

**Football to follow.**

The key issues for **Rugby union** and recommendations are:

Number	Recommendations
1	Protect all current rugby union sites and facilities in the Local Plan unless provision is made for new improved quality facilities that are accessible and provided before original facilities are closed
2	Future population demand to 2040 projects a requirement from developer contributions to provide a minimum of The Playing Pitch calculator identifies that population increases between 2023 and 2040 generates match play MES of 1.65 per week and training MES under floodlights 1.86 per week
3	Sport England Playing Pitch Calculator should be used to identify developer contributions from each new housing development in Swale Borough. The Playing Pitch Calculator and PPS should be used to help determine the likely impact of a new development on demand and the capacity of existing sites in the area, and whether there is a need for improvements to increase capacity of existing provision or if new provision is required. Where a development is located within access of existing high-quality provision, this does not necessarily mean that there is no need for further provision or improvement to existing provision, as additional demand arising from the development is likely to result in increased usage (which can result in overplay or quality deterioration)
4	There is a need to develop the Wises Lane rugby facility for use by Sittingbourne Rugby Club with the appropriate community use agreements in place between the club and Swale Borough Council and the club and the school for use of the school pitches. All building and pitch construction should meet Sport England and RFU design and pitch guidance
5	There is a need to support Faversham Rugby Club with its aspirations to provide a new facility in the Faversham sub area providing as a minimum 2 floodlit senior rugby pitches and clubhouse

6	All rugby club sites to undertake a Pitch Power assessment of pitches to identify what improvements need to be undertaken to improve pitch maintenance and pitch quality with a view to increase capacity for match and training match equivalent sessions
7	FA Football Foundation, Rugby Football Union, Swale Borough Council and Sittingbourne Rugby Club to consider working in partnership to provide a joint World Rugby Regulation 22 AGP and 3G AGP for both rugby and football use in the Sittingbourne sub area. This will alleviate the shortfall of weekly training MES currently and in the future

The key issues for **Cricket** and recommendations are:

Number	Recommendations
1	Protect all current cricket sites and facilities in the Local Plan unless provision is made for new improved quality facilities that are accessible and provided before original facilities are closed
2	Future population demand to 2040 projects a requirement from developer contributions to provide a minimum of 3 x 8 wicket squares with non turf pitches and 3 x pavilion provision to meet 128 MES per season
3	Sport England Playing Pitch Calculator should be used to identify developer contributions from each new housing development in Swale Borough. The Playing Pitch Calculator and PPS should be used to help determine the likely impact of a new development on demand and the capacity of existing sites in the area, and whether there is a need for improvements to increase capacity of existing provision or if new provision is required. Where a development is located within access of existing high-quality provision, this does not necessarily mean that there is no need for further provision or improvement to existing provision, as additional demand arising from the development is likely to result in increased usage (which can result in overplay or quality deterioration)
4	Any development of a housing site close to a cricket pitch can raise issues of risk of ball strike from balls leaving the field of play. Indeed, any site within 80 metres of a cricket wicket is at risk from ball strike and ball strike must be considered as part of the planning process. Any mitigation package that a

	ball strike risk assessment advised should be built into the scheme by the developer; and be constructed and maintained in perpetuity at the developer's expense. It is good practice for the requirement for mitigation to be built into any policy for a site in this position
5	Secure long-term leases/licenses for clubs where they can apply for funding to improve facilities and provide security of tenure. The clubs requiring new leases are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rodmersham Cricket Club – club to negotiate with landowner</li> <li>• Borden Cricket Club – club to negotiate with Parish Council</li> </ul>
6	Need to improve the quality of pavilions at the following sites: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Faversham Cricket Club</li> <li>• Davington Priory Cricket Club</li> <li>• Bredgar Cricket Club</li> </ul>

The key issues for **Hockey** and recommendations are:

Number	Recommendations
1	As part of the Local Plan and ongoing planning policy, protect all sites designated as hockey playing fields
2	Westlands AGP and Borden Grammar School AGPs require floodlight replacements to LED
3	England Hockey, Swale Borough Council, Gore Court Hockey Club and Sittingbourne Hockey Club to work in partnership to provide a 3 <sup>rd</sup> Sand Based AGP by 2040 to meet projected demand for hockey. It would be preferable if a 2 x AGPs hub were provided on one site with changing and club house facilities for sustainability reasons

4	If either Westlands School AGP or Borden Grammar School AGP became redundant in the future, due to provision of a 2 x AGP pitch site with changing and club house facilities being provided in conjunction with either Westlands or Borden Grammar School AGP. Discussions should be held with the FA Football Foundation and RFU to identify if either AGP could be reconfigured as a 3G AGP and World Rugby Regulation 22 compliant for at least rugby union training
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