5 ratio has been used on the basis that two teams can play during one session.

Figure 9: Estimated number of home games per team per week

	Bowls	Cricket	Football	Hockey	Netball	Rugby	Stoolball	Tennis
Adult teams	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	3
Junior teams	n/a	1.25	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	3
Mini teams	n/a	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.15	n/a	n/a

7.4 Stage 3: Assessing total home games per week

This stage is calculated by multiplying the number of teams for each sport by the average number of home games per team per week.

Figure 10: Total number of home games per week

	Bowls	Cricket	Football	Hockey	Netball	Rugby	Stoolball	Tennis
Adult	23	43	77	13	14	7	7	117
Junior	-	128	90	35	63	41	9	45
Mini	-	7	34	11	-	3	-	-
Total	23	178	201	58	77	51	16	162

7.5 Stage 4: Establishing temporal demand for games

Temporal demand for games is the proportion of matches that are played each day and is expressed as a percentage of total weekly demand. This is required to show time of peak demand and the use of pitch throughout the week to assist in calculations of capacity. The information is broadly based on the number of pitch bookings at local authority sites for each sport. Unsurprisingly, weekends are the busiest times followed by some week day evenings for summer sports and sites with floodlit training facilities.

Figure 11: Temporal demand

	Sat am	Sat pm	Sun am	Sun pm	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri
Bowls (adult)	0%	20%	0%	50%	10%	0%	20%	0%	0%
Cricket (adult)	0%	60%	0%	40%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Cricket (junior)	30%	0%	30%	0%	15%	15%	0%	10%	0%
Cricket (mini)	25%	0%	25%	0%	0%	0%	0%	50%	0%
Football (adult)	10%	60%	30%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%

Football (junior)	50%	0%	40%	10%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Football (mini)	20%	0%	80%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Hockey (adult)	0%	30%	0%	30%	10%	10%	10%	10%	0%
Hockey (junior)	15%	0%	15%	0%	15%	15%	15%	15%	10%
Hockey (mini)	5%	15%	5%	15%	0%	0%	0%	0%	60%
Netball (adult)	20%	15%	20%	15%	10%	0%	10%	10%	0%
Netball (junior)	25%	25%	25%	25%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Rugby (adult)	20%	80%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Rugby (junior)	25%	0%	25%	10%	10%	10%	10%	10%	0%
Rugby (mini)	0%	25%	20%	15%	10%	10%	10%	10%	0%
Stoolball (adult)	0%	0%	0%	5%	10%	40%	5%	40%	0%
Stoolball (junior)	0%	0%	0%	0%	100%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Tennis (adult)	30%	15%	15%	15%	5%	5%	5%	5%	5%
Tennis (junior)	30%	15%	15%	15%	5%	5%	5%	5%	5%

*Most adult football matches are played on Saturday mornings, junior teams compete in Sunday leagues and train on Saturday mornings.

7.6 Stage 5: Defining pitches used/required on each day

This stage determines the maximum number of pitches required to meet demand on peak days. It is calculated by multiplying the number of home games each week by the temporal demand to calculate how many pitches are required each day during the playing season for each sport.

Figure 12: Pitches used / required each day

	Sat am	Sat pm	Sun am	Sun pm	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri
Bowls (adult)	0	5	0	11	2	0	5	0	0
Cricket (adult)	0	26	0	17	0	0	0	0	0
Cricket (junior)	34	0	34	0	17	17	0	11	0
Cricket (mini)	2	0	2	0	0	0	0	4	0
Football (adult)	8	46	23	0	0	0	0	0	0
Football (junior)	45	0	36	9	0	0	0	0	0
Football (mini)	7	0	27	0	0	0	0	0	0
Hockey (adult)	0	4	0	4	1	1	1	1	0
Hockey (junior)	5	0	5	0	5	5	5	5	3
Hockey (mini)	1	2	1	2	0	0	0	0	6
Netball (adult)	3	2	3	2	1	0	1	1	0
Netball (junior)	14	14	14	14	0	0	0	0	0
Rugby (adult)	1	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Rugby (junior)	9	0	9	4	4	4	4	4	0

Rugby (mini)	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Stoolball (adult)	0	0	0	0	1	3	0	3	0
Stoolball (junior)	0	0	0	0	8	0	0	0	0
Tennis (adult)	35	18	18	18	6	6	6	6	6
Tennis (junior)	12	6	6	6	2	2	2	2	2

8. Supply - Establishing pitches available (Stage 6)

This data was gathered using the full audit of pitches conducted as part of the PPG17 Assessment which was reviewed and updated in 2011 to include community use of school sites. The review involved updating existing information and contacting all schools in the District to gather information about facilities available for community use at school sites. The number of pitches at a given site may fluctuate from season to season according to grounds management and local demand. This information has been cross referenced with Active Places Power, an online mapping and reporting tool for community sport development provided by Sport England.

The level of pitch provision for all sports (except bowls) has reduced since the 2006 PPG17 Audit. This is partly due to the fact that a number of private schools with excellent facilities that were included in the earlier audit have been excluded from this analysis as they do not make their facilities available for community use on a regular basis.

There are 91 outdoor sports sites across the District with a total of 343 playing pitches available for community use.

Figure 13: Playing pitch providers

Pitch provider	Number of sites	Number of pitches
Mid Sussex District Council	41	147
Education sites	13	70
Other	37	126
Total provision available	91	343

41 of these sites are owned (or leased) by the District Council; of these ten are managed under Rural Management Agreements¹ (RMA) that give the Town and Parish Councils responsibility for pitch bookings but the Council retains responsibility for grounds maintenance. One site is leased to Places for People (The Triangle, Burgess Hill) who have full responsibility for the management and maintenance of the site. All of the other sites are managed directly by the District Council's Outdoor Services Team.

Eleven of the school sites are owned by the West Sussex Local Education Authority (LEA), the other two are independent school (Great Walsted and Ardingly College). The remaining 37 sites are owned by Town/Parish Councils, sports clubs or other community based organisations. Pitches owned and maintained by sports clubs are generally made available to the public through membership or admission fees.

A summary of the pitches available for community use is shown below (see Appendix C for full details):

¹ Ashurst Wood Recreation Ground, John Pears Field, Batchelors Field, Sidney West Playing Fields, Haven Sports Field, King George V Playing Field, Turners Hill Recreation Ground, Ansty Recreation Ground, King Georges Field, Balcombe Recreation Ground

Figure 14: Summary of playing pitches available for community use

Parish	Bowls	Cricket	Adult football	Junior football	9v9	Mini-soccer	Hockey	Netball (multi-courts)	Rugby	Stoolball	Tennis
SOUTH											
Albourne	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Bolney	0	1	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0
Burgess Hill	1	2	5	4	2	4	2	4	3	0	7
Fulking	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Hassocks	1	3	4	3	2	3	0	0	0	2	15
Hurstpierpoint & Sayers Common	1	2	2	2	1	2	0	0	0	1	3
Poynings	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Twineham	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	3	13	13	9	5	10	2	4	3	4	25
CENTRAL											
Ansty & Staplefield	0	1	0	1	0	1	1	4	0	0	5
Cuckfield	0	4	6	1	1	3	0	0	3	1	8
Haywards Heath	3	2	7	2	1	2	1	1	0	1	9
Lindfield	1	4	5	5	2	1	1	2	4	1	6
Lindfield Rural	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Slaugham	1	0	3	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	5	12	22	11	4	7	3	7	7	3	28
NORTH											
Ardingly	0	2	1	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	2
Ashurst Wood	0	0	1	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	2
Balcombe	1	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	2
East Grinstead	2	3	9	3	3	3	2	22	3	1	39
Horsted Keynes	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	3
Turners Hill	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
West Hoathly	1	2	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
Worth	0	2	4	4	1	1	0	0	0	2	4
	4	13	19	8	4	7	3	22	3	5	55
Totals	12	38	54	28	13	24	8	33	13	12	108

Some artificial turf pitches can be used for football and hockey so these have been included in both categories for the purpose of calculating the total number pitches available. Similarly, multi-courts that are marked out for tennis and netball have been counted under both headings.

8.1 Artificial turf pitches (ATP's)

Eight of the community sports pitches listed above are ATPs – four are at LEA sites, two at East Grinstead Sports Club, one at a private school and one at the Triangle Leisure Centre owned by

the Council. All of the ATPs are floodlit which further increases capacity as they can be used on winter evenings.

Figure 15: Artificial turf pitches (available for community use)

Site	Type	Location
Downlands Community School	3G (football only)	Hassocks
The Triangle	Sand based (5-a-side football & hockey)	Burgess Hill
St Paul's Catholic College	Sand based (football & hockey)	Burgess Hill
Oakmeeds Community College	3G (football & hockey)	Burgess Hill
Oathall Community College	3G (football & hockey)	Haywards Heath
East Grinstead Sports Club	3G (football & hockey)	East Grinstead
East Grinstead Sports Club	Water based (hockey only)	East Grinstead
Ardingly College	Sand based (hockey only)	Ardingly
Great Walsted School	3G (hockey only)	Lindfield

The Sport England Strategic Assessment of need for Artificial Grass Pitch Provision in Mid Sussex District Council report (Sept 2014) notes that there is one more ATP at independent boarding school Hurstpierpoint College, but this facility is not made regularly available to local clubs although it is available for occasional hire when not being used by the school. The Sport England report concludes that ‘the current facilities are extremely busy and most lack the capacity for increased levels of usage during peak periods.’ There is also a sand filled ATP at Worth Abbey private school that is available for community hire during holiday times.

The level of use which a grass pitch can absorb is dependent on a range of factors, such as weather conditions, ground conditions, age/weight and quality of players. A school with an active community use policy may only be able to allow one community game each weekend, while a comparable Council pitch may be able to accommodate two matches.

Mid Sussex is located within the Weald which is characterised by a high predominance of soils that drain poorly and tend to retain surface water. Natural drainage of pitches in Mid Sussex tends to be poor and the number of games that each pitch can accommodate is relatively low. The condition and capacity of winter pitches has long been a key issue in the District and the Council has sought to improve the drainage and capacity of its winter pitches through an extensive pitch drainage programme.

Artificial turf pitches stand up to heavier weekly use whatever the weather but they are expensive to install, have a limited life and require ongoing maintenance. Sport England estimate that an artificial grass pitch is likely to have the same annual maintenance cost as a turf pitch, but be able to take ten times as much use (Artificial Surfaces for Outdoor Sport, Updated guidance for 2012). Floodlighting has been greatly improved in recent years to improve directional glare and reduce light bounce.

8.2 School sites

Playing pitches on school sites have only been counted where they are made regularly available for community use through seasonal hires to sports clubs. These pitches are made available at the discretion of the school rather than through any formal community use agreement with the Council.

A number of schools state that in principle their sporting facilities are available for community use but they are rarely available and several make their playing pitches available during school holidays or for special events only. Ardingly College has excellent sporting facilities but only the

ATP and cricket pitches are regularly used by local clubs and these facilities are only available for limited period.

A list of school sites that are not generally accessible to the public has been included as Appendix D.

School playing fields in local authority ownership or at grant maintained schools are protected regardless of community use and any disposal must be referred to the Secretary of State for Education for consent (under section 77 of the School Standards and Framework Act 1998). The Secretary of State has a general presumption against the need to change the current pattern of school playing field provision by disposal or change of use. In cases where a local authority approves development but Sport England objects, the matter can be referred to the National Planning Casework Unit, who act on behalf of the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government

8.3 Quality

The most recent detailed assessment of playing pitch quality was carried out in 2006 as part of the PPG17 Assessment. The consultants carried out an assessment of playing facilities and changing accommodation to reach an overall quality score. The audit considered a wide range of issues including parking, signage, management and maintenance (line markings, surface repairs, length of grass, overall condition) and general characteristics (environment, safety, disabled access etc.).

The average overall score (see Appendix C), taking playing facilities and changing pavilions into account, was 68% (67% for school sites). 19 sites across the District scored average or below in the PPG17 Assessment in relation to playing and changing facilities - 7 at club owned sites, 4 Parish sites, 3 LEA sites, 3 Council owned sites and one on the border owned by Tandridge District Council. The Council owned sites were at Fairfield Recreation Ground (Burgess Hill), Twineham Recreation Ground and Finches Field.

8.4 Club feedback

32 sports clubs responded to the questionnaire but three had their home ground outside the District so these were discounted (see Appendix G for full details of club feedback). The return rate was relatively low so it is hard to draw any general conclusions from the questionnaire feedback but it is still useful to provide specific information about Council owned sites and the clubs aspirations and concerns.

The main problems identified by the sports club were

- lack of funds for ongoing maintenance and improvements (18)
- lack of appropriate local facilities (13), and
- lack of voluntary assistance (12)

The majority of clubs aim to

- increase their membership (21)
- expand the range of facilities provided (13), and
- refurbish their existing premises (13)

9. Assessing the findings (Stage 7)

9.1 Current position

This compares the peak number of pitches required (Stage 5) with the number of pitches available (Stage 6) to determine under and over supply.

Figure 16: Current surplus/shortfall

	Bowls	Cricket	Football			Hockey	Netball	Rugby	Stoolball	Tennis
	Adult only	All	Adult	Jnr	Mini	All	All	All	All	All
Total pitches	12	38	54	41	24	8	33	13	12	108
Peak demand	11	36	46	45	24	9	17	10	9	47
Shortfall / Surplus	1	2	8	-4	0	-1	16	3	3	61

This exercise shows that demand is being reasonably well met across all sports.

There is a shortfall in junior (9v9 and 11v11) football pitches, mini-soccer pitches are being used to full capacity and there is a deficiency in the number of ATP's suitable for hockey. Junior and mini hockey teams have to train in over-crowded conditions and as usage is spread fairly evenly across the week no extra capacity can be created through improved scheduling.

Although there appears to be an over-supply of adult football pitches, some of the junior teams use these for training when junior pitches are not available. Also, the extra pitches can help provide extra capacity when pitches cannot be used due to poor ground conditions as a result of the heavy Wealden clay.

There appears to be an over-supply of cricket / stoolball (generally played on cricket outfields) but Mid Sussex is a rural area which has a history of playing village cricket. It should be noted that none of these pitches are surplus to requirements as all are being regularly used by local clubs.

There is an over provision of tennis and netball courts many of which are marked out on school sites and within multi-sport courts. In relation to the over provision of tennis courts, the Council could offer free access during off peak hours which would cut down on booking administration and increase participation. It is also worth noting that netball is currently the only pitch sport in which national participation is increasing.

The Sport England Market Segmentation tool (produced by Experian) was designed to help understand the nation's attitudes to sport, their motivations and barriers. An analysis of the data for the Mid Sussex area shows that a further 6,447 working age adults and 437 retired adults would like to take part in outdoor pitch sports. If this latent demand was met this would further increase the need for additional playing pitches.

9.2 Future projections

If team generation rates are taken into account this will result in a shortfall in cricket, junior football and mini-soccer pitches and the deficit of ATP's suitable for hockey remains the same.

Figure 17: Projected surplus/shortfall

	Bowls	Cricket	Football			Hockey	Netball	Rugby	Stoolball	Tennis
	Adult only	All	Adult	Jnr	Mini	All	All	All	All	All
Total pitches	12	38	54	41	24	8	33	13	12	108
Peak demand	11	40	47	48	28	9	19	11	10	49
Shortfall / Surplus	1	-2	7	-7	-4	-1	14	2	2	59

It should be noted that this is a District wide formula but the increase in population as a result of housing growth will be predominantly in the South of the District, most notably Burgess Hill, so the majority of new sports infrastructure will need to be provided here.

In the case of rugby for example, there are presently only three pitches in the South of District so, although overall there is a surplus, additional pitches will be needed in the Burgess Hill area to meet local demand.

10. Site specific issues

This section provides a summary of projects identified through neighbourhood plans, District Plan allocations, PPG17 quality audits, the Draft Infrastructure Development Plan and sports club feedback.

10.1 Burgess Hill

Saved Local Plan Policy BH19 allocates land for playing fields and associated facilities at the following sites:

- land to the east of Kingsway - planning approval (Ref: 12/01532/OUT) was given for housing development at this site on the condition that a new ATP, suitable for community use, is provided at Birchwood Grove primary school.
- land to the north east of Sheddingdean - currently used as public open space.
- land to the south of Southway - Burgess Hill Rugby Club have suggested that this site, which is owned by a developer and not currently available, might be suitable for a junior rugby pitch.
- as an integral part of the development of a new secondary school at West End Farm – this was implemented by providing playing pitch space at St Pauls Catholic College.

St Pauls also has planning approval (Ref: 11/04119/C3REG) to provide 3.85 hectares of additional outdoor sports facilities; indicative facility mix includes seven mini-soccer pitches, one adult rugby, one adult football pitch, a running track and athletics training.

The draft Burgess Hill neighbourhood plan proposes informal public space, a BMX track and potential driving range adjacent to a new community / sports facility in Leylands Park. This proposal indicates that the existing adult football pitch could be developed for residential units and the one of the junior pitches on the recreation ground could potentially be upgraded as an ATP. Leylands Park is owned by the District Council and Burgess Hill Town Football Club currently has a five year lease.

The Burgess Hill Neighbourhood Plan states that 'new sporting facilities at the Centre for Community Sport are to come forward as part of the strategic development to the north of the town as set out in the District Plan' (Policy DP8). This is supported by the draft Hurstpierpoint and Sayers Common Neighbourhood Plan which states 'an area for Outdoor Community Sports shall be provided as part of the Burgess Hill 'Northern Arc' Development Plan, adjacent to the A2300 (Policy Amenities A3) to serve the needs of the growing town.

The planning application for the Northern Arc should include a 10 hectare site for formal sports provision to meet the demand generated by new housing, based on the requirements outlined in the Councils current Development and Infrastructure Supplementary Planning Document.

The District Council's draft infrastructure development plan indicates the Centre for Community sport will be 'a major sports facility with a stadium suitable for local teams such as Burgess Hill Town Football Club and Burgess Hill Rugby Club. There is potential for the co-location of a facility with the school in the area. New development would also be served by the existing Triangle Leisure Centre which will require some upgrades and extensions.'

The 20-Year Town Wide Strategy for Burgess Hill describes the Centre for Community Sport as a new sports centre on a single site that complements both St Paul's Catholic College and the Triangle Leisure Centre. It envisages that a 10 hectare site could potentially include a clubhouse and playing pitches, a running track, community facilities, an outdoor bowls green and a 3G pitch and car parking. More recent consultation with the town's cricket clubs has indicated that a county league standard field in addition to their current facilities should also be considered as part of the facility mix. The District and Town Council have jointly appointed a leisure consultancy company to advise on the scheme and assist with the masterplan.

The relocation of Burgess Hill sports clubs from their current sites (all owned by the District Council) to the Centre for Community Sport will require the re-provision of the existing facilities plus additional facilities to meet increased demand from the growing population. The Burgess Hill Rugby Club has indicated that they need an additional senior pitch and another junior pitch to meet current demand.

Saved Local Plan Policy BH17 refers to approximately one hectare of land owned by the Council at The Triangle that is allocated for leisure or leisure-related development to complement the existing facilities on the site.

The existing hockey ATP at the Triangle is fifteen years old and will need upgrading during the lifetime of this strategy.

The Council's Draft Infrastructure Development Plan identifies the need for a small pavilion with changing facilities (and space for Burgess Hill Youth Club) at Fairfield Road Recreation Ground; this site was considered to be low quality in terms of playing and changing facilities which are in a temporary container unit.

The facilities at Fairfield Recreation Ground scored below average in the PPG17 quality audit and the Draft Infrastructure Development Plan identifies the need for a small pavilion with

changing facilities (and space for Burgess Hill Youth Club) as there is only a temporary container unit at present. Adult football is played at this site and there is a floodlit MUGA suitable for training and 5-a-side.

St Andrews Cricket Club who currently train at Sidney West Playing Field have indicated that they want more space for a second pitch and training facilities.

10.2 Haywards Heath

The draft neighbourhood plan for Haywards Heath includes a policy to retain, protect and enhance existing playing fields and sporting facilities. It states that the Town Council will work with partners to develop the St Francis Sports site and support Haywards Heath Town Football Club with potential relocation as options are limited for development of the club on its existing site.

St Francis Sports and Social Club is looking to develop their existing grounds and facilities and have put forward a proposal to provide two floodlit ATP's suitable for football and hockey at the site which could help meet local demand. Burgess Hill Hockey Club expressed their support for this development.

The draft Infrastructure Development Plan shows that the tennis court at Beech Hurst Gardens needs re-surfacing. The Haywards Heath Sports Forum has requested netball markings to meet local demand as the number of courts in the town is limited. Also the clubhouse (leased to the bowls club) could potentially be extended to provide toilets, showers and changing rooms for the tennis club subject to agreement with the Trust that is responsible for the site. The tennis club is interested in taking on management of the courts. Bowls club feedback indicated that the trees need to be cut back and some signage is needed to improve the bowling green.

The tennis court at Victoria Park also needs resurfacing and this has been included in the Council's Draft Infrastructure Development Plan.

The Council's Draft Infrastructure Development Plan identifies Barn Cottage Recreation Ground as the potential site for a new community hall. This is supported by Policy L6 in the Draft Neighbourhood Plan for Haywards Heath which identified the need for new community facilities in Bentswood.

The District Council has recently provided a new sports pavilion, skate park, four football pitches (two mini, one junior and one adult) and a multi-use games area suitable for tennis, 5-a-side and netball at Bolnore Village.

The Town Council has recently established a Sports Forum to share information and encourage collaborative working to help deliver new facilities and increase sporting opportunities.

10.3 East Grinstead

The draft neighbourhood plan (2013-31) supports the expansion of East Grinstead Sports Club, the retention of existing sports facilities at East Court and refers to the East Grinstead Sports Development and Facilities Plan.

This plan was produced by the Town Council, in partnership with the Sports Development Group which was set up in 2009/10. The groups' primary purpose is to share good practice and ideas to develop sports in the town. Since the plan was produced in February 2011 the football club, sports club, rugby club, hockey club, cricket club and two tennis clubs have been awarded grants from the District Council to support facility improvements in the town.

East Grinstead Sports Club are keen to expand and want to develop new junior football pitches on adjoining land but this would require a change of use, drainage and landscaping. The club's development plan also indicates that they plan to provide a second hockey pitch by 2018.

The Council's Draft Infrastructure Development Plan includes the provision of changing facilities and toilets at Imberhorne Lane Recreation Ground which scored poorly in the quality audit and could potentially be improved.

Blackwell Primary School in Ashplatts ward has two junior football pitches that have been available for community use in the past. The school has carried out building and landscaping works so these pitches are currently unavailable but may be hired out again in the future.

10.4 South Area

- **Bolney**

The Rawson Institute have planning permission and work is underway to develop a sports and community facility at Batchelors Field in Bolney which will improve the changing and social facilities at this site. Local Plan Policy BO3 allocates approximately 1.4 hectares of land for an extension to the east of Bolney Recreation Ground for recreational use.

- **Hassocks**

Saved Local Plan Policy KH5 allocates approximately four hectares of land to the south and west of Hassocks Football Club for recreational use. This land is owned by South Downs Nurseries which has offered up an area of 1350 sqm to enable Hassocks Football Club to create one new adult football pitch (which can also accommodate two mini soccer pitches).

The Council's Draft Infrastructure development plan highlighted the need for additional playing fields and improvements to the north field at Adastra Park. This has been achieved through drainage improvements that have increased capacity. There is also a demand for netball in the park to allow Hassocks netball club to train and run junior sessions.

The Draft Infrastructure Development Plan identifies the need to enlarge the car park (to take pressure off the Jack and Jill car park) at Clayton Recreation Ground and club feedback requested improvements to the pavilion kitchen.

Downlands School has green space available that could be used to create additional playing pitches available for community use. A public footpath runs across one field and permission would be required to divert the path to create additional space. The land would also require pitch drainage.

- **Hurstpierpoint and Sayers Common**

The Hurstpierpoint and Sayers Common draft neighbourhood plan proposes relocating the football club from Fairfield Recreation Ground (which is used by the cricket club) to Court Bushes where there is space to build a County league standard facility. This project is included in the Draft Infrastructure Development Plan and supported by football club feedback as they cannot be promoted due to the limitations of their current ground. Adult and junior football is currently played at this recreation ground but there are no public changing facilities (only a privately owned social club).

Saved Local Plan Policy HU2 allocated two hectares of land for additional formal outdoor recreation facilities to the north of the Fairfield Recreation Ground. This area is currently the subject to a planning application to build 57 new homes and extension to the recreation ground which will include improvements to access and drainage. Hurstpierpoint & Sayers Common Neighbourhood Plan and the Council's Draft Infrastructure Development Plan identify the pavilion (leased to Hurstpierpoint Cricket Club) as in need of redevelopment as a sports and community facility.

10.5 Central Area

- **Ansty and Staplefield**

The existing facilities at Ansty Recreation Ground are in urgent need of repair. Planning permission has been awarded (Ref: 13/04354/FUL) for the demolition of the existing Village Hall and Ansty Sports and Social Clubhouse and the construction of a new community building and sports pavilion and an enlarged car park. These new facilities will support County league cricket and adult football at the site. The cricket club has recently obtained a lease for land to the north of the recreation ground which will enable them to have a second cricket pitch. This project is supported by the Parish Council and identified in the Infrastructure Development Plan. The project team are currently fundraising to take the work forward and the Council has awarded a capital grant to provide financial support.

The need to rebuild the cricket pavilion at Staplefield Common, owned by the Parish Council, is highlighted in the Draft Infrastructure Development Plan.

- **Cuckfield**

Saved Local Plan Policy CU3 allocated land immediately west of Whitemans Green Recreation Ground for recreational use; this is currently being used by Haywards Heath Rugby Football Club.

The Cuckfield Neighbourhood Plan highlights the need for facility improvements at Haywards Heath Rugby Club at Whitemans Green and Cuckfield Cricket Club.

Cuckfield Cricket Club recently built an extension to accommodate new changing rooms and aims to make further improvements to the pavilion

Haywards Heath Rugby Football Club intends to make improvements to or rebuild the sports pavilion and this project is identified within the Cuckfield Infrastructure Delivery Plan. The club would also like access to an ATP that is suitable for rugby. Unfortunately the latter is unlikely to be achieved at their home ground in Whitemans Green due to planning restraints because they are based within an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.

The Cuckfield Infrastructure Delivery Plan also notes that there may be an opportunity to provide additional football and sports facilities at Laines Farm (to the south west of the village).

The neighbourhood plan also identifies the need for facility improvements to the Worsley Memorial (Cuckfield) Recreation Ground sports pavilion. The tennis club is also interested in taking over the running of the tennis courts from the Council. A replacement pavilion and the need for investment in playing pitches and car park enlargement at the Worsley Memorial (Cuckfield) Recreation Ground are identified in the Councils Draft Infrastructure Development Plan.

Warden Park Academy Trust plans to develop a 3G sports facility that will be available for community use at evenings and weekends.

- **Lindfield and Lindfield Rural**

Lindfield Football Club is in discussion with Lindfield Cricket Club regarding an extension to the pavilion as the current changing rooms do not meet Football Association standards. The football club require a sub-lease for the facilities to enable them to fundraise for this project.

The cricket club would like a small square suitable for the 3rd and 4th XIs on the common but this raises legal issues with regard to the use of common land.

- **Slaugham**

Planning approval (Ref: AP/13/0039) has been awarded for a large housing development in Handcross on land adjacent to the recreation ground and to develop the Parish Hall site which will require the re-provision of the existing bowls club.

There is space at Handcross Recreation Ground for a junior football pitch but this is not required at present.

Finches Field in Pease Pottage was considered low quality in terms of playing and changing facilities in the PPG17 Audit and the former clubhouse has since been demolished. A temporary changing unit has been installed on site and is being used by Furngate Football Club.

Mid Sussex District Council is working with Slaugham Parish Council to design and build a new sports changing and community building at Finches Field in Pease Pottage. The Council's Draft Infrastructure Development Plan also notes the need for car park resurfacing and enlargement at this site. The Council is negotiating to purchase some land to secure the adult football pitch at this site and provide access the neighbouring public open space.

The land immediately to the west of Finches Field is allocated for an extension to the existing playing fields and associated facilities (Saved Local Plan Policy PP5). This field is being used for junior football but there is no formal agreement with the landowner.

10.6 North Area

- **Ardingly**

Ardingly Recreation Ground, owned by the Parish Council, provides cricket, adult football, mini - soccer and tennis courts. There is space for a junior pitch which was previously marked out but it is not currently being used. The Draft Infrastructure Development Plan and the Parish Council's neighbourhood plan identify the need to upgrade the sports pavilion to improve disabled access, modernise and potentially extend it.

The tennis courts at Ardingly Recreation Ground have no club house so the tennis club is unable to enter league competitions. The tennis courts will require refurbishment within the next few years. The Parish Council would also like a recreational bowling green and additional car parking.

- **Ashurst Wood**

The Draft Infrastructure Development Plan notes the need for improvements to the sports pavilion at Ashurst Wood Recreation Ground which provides facilities for adult football and mini-soccer. Ashurst Wood Football Club would like a 9v9 pitch at John Pears Field and this is currently being piloted by the Parish Council to test demand and public support.

- **Turners Hill**

The Council's Draft Infrastructure Development Plan identifies the provision of pétanque at Turners Hill Recreation Ground as a local requirement. It also notes that there may be a need in the future to upgrade the changing rooms at the recreation ground to meet Football Association requirements however there is no football club using the facilities at present.

Turners Hill Cricket Club are now established at their ground in Turners Hill Road following their move from the Recreation Ground in East Street.

- **Twineham**

The changing facilities and cricket pitch at Twineham Recreation Ground did not score well in the PPG17 quality audit and need to be upgraded.

- **West Hoathly**

West Hoathly Parish Council owns and manages the North Lane Recreation Ground, they have identified a need to refurbish the sports pavilion which is outdated.

- **Worth**

The Council's Draft Infrastructure Development Plan identified a need to install ballstop fencing at the Haven Sports Field and this work has now been completed.

The Crawley Down Gatwick Football Club have highlighted demand to convert the floodlit pitch one to an ATP at the Haven Sports Field to provide the potential for additional fixtures and training.

The Worth infrastructure schedule also states that new tennis courts and bowling greens are needed in Copthorne and Crawley Down although no evidence of need has been demonstrated.

The Parish Council has indicated that they would like to acquire land adjacent to the existing sports facilities at King Georges Field, Copthorne with a view to providing additional playing pitches at this locally managed site to meet the increased demand resulting from housing and population growth. The Copthorne Sports and Community Association have also advised that the existing playing fields are also in need of improved pitch drainage.

11. Identifying policies and solutions (Stage 8)

This section highlights a number of options for creating new, relocating, improving and retaining existing facilities to ensure the District can continue to provide access to high quality facilities for organised outdoor sports. Further projects will come forward during the course of the plan and priorities may change so the action plan will need to be reviewed annually to ensure it reflects the current situation.

Sites in need of significant development or refurbishment should be included in the Council's Draft Infrastructure Development Plan and prioritised for investment using developer contributions and other funding sources as appropriate. The Infrastructure Development Plan will be updated on a regular basis.

Projects to provide new facilities, relocate or improve existing pitches and ancillary buildings will be prioritised according to:

- a) the level and condition of existing provision
- b) demand for improvements detailed in strategic documents
- c) the number of new homes which will further increase demand
- d) evidence of support from local residents and site users
- e) scope of project and number of beneficiaries
- f) the availability of match funding (if necessary)
- g) the feasibility of project delivery

11.1 Policy 1: Additional pitches

New sports facilities will be required to meet increased demand as a result of housing growth and the increasing population. The priorities for additional provision are:

- Junior football – seven pitches
- Mini-soccer – four pitches
- Hockey - one ATP's
- Cricket – two pitches
- Rugby – two pitches (south)

A number of potential sites have been identified (in Section 10) which could provide sufficient recreation land to deliver the new facilities needed.

Figure 18: Potential sites for additional pitches

	POTENTIAL SITES		
	South	Central	North
Cricket	Centre for Community Sport	Ansty Recreation Ground	
Junior football	Centre for Community Sport Northern Arc schools St Pauls Catholic School Downlands School	Warden Park School (ATP) Laines Farm Handcross Recreation Ground St Francis Sports and Social Club	John Pears Field East Grinstead Sports Club King Georges Field Blackwell Primary School Ardingly Recreation Ground
Mini-soccer	Centre for Community Sport Northern Arc schools St Pauls Catholic School Hassocks FC		
Hockey		St Francis Sports and Social Club	East Grinstead Sports Club
Rugby	Centre for Community Sport St Pauls Catholic School	Warden Park School (ATP)	

The comparative sizes of new sports pitches and courts are detailed in Appendix I.

11.1.1 South

The Centre for Community Sport site will most likely be situated in Hurstpierpoint and Sayers Common Parish, on the outskirts of Burgess Hill and on the boundary of Ansty and Staplefield Parish (where the majority of the new housing for the Northern Arc development will be located). This project could benefit all three communities and will accommodate several new playing pitches to meet increased demand from anticipated housing growth. A masterplan for sports provision at the site will be produced jointly by the Town and District Council following consultation with sports clubs and local stakeholders.

St Pauls Catholic School which is situated in Burgess Hill (Ansty and Staplefield Parish), within a few hundred metres of the proposed Centre for the Community Sport, also has planning approval for additional playing pitches and could provide facilities that are available for community use. Three further schools, two primary and one secondary, are planned within the Northern Arc and they will also provide new playing fields that could be made available for public use.

Hassock Football Club intends to create an additional adult and two mini soccer pitches. There is also an opportunity to provide up to two junior football pitches at Downlands School.

There is demand for netball in Adastral Park, Hassocks and Beech Hurst Gardens which could potentially be marked out on the existing tennis courts at both sites.

11.1.2 Central

St Francis Sports and Social Club have proposed providing two new ATP's suitable for hockey and football at a 5.75 ha. site in Haywards Heath but there are issues regarding access that will need to be resolved.

Warden Park School in Cuckfield also aims to raise funds for a new 3G sports facility that would be available for community use. There may be an opportunity to provide additional football and sports facilities at Laines Farm (to the south west of the village).

Ansty and Staplefield Cricket Club have leased for land to the north of the recreation ground for a second cricket pitch.

11.1.3 North

John Pears Field does not currently have any grass pitches marked out but there is demand from Ashurst Wood Football team for a junior pitch. The Parish Council, who manage the site under an RMA, have invited public feedback on this proposal.

East Grinstead Sports Club aims to secure land to enable them to provide additional junior football pitches. The East Grinstead Sports Clubs development plan also indicates that they would like to install a second hockey pitch by 2018.

Worth Parish Council would like to acquire land adjacent to the existing sports facilities at King Georges Field in Copthorne for new sports pitches.

There is also interest in providing new tennis courts and bowling greens in Copthorne and Crawley Down.

11.2 Policy 2: Relocate facilities

The following sports clubs could potentially be relocated and the facilities re-provided and improved:

- Hurstpierpoint Football Club currently play at Fairfield Recreation Ground but they share the grounds and pavilion with the cricket club and are unable to progress at this site as a pitch rail and perimeter footpath would encroach on to the cricket outfield. It is proposed that the club could move to the Court Bushes Recreation Ground where a County League Standard facility could be constructed.
- The Burgess Hill draft neighbourhood plan indicates that the Burgess Hill Town Football Club site in Leylands Park (owned by the District Council) could be developed for housing. In this instance, the football club facilities would need to be re-provided at an alternative site.
- Burgess Hill Rugby Club (owned by the District Council) could potentially be relocated to the Centre for Community Sport to provide the additional facilities they require.
- The Haywards Heath draft neighbourhood plan indicates that the Haywards Heath Town Football Club site at the Hanbury Stadium (owned by the football club) could be developed for housing. In this instance, the football club facilities would need to be re-provided at an alternative site.
- Handcross Bowls Club (owned by the Parish Council) may be relocated as a result of planning approval to develop the site for housing.

11.3 Policy 3: Upgrade and increase capacity

The enhancement of existing playing pitches and ancillary facilities will enable the Council to improve the current sporting infrastructure serving the towns and parishes in the District. These facilities will face increased demand as the population expands and investment will be necessary to ensure high standards are upheld and they can be used to full capacity.

It will be necessary to carry out regular quality assessments of pitches and ancillary facilities across the District to ensure resources are targeted according to need. Quality assessments should include a review of disabled access and information about the age ranges and facilities suitable for male and female players each site. Facilities that are identified as in need of improvement should be included in the Action Plan and added to the Council's Infrastructure Development Plan.

It should be noted that most of the town and parish councils in the District are in the process of producing neighbourhood plans and the action plan will need to be regularly updated to include new information regarding sports infrastructure.

The Council only owns less than half of the recreation grounds in the District and sites owned by community providers will also require continued investment to improve standards and increase capacity. Club feedback indicated that limited funding for ongoing maintenance and improvements were key issues.

It should be noted that facility upgrades will all be subject to planning permission and landlords consent as necessary and the availability of funds. Sports clubs and other partners should be encouraged to fundraise as they will have access to funding sources that are not open to the Council and may be able to secure grants from governing bodies, the lottery and other external sources.

Investment in facilities on school sites should be made on the basis that they are made available for community use. To strengthen this requirement, and ensure the long term protection of school playing fields in the District, Sport England advises that Community Use Agreements should be prepared.

The following sites have been identified (see Section 10) as in need of upgrades, development and improvements:

Figure 19: Facility developments

Ref	Site	Project	Parish
A	Ansty Recreation Ground	New community and sports pavilion with parking	Ansty & Staplefield
B	Fairfield Recreation Ground	Small pavilion with changing facilities	Burgess Hill
C	Beech Hurst Gardens	Bowling green signage	Haywards Heath
D	Finches Field	New community centre with sports changing and parking and extension to playing fields	Slaugham
E	Lindfield Common	Extend the sports pavilion to meet FA standards	Lindfield
F	Court Bushes	New County league standard football facility	Hurstpierpoint & Sayers Common
G	Ashurst Wood Recreation Ground	Sports pavilion improvements	Ashurst Wood
H	Imberhorne Lane Recreation Ground	New changing facilities	East Grinstead
I	Ardingly Recreation Ground	Upgrade and extend the sports pavilion to include tennis clubhouse. Resurface tennis courts.	Ardingly
J	Whitemans Green	Improve or rebuild Haywards Heath Rugby Club	Cuckfield
K	Cuckfield Cricket Club	Pavilion improvements	Cuckfield
L	Victoria Park	Resurface tennis courts	Haywards Heath
M	Beech Hurst Gardens	Resurface tennis courts	Haywards Heath
N	Fairfield Recreation Ground	Redevelop cricket pavilion	Hurstpierpoint & Sayers Common
O	Staplefield Common	Rebuild cricket pavilion	Ansty & Staplefield
P	Leylands Park	Upgrade one of the junior football pitches to an ATP	Burgess Hill
Q	Clayton Recreation Ground	Enlarge car park and improve pavilion kitchen	Clayton
R	Beech Hurst Gardens	Extend clubhouse to provide toilets, showers and changing rooms for tennis club.	Haywards Heath

S	Berrylands Farm	Medium sized pavilion	Hurstpierpoint & Sayers Common
T	Twineham Recreation Ground	Upgrade pitches and changing facilities	Twineham
U	North Lane Recreation Ground	Refurbish sports pavilion	West Hoathly
V	Worsley Memorial (Cuckfield) Recreation Ground	Pavilion improvements	Cuckfield
W	King George V Field, Copthorne	Pitch drainage and maintenance improvements	Worth
X	Haven Sports Field	Upgrade pitch one to ATP	Worth
Y	The Triangle	Upgrade ATP	Burgess Hill

A District Wide Pavilion Improvements programme was approved in 2014 to upgrade the lighting, kitchens, heating, windows and doors at sixteen Council owned pavilions to make them more energy efficient and reduce ongoing revenue costs. The roof at the pavilion at East Court will also be replaced and a secure outdoor play area will be established.

11.4 Policy 4: Retain and maintain

The Council should retain existing provision, irrespective of ownership and the current degree of community access and use, along with unused sites and land allocated as playing field in the District Plan.

It is essential that existing facilities are retained and maintained to a standard to ensure they remain viable and suitable for public use. To enable the Council to systematically monitor the quality of provision it should carry out an annual assessment of all playing pitches and sports pavilions in the district using Sport England templates (see Appendices E & F) and those found to be below average should be improved.

At Council owned sites general issues regarding playing pitch upkeep can be agreed with the grounds maintenance contractor and dealt with through the annual service improvement plan. The Council also has an Asset Management Plan which includes the routine maintenance of sports pavilions and is funded through existing Property and Asset Maintenance budgets.

10 Council owned sites are currently managed through RMA contracts. This arrangement is beneficial because it provides a local manager for recreation sites. Leasehold disposals and greater community ownership of recreation sites should be encouraged.

It should be noted that the ambitions of some sports clubs to expand and improve their facilities are incompatible with the provision of recreation grounds that are accessible to the general public. In these circumstances the Council would be unwilling to consider a lease and it may be more appropriate for clubs to seek private land.

12. Recommendations

The Council should PROTECT, ENHANCE and PROVIDE playing pitches and ancillary facilities to ensure there are accessible, high quality recreational facilities available throughout the District to meet the needs of existing and future residents.

Investment in existing facilities is needed to maintain provision, improve quality and increase capacity. The Council should also seek to provide additional playing pitches to meet increased demand as a result of new housing development and population growth.

To achieve this it is recommended that the Council:

- i. seeks to provide the additional playing pitches needed to meet increased demand.
- ii. works in partnership with Burgess Hill Town Council to develop a masterplan for new facilities at the Centre for Community Sport
- iii. supports Haywards Heath Town Council to deliver additional facilities at St Francis Sports Ground
- iv. upgrade and improve sites identified in the Action Plan
- v. support town and parish councils, clubs and other providers to make improvements and increase capacity at sports and recreation facilities which are available for public use
- vi. review local management arrangements of recreation sites and produce a framework for transferring sites to community ownership where appropriate
- vii. explore opportunities for greater use of school sites and set up community use agreements (funding condition of grants to schools)
- viii. update the Action Plan annually and regularly update the Council's Infrastructure Development Plan to reflect investment priorities
- ix. carry out District wide quality assessment of playing pitches and sports pavilions every three years
- x. work with Sport England and the National Governing Bodies to monitor and review the strategy every five years

13. Action Plan

Timescales:

High priority 2015-19

Medium priority 2020-24

Low priority 2025+

Objective	Actions	Lead	External Partners	Priority
1. Provide additional playing pitches to meet growing demand	Work in partnership with Burgess Hill Town Council to develop a masterplan for the Centre for Community Sport and wider Northern Arc sports provision (consider potential relocation and re-provision of Burgess Hill Town Football Club and Burgess Hill Rugby Club)	Community Services & Culture	Burgess Hill Town Council Northern Arc Consortium	Medium
	Support Haywards Heath Town Council to deliver additional facilities at St Francis Sports Ground	Community Services & Culture	Haywards Heath Town Council St Francis Sports & Social Club	High
2. Maintain the quality of existing playing pitches and ancillary facilities	Quality assessment based on Sport England criteria.	Waste & Outdoor Services	Pitch providers – schools, clubs, town and parish council	Ongoing
3. Ongoing management of playing pitches	Review and update the local management arrangements and strategy for sports clubs and community groups	Waste & Outdoor Services		High
4. Upgrade and increase capacity at existing sites	New community centre with sports changing, parking and extension to playing fields at Finches Field, Pease Pottage	Property & Asset Maintenance	Slaugham Parish Council	High

	(P3/D)			
	Redevelop sports and community pavilion at Ansty Recreation Ground (P3/A)	Waste & Outdoor Services	Ansty Village Centre Trust (Ansty Village Hall, Ansty Sports & Social Club, Ansty Cricket Club) Cuckfield Parish Council	High
	Upgrade the changing facilities at Fairfield Recreation Ground, Burgess Hill (P3/B)	Property & Asset Maintenance	Football Clubs (United Services, Amici Athletic Burgess Hill Athletic, Fairfield) Burgess Hill Town Council Burgess Hill Youth Club	High
	Extend the sports pavilion at Lindfield Common to accommodate football club (P3/E)	Lindfield Cricket Club	Lindfield Football Club Lindfield Parish Council	High
	Consider the development of new changing rooms and toilets at Imberhorne Lane Recreation Ground(P3/H)	Waste & Outdoor Services	East Grinstead Town Council	High
	Bowling green signage at Beech Hurst Gardens (P3/C)	Landscapes	Beech Hurst Gardens Bowls Club Haywards Heath & Beech Hurst Bowls Club Haywards Heath Town Council	High
	Upgrade and extend the sports pavilion at Ardingly Recreation Ground to include tennis clubhouse. Resurface tennis courts. (P3/I)	Ardingly Parish Council	Ardingly FC Ardingly CC	Medium
	Make improvements to	Haywards Heath	Cuckfield Parish Council	Medium

	Haywards Heath Rugby Club pavilion at Whitemans Green and Beech Farm Field. (P3J)	Rugby Club	Haywards Heath Rugby Club Cuckfield Cosmos	
	Make improvements to Cuckfield Cricket Club pavilion (P3/K)	Cuckfield Cricket Club	Cuckfield Parish Council	Medium
	Resurface tennis courts in Victoria Park and Beech Hurst Gardens, Haywards Heath (P3/L&M)	Property & Asset Maintenance	Haywards Heath Tennis Club Beech Hurst Gardens Tennis Club Haywards Heath Town Council	Medium
	Redevelop the Hurstpierpoint Cricket Club pavilion (P3/N)	Waste & Outdoor Services	Hurstpierpoint Cricket Club Hurstpierpoint Parish Council	Medium
	Relocate the Hurstpierpoint Football Club to Court Bushes and build a County League Standard facility (P3/F)	Waste & Outdoor Services	Hurstpierpoint Football Club Hurstpierpoint Parish Council	Medium
	Car park and pavilion improvements at Clayton Recreation Ground (P3/Q)	Waste & Outdoor Services	Clayton Stoolball Club Clayton Cricket Club Hassocks Parish Council	Medium
	Replace or refurbish the sports pavilion at Worsley Memorial (Cuckfield) Recreation Ground. (P3/V)	Property & Asset Maintenance	Cuckfield Parish Council Cuckfield Lawn Tennis Club Cuckfield Town FC	Medium
	Upgrade pitch one to ATP at Haven Sports Field, Crawley Down(P3/X)	Crawley Down Football Club	Worth Parish Council	Medium

	King George V Playing Field, Copthorne pitch drainage and maintenance (P3/W)	Copthorne Sports and Community Association	Worth Parish Council	Medium
	Work with Places for People to look at the feasibility of upgrading the ATP at the Triangle. (P3/Y)	Places for People	Burgess Hill Hockey Club	Medium
	Make improvement to Ashurst Wood sports pavilion (P3G)	Property & Asset Maintenance	Ashurst Wood Junior Football Club Ashurst Wood Parish Council	Low
	Rebuild cricket pavilion at Staplefield Common (P3/O)	Staplefield Cricket Club	Ansty & Staplefield Parish Council	Low
	Extend the bowls club house at Beech Hurst Gardens to provide toilets, showers and changing rooms for the tennis club (P3/R)	Beech Hurst Gardens Tennis Centre	Beech Hurst Gardens Tennis Club Haywards Heath & Beech Hurst Bowls Club Haywards Heath Town Council	Low
	Upgrade facilities at Twineham Recreation Ground (P3/T)	Twineham & Wineham Cricket Club	Twineham Parish Council	Low
	Refurbish pavilion at North Lane Recreation Ground (P3/U)	West Hoathly Parish Council	West Hoathly Football Club	Low
	Consider the feasibility of upgrading the junior football pitch in Leylands Park to an ATP to further increase capacity in the town (P3/P)	Burgess Hill Town Council	Football Clubs (Burgess Hill Town, Southdown Athletic, Southdown, Southdown Rovers)	Low
	Medium sized pavilion at	Waste and Outdoor	Albourne & Sayers	Low

	Berrylands Farm (P3/S)	Services	Common CC	
5. Ongoing management of resources	Monitor annually and review the strategy every five years	Community Services & Culture	Sport England and NGB representatives	High
	Update the Council's Infrastructure Development Plan to reflect priorities	Community Services & Culture		High