

Table 6.3 – Key issues in Locality A

Locality A		
<p>Currently, there is 14.06 hectares of playing pitch provision of which 5.16 hectares is secured for community use.</p> <p>A 10% 'strategic reserve' should be maintained for all sports pitches to allow for rest and recovery and for the realisation of latent demand</p>		
Football (current surplus/shortfall)	Issues	Way forward
<p>Adult (-0.7)</p> <p>Junior (-6.0)</p> <p>Mini (1.0)</p>	<p>The supply of adult and mini pitches is more or less in balance with demand. However, when considering junior provision, there is an undersupply equivalent to 6 pitches.</p> <p>Only one junior football pitch has been identified in locality A and this does not have secured community use (Mount Pleasant Primary School). It is assumed that several junior teams are playing their games on adult sized pitches.</p> <p>Pitches at Branksome School are very poor quality – overused, mis-used and under maintained. Changing facilities at this venue are also poor with child protection issues.</p>	<p>In the short term, continue to enable junior teams to play on adult sized pitches. Whilst this is not ideal from a development perspective, it provides a degree of flexibility with the existing pitch stock (ie both senior and junior teams can use them). Any joint use of pitches should consider the implications of child protection etc and it should be ensured that changing facilities are provided.</p> <p>The main focus in the area should be on increasing the number of junior pitches, perhaps in partnership with primary schools in this area that have playing field provision but may not necessarily mark it out. eg Alderman Leach Primary School could be a really good junior pitch with markings and maintenance and Holy Family Primary School has a grass field which is sometimes marked out as a junior pitch. The pitches at Mount Pleasant Primary School are used by Mount Pleasant Rangers JFC; however there is no secure community use. In light of the shortfalls of junior football pitches, these sites securing community use agreements at these sites should be explored.</p> <p>Branksome School is used by both adult and junior teams and should be prioritised for securing a community use agreement. Although secure community access should be sought, consultation with the school and clubs indicated that there are problems with drainage and security of the site. Enhancements to the pitches will be required if competitive matches are to be played on these pitches. Improving the quality of this site would increase the carrying capacity of pitches (the number of matches that can be played per week). Securing these pitches would alleviate deficiencies and provide opportunities for long term growth in participation.</p> <p>Darlington RA Sports Club provides important provision for pitches for males and females of all ages. The Council should continue to support the development of the club (and its facilities) in the future.</p>

APPENDIX E: KEY ISSUES BY LOCALITY AREA

Locality A		
<p>Cricket (surplus/shortfall) (-1.2)</p>	<p>Issue There is a current theoretical shortfall of 1.2 cricket pitches in the area.</p>	<p>Way forward Although there is a current shortfall, in reality the PPM does not take into account the shorter length of junior matches and other varying factors with regards to cricket. Cockerton and Darlington RA Cricket Club are based in the area and consultation did not identify the need for increased pitch provision. Demand for cricket in the area should be monitored in the future. The Council should work with the clubs to maintain and improve the quality of existing pitches and changing facilities. Cockerton in particular has identified the need to secure fencing at the site. Darlington RA Cricket Club provides important cricket provision for adults and juniors and is identified as a Focus Club by the NGB. The Council should continue to support the development of the club in the future alongside Durham County Cricket Board.</p>
<p>Rugby (surplus/shortfall) Adult (0) Junior (0)</p>	<p>Issue No rugby pitches or rugby teams are located within locality A. Rugby is predominantly focused within locality E due to the two rugby clubs in the borough being based within this area.</p>	<p>Way forward Although there are no pitches or teams in locality A, a flexible approach to pitch provision should be adopted should demand increase in the future.</p>

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Table 6.4 – Key issues in Locality B

Locality B		
<p>Currently, there is 21.50 hectares of playing pitch provision of which 3.58 hectares is secured for community use.</p> <p>A 10% 'strategic reserve' should be maintained for all sports pitches to allow for rest and recovery and the realisation of latent demand</p>		
<p>Football (surplus/shortfall)</p> <p>Adult (-1.1) Junior (-4.0) Mini (-2.5)</p>	<p>Issue</p> <p>There is an undersupply of football pitches of all types in locality B.</p> <p>Only 17% of football pitches are secured for community use. Lack of secured access to school pitches.</p> <p>Too many poor quality single pitch sites.</p>	<p>Way forward</p> <p>In order to rectify the shortfall in football pitches, the Council should seek to obtain a formal community use agreement at Longfield School. If Longfield School was to provide secure community use, there would be enough adult pitches to cater for demand in the area and the shortfall of junior pitches would decrease to 2 pitches. In light of pressures on existing pitches, improvements to pitch quality at Longfield will also be essential to increase capacity. Opportunities to improve pitch quality and changing exist through BSF.</p> <p>Although secured community use of this school facility will reduce the deficiency of junior pitches there will still be a small shortfall. The stock of mini pitches is also not sufficient to accommodate demand and therefore opportunities to increase provision should be examined eg increased usage of the pitch at Harrowgate Hill and Guerne Pease Primary Schools. Also opportunities to provide mini/junior pitches at the new North Road Primary School.</p> <p>There are 3 single public pitch sites in locality A – Glebe Rd, Springfield Park, North Park. The Council should focus its efforts on developing one of these sites as a multi pitch site and installing appropriate changing provision. The site chosen should have adequate parking, good transport links and ideally be of the best quality (probably Springfield). Area of land available must obviously be considered.</p>
<p>Cricket (surplus/shortfall)</p> <p>(0)</p>	<p>Issue</p> <p>There are no cricket teams in based locality B. The only cricket pitch in the area is located at Longfield Sports College. However, this pitch currently does not have secure community use.</p>	<p>Way forward</p> <p>Although there are no teams in the area, demand for cricket in locality A should be monitored in the future and consideration should be given to the development of a satellite club if demand arises – Longfield Sports College would be the obvious choice. As mentioned above, the Council should seek to obtain a formal community use agreement of pitches at Longfield Sports College.</p>

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Locality B		
Rugby (surplus/shortfall)	Issue	Way forward
(0)	There are no rugby teams in based locality B. The only rugby pitches in the area are located at Longfield Sports College. However, these do not currently have secure community use.	As previously highlighted, rugby is focused within locality E. Although there are no teams in the area, demand for rugby in locality B should be monitored in the future and consideration should be given to the development of a satellite club if demand arises - Longfield Sports College would be the obvious choice. As mentioned above, the Council should seek to obtain a formal community use agreement of pitches at Longfield Sports College.

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Table 6.5 – Key issues in Locality C

Locality C		
<p>There is currently 6.38 hectares of playing pitch provision of which 4.88 hectares is secured for community use.</p> <p>A 10% 'strategic reserve' should be maintained for all sports pitches to allow for rest and recovery and the realisation of latent demand.</p>		
<p>Football (surplus/shortfall)</p> <p>Adult (2.6)</p> <p>Junior (2.0)</p> <p>Mini (3.0)</p>	<p>Issue</p> <p>The current provision of adult, junior and mini football pitches is sufficient to meet demand with only a slight oversupply.</p> <p>Whilst the overall supply of pitches in locality C is lower than in any other area, more than three quarters of its football pitches have secured community use.</p>	<p>Way forward</p> <p>Overall, provision is sufficient to meet demand. The main provider in locality C is the Education Village which provides a number of quality adult, junior and mini pitches with good quality changing rooms. There is potential for the Education Village to accommodate more use than at present. Consideration should be given to the inclusion of these facilities within the existing pitch booking system to facilitate access to the site.</p> <p>There is one single public pitch which is new for the 2008/09 season at Red Hall Community Centre. It has the potential to be a good pitch as it is the only public pitch that is fenced in. The Council should explore leasing this pitch to a club. If the pitch is to be retained by the Council it requires some investment in drainage.</p>
<p>Cricket (surplus/shortfall)</p> <p>(0)</p>	<p>Issue</p> <p>No cricket teams or pitches are located within locality C.</p>	<p>Way forward</p> <p>Although there are no teams in the area, demand for cricket in locality C should be monitored. The Education Village may be able to provide facilities for cricket should demand permit in the future.</p>
<p>Rugby (surplus/shortfall)</p> <p>(0)</p>	<p>Issue</p> <p>No rugby teams or pitches are located within locality C.</p>	<p>Way forward</p> <p>Although there are no teams in the area, demand for rugby in locality C should be monitored. The Education Village may be able to provide facilities for rugby should demand permit in the future.</p>

Table 6.6 – Key issues in Locality D

Locality D		
<p>There are 37.54 hectares of playing pitch provision of which 15.56 hectares is secured for community use.</p> <p>A 10% 'strategic reserve' should be maintained for all sports pitches to allow for rest and recovery and the realisation of latent demand</p>		
<p>Football (surplus/shortfall)</p> <p>Adult (-0.6)</p> <p>Junior (-7.0)</p> <p>Mini (-1.5)</p>	<p>Issue</p> <p>There is a large undersupply of junior football pitches in the locality. The provision of mini football pitches is also inadequate. The supply of adult pitches is almost in balance with demand.</p> <p>Only 41% of football pitches are secured for community use. There is a lack of secured access to school/college pitches.</p>	<p>Way forward</p> <p>Given the insufficient provision in the area, and the loss of pitches to development in recent years, the Council should ensure that the two new pitches that are being developed at Eastbourne Sports Complex are fully accessible and of good quality. This will reduce the total undersupply by 4 pitches.</p> <p>In light of the poor quality of facilities in the area, consideration should be given to qualitative improvements to the pitches at Tommy Crooks Park. This will increase the sites carrying capacity ie the number of matches that can be played per week. The Council should consider development of adequate changing provision at this site.</p> <p>Support the Football Foundation Bid for improved facilities at Middleton St George.</p> <p>Explore the opportunity to lease the single pitch sites to local clubs at McMullen Road and Hurworth Grange Community Centre.</p> <p>To further increase the supply of football pitches in locality D, opportunities to secure a community use agreement for use of pitches at both Hurworth House and Hurworth School should be explored.</p> <p>There are significant opportunities to improve the pitch stock in locality D in conjunction with Darlington College. There are proposals in place for the development of the existing pitch site at the College to accommodate University buildings. Whilst this poses an obvious threat to pitch provision, there are opportunities to provide improved pitches– potentially in conjunction one of the other projects in the area/borough eg Eastbourne Academy, Longfield or Darlington Arena site. The college is comfortable that these pitches may have to be provided off site and that the most appropriate re-provision may not be a direct replacement for the pitches that exist at present. The college also recognise that they would have to provide sufficient changing accommodation for any new pitches and allow community access. There may also be an opportunity for a STP development alongside grass pitches. The Council (planning & leisure) should explore these opportunities further with the college and Sport England.</p>

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Cricket (surplus/shortfall) (-0.2)	Issue The supply of pitches in locality D is almost in balance with demand. Consultation found that provision in the area is perceived to be sufficient. The main provision is at club sites.	Way forward There are three cricket clubs in locality D and all clubs have their own ground. Whilst there is no evidence of significant growth in cricket in the area, future club development should be monitored to ensure there is an awareness of needs for cricket in the future. Consideration should be given to the development of a satellite club if demand arises – Hurworth House School has a cricket pitch and so would be the obvious choice. As mentioned above, the Council should seek to obtain a formal community use agreement of pitches at Hurworth House School.
Rugby (surplus/shortfall) (0)	Issue No rugby teams or pitches are located within locality D.	Way forward Although there are no teams in the area, demand for rugby in locality D should be monitored. Hurworth House School and the existing Eastbourne Academy both have rugby pitches, however these are only used for curricular and extra curricular activities at present. Consideration should be given to the development of a satellite club for rugby at one of these sites if demand arises in the future.

Table 6.7 – Key issues in Locality E

Locality E		
<p>Currently, there is 28.04 hectares of playing pitch provision of which 12.50 hectares is secured for community use.</p> <p>A 10% 'strategic reserve' should be maintained for all sports pitches to allow for rest and recovery and for the realisation of latent demand</p>		
<p>Football (current surplus/shortfall)</p> <p>Adult (0.5)</p> <p>Junior (-3.5)</p> <p>Mini (2.5)</p>	<p>Issues</p> <p>The supply of adult pitches is more or less in balance with demand. However, there is a small undersupply of junior provision and a small oversupply of mini pitches.</p> <p>Pitches at school and college sites do not have secure community use.</p> <p>There are some good quality pitch sites but with no changing provision eg Heighington Playing Fields.</p> <p>Pitches at South Park have been damaged recently due to other community events and are now unplayable.</p>	<p>Way forward</p> <p>Support the development of changing facilities at Heighington Playing Fields to serve the three good quality pitches at the site.</p> <p>Explore the potential to provide additional pitches at Darlington Rugby Club to meet the shortfall in provision.</p> <p>Secure community access to pitches at Hummersknott and Carmel Schools. Pitches at Carmel will also need some investment to improve their quality. Also attempt to secure access to Queen Elizabeth Sixth Form College pitches.</p> <p>South Park - Re-align pitches on this site in conjunction with Spaire Lads & Lasses and ensure changing facilities are used to their full potential.</p>
<p>Cricket (surplus/shortfall)</p> <p>(-0.3)</p>	<p>Issue</p> <p>Supply and demand for cricket pitches is almost in balance in locality E.</p>	<p>Way forward</p> <p>Darlington Cricket Club provides important cricket provision for adults and juniors and is identified as a Focus Club by the NGB. The Council should continue to support the development of the club in the future alongside Durham County Cricket Board.</p> <p>Heighington Cricket Club were also based in this area, however they folded in 2007. There is currently therefore a cricket pitch in Heighington that is not being used. This area is sometimes used for mini football by local teams.</p> <p>Other cricket facilities exist at Carmel School and at the private Ineos Sports Facilities on the border with Sedgefield. Demand for cricket in locality A should be monitored in the future and consideration should be given to the development of a satellite club if demand arises – Carmel School would be the obvious choice. As mentioned above, the Council should seek to obtain a formal community use agreement of pitches at Carmel.</p>

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Locality E		
<p>Rugby (surplus/shortfall) (-6.0)</p>	<p>Issue</p> <p>There is a theoretical undersupply of 6.0 pitches in locality E. Both rugby clubs are located in this area.</p>	<p>Way forward</p> <p>Both Darlington RFC and Darlington Mowden RFC are based in the area. Together they have 22 adult/junior teams and each has 6 mini teams.</p> <p>The reason for the shortfall in pitches is the number of teams fielded by each club. However, although there is a shortfall of pitches, the junior section of the club plays on adult pitches and matches take place on separate days of the week to adults and therefore in reality there are no shortfalls in provision.</p> <p>Consultation did not highlight any issues with regards to the quantity of pitches, however the club did indicate that they could make use of third generation pitches for training.</p> <p>In light of the importance of the clubs, any future development plans should be monitored and encouraged by the Council, in conjunction with the RFU.</p> <p>Mowden Rugby Club is looking to move out to West Park, which is an urban extension. No planning application has yet been made. It is likely that if this move was to go ahead, it would be a like for like replacement. Pitches on the existing rugby club site should be protected and potentially remarked to provide for shortfalls in football. Changing facilities are located on this site which would support a number of pitches.</p>