



Swale Borough Council

Playing Pitch Strategy 2024 – 2038

A report by Strategic Leisure Limited

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1. Football and Artificial Grass Pitches

Introduction

- 1.1 This appendix to the Swale Playing Pitch Strategy 2024 details the current picture of facility supply and demand for the playing pitch sport of **football** - at playing field sites in the borough.
- 1.2 The likely future picture of provision is assessed based on potential changes in supply (both committed and planned projects within the borough and its travel catchment), forecast changes in the resident population informed by the targets for new housing in the Borough Council's proposed new local plan, national trends in participation and the development aspirations of the clubs based in the borough.
- 1.3 The policies, development programmes and investment priorities of the national governing body for the sport will also influence the future picture of facility supply and demand for the sport in Swale. These are summarised in a separate appendix.
- 1.4 At Stage A it was agreed to divide Swale into three sub areas, Faversham, Sittingbourne, and Sheppey.

Pitch Supply (Step 2)

- 1.5 For all the playing pitch sports included in the scope of the PPS for Swale, the supply information illustrated in the diagram below has been gathered, as far as possible, by a combination of data collection and review, surveys, and consultations:
- 1.6 *Sources of information* – The sources of information used to establish current pitch supply were:
- Sport England Active Places Power audit for playing pitches.
 - Kent County FA team affiliation data for Swale.
 - Online survey returns from football clubs.
 - Meeting with football club and league representatives
 - Information provided by schools and colleges, including visits to most secondary schools and primary schools.
 - Site visits and inspections – Visits to all the football pitches in Swale and visual, nontechnical inspection.

Football Supply

- 1.7 Findings relating to football pitch supply in Swale are summarised in the paragraphs below and in the table that follows.

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Grass Pitches

- 1.8 In the 2023/24 season, including schools, 44 playing fields were used for secured and unsecured community use in the borough providing a total of 116 marked grass football pitches of which 48 are full size (adult 11v11), 20 sized for youth football (youth 11v11), 19 junior football (junior 9v9) and 29 for mini soccer (7v7- 16, 5v5 - 13). The above is shown in Table 1 below. 36 sites providing 88 (76%) marked natural grass pitches provide secured community use and 8 sites providing 28 (24%) natural grass pitches provide unsecured community natural grass pitches. Clubs and leagues have stated that there are insufficient junior pitches and that the adult game has declined in recent years, whilst the junior and mini soccer game is growing, particularly in the girl's game.

Table 1: Number of sites in Swale Borough 2023/24 Season with marked natural Grass pitches for community use (Secured and Unsecured)

Type	No. of Sites	No. marked pitches 2023/24 Used for community Use					Total (%)
		Full size Adult	Youth 11 v 11	Junior 9 v 9	Mini (7 v 7)	Mini (5 v 5)	
Swale Borough							
Secured Community Use	36 Sites	36	14	14	12	12	88 (76%)
Unsecured Community Use	8 Sites	12	6	5	4	1	28 (24%)
Total	44 Sites	48	20	19	16	13	116 (100%)

- 1.9 The following tables show the three-sub area breakdown of secured and unsecured grass pitches used by football clubs in the 23/24 season.

Table 2: Number of sites in Faversham Sub Area 2023/24 Season with marked natural Grass pitches for community use (Secured and Unsecured)

Type	No. of Sites	No. marked pitches 2023/24 Used for community Use					Total (%)
		Full size Adult	Youth 11 v 11	Junior 9 v 9	Mini (7 v 7)	Mini (5 v 5)	
Faversham Sub Area							
Secured Community Use	8 Sites	8	1	2	0	0	11 (50%)
Unsecured Community Use	3 Sites	3	6	2	0	0	11 (50%)
Total	11 Sites	11	7	4	0	0	22(100%)

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- 1.10 King Georges Playing Field Faversham the adult 11v11 is over marked with blue lines and provides 2 x 7v7 pitches and the 9v9 with blue lines provides a 5v5 pitch. Faversham Town at Salters Lane have reconfigured their adult 11v11 grass pitch to 3G AGP in July 2023.

Table 3: Number of sites in Sittingbourne Sub Area 2023/24 Season with marked natural Grass pitches for community use (Secured and Unsecured)

Type	No. of Sites	No. marked pitches 2023/24 Used for community Use					Total (%)
		Full size Adult	Youth 11 v 11	Junior 9 v 9	Mini (7 v 7)	Mini (5 v 5)	
Sittingbourne Sub Area							
Secured Community Use	14 Sites	17	8	8	7	5	45(74%)
Unsecured Community Use	5 Sites	8	0	3	4	1	16 (26%)
Total	19 Sites	25	8	11	11	6	61 (100%)

- 1.11 Hollywell Meadow provides marked pitches in blue lines over 11v11.

Table 4: Number of sites in Sheppey Sub Area 2023/24 Season with marked natural Grass pitches for community use (Secured and Unsecured).

Type	No. of Sites	No. marked pitches 2023/24 Used for community Use					Total (%)
		Full size Adult	Youth 11 v 11	Junior 9 v 9	Mini (7 v 7)	Mini (5 v 5)	
Sheppey Sub Area							
Secured Community Use	13 sites	11	5	4	5	7	32 (97%)
Unsecured Community Use	1 Site	1	0	0	0	0	1 (3%)
Total	14 Sites	12	5	4	5	7	33 (100%)

Secured Community use pitches.

- 1.12 79.5% of the playing field sites Borough wide provide secured access to community clubs (i.e., owned or leased by local authorities or clubs/associations). Adjacent to the 3G AGP pitch at Salters Lane is a 9v9 junior grass pitch, but this may have restricted use due to match play on the 3G AGP.

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Pitches on Education sites Unsecured Use

- 1.13 20.5% of the playing fields and 24% of the total supply of football pitches are at education sites where there is no secured community use agreement in place.

Table 5: Sites providing secured and unsecured natural grass pitches by typology across Swale Borough 2023/24 season.

Site Name	Community use on site	Security of use	Sub Area	Owners	Adult	Youth Football		Mini Soccer	
					11v11	11v11	9v9	7v7	5v5
Bull Lane Recreation Ground	Available	Secured	Faversham	Parish Council	1	0	0	0	0
Faversham Recreation Ground	Available	Secured	Faversham	Swale BC	2	0	1	0	0
Frognaill Lane Teynham	Available	Secured	Faversham	Parish Council – Leased to Sports Association lease expires 2024	1	0	0	0	0
ISP Teymham	Available	Unsecured	Faversham	Education /Foster Care	0	1	0	0	0
Herne Hill Recreation Ground	Available	Secured	Faversham	Dawes Association	1	1	0	0	0
King Georges Playing Fields (Pitches over marked 11v11 (2 x 7v7) 9v9 (5v5)	Available	Secured	Faversham	Swale BC Leased to Faversham Strike Force	1	0	1	0	0
Norton Sports Club	Available	Secured	Faversham	Sports club	1	0	0	0	0
Queen Elizabeth Grammar School	Available	Unsecured	Faversham	Education	1	3	1	0	0
Salter Lane (Faversham FC) 1 adult Grass Pitch reconfigured as 3G AGP July 2023	Available	Secured	Faversham	Swale BC leased to club	0	0	0	0	0
Sharsted Playing Field	Available	Secured	Faversham	Sports Club	1	0	0	0	0
The Abbey School	Available	Unsecured	Faversham	Education	2	2	1	1	0
Borden Grammar School Playing Fields	Available	Unsecured	Sittingbourne	Education	2	0	0	0	0
Central Park Stadium	Available	Secured	Sittingbourne	Swale BC	2	0	0	0	0
Chapel Meadow	Available	Secured	Sittingbourne	Parish Council Leased to cricket club	0	3	0	0	0
Fulston Manor School	Available	Unsecured	Sittingbourne	Education	2	0	1	1	0
Hollywell Meadow (Pitches over marked in blue)	Available	Secured	Sittingbourne	Leased to Cricket Club	2	2	0	0	0
Kemsley Recreation Ground	Available	Secured	Sittingbourne	Swale BC	1	0	0	1	0
King Georges Playing Field	Available	Secured	Sittingbourne	Swale BC	2	0	0	0	0

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Site Name	Community use on site	Security of use	Sub Area	Owners	Adult	Youth Football		Mini Soccer	
					11v11	11v11	9v9	7v7	5v5
Milton Recreation Ground	Available	Secured	Sittingbourne	Swale BC	1	0	1	0	0
Murston Recreation Ground (Woodcombe Sports & Social Club)	Available	Secured	Sittingbourne	Swale BC Leased to Sports Club	1	1	2	1	3
Newington Recreation Ground	Available	Secured	Sittingbourne	Parish Council	1	1	0	0	0
Rectory Playing Field	Available	Secured	Sittingbourne	Swale BC	0	0	1	0	0
Rodmersham Cricket Club	Available	Secured	Sittingbourne	Sports Club	0	0	1	2	2
Hérons Park – School Lane Playing Field	Available	Secured	Sittingbourne	Leased to Herons FC by Swale BC	0	0	1	1	1
Sittingbourne School	Available	Unsecured	Sittingbourne	Education	3	0	1	1	0
Sittingbourne Recreation Ground	Available	Secured	Sittingbourne	Swale BC	1	0	0	1	0
The Appleyard	Available	Secured	Sittingbourne	Commercial	3	0	2	1	0
The Playstool	Available	Secured	Sittingbourne	Parish Council	1	0	0	0	0
Westlands Primary School	Available	Unsecured	Sittingbourne	Education	1	0	0	1	0
Woodstock Park/ Roman Stadium Sittingbourne FC	Available	Secured	Sittingbourne	Sports Club	2	1	1	1	0
Festival Playing Field	Available	Secured	Sheppey	Swale BC	0	1	0	1	1
Holm Park	Available	Secured	Sheppey	Sports Club	1	0	1	0	1
King Georges Playing Field	Available	Secured	Sheppey	Swale BC	1	0	0	0	0
Leysdown Coastal Park	Available	Secured	Sheppey	Leased to club by Swale Borough	1	0	0	0	0
Oasis Academy	Available	Unsecured	Sheppey	Education	1	0	0	0	0
Range Road Football Ground	Available	Secured	Sheppey	Sports Club	1	0	0	1	0
Seager Road Sports Ground	Available	Secured	Sheppey	Leased to Sports club by Swale Borough	1	1	0	0	0
Sheerness East Working Men's Club	Available	Secured	Sheppey	Sports Club	1	1	1	0	0
Sheppey Rugby Club	Available	Secured	Sheppey	Sports Club	1	0	0	0	0
Sheppey Sports Club	Available	Secured	Sheppey	Sports Club	1	0	1	2	2
Shurlands Meadows (East Church CC)	Available	Secured	Sheppey	Sports Club	0	0	1	1	3

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Site Name	Community use on site	Security of use	Sub Area	Owners	Adult	Youth Football		Mini Soccer	
					11v11	11v11	9v9	7v7	5v5
Co-op Sports Club	Available	Secured	Sheppey	Sports Club	1	1	0	0	0
St Georges Church of England Primary School	Available	Unsecured	Sheppey	Sports Club	1	1	0	0	0
Thistle Hill	Available	Secured	Sheppey	Swale BC	1	0	0	0	0
Totals					48	20	19	16	13

1.14 Table 6 below identifies 14 sites where football pitches are unavailable for community use.

Table 6: Identified sites that are unavailable for use.

Site Name	Community use on site	Security of use	Sub Area	Owners	Adult	Youth Football		Mini Soccer	
					11v11	11v11	9v9	7v7	5v5
Bysing Wood Primary School	Unavailable	Unsecured	Faversham	Education	0	0	0	2	0
Courtney Road Dunkirk	Unavailable	Unsecured	Faversham	Education	0	0	0	0	1
Davington Primary School	Unavailable	Unsecured	Faversham	Education	0	2	0	0	0
Eastling Primary Junior School	Unavailable	Unsecured	Faversham	Education	0	1	0	0	0
Hernhill C of E Primary School	Unavailable	Unsecured	Faversham	Education	0	0	0	0	1
Lynsted and Norton Primary School	Unavailable	Unsecured	Faversham	Education	0	0	0	1	0
Nortons Park Cricket Club	Unavailable	Secured	Faversham	Sports Club	1	0	0	0	0
Ospringle C of E Primary School	Unavailable	Unsecured	Faversham	Education	0	1	0	0	0
Sheldwich Primary School	Unavailable	Unsecured	Faversham	Education	0	0	0	1	0
Teynham Parochial C of E School	Unavailable	Unsecured	Faversham	Education	0	0	0	1	0
Infiniti School Doddington	Unavailable	Unsecured	Sittingbourne	Education	0	0	0	1	0
Iwade School	Unavailable	Unsecured	Sittingbourne	Education	0	0	0	2	0
Lower Halstow School	Unavailable	Unsecured	Sittingbourne	Education	0	1	0	0	0
Newington CEP School	Unavailable	Unsecured	Sittingbourne	Education	0	0	0	2	0

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Site Name	Community use on site	Security of use	Sub Area	Owners	Adult	Youth Football		Mini Soccer	
					11v11	11v11	9v9	7v7	5v5
Grove Park Primary School	Unavailable	Unsecured	Sittingbourne	Education	0	1	0	0	0
Highsted Grammar School	Unavailable	Unsecured	Sittingbourne	Education	0	2	0	0	0
Regis Manor Primary School	Unavailable	Unsecured	Sittingbourne	Education	0	0	0	1	0
St Peters Catholic Primary School	Unavailable	Unsecured	Sittingbourne	Education	0	0	0	1	0
Westlands School	Unavailable	Unsecured	Sittingbourne	Education	2	0	0	0	0
Lynstead and Norton Primary School	Unavailable	Unsecured	Sittingbourne	Education	0	0	0	1	0
South Avenue Infants School	Unavailable	Unsecured	Sittingbourne	Education	0	1	0	0	0
HMP Swaleside	Unavailable	Unsecured	Sheppey	Prison Service	1	0	0	0	0
Oasis Academy West	Unavailable	Unsecured	Sheppey	Education	1	1	0	0	0
Rose Street Primary School	Unavailable	Unsecured	Sheppey	Education	0	0	0	1	0
Halfway Houses Primary School	Unavailable	Unsecured	Sheppey	Education	0	0	0	1	0
Totals					5	10	0	15	2

Other grass pitch supply used for informal play and training/coaching.

1.15 In addition to playing fields with marked pitches and goalposts for formal games, there are areas of maintained grass in parks, recreation grounds and other public open spaces throughout the borough that are available and free to access for informal, kick about games. Several football clubs use these spaces for team training at weekends and during light evenings in early and late season as a free alternative to paying for training slots on artificial pitches.

Quality of Grass Pitches

1.16 Quality of pitches in Swale borough has been measured through a variety of means, specifically:

- Site assessments using the non-technical data sheet provided by the Football Association. The Pitch Power Reports for the area have not been used.
- Consultation with pitch users and leagues.

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1.17 Improving the quality of selected standard pitches to good or poor pitches to standard would provide additional playing capacity in the peak weekend periods and provide capacity for training. The quality of the grass football pitches in the borough supply is mixed. Clubs and leagues have stated that the pitches maintained by the Local authority are of poor quality.

1.18 Good quality pitches were found mainly at club sites:

- Faversham FC – Salters Lane
- Hollywell Meadow
- Rodmersham Cricket Club

1.19 Football pitch sites rated poor quality are shown below. The current weekly demand balanced play/ Overplay in match equivalent sessions (MES) is also shown with quality improvement to good showing improved demand capacity if the quality of poor pitches was raised to good. Pitches at peak t

Table 7: Football Pitch Sites Rated Poor Quality.

Faversham Sub Area	Security of Site	Quality Pitches - Poor	Pitch No.	Pitch Type	Current Weekly Demand Balance Balanced Play (Orange)/Over Play (Red) /Underplay (Green)	Demand Balance Created by improving Quality to Good Overplay (Red) / Underplay (Green)
Bull Lane Recreation Ground	Secured	Poor	1	Adult 11v11	Balanced Play	2
Faversham Recreation Ground	Secured	Poor	2	Adult 11v11	Balanced Play	4
Faversham Recreation Ground	Secured	Poor	1	Junior 9v9	1	3
Frognall Lane - Teynham	Secured	Poor	1	Adult 11v11	1	3
ISP Teynham	Unsecured	Poor	1	Youth 11v11	1	1
Herne Hill Recreation Ground	Secured	Poor	1	Adult 11v11	3	1
Herne hill Recreation Ground	Secured	Poor	1	Youth 11v11	0.5	1.5
King Georges Playing Field Faversham	Secured	Poor	1	Adult 11v11	4	2
King Georges Playing Field Faversham	Secured	Poor	1	Junior 9v9	5.5	3.5
Queen Elizabeth Grammar School	Unsecured	Poor	1	Adult 11v11	1	1
Queen Elizabeth Grammar School	Unsecured	Poor	3	Youth 11v11	1	7
Sharsted Playing Field	Secured	Poor	1	Adult 11v11	Balanced Play	2

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Playing Pitch Strategy

Faversham Sub Area	Security of Site	Quality Pitches - Poor	Pitch No.	Pitch Type	Current Weekly Demand Balance Balanced Play (Orange)/Over Play (Red) /Underplay (Green)	Demand Balance Created by improving Quality to Good Overplay (Red) / Underplay (Green)
The Abbey School	Unsecured	Poor	2	Adult 11v11	0.5	3.5
The Abbey School	Unsecured	Poor	2	Youth 11v11	3.5	0.5
The Abbey School	Unsecured	Poor	1	Junior 9v9	1	1
Totals			20		17	29

Sittingbourne Sub Area	Security of Site	Quality Pitches - Poor	Pitch No.	Pitch Type	Current Weekly Demand Balance Balanced Play (Orange)/Over Play (Red) /Underplay (Green)	Demand Balance Created by improving Quality to Good Overplay (Red) / Underplay (Green)
Chapel Meadow	Secured	Poor	3	Youth 11v11	1.5	7.5
King Georges Playing Field	Secured	Poor	2	Adult 11v11	2	6
Kemsley Recreation Ground	Secured	Poor	1	Adult 11v11	Balanced Play	2
Kemsley Recreation Ground	Secured	Poor	1	Mini 7v7	2	4
Milton Recreation Ground	Secured	Poor	1	Junior 9v9	1	3
Murston Recreation Ground	Secured	Poor	1	Adult 11v11	1	1
Murston Recreation Ground	Secured	Poor	1	Youth 11v11	2	Balanced Play
Murston Recreation Ground	Secured	Poor	1	Junior 9v9	Balanced Play	4
Murston Recreation Ground	Secured	Poor	1	Mini 7v7	0.5	2.5
Newington Recreation Ground	Secured	Poor	1	Adult 11v11	Balanced Play	2
Newington Recreation Ground	Secured	Poor	1	Youth 11v11	1	3
Rectory Road Recreation Ground	Secured	Poor	1	Junior 9v9	1	3
Sittingbourne Recreation Ground	Secured	Poor	1	Mini 7v7	2	4
The Appleyard	Secured	Poor	3	Adult 11v11	3.5	0.5

Swale Borough Council Playing Pitch Strategy

Sittingbourne Sub Area	Security of Site	Quality Pitches - Poor	Pitch No.	Pitch Type	Current Weekly Demand Balance Balanced Play (Orange)/Over Play (Red) /Underplay (Green)	Demand Balance Created by improving Quality to Good Overplay (Red) / Underplay (Green)
The Appleyard	Secured	Poor	2	Junior 9v9	0.5	3.5
The Appleyard	Secured	Poor	1	Mini Soccer 7v7	2	Balanced Play
The Playstool	Secured	Poor	1	Adult 11v11	Balanced Play	2
Totals			23		2	47

Sheppey Sub Area	Security of Site	Quality Pitches - Poor	Pitch No.	Pitch Type	Current Weekly Demand Balance Balanced Play (Orange)/Over Play (Red) /Underplay (Green)	Demand Balance Created by improving Quality to Good Overplay (Red) / Underplay (Green)
Festival Park	Secured	Poor	1	Youth 11v11	3	1
Leysdown Coastal Park	Secured	Poor	1	Adult 11v11	0.5	1.5
Range Road	Secured	Poor	1	Adult 11v11	Balanced Play	2
Seager Road Sports Ground	Secured	Poor	1	Adult 11v11	0.5	1.5
Seager Road Sports Ground	Secured	Poor	1	Youth 11v11	1	1
The Co-Op Sports Club	Secured	Poor	1	Adult 11v11	1	3
St Georges Church of England Primary School	Secured	Poor	1	Adult 11v11	0.5	1.5
St Georges Church of England Primary School	Secured	Poor	1	Youth 11v11	1	3
Totals			8		3.5	12.5

1.20 Most Local authority sites have poor quality rated pitches. Secondary schools commented that drainage of their facilities is poor.

Quality of Ancillary Facilities

1.21 The quality of the ancillary facilities (i.e., changing, social and parking) at sites with playing pitches is also mixed.

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1.22 Good quality changing rooms have been identified at the following sites:

- Hollywell Meadow
- Faversham Recreation Ground
- Herons Park – School Lane Iwade
- Holm Park

1.23 Eight sites have been identified with no changing provision and 13 sites have been identified with poor changing provision.

1.24 The quality for pitches and ancillary facilities can be found in table 8 below.

Table 8: Quality of Grass pitches and ancillary facilities by site and sub area

Faversham Sub Area	Security of Site	Quality Pitches Good /Standard/ Poor	Quality Ancillary Facilities - Good /Standard/ Poor
Bull Lane Recreation Ground	Secured	Poor	Poor – needs rebuilding
Faversham Recreation Ground	Secured	Poor	Good
Frognall Lane - Teynham	Secured	Poor	Poor – needs rebuilding
ISP Teynham	Unsecured	Poor	None
Herne Hill Recreation Ground	Secured	Poor	Standard
King Georges Playing Field Faversham	Secured	Poor	Standard
Norton Sports Club	Secured	Standard	Standard
Queen Elizabeth Grammar School	Unsecured	Poor	Poor – needs rebuilding
Salters Lane (Faversham Town FC)	Secured	Good	Good – Recent Football Foundation funding
Sharsted Playing Field	Secured	Poor	Standard
The Abbey School	Unsecured	Poor grass pitches 3G will need carpet replacement soon	Standard
Sittingbourne Sub Area	Security of Site	Quality Pitches Good /Standard/ Poor	Quality Ancillary Facilities - Good /Standard/ Poor
Central Park Stadium	Secured	Standard	Poor
Chapel Meadow	Secured	Poor	Poor
Fulston Manor School	Unsecured	Standard	Standard

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Sittingbourne Sub Area	Security of Site	Quality Pitches Good /Standard/ Poor	Quality Ancillary Facilities - Good /Standard/ Poor
Hollywell Meadow	Secured	! Adult good remainder standard	Good
Kemsley Recreation Ground	Secured	Poor	None
King Georges Playing Field	Secured	Poor	Poor
Milton Recreation Ground	Secured	Poor	Poor
Murston Recreation Ground	Secured	Poor	Poor
Newington Recreation Ground	Secured	Poor	Poor
Rectory Playing Field	Secured	Poor	None
Rodmersham Cricket Club	Secured	Good	Standard
Hérons Park - School Lane Playing Field	Secured	Standard	Good
Sittingbourne School	Unsecured	Standard	Standard
Sittingbourne Recreation Ground	Secured	Poor	None
The Appleyard	Secured	Poor	Standard
The Playstool	Secured	Poor	Poor
Borden Grammar School Sports Field	Unsecured	Poor	None
Westlands Primary School	Unsecured	Poor	Standard
Woodstock Park Jarman Stadium - Sittingbourne FC	Secured	Standard	Standard

Sheppey Sub Area	Security of Site	Quality Pitches Good /Standard/ Poor	Quality Ancillary Facilities - Good /Standard/ Poor
Festival Park	Secured	Poor	Poor
Holm Park 1 3G floodlit, 1 Youth11v11/adult 11v11	Secured	3 G good remainder standard	Good
King Georges Playing Field	Secured	Poor	None
Leysdown Coastal Park	Secured	Poor	Standard
Oasis Academy (3G) and adult grass	Unsecured	Standard	Standard
Range Road Football Ground	Secured	Poor	Poor
Seager Road Sports Ground	Secured	Poor	Poor

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Sheppey Sub Area	Security of Site	Quality Pitches Good /Standard/ Poor	Quality Ancillary Facilities - Good /Standard/ Poor
Sheerness East Workings Men's Club	Secured	Standard	Standard
Sheppey Rugby Club	Secured	Standard	Standard
Sheppey Sports Club	Secured	Standard	Standard
Shurlands Meadow (East church CC)	Secured	Standard	Standard
Co-op Sports Club	Secured	Poor	Standard
St Georges Church of England Primary School	Unsecured	Poor	None
Thistle Hill	Secured	Poor	None

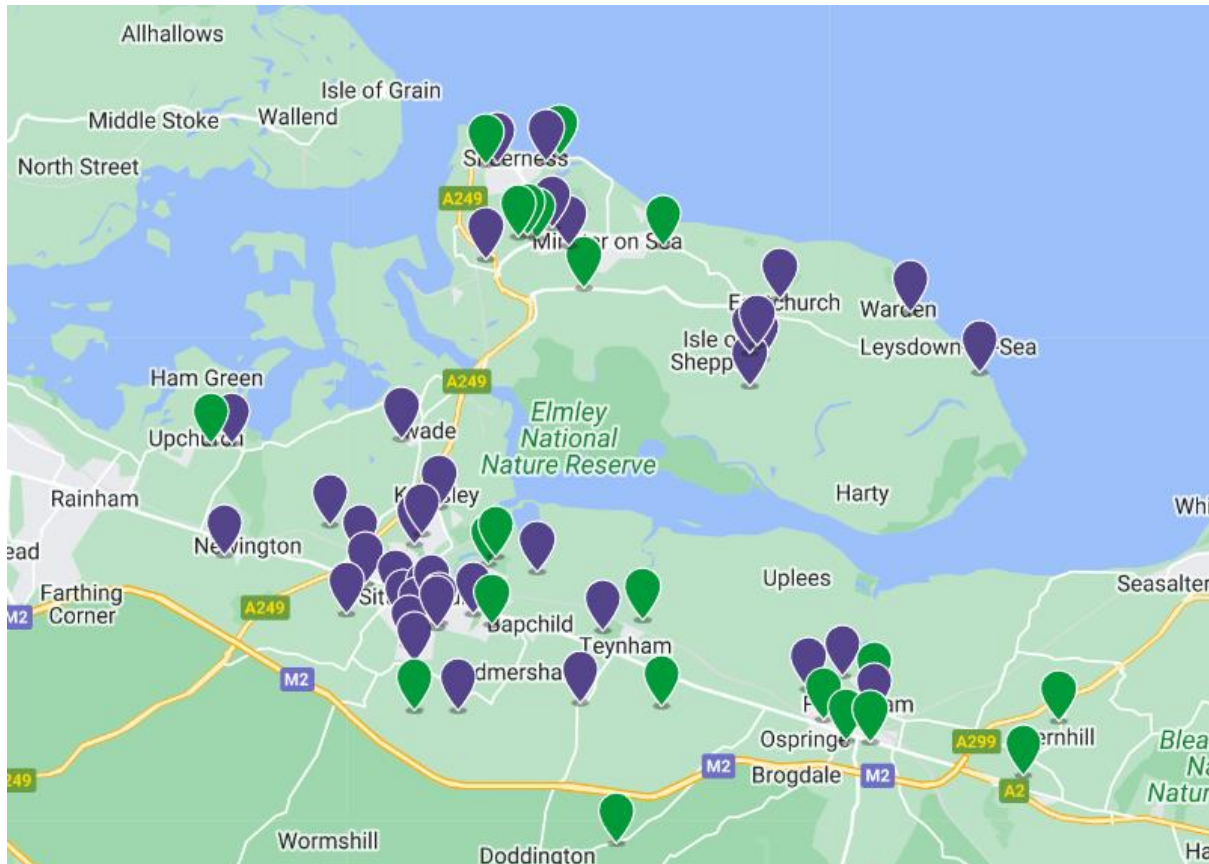
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Playing Pitch Strategy

Distribution of Pitches

1.25 The map below shows that grass football pitches are generally quite evenly distributed throughout the borough aside from in the most northern parts and rural areas.

Map 1: Distribution of Pitches ¹



Key	
Site	
FF funded site	

¹ Source: Football Foundation Pitch Finder – January 2023

Proposed Supply Changes the developments and several active planning applications.

1.26 There are several planning applications that have been agreed with Section 106 funding attached and several planning applications awaiting a decision.

Table 9: Proposed Supply Changes

Planning Reference	Site & Sub Area	Comment
15/504264/OUT	Perry Court – Faversham	Provides for a playing pitch football and additional shared car park facilities. No changing provision so unlikely to contribute to affiliated football demand.
18/502190/EIHYB	Kemsley Recreation Ground & Milton Recreation Ground – Sittingbourne	a formal sports contribution of £711,600 (or £593 per dwelling) has been agreed, and this will be spent on improving provision locally in general accordance with the Council's Playing Pitch Strategy, which identifies the need for proposed basic facilities and some pitch improvements to increase capacity at Kemsley Recreation Ground and pitch improvements at Milton Recreation Ground
14/501588/OUT	Stones Farm, Sittingbourne – Sittingbourne	Formal sports contribution of £160,000 towards enhancement of sports pitches and related facilities in the general area.
21/503914/EIOUT	Land South & East of Sittingbourne - Sittingbourne	Undecided. 8,000 new homes. Sittingbourne FC and new sports hub.
18/503697/FULL	Land East of Station Road Teynham - Faversham	£76,000 for sports.
16/507689/OUT	Orchard View Teynham – Faversham	Illustrative master plan identifies 3.72ha of sports field. 3 senior football pitches, cricket square, changing pavilion and car park.
16/508602/OUT & 21/500766/OUT	Preston Park Faversham – Faversham	(S106 still subject to contract) seeks combined 320 dwellings at £593 per dwelling - £189,760 toward formal sport in Faversham including Love Lane facilities.
SW/14/0045/OUT	Graveney Road and Lady Dane Farm Love Lane - Faversham	Faversham Cricket Club now not moving to site. Considering other uses – football is being promoted, S106 contribution toward facilities £62,000 plus proposes a further contribution from additional, development.
	HMP Emley	1 AGP to be built on new prison block replaced with a MUGA and 7v7 pitch – Sport England objecting.
No application yet	Duchy of Cornwall – Faversham	Development considering 2500 new homes. No application yet. Proposal to relocate Faversham Cricket Club and Faversham Football Club expanded.
23/500536/FULL	Faversham Town Football club	Development of a 3G AGP to replace natural grass pitch Approved subject to conditions and a community use agreement.

Football Supply Aspirations

1.27 Consultation with clubs identified the following:

- Faversham Strike Force has identified the need to improve the pitches at the different sites that the club currently use such as Faversham Recreation Ground; King George Playing Fields, Faversham; Bull Lane Recreation Ground; Queen Elizabeth's Grammar School and The Abbey School. The club has identified a need for a Stadia Step 6 3G AGP in Faversham to service the Step clubs such as Faversham Strike Force and Faversham Town FC. The club are interested in having discussions to secure the Section 106 land originally to be used for cricket at Love Lane for football. The club has insufficient access to pitches and has a waiting list for club members and has plans to increase team numbers.
- The small 3G AGP at King Georges Faversham will require a new carpet soon and the pitches need improvements.
- Faversham Recreation Ground. Pitch improvements at this site would complement the improved changing facilities provided from Heritage Lottery Funding.
- There are discussions taking place with the Abbey School to increase pitch provision. The 3G AGP carpet is heavily used and will need replacing soon.
- Sittingbourne FC are in discussions with developers to relocate and have access to 3G pitch provision, new grass pitches and clubhouse as part of a wider sports hub at Highsted Garden Village. A planning application has been submitted but no decision has been made. Sittingbourne FC youth and women and girls must use alternative sites such as the Appleyard and ISP Teynham.
- Herons FC currently use 2 sites School Lane Iwade for the younger teams and youth teams at Kemsley Recreation Ground.
- Bredhurst Juniors have Central Park stadium as there base although 3 adult teams are exported to Medway for match play on a Sunday, the Club also use Newington Recreation Ground and Chapel Meadow for some junior and mini games.
- Range Rovers FC want to improve the pitches and changing facilities at Seager Road.
- Several sites have suffered vandalism in the past e.g., Leysdown Coastal Park and Festival Playing Field has had issues with travellers in the past.
- Clubs have identified several sites in the Sittingbourne area that require pitch improvements these are King Georges Playing Fields, Kemsley Recreation Ground, Murston Recreation Ground, Milton Recreation Ground, Rectory Playing Fields, Sittingbourne Recreation Ground

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- All youth football clubs are restricted in developing due to access to pitches and the quality of the pitches. There has been a decline in the men's adult game, and this has shown in this study when considering the 21/22 season and the current 23/24 season.
- Havill Sheppey Sunday League have said that they have struggled to have access to adult pitches and that is why they have an agreement with Sheppey Rugby Club for 1 pitch but have not used this in the 2023/24 season. They use the 3G pitch at Oasis Academy in Sheppey.
- New Road FC at Festival Playing Fields wish to develop and improve their pitches and changing accommodation. New Road FC have not yet completed taking on the lease from Swale BC at Festival Road.
- Sheerness East Youth has stated that they would like new pitch(es), new / improved drainage, clubhouse renovation/improvement, renovation/improvement. Would be ideal if they could use the playing field of the old Halfway School Site in Southdown Road which is directly next to the club and had a covenant that should be used for playing purposes.
- Beechwood 76 has moved to Sittingbourne School from Frognal Playing Field in the 2023/24 season. The club is in limbo because the Frognall where they have always played is now owned by Trenport Investments Limited. The changing rooms at Frognall have fallen into disrepair/unsafe.

Pitch Demand (Step 3)

1.28 For all four major playing pitch sports included in the PPS scope, the following pitch demand information, has been gathered, as available, by a combination of data collection and review, surveys, and consultations:

Sources of information – The sources of information used to establish current football pitch demand were:

- Online survey returns and meetings with 21 clubs confirming patterns of use and any unmet demand. 21 clubs out of 35 clubs (48% of those based in the borough) contributed representing 192 teams (77% of all teams).
- Kent County FA affiliated club/team datasheets 2023/24 for Swale borough plus club and league websites.

Football Demand

1.29 Findings relating to football pitch demand in Swale are summarised below.

Clubs and Teams

1.30 In the 2023/24 season, the Kent County FA had 70 affiliated football clubs listed as based in Swale Borough. Between them, these clubs had a total of 345 registered teams.

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Playing Pitch Strategy

1.31 Demand from the 70 clubs for league football in the borough is characterised by the table below and is shown in full for each club and team in Appendix 1:

Table 10: Club demand

Men's	Ladies	Boys						Girls						Mini Soccer			Walking Football 6v6	Disability Adult 6v6	Disability Junior 6v6	Wheelchair Football	SEND	Total Teams
		U16	U15	U14	U13	U12 9v9	U11 9v9	U16	U15	U14	U13	U12 9v9	U11 9v9	7 V 7	5 V 5							
80	5	11	12	18	21	25	20	3	1	3	1	6	2	66	63	337	1	3	2	1	1	345

- 4 'Step' clubs with their origins in Swale borough that compete in the National League System:
 - Faversham Strike Force Saturday – Step 6.
 - Faversham Town FC – Step 5
 - Sheppey United Firsts – Step 4
 - Sittingbourne FC Firsts – Step 4
- Swale borough affiliated football clubs:
 - 76 other open aged teams aged 17+.
 - 5 women's teams
 - 62 youth boy's football teams 11v11
 - 45 junior 9v9 boy's teams
 - 8 youth 11v11 girls' teams
 - 8 9v9 girl's teams
 - 66 7v7 mini soccer teams.
 - 63 5v5 mini soccer teams
 - 7 disability teams
 - 1 walking football team

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Playing Pitch Strategy

- 3 Adult 11v11 imported teams - Len Valley, Rochester City and Rainham Vets.
- Imported teams to Disability Central Venue Abbey School

Youth Football Clubs

- 1.32 The table below identifies the youth football clubs with 5 or more youth teams registered with Kent County FA play their home fixtures on grass or 3G football turf pitches in Swale borough.

Table 11: Youth Football Clubs with 5 or More Youth Football Teams Swale Borough

Club		
Dawes Hernhill Herons	Park Regis Juniors	New Road FC
Faversham Strike Force	Sittingbourne Youth	Range Rovers
Faversham Town Youth	Upchurch colts	Sheerness East Youth
Milton And Fulston Utd	Upchurch Colts	Bredhurst United Juniors
Sittingbourne Ladies	AFC Minster	
Iwade Herons	Sheppey United Youth	

Women and Girls

- 1.33 Demand growth for football is greatest in women and girls' football as more of the youth football clubs start to establish girls' teams or expand the number of girls' teams as more girls move up the age groups from mixed mini soccer.
- 1.34 Exit routes within the borough from girls to women's football are also beginning to become better established.
- 1.35 Weetabix Wildcats sessions are provided by Faversham Town and Faversham Strike Force FC in the Faversham Sub Area, and Woodcoombe Sports and Social and ISP Teynham in the Sittingbourne Sub Area.

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1.36 The following women's and girls' league teams played in the borough in the 2023/24 season:

- **Women's Teams**
 - Faversham Strike Force Ladies
 - Sittingbourne Ladies x 2 teams
 - Woodcombe Sports and Social Ladies
 - Sheppey United Ladies

- **Girl's Teams**
 - AFC Minster
 - Faversham Strike Force
 - Leo's Lionesses
 - Londo City Lionesses
 - Sittingbourne Ladies
 - Milton and Fulston
 - Faversham Town Youth
 - Woodcombe Youth

Kent Disability Football League

1.37 The 2023/24 football season both junior and adult events took place once a month at the Abbey School 3G AGP. There are 6 adult divisions with 35 teams and 3 junior age group divisions with 21 teams. In addition to the above Faversham Town FC manages teams that play in the Kent disability football League and Faversham Strike Force FC have a SEND football coaching session once a week.

Displaced Demand

1.38 No identified displaced demand. There are 3 Bredhurst Junior adult 11v11 teams playing at pitch sites in Medway.

Imported Demand

1.39 There are three teams that are imported teams from surrounding local authorities. These are Rainham 84 Vets, Rochester City both Saturday afternoon teams playing at the Central stadium in Sittingbourne and Len Valley playing at The Abbey School Saturday afternoons.

Unmet demand

1.40 Several of the larger, more successful community football clubs playing in the borough have indicated they have identified unmet demand for growth and plan to establish additional teams over the next three seasons.

- Faversham Strike Force have a waiting list but cannot cater for more teams without the use of additional playing pitches.
- Faversham Town FC 1 adult men's, 1 adult women's, 1 youth boy's 11v11, 1 junior boy's 9v9, 2 youth girls 11v11 and 2 junior girls 9v9
- Gillingham Town FC 1 adult men's, 1 adult women's, 1 youth boy's 11v11, 1 junior boy's 9v9, 1 mini 7v7 and 1 mini 5v5
- Mile Town FC 1 adult men's, 1 adult women's, 2 youth boy's 11v11, 1 junior boy's 9v9, 1 mini 7v7 and 1 mini 5v5
- Sheerness East Youth FC 2 junior boys 9v9, 1 7v7 and 1 5v5
- Sheppey United 2 adult teams
- Borden Village FC 1 adult men's, 2 junior boy's 9v9 and 2 mini 7v7

1.41 Excluding Faversham Strike Force FC, the number of new teams based on club's aspirations over the next three seasons equates to:

- Adult 11v11 men = 6 teams
- Adult 11v11 women = 3 teams
- Youth Boy's 11v11 = 4 teams
- Junior Boy's 9v9 = 7 teams
- Junior Girl's 9v9 = 2 teams
- Mini Soccer 7v7 = 4 teams
- Mini Soccer 5v5 = 3 teams

1.42 The above equates to the following additional MES and pitches required at peak time of play for matches only. There is a MES requirement for training times if on grass or 3G AGP. This is considered under 3G AGPs.

- Adult 11v11 men = 6 teams = 3 MES
- Adult 11v11 women = 3 teams = 1.5 MES
- Youth Boy's 11v11 = 4 teams = 2 MES
- Junior Boy's 9v9 = 7 teams = 3.5 MES
- Junior Girl's 9v9 = 2 teams = 1 MES
- Mini Soccer 7v7 = 4 teams = 2 MES
- Mini Soccer 5v5 = 3 teams = 1.5 MES

Latent demand

- 1.43 Further expansion of recent initiatives such as veterans' leagues (encouraging over 35s to continue to play or to return to the game), 'Just Play' organised kickabouts, walking football are opportunities to use football as a tool to address this need. Kent FA will be targeting veterans football in the new Kent FA strategy 2024 – 2028. So, there is expected to be an increase in participation within this typology.
- 1.44 The low current base of expressed demand for girls and women's football (i.e., in terms of the number of girls and women's teams in comparison to boys and men teams) is clear evidence of high levels of latent demand for more female participation in the game. Realising much more of this latent demand among women and girls is a key target of the FA Strategy. Wildcats is designed to inspire girls aged 5-11 to be involved in the sport. SSE Wildcats Girls' Football Clubs will provide girls with regular opportunities to play football and take part in organised sessions in a fun and engaging environment created exclusively for girls. Kent FA has stated that the increase in demand for women's' and girls' football is already being seen and is likely to continue.
- 1.45 The football clubs in Swale have stated that the demand for girl's football is clearly growing and the need for improved changing provision and appropriate pitches need to be provided to meet this demand. This will lead to an increase in women's football as more teams are likely to be created as current junior girls are retained and adult teams and competition structures are developed (both formal and informal). Kent FA are leading the country in W&Gs football and will be working with schools through County Connects which will see a rise in demand for more clubs and playing opportunities

Future Playing Pitch (Football) Demand – Population Growth

- 1.46 As well as growth through latent demand, there will be growth through population demands.
- 1.47 Swale Borough Council are currently in the process of updating and providing a new local plan that will go to 2040.
- 1.48 The position on housing numbers is for the period 1st April 2022 to 31st March 2040 i.e., 18 years (1078 p.a.) is the need for 19,404. About 8,000 dwellings are already accounted for through allocations in the current local plan, bearing fruits and other planning permissions. This leaves a total of 11,404 new dwellings to be allocated.
- 1.49 A total of 11,404 homes with an average household size of 2.3 persons provides a new resident population of 26,299. The Sport England Playing Pitch Calculator Tool identifies the need and cost for football facilities across Swale up to 2040.
- 1.50 The Playing Pitch Calculator uses figures based on Team Generation Rates and applies the current rates forward to the new population. The TGRs are based on overall existing team numbers, but growth has recently accelerated and is expected to continue at the new rate, so these team generation rates will require an annual update to capture the changing Team Generation Rates moving forward.

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Playing Pitch Strategy

- 1.51 The table below identifies the number of football pitches required to meet population increase from new developments by 2040 across Swale. The Playing Pitch Calculator identifies that developer's contributions capital costs towards football between 2023 and 2040 should be £4,259,106 with lifecycle costs per annum of £514,462 and changing room costs of £6,488,094.

Table 12: Sport England Playing Pitch Calculator – Population Increase 2023 – 2040. Estimated demand and costs for new pitches (matches and training demand) and ancillary provision

	Number of pitches required to meet the estimated demand	Capital Cost	Lifecycle Cost (per annum)	Changing rooms (number)	Changing rooms (capital cost)
Total					
Natural Grass Pitches	29.78	£4,259,106	£514,462	29.00	£6,488,094
Adult Football	28.29	£2,324,279	£463,545	26.02	£5,821,936
Youth Football	7.14	£895,542	£176,422	14.28	£3,195,456
Mini Soccer	10.32	£1,058,345	£213,786	11.74	£2,626,480
3G AGP	1.49	£1,934,827	£50,916	2.98	£666,157

- 1.52 Table 13 identifies from the Playing Pitch Calculator Tool the MES generated from the new population per week for each football typology:

Table 13: Sport England Playing Pitch Calculator – Population Increase 2023 – 2040. Football MES per week.

Age Group	MES per Week New Population
Men 11v11 (16-45yrs)	6.72
Women 11v11 (16-45yrs)	0.42
Boys 11v11 (12-15yrs)	5.20
Girls 11v11 (12-15yrs)	0.67
Boys 9v9 (10-11yrs)	3.77
Girls 9v9 (10-11yrs)	0.67
Mixed 7v7 (8-9yrs)	5.54
Mixed 5v5 (6-7yrs)	5.29

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Playing Pitch Strategy

1.53 Appendix 1 provides the number of football teams by age group typology currently in Swale Borough based for the 2023/24 Season.

Demand Data 2023/24 Season

1.54 Appendix 2 provides the name of the site the quality of pitches and ancillary facilities, number of pitches by pitch typology and capacity of play per pitch and the weekly and peak time over and under play for each typology (adult 11v11, youth 11v11, junior 9v9 and mini soccer).

1.55 The summary of appendix 2 is provided below.

1.56 The following tables identify the secured community use, unsecured community use and the total demand against secured pitches only by pitch typology.

Faversham Sub Area

1.57 There are 11 adult 11v11 pitches 8 are in secured community use and 3 are unsecured community use at The Abbey School and Queen Elizabeths Grammar School. The sub area 11v11 pitches are overplayed by 6 MES weekly and 1.5 MES at peak time of play. The bottom row of each table considers total demand weekly and peak time against secured community pitches only and excludes unsecured community use pitches, this identifies that the weekly overplay rises to 11 MES and peak time play to 4.5 MES when using secured community use pitches only. The adult 11v11 at King Georges Playing Field Faversham is overmarked by 2 mini soccer 7v7 pitches. In July 2023 the natural grass pitch at Faversham Town FC was reconfigured as a 3G AGP. The use of the 3G for match play on the 3G is shown in Appendix 2 under the Faversham Sub Area.

Table 14: Faversham Sub Area Adult 11v11 Capacity Weekly and Peak Time

Adult 11v11 Pitch Provision – Site and Peak Period Swale Borough – Faversham Sub Area	Number of Pitches	Pitch Capacity	Demand (Match Equivalent Sessions weekly)	Difference Between Capacity & Demand Match Equivalent Sessions Weekly	Demand Match Equivalent Sessions Peak Period and youth teams Sunday AM	Match Equivalent Sessions Actual Spare Capacity in The Peak Period
Total	11	12	18	6	12.5	1.5
Secured Community Use	8	9	13.5	4.5	10	2
Unsecured Community Use	3	3	4.5	1.5	2.5	0.5
Total Demand Against Total Secured Pitches	8	9	18	9	12.5	4.5

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Playing Pitch Strategy

- 1.58 Table 14 identifies 7 youth 11v11 pitches in the sub area. 1 is in secured community use and 6 are unsecured community use at ISP Teynham, The Abbey School, and Queen Elizabeths Grammar School. The sub area youth 11v11 pitches are overplayed by 4 MES weekly and underplayed by 0.5 MES at peak time of play. When considering total demand against secured community pitches (Excluding unsecured community use) only, the weekly overplay rises to 10 MES and peak time play to 5.5 MES. The Hernehill Youth 11v11 pitch has some 9v9 play attributed to it.

Table 15: Faversham Sub Area Youth 11v11 Capacity Weekly and Peak Time

Youth 11v11 Pitch Provision – Site and Peak Period Swale Borough – Faversham Sub Area	Number of Pitches	Pitch Capacity	Demand (Match Equivalent Sessions weekly)	Difference Between Capacity & Demand Match Equivalent Sessions Weekly	Demand Match Equivalent Sessions Peak Period and youth teams Sunday AM	Match Equivalent Sessions Actual Spare Capacity in The Peak Period
Total	7	7	11	4	6.5	0.5
Secured Community Use	1	1	1.5	0.5	1.5	0.5
Unsecured Community Use	6	6	9.5	3.5	5	1
Total Demand Against Total Secured Pitches	1	1	11	10	6.5	5.5

- 1.59 There are 3 junior 9v9 pitches in the sub area. 2 are in secured community use (1 Faversham Recreation Ground and 1 King Georges Playing Field) and 1 is in unsecured community use at The Abbey School. The sub area junior 9v9 pitches are overplayed by 5.5 MES weekly and 2.5 MES at peak time of play. When considering total demand against secured community pitches (Excluding unsecured pitches) only, the weekly overplay rises to 4.5 MES and peak time play to 3.5 MES. The Junior 9v9 at King Georges Playing Field Faversham is overmarked by 1 mini soccer 5v5 pitch.

Table 16: Faversham Sub Area Junior 9v9 Capacity Weekly and Peak Time

Junior 9v9 Pitch Provision – Site and Peak Period Swale Borough – Faversham Sub Area	Number of Pitches	Pitch Capacity	Demand (Match Equivalent Sessions weekly)	Difference Between Capacity & Demand Match Equivalent Sessions Weekly	Demand Match Equivalent Sessions Peak Period and youth teams Sunday AM	Match Equivalent Sessions Actual Spare Capacity in The Peak Period
Total	3	3	8.5	5.5	5.5	2.5
Secured Community Use	2	2	6.5	4.5	4.5	2.5
Unsecured Community Use	1	1	2	1	1	0
Total Demand Against Total Secured Pitches	2	2	6.5	4.5	5.5	3.5

Swale Borough Council

Playing Pitch Strategy

1.60 There are no formally marked 7v7 or 5v5 pitches in the Faversham sub area.

1.61 Table 17 below identifies the Faversham sub areas poor quality pitches and shows that if the capacity of the poor-quality pitches were improved to good quality, then most would be able to meet current weekly demand. The exception being Herne Hill Recreation Ground, King Georges Playing Field adult 11v11 (2 MES) and junior 9v9 (0.5 MES) and The Abbey School Playing Field youth 11v11 (0.5 MES). The MES on these three sites would require to be transferred to other pitch sites with capacity for additional play.

Table 17: Improving Weekly Demand by Raising Poor Quality Pitches to Good Quality.

Faversham Sub Area	Security of Site	Quality Pitches - Poor	Pitch No.	Pitch Type	Current Weekly Demand Balance Balanced Play (Orange)/Over Play (Red) /Underplay (Green)	Demand Balance Created by improving Quality to Good Overplay (Red) / Underplay (Green)
Bull Lane Recreation Ground	Secured	Poor	1	Adult 11v11	Balanced Play	2
Faversham Recreation Ground	Secured	Poor	2	Adult 11v11	Balanced Play	4
Faversham Recreation Ground	Secured	Poor	1	Junior 9v9	1	3
Frognall Lane - Teynham	Secured	Poor	1	Adult 11v11	1	3
ISP Teynham	Unsecured	Poor	1	Youth 11v11	1	1
Herne Hill Recreation Ground	Secured	Poor	1	Adult 11v11	3	1
Herne hill Recreation Ground	Secured	Poor	1	Youth 11v11	0.5	1.5
King Georges Playing Field Faversham	Secured	Poor	1	Adult 11v11	4	2
King Georges Playing Field Faversham	Secured	Poor	1	Junior 9v9	5.5	3.5
Queen Elizabeth Grammar School	Unsecured	Poor	1	Adult 11v11	1	1
Queen Elizabeth Grammar School	Unsecured	Poor	3	Youth 11v11	1	7
Sharsted Playing Field	Secured	Poor	1	Adult 11v11	Balanced Play	2
The Abbey School	Unsecured	Poor	2	Adult 11v11	0.5	3.5
The Abbey School	Unsecured	Poor	2	Youth 11v11	3.5	0.5
The Abbey School	Unsecured	Poor	1	Junior 9v9	1	1
Totals			20		17	29

Swale Borough Council

Playing Pitch Strategy

1.62 Improving capacity by improving pitch quality does not mean that peak time capacity can increase. Peak time overplay occurs at the following sites:

- Adult 11v11 Hernhill Dawes Community Centre – overplay due to poor quality pitches and wrong size pitches being used for 7v7 and 5v5. Adult pitch should be reconfigured to provide for 7v7 and 5v5 pitches.
- King Georges Playing Field – Overplay of 7v7 x 2 pitches on the adult 11v11 leads to overplay of 2 MES. Additional pitches are required to meet the club’s demand.
- Youth 11v11 overplay occurs at two sites and equates to 1.5 MES, which is equivalent to 2 (rounded up) youth 11v11 pitches. To meet this need there is an additional requirement of 2 youth 11v11 pitches in the sub area.
- The 9v9 pitch at King Georges is currently overplayed and has a 5v5 marked over it. The overplay equates to 3.5 MES, which is equivalent to 4 (rounded up) 9v9 pitches.
- 7v7 match play at peak time can be met by capacity in weekly play this is due to the pitches not being played to the extent of the other pitches by the participants.
- 5v5 match play occurs on the 9v9 at King George’s Playing Field and the 5v5 3G AGP at the site. The Abbey School 3G AGP provides for 7v7 and 5v5 play.

Sittingbourne Sub Area

1.63 There are 25 adult 11v11 pitches 17 are in secured community use and 8 are unsecured community use. The sub area adult 11v11 pitches are under played by 1 MES weekly and 5.5 MES at peak time of play. When considering total demand against secured community pitches only, the weekly overplay rises to overplay of 13 MES and peak time play to overplay of 2.5 MES.

Table 18: Sittingbourne Sub Area Adult 11v11 Capacity Weekly and Peak Time

Adult 11v11 Pitch Provision – Site and Peak Period Swale Borough – Sittingbourne Sub Area	Number of Pitches	Pitch Capacity	Demand (Match Equivalent Sessions weekly)	Difference Between Capacity & Demand Match Equivalent Sessions Weekly	Demand Match Equivalent Sessions Peak Period and youth teams Sunday AM	Match Equivalent Sessions Actual Spare Capacity in The Peak Period
Total	25	37	36	1	19.5	5.5
Unsecured Community Use	8	13	10	3	5.5	2.5
Secured Community Use	17	23	25.5	-2.5	13.5	2.5
Total Demand Against Total Secured Pitches	17	23	36	-13	19.5	-2.5

Swale Borough Council

Playing Pitch Strategy

- 1.64 There are 8 youth 11v11 pitches in the sub area. All 8 are secured community use. The sub area youth 11v11 pitches are underplayed by 2 MES weekly and 1 MES at peak time of play.

Table 19: Sittingbourne Sub Area Youth 11v11 Capacity Weekly and Peak Time

Youth 11v11 Pitch Provision – Site and Peak Period Swale Borough – Sittingbourne Sub Area	Number of Pitches	Pitch Capacity	Demand (Match Equivalent Sessions weekly)	Difference Between Capacity & Demand Match Equivalent Sessions Weekly	Demand Match Equivalent Sessions Peak Period and youth teams Sunday AM	Match Equivalent Sessions Actual Spare Capacity in The Peak Period
Total	8	11	9	2	7	1
Unsecured Community Use	0	0	0	0	0	0
Secured Community Use	8	11	9	2	7	1
Total Demand Against Total Secured Pitches	8	11	9	2	7	1

- 1.65 There are 11 junior 9v9 pitches in the sub area. 8 are in secured community use and 3 are unsecured community use. The sub area junior 9v9 pitches are underplayed by 3 MES weekly and overplayed at peak time of play by 0.5 MES. When considering total demand against secured community pitches only weekly play becomes overplay 6 MES and peak time play rises to overplay of 3.5 MES.

Table 20: Sittingbourne Sub Area Junior 9v9 Capacity Weekly and Peak Time

Junior 9v9 Pitch Provision – Site and Peak Period Swale Borough – Sittingbourne Sub Area	Number of Pitches	Pitch Capacity	Demand (Match Equivalent Sessions weekly)	Difference Between Capacity & Demand Match Equivalent Sessions Weekly	Demand Match Equivalent Sessions Peak Period and youth teams Sunday AM	Match Equivalent Sessions Actual Spare Capacity in The Peak Period
Total	11	17	14	3	11.5	-0.5
Unsecured Community Use	3	6	6	0	5	-2
Secured Community Use	8	8	7	1	5.5	1.5
Total Demand Against Total Secured Pitches	8	8	14	-6	11.5	-3.5

- 1.66 There are 11 7v7 mini soccer pitches and 4 pitches are unsecured community use. The sub area mini soccer 7v7 pitches are under played weekly 22.5 MEs and overplayed by 1 MES at peak time of play. When considering total demand against secured community pitches only the weekly underplay falls to 8.5 MES and peak time play rises to overplay of 5 MES.

Swale Borough Council

Playing Pitch Strategy

Table 21: Sittingbourne Sub Area Mini Soccer 7v7 Capacity Weekly and Peak Time

Mini Soccer 7v7 Pitch Provision – Site and Peak Period Swale Borough – Sittingbourne Sub Area	Number of Pitches	Pitch Capacity	Demand (Match Equivalent Sessions weekly)	Difference Between Capacity & Demand Match Equivalent Sessions Weekly	Demand Match Equivalent Sessions Peak Period and youth teams Sunday AM	Match Equivalent Sessions Actual Spare Capacity in The Peak Period
Total	11	38	15.5	22.5	12	1
Unsecured Community Use	4	14	6.5	7.5	4.5	0.5
Secured Community Use	7	24	9	15	7.5	0.5
Total Demand Against Total Secured Pitches	7	24	15.5	8.5	12	5

- 1.67 There are 6 Mini soccer 5v5 pitches in the Sittingbourne sub area. 5 are in secured community use and 1 is unsecured community use. The weekly demand shows underplay of 15.5 MES and at peak time of play there is balanced play. Total demand against total secured community pitches excluding unsecured pitches reduces the weekly underplay to 11.5 MES and the peak time overplay rises to 1 MES.

Table 22: Sittingbourne Sub Area Mini Soccer 5v5 Capacity Weekly and Peak Time

Mini Soccer 5v5 Pitch Provision – Site and Peak Period Swale Borough – Sheppey Sub Area	Number of Pitches	Pitch Capacity	Demand (Match Equivalent Sessions weekly)	Difference Between Capacity & Demand Match Equivalent Sessions Weekly	Demand Match Equivalent Sessions Peak Period and youth teams Sunday AM	Match Equivalent Sessions Actual Spare Capacity in The Peak Period
Total	6	22	6.5	15.5	6	0
Unsecured Community Use	1	4	2.5	1.5	2	-1
Secured Community Use	5	18	4	14	4	1
Total Demand Against Total Secured Pitches	5	18	6.5	11.5	6	-1

- 1.68 Table 23 below identifies the Sittingbourne sub areas poor quality pitches and shows that if the capacity of the poor-quality pitches were improved to good quality, then all would be able to meet current weekly demand and improve weekly capacity.

Swale Borough Council

Playing Pitch Strategy

Table 23: Improving Weekly Demand by Raising Poor Quality Pitches to Good Quality

Sittingbourne Sub Area	Security of Site	Quality Pitches - Poor	Pitch No.	Pitch Type	Current Weekly Demand Balanced Play (Orange)/Over Play (Red) /Underplay (Green)	Demand Balance Created by improving Quality to Good Overplay (Red) / Underplay (Green)
Chapel Meadow	Secured	Poor	3	Youth 11v11	1.5	7.5
King Georges Playing Field	Secured	Poor	2	Adult 11v11	2	6
Kemsley Recreation Ground	Secured	Poor	1	Adult 11v11	Balanced Play	2
Kemsley Recreation Ground	Secured	Poor	1	Mini 7v7	2	4
Milton Recreation Ground	Secured	Poor	1	Junior 9v9	1	3
Murston Recreation Ground	Secured	Poor	1	Adult 11v11	1	1
Murston Recreation Ground	Secured	Poor	1	Youth 11v11	2	Balanced Play
Murston Recreation Ground	Secured	Poor	1	Junior 9v9	Balanced Play	4
Murston Recreation Ground	Secured	Poor	1	Mini 7v7	0.5	2.5
Newington Recreation Ground	Secured	Poor	1	Adult 11v11	Balanced Play	2
Newington Recreation Ground	Secured	Poor	1	Youth 11v11	1	3
Rectory Road Recreation Ground	Secured	Poor	1	Junior 9v9	1	3
Sittingbourne Recreation Ground	Secured	Poor	1	Mini 7v7	2	4
The Appleyard	Secured	Poor	3	Adult 11v11	3.5	0.5
The Appleyard	Secured	Poor	2	Junior 9v9	0.5	3.5
The Appleyard	Secured	Poor	1	Mini Soccer 7v7	2	Balanced Play
The Playstool	Secured	Poor	1	Adult 11v11	Balanced Play	2
Totals			23		2	47

Swale Borough Council

Playing Pitch Strategy

1.69 Improving capacity by improving pitch quality does not mean that peak time capacity can increase. Peak time overplay occurs at the following sites:

- Adult 11v11 Holywell Meadow is overplayed by 0.5 MES but the youth 11v11 is underplayed by 1 MES. The overplay of other typologies on the adult pitch can be shared across the adult and youth 11 pitches.
- Murston Recreation Ground – There is overplay at peak time of use on all pitch typologies. This needs to be addressed by providing alternative sites for the overplay at peak time of use.
- Herons Park – has over play of 9v9 and mini soccer at peak time of play. The mini soccer can probably be accommodated with the weekly under play. However, the overplay of 1 MES on the 9v9 should be accommodated elsewhere.
- The Appleyard has overplay on the 9v9 and mini soccer pitches. Both pitches are overplayed weekly. The overplay should be accommodated elsewhere.

Sheppey Sub Area

1.70 There are 12 adult 11v11 pitches 11 are in secured community use and 1 is unsecured community use. The sub area 11v11 pitches are underplayed by 6 MES weekly and 5 MES at peak time of play. When considering total demand against secured community pitches only, the weekly underplay falls to 4 MES and peak time play to 4 MES.

Table 24: Sheppey Sub Area Adult 11v11 Capacity Weekly and Peak Time

Adult 11v11 Pitch Provision – Site and Peak Period Swale Borough – Sheppey Sub Area	Number of Pitches	Pitch Capacity	Demand (Match Equivalent Sessions weekly)	Difference Between Capacity & Demand Match Equivalent Sessions Weekly	Demand Match Equivalent Sessions Peak Period and youth teams Sunday AM	Match Equivalent Sessions Actual Spare Capacity in The Peak Period
Total	12	18	12	6	7	5
Unsecured Community Use	1	2	1	1	0.5	0.5
Secured Community Use	11	16	11	5	6.5	4.5
Total Demand Against Total Secured Pitches	11	16	12	4	7	4

1.71 There are 5 youth 11v11 pitches in the sub area. All 5 are in secured community use. The sub area youth 11v11 pitches are overplayed by 1.5 MES weekly and 1.5 MES at peak time of play. This identifies a need for additional youth 11v11 pitches to meet the overplay weekly and at peak time of play.

Swale Borough Council Playing Pitch Strategy

Table 25: Sheppey Sub Area Youth 11v11 Capacity Weekly and Peak Time

Youth 11v11 Pitch Provision – Site and Peak Period Swale Borough – Sheppey Sub Area	Number of Pitches	Pitch Capacity	Demand (Match Equivalent Sessions weekly)	Difference Between Capacity & Demand Match Equivalent Sessions Weekly	Demand Match Equivalent Sessions Peak Period and youth teams Sunday AM	Match Equivalent Sessions Actual Spare Capacity in The Peak Period
Total	5	6	7.5	1.5	6.5	1.5
Secured Community Use	5	6	7.5	1.5	6.5	1.5
Unsecured Community Use	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total Demand Against Total Secured Pitches	5	6	7.5	1.5	6.5	1.5

- 1.72 There are 4 junior 9v9 pitches in the sub area. All are in secured community use. The sub area junior 9v9 pitches are underplayed by 2.5 MES weekly and overplayed at peak time of play by 1.5 MES weekly.

Table 26: Sheppey Sub Area Junior 9v9 Capacity Weekly and Peak Time

Junior 9v9 Pitch Provision – Site and Peak Period Swale Borough – Sheppey Sub Area	Number of Pitches	Pitch Capacity	Demand (Match Equivalent Sessions weekly)	Difference Between Capacity & Demand Match Equivalent Sessions Weekly	Demand Match Equivalent Sessions Peak Period and youth teams Sunday AM	Match Equivalent Sessions Actual Spare Capacity in The Peak Period
Total	4	8	5.5	2.5	5.5	1.5
Unsecured Community Use	0	0	0.5	0	0.5	0
Secured Community Use	4	8	5.5	2.5	5.5	1.5
Total Demand Against Total Secured Pitches	4	8	5.5	2.5	5.5	1.5

- 1.73 There are 5 7v7 mini soccer pitches in the Sheppey sub area, all are in secured community use. The sub area mini soccer 7v7 pitches are underplayed by 9 MES weekly and overplayed by 2 MES at peak time of play. Due to the less wear and tear on these pitches by the participants., it is possible that the weekly underplay could meet the peak time overlay.

Swale Borough Council

Playing Pitch Strategy

Table 27: Sheppey Sub Area Mini Soccer 7v7 Capacity Weekly and Peak Time

Mini Soccer 7v7 Pitch Provision – Site and Peak Period Swale Borough – Sheppey Sub Area	Number of Pitches	Pitch Capacity	Demand (Match Equivalent Sessions weekly)	Difference Between Capacity & Demand Match Equivalent Sessions Weekly	Demand Match Equivalent Sessions Peak Period and youth teams Sunday AM	Match Equivalent Sessions Actual Spare Capacity in The Peak Period
Total	5	16	7	9	7	2
Unsecured Community Use	0	0	0	0	0	0
Secured Community Use	5	16	7	9	7	2
Total Demand Against Total Secured Pitches	5	16	7	9	7	2

- 1.74 There are 7 Mini soccer 5v5 pitches in the Sheppey sub area. 7 are in secured community use. The weekly demand shows underplay of 19 MES and there is underplay at peak time of play 2.5 MES.

Table 28: Sheppey Sub Area Mini Soccer 5v5 Capacity Weekly and Peak Time

Mini Soccer 5v5 Pitch Provision – Site and Peak Period Swale Borough – Sheppey Sub Area	Number of Pitches	Pitch Capacity	Demand (Match Equivalent Sessions weekly)	Difference Between Capacity & Demand Match Equivalent Sessions Weekly	Demand Match Equivalent Sessions Peak Period and youth teams Sunday AM	Match Equivalent Sessions Actual Spare Capacity in The Peak Period
Total	7	24	5	19	4.5	2.5
Unsecured Community Use	0	0	0	0	0	0
Secured Community Use	7	24	5	19	4.5	2.5
Total Demand Against Total Secured Pitches	7	24	5	19	4.5	2.5

- 1.75 Table 30 below identifies the Sheppey sub areas poor quality pitches and shows that if the capacity of the poor-quality pitches were improved to good quality, then all would be able to meet current weekly demand and improve weekly capacity.

Swale Borough Council

Playing Pitch Strategy

Table 29: Improving Weekly Demand by Raising Poor Quality Pitches to Good Quality

Sheppey Sub Area	Security of Site	Quality Pitches - Poor	Pitch No.	Pitch Type	Current Weekly Demand Balanced Play (Orange)/Over Play (Red) /Underplay (Green)	Demand Balance Created by improving Quality to Good Overplay (Red) / Underplay (Green)
Festival Park	Secured	Poor	1	Youth 11v11	3	1
Leysdown Coastal Park	Secured	Poor	1	Adult 11v11	0.5	1.5
Range Road	Secured	Poor	1	Adult 11v11	Balanced Play	2
Seager Road Sports Ground	Secured	Poor	1	Adult 11v11	0.5	1.5
Seager Road Sports Ground	Secured	Poor	1	Youth 11v11	1	1
The Co-Op Sports Club	Secured	Poor	1	Adult 11v11	1	3
St Georges Church of England Primary School	Secured	Poor	1	Adult 11v11	0.5	1.5
St Georges Church of England Primary School	Secured	Poor	1	Youth 11v11	1	3
Totals			8		3.5	12.5

1.76 Improving capacity by improving pitch quality does not mean that peak time capacity can increase. Peak time overplay occurs at the following sites:

- Festival Park – there is overplay of youth 11v11 and mini soccer pitches at peak time of play. The youth 11v11 overplay should be accommodated elsewhere.
- Sheerness East Working Men’s Club has overplay of the adult 11v11 pitches at peak time this overplay should be accommodated elsewhere. – Overplay of 7v7 x 2 pitches on the adult 11v11 leads to overplay of 2 MES. Additional pitches are required to meet the club’s demand.
- Sheppey Sports club has overplay on junior 9v9 and mini soccer. The overplay of mini soccer can be accommodated by the weekly play capacity. The junior 9v9 overplay should be accommodated elsewhere.

Swale Borough Council
Playing Pitch Strategy

Appendix 1: Swale Borough – 2023/24 Season Number of Football Teams by Age Group Typology.

	Adult Teams		Boys						Girls						MINI TEAMS		TOTALS
	Men's and Mixed 11v11	Ladies 11v11	U16	U15	U14	U13	U12 9v9	U11 9v9	U16	U15	U14	U13	U12 9v9	U11 9v9	MINI SOCCER		
															7 V 7	5 V 5	
Faversham Sub Area Football Clubs																	
AFC Faversham	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Bocca Juniors Firsts	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Canterbury Bombers	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
City Lions First FC	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Dawes Hernhill Herons	0	0	0	0	1	1	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	5	13
Faversham Athletic FC	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Faversham Herons	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Faversham Strike Force	6	1	1	1	2	2	2	3	0	0	0	0	1	1	7	12	39
Faversham Town FC	4	0	1	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	8
Faversham Town Youth	1	0	1	1	2	1	2	2	1	0	1	0	0	0	3	5	20
Little Sharsted	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
New Dads United	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
New Inn Blues	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Rising Stars Youth	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	3
Sittingbourne Ladies	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	4
Woodmans Hall	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
TOTALS	22	1	3	3	6	5	6	6	2	1	3	0	1	1	16	22	98
Sittingbourne Sub Area Football Clubs																	
AFC Phoenix United	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
AFC Rangers	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1

Swale Borough Council

Playing Pitch Strategy

	Adult Teams		Boys						Girls						MINI TEAMS		TOTALS
	Men's and Mixed 11v11	Ladies 11v11	U16	U15	U14	U13	U12 9v9	U11 9v9	U16	U15	U14	U13	U12 9v9	U11 9v9	MINI SOCCER		
															7 V 7	5 V 5	
AFC Swale	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Atheltic Billbowls	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Beechwood 76	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Borden Village	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	2
Bredhurst Juniors Seniors Sunday	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
Bredhurst Juniors	2	0	1	1	0	3	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	2	13
Calm Kickabout	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Gillingham Town	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Inter Sittingbourne	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Iwade Herons	1	0	1	0	0	1	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	6	16
London city Lionesses	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
Loose Sunday Mens	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Milton And Fulston Utd	3	0	1	1	1	1	2	3	0	0	0	0	1	0	5	6	24
Park Regis Junior	0	0	0	1	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	4	8
Park Regis NEO	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Park Regis Saturday	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Park Regis Sunday	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Rainham 84 Youth Vets	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Sittingbourne FC	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
Sittingbourne Harts	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Sittingbourne Ladies	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	1	0	5
Sittingbourne Lions	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Sittingbourne Youth	3	0	2	1	2	3	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	5	22

Swale Borough Council

Playing Pitch Strategy

	Adult Teams		Boys						Girls						MINI TEAMS		TOTALS
	Men's and Mixed 11v11	Ladies 11v11	U16	U15	U14	U13	U12 9v9	U11 9v9	U16	U15	U14	U13	U12 9v9	U11 9v9	MINI SOCCER		
															7 V 7	5 V 5	
Sports Yard	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Stockbury Athletic	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Swale Jets	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
The Park Tavern Firsts	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
The Stumble	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
The Village Upchurch Firsts	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
The White Horse	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Tyler Hill Youth U9	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
Upchurch Firsts	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Upchurch Colts	1	0	1	0	1	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	2	10
Woodcoombe Sports And Social	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
Woodcoombe Youth	1	0	1	1	2	2	2	0	1	0	0	0	1	1	3	5	20
TOTALS	40	3	5	6	6	10	11	8	1	0	0	0	5	1	26	30	152
Sheppey Sub Area Football Clubs																	
AFC Minster	0	0	0	0	2	1	2	3	0	0	0	1	0	0	6	3	18
Eastern Athletic First	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Leo's	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	2	8
Leysdown First	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Mile Town First	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Minster Village first	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
New Road Athletic	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
New Road	2	0	0	0	2	1	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	3	15
Range Rovers Sports	1	0	1	1	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	1	8

Swale Borough Council

Playing Pitch Strategy

	Adult Teams		Boys						Girls						MINI TEAMS		TOTALS
	Men's and Mixed 11v11	Ladies 11v11	U16	U15	U14	U13	U12 9v9	U11 9v9	U16	U15	U14	U13	U12 9v9	U11 9v9	MINI SOCCER		
															7 V 7	5 V 5	
Range Rovers Colts	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
Rose Inn	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Sheerness East Youth	1	0	0	0	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	0	8
Sheppey United	4	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5
The Co-op Cobras	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Soccer Elite FA Ltd	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Sheppey United Youth	2	0	1	1	1	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	2	14
TOTALS	18	1	3	3	6	6	8	6	0	0	0	1	0	0	24	11	87
Swale Football Teams																	
TOTALS	80	5	11	12	18	21	25	20	3	1	3	1	6	2	66	63	337

2. Football Summary Swale Playing Pitch Strategy 2023

- 2.1. This section summarises the findings from the football analysis, which will form the basis of the recommendation and action plan section for SBC.
- 2.2. Table 30 includes the response to 5 key questions, which provide a standardised illustration of supply and demand for playing pitch sports provision and shows the analysis from the 2023 PPS.

Table 30: Key PPS findings for Football in Swale Borough

Key Question	Swale BC PPS Analysis 2023
<p>What are the main characteristics of the current supply and demand for provision?</p>	<p>In the 2023/24 season, including schools, 49 playing fields were used for secured and unsecured community use in the borough providing a total of 109 marked grass football pitches of which 45 are full size (adult 11v11), 23 sized for youth football (youth 11v11), 15 junior football (junior 9v9) and 26 for mini soccer (7v7, 5v5).</p> <p>38 sites providing 82 (75%) marked natural grass pitches provide secured community use and 11 sites providing 27 (25%) natural grass pitches provide unsecured community natural grass pitches.</p> <p>Demand is highest in the Sittingbourne sub area (143 teams) followed by Faversham (88 teams), and Sheppey (68 Teams).</p> <p>The number of teams across Swale Borough Council are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4 'Step' clubs with their origins in Swale borough that compete in the National League System: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Faversham Strike Force Saturday – Step 6. • Faversham Town FC – Step 5 • Sheppey United Firsts – Step 4 • Sittingbourne FC Firsts – Step 4 • Swale borough affiliated football clubs: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➢ 76 other open aged teams aged 17+. ➢ 5 women's teams ➢ 62 youth boy's football teams 11v11 ➢ 45 junior 9v9 boy's teams ➢ 8 youth 11v11 girls' teams ➢ 8 9v9 girl's teams ➢ 66 7v7 mini soccer teams. ➢ 63 5v5 mini soccer teams ➢ 7 disability teams ➢ 1 walking football team ➢ 3 Adult 11v11 imported teams - Len Valley, Rochester City and Rainham Vets. ➢ Imported teams to Disability Central Venue Abbey School

Swale Borough Council

Playing Pitch Strategy

Key Question	Swale BC PPS Analysis 2023													
Is there enough accessible and secured community use provision to meet current demand	<p>Faversham Sub Area</p> <p>The Faversham sub area does not have sufficient accessible and secured community use provision to meet current demand.</p> <p>If the Faversham sub areas poor quality pitches were improved to good quality, then most would be able to meet current weekly demand. The exception being Herne Hill Recreation (0.5 MES), King Georges Playing Field adult 11v11 (2 MES) and junior 9v9 (0.5 MES) and The Abbey School Playing Field youth 11v11 (0.5 MES). The MES on these three sites would require to be transferred to other pitch sites with capacity for additional play.</p> <p>Improving capacity by improving pitch quality does not mean that peak time capacity can increase. Peak time overplay occurs at the following sites:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adult 11v11 Hernhill Dawes Community Centre – overplay due to poor quality pitches and wrong size pitches being used for 7v7 and 5v5. Adult pitch should be reconfigured to provide for 7v7 and 5v5 pitches. • King Georges Playing Field – Overplay of 7v7 x 2 pitches on the adult 11v11 leads to overplay of 2 MES. Additional pitches are required to meet the club's demand. • Youth 11v11 overplay occurs at two sites and equates to 1.5 MES, which is equivalent to 2 (rounded up) youth 11v11 pitches. To meet this need there is an additional requirement of 2 youth 11v11 pitches in the sub area. • The 9v9 pitch at King Georges is currently overplayed and has a 5v5 marked over it. The overplay equates to 3.5 MES, which is equivalent to 4 (rounded up) 9v9 pitches. • 7v7 match play at peak time can be met by capacity in weekly play this is due to the pitches not being played to the extent of the other pitches by the participants. • 5v5 match play occurs on the 9v9 at King George's Playing Field and the 5v5 3G AGP at the site. The Abbey School 3G AGP provides for 7v7 and 5v5 play. <p>The overplay of adult 11v11 pitches in the sub area is due to overmarking and use by 9v9 and 7v7 teams particularly at King Georges Playing Field and Hernehill. There is a need for additional pitches. These pitches can be provided from agreed planning consents, identified below.</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="background-color: #cccccc;">Planning Reference</th> <th style="background-color: #cccccc;">Site & Sub Area</th> <th style="background-color: #cccccc;">Comment</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>15/504264/OUT</td> <td>Perry Court – Faversham</td> <td>Provides for a playing pitch football and additional shared car park facilities. Due to no changing room provision, it is unlikely the pitch will be used by affiliated football teams.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>18/503697/FULL</td> <td>Land East of Station Road Teynham – Faversham</td> <td>£76,000 for sports.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>16/507689/OUT</td> <td>Orchard View, Teynham – Faversham</td> <td>Illustrative master plan identifies 3.72ha of sports field. 3 senior football pitches, cricket square, changing pavilion and car park.</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		Planning Reference	Site & Sub Area	Comment	15/504264/OUT	Perry Court – Faversham	Provides for a playing pitch football and additional shared car park facilities. Due to no changing room provision, it is unlikely the pitch will be used by affiliated football teams.	18/503697/FULL	Land East of Station Road Teynham – Faversham	£76,000 for sports.	16/507689/OUT	Orchard View, Teynham – Faversham	Illustrative master plan identifies 3.72ha of sports field. 3 senior football pitches, cricket square, changing pavilion and car park.
Planning Reference	Site & Sub Area	Comment												
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Swale Borough Council

Playing Pitch Strategy

Key Question	Swale BC PPS Analysis 2023		
	16/508602/OUT & 21/500766/OUT	Preston Park, Faversham	(S106 still subject to contract) seeks combined 320 dwellings at £593 per dwelling - £189,760 toward formal sport in Faversham including Love Lane facilities.
	SW/14/0045/OUT	Graveney Road and Lady Dane Farm Love Lane - Faversham	Faversham Cricket Club now not moving to site. Considering other uses – football is being promoted, S106 contribution toward facilities £62,000 plus proposes a further contribution from additional, development.
	No application yet	Duchy of Cornwall – Faversham	Development considering 2500 new homes. No application yet. Proposal to relocate Faversham Cricket Club and Faversham Football Club expanded.
<p>There are 7 youth 11v11 pitches in the sub area. 1 is in secured community use and 6 are unsecured community use at ISP Teynham, The Abbey School, and Queen Elizabeths Grammar School. The sub area youth 11v11 pitches are overplayed by 2.5 MES weekly and underplayed by 1.5 MES at peak time of play. When considering total demand against secured community pitches (Excluding unsecured community use) only, the weekly overplay rises to 8.5 MES and peak time play to 4 MES. There is a need to secure community use at the education sites ISP Teynham, Queen Elizabeth Grammar School, and The Abbey School. Offers of Football funding for pitch improvements to improve poor quality pitches to good at these three sites should involve formal community use agreements to be put in place to safeguard community use.</p>			
<p>Sittingbourne Sub Area</p>			
<p>With both secured and unsecured adult 11v11 pitches in use there are currently sufficient adult 11 v11 pitches. If the unsecured community use pitches were to cease use, there would be an undersupply. There is a need to secure formal community use agreements with education sites to safeguard community use. This can be obtained through pitch improvement funding agreements.</p>			
<p>There are sufficient youth 11v11 pitches providing secure community use but insufficient 9v9, 7v7 and 5v5 pitches with secured community use.</p>			
<p>When raising the quality of sites from poor to good will eliminate weekly over play in the sub area. However, peak time over play cannot be eliminated by improving quality. Peak time overplay takes place at the following sites:</p>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adult 11v11 Holywell Meadow is overplayed by 0.5 MES but the youth 11v11 is underplayed by 1 MES. The overplay of other typologies on the adult pitch can be shared across the adult and youth 11 pitches. • Murston Recreation Ground – There is overplay at peak time of use on all pitch typologies. This needs to be addressed by providing alternative sites for the overplay at peak time of use. • Herons Park – has over play of 9v9 and mini soccer at peak time of play. The mini soccer can probably be accommodated with the weekly under play. However, the overplay of 1 MES on the 9v9 should be accommodated elsewhere. • The Appleyard has overplay on the 9v9 and mini soccer pitches. Both pitches are overplayed weekly. The overplay should be accommodated elsewhere. 			

Key Question	Swale BC PPS Analysis 2023												
	<p>Identified planning proposals for the sub area include:</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="background-color: #cccccc;">Planning Reference</th> <th style="background-color: #cccccc;">Site & Sub Area</th> <th style="background-color: #cccccc;">Comment</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>18/502190/EIHYB</td> <td>Kemsley Recreation Ground & Milton Recreation Ground – Sittingbourne</td> <td>A formal sports contribution of £711,600 (or £593 per dwelling) has been agreed, and this will be spent on improving provision locally in general accordance with the Council’s Playing Pitch Strategy, which identifies the need for proposed basic facilities and some pitch improvements to increase capacity at Kemsley Recreation Ground and pitch improvements at Milton Recreation Ground</td> </tr> <tr> <td>14/501588/OUT</td> <td>Stones Farm, Sittingbourne</td> <td>Formal sports contribution of £160,000 towards enhancement of sports pitches and related facilities in the general area.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>21/503914/EIOUT</td> <td>Land South & East of Sittingbourne</td> <td>Undecided. 8,000 new homes. Sittingbourne FC and new sports hub.</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>Sheppey Sub Area</p> <p>The Sheppey sub area has the least reliance on unsecured use at education sites. St Georges Primary School site is used for football via the lease agreement with Kent County Council. A formal community use agreement with Oasis Academy could be agreed through a funding agreement with the FA for funding renewal of the 3G AGP carpet.</p> <p>Improvements to poor quality pitches to good will eliminate weekly overplay.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Festival Park – there is overplay of youth 11v11 and mini soccer pitches at peak time of play. The youth 11v11 overplay should be accommodated elsewhere. • Sheerness East Working Men’s Club has overplay of the adult 11v11 pitches at peak time this overplay should be accommodated elsewhere. – Overplay of 7v7 x 2 pitches on the adult 11v11 leads to overplay of 2 MES. Additional pitches are required to meet the club’s demand. • Sheppey Sports club has overplay on junior 9v9 and mini soccer. The overplay of mini soccer can be accommodated by the weekly play capacity. The junior 9v9 overplay should be accommodated elsewhere. 	Planning Reference	Site & Sub Area	Comment	18/502190/EIHYB	Kemsley Recreation Ground & Milton Recreation Ground – Sittingbourne	A formal sports contribution of £711,600 (or £593 per dwelling) has been agreed, and this will be spent on improving provision locally in general accordance with the Council’s Playing Pitch Strategy, which identifies the need for proposed basic facilities and some pitch improvements to increase capacity at Kemsley Recreation Ground and pitch improvements at Milton Recreation Ground	14/501588/OUT	Stones Farm, Sittingbourne	Formal sports contribution of £160,000 towards enhancement of sports pitches and related facilities in the general area.	21/503914/EIOUT	Land South & East of Sittingbourne	Undecided. 8,000 new homes. Sittingbourne FC and new sports hub.
Planning Reference	Site & Sub Area	Comment											
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21/503914/EIOUT	Land South & East of Sittingbourne	Undecided. 8,000 new homes. Sittingbourne FC and new sports hub.											
Is the provision that is accessible of sufficient quality and appropriately maintained?	<p>There are several sites where quality is poor these are identified in Appendix 2 to the Assessment Report Borough Sub Area Overview.</p> <p>The following tables identify where improving poor quality to good quality pitches can almost nearly eliminate overplay weekly. As a pitch can only be played once at peak time of play improving quality does not eliminate peak time play and this will require alternative provision.</p> <p>Faversham Sub Area</p> <p>The table below identifies the Faversham sub areas poor quality pitches and shows that if the capacity of the poor-quality pitches were improved to good quality, then most would be able to meet current weekly demand.</p>												

Swale Borough Council

Playing Pitch Strategy

Key Question	Swale BC PPS Analysis 2023					
	The exception being Herne Hill Recreation Ground, King Georges Playing Field adult 11v11 and junior 9v9. The MES on these two sites would require to be transferred to other pitch sites with capacity for additional play or new pitch sites					
Faversham Sub Area	Security of Site	Quality Pitches - Poor	Pitch No.	Pitch Type	Current Weekly Demand Balance Balanced Play (Orange)/Over Play (Red) /Underplay (Green)	Demand Balance Created by improving Quality to Good Overplay (Red) / Underplay (Green)
Bull Lane Recreation Ground	Secured	Poor	1	Adult 11v11	Balanced Play	2
Faversham Recreation Ground	Secured	Poor	2	Adult 11v11	Balanced Play	4
Faversham Recreation Ground	Secured	Poor	1	Junior 9v9	1	3
Frognall Lane - Teynham	Secured	Poor	1	Adult 11v11	1	3
ISP Teynham	Unsecured	Poor	1	Youth 11v11	1	1
Herne Hill Recreation Ground	Secured	Poor	1	Adult 11v11	3	1
Herne Hill Recreation Ground	Secured	Poor	1	Youth 11v11	0.5	1.5
King Georges Playing Field Faversham	Secured	Poor	1	Adult 11v11	4	2
King Georges Playing Field Faversham	Secured	Poor	1	Junior 9v9	5.5	3.5
Queen Elizabeth Grammar School	Unsecured	Poor	1	Adult 11v11	1	1
Queen Elizabeth Grammar School	Unsecured	Poor	3	Youth 11v11	1	7
Sharsted Playing Field	Secured	Poor	1	Adult 11v11	Balanced Play	2
The Abbey School	Unsecured	Poor	2	Adult 11v11	0.5	3.5
The Abbey School	Unsecured	Poor	2	Youth 11v11	3.5	0.5
The Abbey School	Unsecured	Poor	1	Junior 9v9	1	1
Totals			20		17	29

Swale Borough Council

Playing Pitch Strategy

Key Question	Swale BC PPS Analysis 2023						
	The following sites require improvements to ancillary facilities:						
	Bull Lane Recreation Ground	Secured	Poor – needs rebuilding				
	Frognall Lane - Teynham	Secured	Poor – needs rebuilding				
	ISP Teynham	Unsecured	None				
	Queen Elizabeth Grammar School	Unsecured	Poor – needs rebuilding				
	Salters Lane (Faversham Town FC)	Secured	Standard – club is undertaking refurbishment improvement's				
	Sittingbourne Sub Area						
	The table below identifies the Sittingbourne sub areas poor quality pitches and shows that if the capacity of the poor-quality pitches were improved to good quality, then all with the exception of The Appleyard adult 11v11 would be able to meet current weekly demand and improve weekly capacity.						
	Sittingbourne Sub Area	Security of Site	Quality Pitches - Poor	Pitch No.	Pitch Type	Current Weekly Demand Balance Balanced Play (Orange)/Over Play (Red) /Underplay (Green)	Demand Balance Created by improving Quality to Good Overplay (Red) / Underplay (Green)
	Chapel Meadow	Secured	Poor	3	Youth 11v11	1.5	7.5
	King Georges Playing Field	Secured	Poor	2	Adult 11v11	2	6
	Kemsley Recreation Ground	Secured	Poor	1	Adult 11v11	Balanced Play	2
	Kemsley Recreation Ground	Secured	Poor	1	Mini 7v7	2	4
	Milton Recreation Ground	Secured	Poor	1	Junior 9v9	1	3
	Murston Recreation Ground	Secured	Poor	1	Adult 11v11	1	1
	Murston Recreation Ground	Secured	Poor	1	Youth 11v11	2	Balanced Play
	Murston Recreation Ground	Secured	Poor	1	Junior 9v9	Balanced Play	4
	Murston Recreation Ground	Secured	Poor	1	Mini 7v7	0.5	2.5

Swale Borough Council

Playing Pitch Strategy

Key Question	Swale BC PPS Analysis 2023						
	Newington Recreation Ground	Secured	Poor	1	Adult 11v11	Balanced Play	2
	Newington Recreation Ground	Secured	Poor	1	Youth 11v11	1	3
	Rectory Road Recreation Ground	Secured	Poor	1	Junior 9v9	1	3
	Sittingbourne Recreation Ground	Secured	Poor	1	Mini 7v7	2	4
	The Appleyard	Secured	Poor	3	Adult 11v11	3.5	0.5
	The Appleyard	Secured	Poor	2	Junior 9v9	0.5	3.5
	The Appleyard	Secured	Poor	1	Mini Soccer 7v7	2	Balanced Play
	The Playstool	Secured	Poor	1	Adult 11v11	Balanced Play	2
	Totals			23		2	47

The following sites require improvements to ancillary facilities:

Central Park Stadium	Secured	Poor
Chapel Meadow	Secured	Poor
Kemsley Recreation Ground	Secured	None
King Georges Playing Field	Secured	Poor
Milton Recreation Ground	Secured	Poor
Murston Recreation Ground	Secured	Poor
Newington Recreation Ground	Secured	Poor
Rectory Playing Field	Secured	None
Sittingbourne Recreation Ground	Secured	None
The Playstool	Secured	Poor
Borden Grammar School Sports Field	Unsecured	None

Swale Borough Council

Playing Pitch Strategy

Key Question	Swale BC PPS Analysis 2023						
	Sheppey Sub Area						
	The table below identifies the Sheppey sub areas poor quality pitches and shows that if the capacity of the poor-quality pitches were improved to good quality, then all except for Festival Park would be able to meet current weekly demand and improve weekly capacity.						
	Sheppey Sub Area	Security of Site	Quality Pitches - Poor	Pitch No.	Pitch Type	Current Weekly Demand Balanced Play (Orange)/Over Play (Red) /Underplay (Green)	Demand Balance Created by improving Quality to Good Overplay (Red) / Underplay (Green)
	Festival Park	Secured	Poor	1	Youth 11v11	3	1
	Leysdown Coastal Park	Secured	Poor	1	Adult 11v11	0.5	1.5
	Range Road	Secured	Poor	1	Adult 11v11	Balanced Play	2
	Seager Road Sports Ground	Secured	Poor	1	Adult 11v11	0.5	1.5
	Seager Road Sports Ground	Secured	Poor	1	Youth 11v11	1	1
	The Co-Op Sports Club	Secured	Poor	1	Adult 11v11	1	3
	St Georges Church of England Primary School	Secured	Poor	1	Adult 11v11	0.5	1.5
	St Georges Church of England Primary School	Secured	Poor	1	Youth 11v11	1	3
	Totals			8		3.5	12.5
	The following sites require improvements to ancillary facilities:						
	Festival Park	Secured	Poor				
	King Georges Playing Field	Secured	None				
	Range Road Football Ground	Secured	Poor				
	Seager Road Sports Ground	Secured	Poor				
	St Georges Church of England Primary School	Unsecured	None				
	Thistle Hill	Secured	None				

Swale Borough Council

Playing Pitch Strategy

Key Question	Swale BC PPS Analysis 2023																		
What are the main characteristics of the future supply and demand for provision	Sport England Playing Pitch Calculator estimates the following increase in match equivalent session by 2040 through population growth:																		
	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Age Group</th> <th>MES per Week New Population</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Men 11v11 (16-45yrs)</td> <td>6.72</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Women 11v11 (16-45yrs)</td> <td>0.42</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Boys 11v11 (12-15yrs)</td> <td>5.20</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Girls 11v11 (12-15yrs)</td> <td>0.67</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Boys 9v9 (10-11yrs)</td> <td>3.77</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Girls 9v9 (10-11yrs)</td> <td>0.67</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Mixed 7v7 (8-9yrs)</td> <td>5.54</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Mixed 5v5 (6-7yrs)</td> <td>5.29</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Age Group	MES per Week New Population	Men 11v11 (16-45yrs)	6.72	Women 11v11 (16-45yrs)	0.42	Boys 11v11 (12-15yrs)	5.20	Girls 11v11 (12-15yrs)	0.67	Boys 9v9 (10-11yrs)	3.77	Girls 9v9 (10-11yrs)	0.67	Mixed 7v7 (8-9yrs)	5.54	Mixed 5v5 (6-7yrs)	5.29
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	Mixed 7v7 (8-9yrs)	5.54																	
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The study has identified the following latent demand converted to match equivalent sessions. 1 MES is equivalent to 1 pitch:																			
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Age Group	MES per Week Latent Demand																		
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Boys 11v11 (12-15yrs)	2																		
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Girls 9v9 (10-11yrs)	1																		
Mixed 7v7 (8-9yrs)	2																		
Mixed 5v5 (6-7yrs)	1.5																		
Is there enough accessible and secured community use provision to meet future demand?	There is currently insufficient supply to meet future estimated demand. The future supply is showing overplay and a deficit of pitches. The table below shows in green underplay and red overplay. It identifies the match equivalent need currently for Swale Borough (All three sub areas) plus the identified latent demand and Sport England Playing Pitch Calculator Tool estimated demand for 2040.																		

Swale Borough Council
Playing Pitch Strategy

Key Question	Swale BC PPS Analysis 2023				
		Match Equivalent Sessions Actual Overlay /Underplay in The Peak Period 2023	Match Equivalents Sessions (Latent Demand)	Future Population Match Equivalent Sessions 2040	Total Overlay Underplay Match Equivalent Sessions 2040
	Adult 11v11 Current and Future Overlay and Underplay				
	Totals Secured and Unsecured Community Use	6	4.5	7.14	5.64
	Youth 11v11 Current and Future Overlay and Underplay				
	Totals Secured and Unsecured Community Use	2	2	5.87	9.87
	Junior 9v9 Current and Future Overlay and Underplay				
	Totals Secured and Unsecured Community Use	2.5	4.5	4.44	11.74
	Mini Soccer 7v7 Current and Future Overlay and Underplay				
	Totals Secured and Unsecured Community Use	3	2	5.54	10.54
	Mini Soccer 5v5 Current and Future Overlay and Underplay				
	Totals Secured and Unsecured Community Use	2.5	1.5	5.29	4.29
	There is a need to consider additional pitches to meet future demand across all typologies and a need to use 3G AGPs for match play at peak times.				
	Developer contributions should be used to provide pitches to meet future population demands. 1 MES is equivalent to 1 pitch.				
	The table above identifies the following additional need for pitches by 2040 considering total secured and unsecured pitches,				

Football Draft Recommendations

1. Protect existing quantity of pitches unless replacement provision is able to meet Sport England Playing Fields Policy and suitable mitigation, or replacement provision is agreed and delivered.
2. Where pitches are overplayed and/or assessed as 'Poor' quality, prioritise investment (likely to be externally driven) and review delivery model of maintenance. This is to ensure maintenance is of an appropriate standard to sustain use and improve quality to 'standard' or 'good'.
3. Encourage use of PitchPower Assessments to assess pitch quality across all providers, especially local authority-maintained provision to maintain a current technical understanding of pitch quality and to evidence need for increased investment at priority sites. Kent FA are Working with parish Councils to ensure PitchPower assessments where pitches are maintained.
4. Support clubs and other eligible organisations to access funding through the likes of Football Foundation to improve quality of grass pitches and to sustain good quality once improved.
5. Consider the potential and feasibility for asset transfer or long-term leasehold to clubs which express interest and are considered realistically able to sustain and maintain sporting provision as required, allowing for greater opportunities to access external funding streams for facility development. Such as the Football Foundation Home Advantage Programme.
6. Work to accommodate future demand as well as unmet and latent demand at sites which are not operating at capacity, or at sites not currently available for community use that could become so, moving forward.
7. Provide security of tenure for clubs using remaining unsecured sites through community use agreements or through conditions of external investment, particularly at key education sites used by community clubs and teams.
8. Ensure all teams are playing on the pitches of the correct size.
9. Improve ancillary facilities where there is a demand to do so and where it can benefit the wider footballing offer. Ensure any works provide suitability for female and disability access to facilitate increased football formats. Prioritise multi - pitch sites and key sites for female participation and development, seek to provide access to toilet facilities as a minimum requirement at all sites.
10. Where a residential development is of a size to justify on-site football provision, (2 pitches or more) focus on the creation of multi-pitch sites that meet the new demand created by the development and existing shortfalls where possible, with accompanying clubhouse, access and car parking provision included given that single pitch sites without appropriate ancillary facilities can be unsustainable.

11. Where a development is not of a size to justify on-site football provision, secure contributions to improve existing sites within the locality, guided by the priorities identified within the PPS Action Plan and Swale Local Football Facility Plan
12. Update the Swale Local Football Facility Plan based on the key findings of the PPS.

3. Third Generation Turf (3G) Artificial Grass Pitches (AGPS)

Introduction

- 3.1. There are several surface types that fall into the category of artificial grass pitch (AGP). The three main groups are rubber crumb (also known as third generation turf or 3G), sand based (filled or dressed) and water based.

Table 31: AGP type and sport suitability

Surface	Category	Comments
Rubber crumb	Long Pile 3G (60mm with shock pad)	Rugby surface – must comply with World Rugby type 22 and/or RFL Community Standard, requires a minimum of 60mm pile.
Rubber crumb	Medium Pile 3G (55-60mm)	Preferred football surface. Suitable for noncontact rugby union/league practice or play.
Rubber crumb	Short Pile 3G (40mm)	Acceptable surface for some competitive football.
Sand	Sand Filled	Competitive hockey and football training.
Sand	Sand Dressed	Preferred hockey surface and suitable for football training.
Water	Water based	Preferred hockey surface and suitable for football training if irrigated.

- 3.2. England Hockey’s Artificial Grass Playing Surface Policy (June 2016) advises that 3G pitches should not be used for hockey matches or training and that they can only be used for lower-level hockey (introductory level) when no sand-based or water-based AGPs are available.
- 3.3. Competitive football can take place on 3G surfaces that have been FA or FIFA certified and a growing number of 3G pitches are now used for competitive match play when passed an approved test and registered on the FAs 3G pitch register at mini soccer and youth level. *The recommended dimensions for a full size 3G artificial grass pitch for football are 100 x 64 metres. This extends to an area of 106 x 70 metres with the recommended minimum three metre run off area included. These dimensions allow for all age group match play to take place including adults, youth under 17/18 and younger age groups via overmarked pitches, e.g. the marking out of two 9v9 pitches for under 11/12s. If a new pitch is proposed to measure below the recommended dimensions, then justification must be provided for this in relation to the identified needs it will provide for and/or site constraints. In doing so, the impacts of a reduced pitch size in meeting current and future needs must be considered, e.g. a pitch not providing the recommended dimensions for adult match play and/or only being able to accommodate one rather than two overmarked 9v9 pitches. This justification needs to be included in the planning application details submitted to the relevant Local Planning Authority for the new pitch. Unless otherwise stated and justified for an individual pitch, proposals in this PPS for any new 3G artificial grass pitches are based on providing them to the recommended dimensions.*

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- 3.4. FIFA 3G pitch certification is required to host competitive adult match play at Step 3 and below, whilst for teams playing at Steps 1 or 2 pitches are required to have FIFA Pro standard certification, further information on which is included later in the section. Football training can take place on sand and water-based surfaces but is not the preferred option.
- 3.5. World Rugby (WR) produced the 'Performance Specification for Artificial Grass Pitches for Rugby', more commonly known as 'Regulation 22' that provides the necessary technical detail to produce pitch systems that are appropriate for rugby. The artificial surface standards identified in Regulation 22 allows matches to be played on surfaces that meet the standard. Full contact activity, including tackling, rucking, mauling, and lineouts can take place. All full-size World Rugby compliant 3G pitches feature on the RFU register, including expiry dates of certification. Upon registration, World Rugby compliancy is valid for two years before renewal and retesting is required.
- 3.6. Competitive rugby league play and contact practice is permitted to take place on 3G pitches which are deemed by the RFL to meet its Performance Standard for Synthetic Turf Pitches. Pitches fall under two categories; community club pitches which require retesting every two years and elite stadia pitches which require an annual retest. Much of the criteria within the RFL performance standard test also forms part of the World Rugby test, consequently World Rugby certified 3G pitches are considered by the RFL to be able to meet rugby league requirements and are deemed suitable for rugby league use subject to passing an additional exclusive RFL performance standard test.

Current Provision

3G Football Turf Artificial Grass Pitches (FTPs)

- 3.7. Table 32: shows the existing full size 3G AGPs in Swale:

Table 32: Existing 3G AGPs Swale

Site Name	Analysis Area	No. of Pitches	Available Community Use Peak Period	Security of tenure	Size	Pile	Sports Lighting (Yes or No)	FA Registered	Year Built/ Refurbished
Borden Grammar School ME10 4DB	Sittingbourne	1	Monday – Friday – 17.00 - 21.30 hours Weekends Saturday 09.00 – 18.00 hours – Sunday 09.00 – 18.00 hours	Secured	97m x 62m	Sand Filled	Yes	No	Built 2003 carpet replaced 2018. Needs new LED lights.

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Site Name	Analysis Area	No. of Pitches	Available Community Use Peak Period	Security of tenure	Size	Pile	Sports Lighting (Yes or No)	FA Registered	Year Built/ Refurbished
			<p>Used by Sittingbourne Hockey Club: Mondays 6pm – 7pm Tuesdays 7pm – 9pm Wednesdays 6.00pm – 9.30pm Thursdays 7pm – 8.30pm Saturdays 9am – 6pm</p> <p>Only suitable for non-contact rugby union training and football training but not match play.</p> <p>Suitable for hockey training and match play.</p>						
Faversham Town Football Club	Faversham	1	<p>The AGP has community use, with a formal community use agreement in place. The pitch markings are restricted to 11v11 due to ground grading requirements for the level of football. The AGP is used by Faversham Town FC and Faversham Strike Force for match play (Saturday PM) and training Monday evening and Thursday evening) and . This will allow more slots at the Abbey School to be filled with new youth, ladies, and disability teams around the town. Faversham Town FC Kent Youth League Teams are using the 3G pitch for match play on Sundays.</p>	Secured	100m x 64m	Rubber Crunb	Yes	Expires May 2024	Built 2023

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Playing Pitch Strategy

Site Name	Analysis Area	No. of Pitches	Available Community Use Peak Period	Security of tenure	Size	Pile	Sports Lighting (Yes or No)	FA Registered	Year Built/ Refurbished
Westlands School ME10 1PF	Sittingbourne	1	Used by Gore Court Hockey Club Tuesdays 8pm – 9pm Wednesdays 6.30pm – 9.00pm Thursdays 7pm – 9.30pm Saturdays 9am – 6pm Sundays 9.30pm – 12 Noon Only suitable for non-contact rugby union training and football training but not match play. Suitable for hockey training and match play	Secured	100m x 60m	Sand Filled	Yes	No	New carpet and subbase provided July 2023. Needs new LED lights.
Sittingbourne School ME10 4NL	Sittingbourne	1	Monday – Friday – 17.00 - 21.00 hours Weekends Saturday 09.00 – 18.00 hours Sunday 09.00 – 18.00 hours Used Monday-Thursday 6pm – 8pm Saturday 11am – 12 noon Only suitable for non-contact rugby union training and football training but not match play Suitable for hockey training but too small for adult match play;	Unsecured	54m x 35m	Sand filled	Yes	No	Built 2007 Standard quality will need a new carpet

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Site Name	Analysis Area	No. of Pitches	Available Community Use Peak Period	Security of tenure	Size	Pile	Sports Lighting (Yes or No)	FA Registered	Year Built/ Refurbished
Sittingbourne School ME10 4NL	Sittingbourne	1	<p>Monday – Friday 17.30 – 21.00 hours</p> <p>Weekends Saturday 10am – 4.30pm Sunday 10am – 8pm</p> <p>Fully booked 17.30 – 21.00 Monday to Thursday Friday booked 17.30 – 19.00. Saturday booked 10.am – 11,30am Sunday available all day.</p> <p>Has some spare capacity late evening and Fridays and for match play at weekends. Only suitable for football, non-contact rugby union training. Not suitable for hockey</p>	Unsecured	70m x 104m	Long pile 40mm	Yes	Yes, Expires May 2026	Built 2012 – will need a new carpet soon
The Abbey School	Faversham	1	<p>Monday – Friday 18.00 - 21.30 hours</p> <p>Weekends Saturday 10am – 4.30pm Sunday 09.00 – 18.00 hours</p> <p>Pitch is fully booked Monday – Friday and has bookings at the weekend.</p> <p>Only suitable for football, non-contact rugby league and rugby union training. Not suitable for hockey</p>	Secured	100m x 61m	Long Pile	Yes	Yes, Expires May 2025	Built 2007 will require a new carpet

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Site Name	Analysis Area	No. of Pitches	Available Community Use Peak Period	Security of tenure	Size	Pile	Sports Lighting (Yes or No)	FA Registered	Year Built/ Refurbished
Oasis Academy ME12 3JQ	Sheppey	1	<p>Available hours - Monday – Friday 18.00 – 21.00 hours – 15 hours</p> <p>Available hours - Weekends Saturday and Sunday 09.00 – 18.00</p> <p>Fully booked Monday – Friday 18.00 – 21.00 – Booked 15 hours.</p> <p>Saturday fully booked 09.00 – 12.00. 12.00 – 13.00 2/3rds available, 13.00 – 17.00 available – Booked 3 2/3rds hourly slots.</p> <p>Sundays 09.00 – 10.00 available, 10.00 – 12.00 fully booked, 12.00 – 17.00 available. Booked for 2 hours</p> <p>Only suitable for football, non-contact rugby league and rugby union training. Not suitable for hockey</p>	Unsecured	80m x 55m	Long	Yes	Yes, Expires May 2025	Year built 2013 will require refurbishment (Carpet over 10 years old).
Sheppey United FC ME12 3DB	Sheppey	1	<p>Only suitable for football, non-contact rugby league and rugby union training. Not suitable for hockey.</p> <p>Restricted community use due to match play mid-week and weekends.</p>	Secured	100 x 64	Long	Yes	Yes, expires May 2024	Built 2021
Sittingbourne Golf Centre ME9 9AR	Sittingbourne	1	<p>Monday – Friday 09.00 – 20.30 hours</p> <p>Weekends</p>	Secured	44m x 33m (7v7) Commercial Management	Long 57mm	Yes	No	Built 2021

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Site Name	Analysis Area	No. of Pitches	Available Community Use Peak Period	Security of tenure	Size	Pile	Sports Lighting (Yes or No)	FA Registered	Year Built/ Refurbished
			Saturday and Sunday 09.00 – 13.00						
King Georges Playing Field ME13 8TH	Faversham	1	Used by Faversham Strike Force and local schools and clubs by appointment.	Secured		Long	Yes	Yes, Expires May 2024	Built 2013 requires a replacement carpet. (Carpet over 10 years old)
HMP Elmley ME12 4DZ	Sheppey	1	Fully utilised. Not available for public use	Unsecured		Sand filled			and new fencing
HMP Swaleside ME12 4AX	Sheppey	1	Not available for public use	Unsecured		Long			

- 3.8. There are 2 x sand filled AGPs that are suitable for hockey. These are Westlands School AGP used mainly by Gore Court Hockey Club with occasional football training and Borden Grammar School used by Sittingbourne Hockey Club and Faversham Women's Hockey Club and has all hockey use. There is a smaller sand filled AGP at The Sittingbourne School that is too small for hockey and is used for football training and recreational football. Westlands School hockey AGP has had the sub base renewed and carpet replaced in July 2023.
- 3.9. HMP Emley has a small sand dressed and 3G AGP neither of these are available for public.
- 3.10. Central Stadium, Sittingbourne had a small sand dressed AGP that is not recorded in Pitch Finder or Active Places Power. The sand dressed AGP is not suitable for match play or training as it has fallen into complete disrepair and is surrounded by a lorry park. There may be an opportunity to repurpose to provide small-sided training provision although access may be an issue.
- 3.11. There is a 7v7 3G AGP built in 2021 at Sittingbourne Golf Centre managed commercially with floodlights but not FA 3G pitch registered.

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3.12. In total there are 6 AGPs, 5 are full size and 1 5v5. All are FA 3G Pitch registered and have floodlights. These are:

- The Sittingbourne School Full Size – Sittingbourne
- The Abbey School full Size – Faversham
- Faversham Town FC full size - Faversham
- King George's Playing Field (Faversham Strike Force FC) 5v5 – Faversham
- Oasis Academy Full size – Sheppey
- Sheppey United FC Full Size - Sheppey

3.13. A new full size 3G AGP which is FA 3G Pitch Registered has opened at Faversham Town FC at the start of the 2023/24 season. The AGP has community use, with a formal community use agreement in place. The pitch markings are restricted to 11v11 due to ground grading requirements for the level of football. The AGP is used by Faversham Town FC and Faversham Strike Force for match play and training. This will allow more slots at the Abbey School to be filled with new youth, ladies, and disability teams around the town. Faversham Town FC Kent Youth League Teams are using the 3G pitch for match play on Sundays.

3.14. There are no World Rugby Regulation 22 AGPs provided in Swale currently. There is a need for additional floodlit training for Rugby Union in Sittingbourne and Faversham sub areas. Any new 3G AGPs proposed for these two sub areas should consider the need for floodlit training facilities for Rugby Union and a World Regulation 22 compliant pitch in these two sub areas.

3.15. Football clubs across Swale particularly in the Faversham and Sittingbourne sub areas have stated the need for additional 3G football turf pitches for training and match play. The existing 3G AGPs are full Monday to Friday except for some late-night hours and Friday evenings, times that are not always suitable for use. Sittingbourne Clubs include Bredhurst Juniors and Seniors, Sittingbourne Fc. Park Regis, Upchurch. Faversham clubs include Dawes Hernehill Herons and Faversham Strike Force

3.16. The way 3G AGPs are used is rapidly changing; current line-marking systems allow for match play across all formats of football (5 v 5, 7 v 7, 9 v 9 and 11 v 11). This enables significant levels of match-play to be transferred from grass to 3G.

Future Provision 3G AGPs

3.17. The Swale Local Football Facilities Plan (LFPP) 2020 highlights the following 3G AGP need:

- **King George Playing Field (Faversham)** - Existing facilities: site consists of one 7v7 3G FTP and three full size equivalent grass pitches with changing facilities. The 3G FTP was installed in 2013 and the surface will require replacing imminently. The current surface was not Football Foundation funded, there is a sinking fund in place, however, the club may need some assistance with funding.

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- **Oasis Academy Sheppey** - Existing facilities: site consists of one full size 3G FTP and one full size equivalent grass pitch with changing facilities. The surface of the 3G FTP is approaching the end of its lifespan and requires resurfacing. The current surface is non-Football Foundation funded. The Academy was not directly consulted with as part of the LFFP process, further investigation and feasibility planning is required.
 - **Faversham Area** - In this area there is potential demand for one full size 3G FTP and two possible options. Any potential 3G FTP developments at the below sites would be subject to full feasibility planning at application stage. Further analysis is required to determine the site.
 - Option 1 - Faversham Town FC which has two full size equivalent grass pitches and changing facilities. The development of a 3G AGP has now come to fruition at Faversham Town. The community use however is restricted by use by Faversham Town FC Senior Teams.
 - Option 2 - Queen Elizabeth Grammar School which has three full size equivalent grass pitches and changing facilities. However, there are concerns surrounding Flood zone 3 and traffic assessment affecting the deliverability of the project.
 - Option 3 – consider alternatives or future housing development options as they arise.
 - **Sittingbourne School** - Existing facilities: site consists of one full size 3G FTP and five full size equivalent grass pitches with changing facilities. Additionally, there is a 50x35m sand based AGP situated adjacent to the existing 3G FTP. The current 3G FTP was funded by the Football Foundation. Consultation with the school highlights potential to convert the sand based AGP to 3G. Any 3G FTP development would be subject to full feasibility planning at application stage.
 - **Isle of Sheppey Area** - Through consultation and steering group discussions no obvious sites have been identified on the Isle of Sheppey. Location of potential 3G FTP is to be confirmed.
- 3.18. King George Playing Field Faversham is heavily used by Faversham Strike Force FC. The small sided 3G AGP is heavily used by the club and local schools with some rugby union non-contact training taking place. The AGP carpet requires replacing. The club are heavily invested into using The Abbey School 3G aGP and Faversham Town FC 3G AGP.
- 3.19. Oasis Academy Sheppey is used more now than in 2020 and the surface will require resurfacing soon.
- 3.20. Sittingbourne School – the small, sided sand based AGP is used totally for football training and no hockey takes place. The existing pitch is too small for either Gore Court or Sittingbourne Hockey Clubs use. There is potential to provide a 3G AGP surface at this site if the Swale Borough Playing Pitch Steering Group can agree to resurface the small, sided sand based to provide a 3G AGP.
- 3.21. Sheppey Area – since the Local Football Facilities Football Plan was written. Sheppey United have built a 3G AGP for its own use for matches and training. The club hires out the 3G pitch for community use but again this is restricted mid-week for match play. There is no formal community use agreement in place as part of the planning conditions.

Supply and Demand Analysis

FA Training Model

- 3.22. The FA considers high quality third generation artificial grass pitches as an essential tool in promoting coach and player development. AGPs can support intensive use and as such are great assets for both playing and training. Primarily such facilities have been installed for community use and training, however, are increasingly used for competition which The FA wholly supports.
- 3.23. The FA's long-term ambition is to provide every affiliated team in England the opportunity to train once per week on floodlit 3G surface, together with priority access for every Charter Standard Community Club through a partnership agreement. The FA standard estimates that one full size AGP can service 38 teams.
- 3.24. Table 34: considers the number of full size 3G pitches required if every team was to remain training within the analysis area in which they play. The 3G requirement is rounded up to the whole number so every team has an opportunity to train.
- 3.25. The model assumes 38 football teams per full size 3G AGP. The number of teams in each sub area includes walking and disability football teams.
- 3.26. The current team numbers have been used with ONS Population Projections 2018 Sub National Based 2018 (2023 – 2040) and the data placed into the Playing Pitch Calculator (PPC). The output is 57 teams by 2040. In addition, the unmet demand of 32 teams has been consider. In total 89 teams in the future. This should be reviewed on an annual basis as team demand changes on an annual basis.
- 3.27. The unmet demand has been distributed to the sub areas where the teams play. The PPC have been distributed by using the percentage of current teams by sub area.
- 3.28. When applying the above methodology on a Swale Council basis there is a current need for a further 3.6 full size 3G pitches, rising to 5.8 to cater for future demand in 2040. This is in addition to the 5.5 3G AGPs which currently service Swale.

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Table 33: Current demand for 3G pitches in Swale for Affiliated Football Team Training (38 teams per pitch)

Analysis Sub Area	Current No. of Teams	Current Requirement	Current No. of Full size 3G	Current Shortfall	Future Number of Teams 2040	Future Requirement 2040	Future Shortfall 2040
Faversham	106	2.8	2.5	0.3	134	3.5	1
Sittingbourne	152	4	1	3	191	5	4
Sheppey	87	2.3	2	0.3	109	2.8	0.8
Swale Total	345	9.1	5.5	3.6	434	11.3	5.8

- 3.29. In conclusion, there is an insufficient supply of full size 3G pitches to meet current and anticipated future training demand based on the FA training model in Swale. There is a need for further provision to be provided currently in the Sittingbourne sub area. It must be noted though that there will be restrictions on use mid-week on the full-size pitches at Faversham Town FC and Sheppey United 3G AGP due to midweek matches.
- 3.30. To ensure that current and any future supply are maintained to a good enough standard to accommodate demand, providers are encouraged to put sinking funds in place to ensure long-term sustainability. Annual budgets must include a sink fund to provide funds for replacing the surface every 7 - 10 years depending on use. This will allow for re-surfacing to take place when required and will ensure that FA certification remains in place.
- 3.31. Any new 3G pitches should comply with FA certification once installed and be placed on the FA 3G Pitch Register to allow for match play as well as training.
- 3.32. Discussions should be held between the FA Football Foundation and RFU when considering any additional 3G AGPs in the Sittingbourne sub area. Sittingbourne Rugby Club have a need for floodlit training mid-week and a World Rugby Regulation 22 AGP would meet this need.
- 3.33. In addition, if a 2 x AGP hockey facility is provided in the future, this would mean that either Westlands School AGP or Borden Grammar School AGP may be redundant in the Sittingbourne Sub Area and discussions should be held to see if it would be possible to reconfigure one of these AGPs to 3G and or World Rugby Regulation 22 AGP.

3G Pitch and Artificial Grass Pitch Draft Recommendations

1. All existing AGPs are required to be protected in the Local Plan including the disused AGP at Central Park. All AGPs should be protected unless equivalent or better replacements are to be provided or appropriate mitigation is provided that meets Sport England Playing Pitch Policy and National Governing Body guidelines.
2. There is an insufficient supply of full size 3G pitches to meet current and anticipated future demand for football in Swale. Particularly in the Sittingbourne Sub Area.
3. There are currently 5.5 full size 3G pitches across Swale (Includes Faversham Town FC). All are available for community use and are currently FA Registered.
4. There is an existing need for 9.1 3G pitches and a current shortfall of 3.66 3G pitches.
5. Considering future need for 2040. Demand modelling predicts a need for a further 2.2 x 3G AGPs in addition to the current shortfall of 3.66 x 3G AGPs. The future requirement 2040 minus current supply is predicted to be 5.8 3G AGPs.
6. Consider a 3G AGP that can be utilised as a World Rugby Regulation 22 compliant AGP as well as football in the Sittingbourne Sub Area particularly provide for rugby training mid-week.
7. Consider meeting future demand for a 2 AGP sports hub for hockey that has been identified in the hockey section of the PPS.
8. Consider reconfiguration of either Westlands School or Borden Grammar School AGP to a 3G AGP if a 2 x AGP facility is built for hockey in the future. This would still leave 3 x AGPs for Hockey demand.
9. To ensure that current and any future supply are maintained to a good enough standard to accommodate demand, providers are encouraged to put sinking funds in place to ensure long-term sustainability. Annual budgets must include a sink fund to provide funds for replacing the surface every 7 -10 years depending on use and maintenance. This will allow for re-surfacing to take place when required and will ensure that FA certification remains in place.
10. Any new 3G pitches should comply with FA certification once installed and be placed on the FA 3G Pitch Register to allow for match play as well as training.

4. Rugby Union

Introduction

- 4.1. This appendix to the Swale Borough Council Playing Pitch Strategy 2023 details the current picture of facility supply and demand for the playing pitch sport of **rugby union** - at playing field sites in the borough.

Pitch Supply (Step 2)

- 4.2. For all the playing pitch sports included in the scope of the PPS for Swale Borough, the supply information has been gathered, as far as possible, by a combination of data collection and review, and face to face consultations with all clubs.
- 4.3. Sources of information – The sources of information used to establish current pitch supply were latest Sport England Active Places Power audit for playing pitches; relevant NGB, county board and club websites; NGB insight data (where available); face to face consultation with the three rugby clubs based in Swale Borough and information provided by school’s surveys.
- 4.4. Site visits and inspections – Visits to the rugby pitches in Swale Borough and visual, non-technical inspection.

Rugby Supply

- 4.5. Findings relating to rugby pitch supply in Swale Borough is summarised below.

Number and sizes of pitches

- 4.6. In the 2022/23 season, there are 6 sites providing 9 senior rugby pitches across Swale Borough. A third pitch at Sheppey rugby Club is currently used for football. Faversham sub area has 3 senior pitches, Sittingbourne sub area 4 senior pitches and Sheppey sub area 2 senior pitches.

Table 34: Swale Rugby Union Pitches by sub Area

Sub Area	Site	Number of Senior Pitches	Secured Community use
Faversham	Faversham Recreation Ground	1	Yes
	Queen Elizabeth Grammar School	1	No
	The Abbey School	1	No

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Sub Area	Site	Number of Senior Pitches	Secured Community use
Sittingbourne	Fulston Manor School	2	No
	Gore Court Cricket Club (Top Field)	2	Yes
Sheppey	Sheppey Rugby Club	2 (3 rd pitch being used for football)	Yes

Secured Community Use Pitches

4.7. There are 3 secured community use club sites one in each sub area:

- Faversham Sub Area – Faversham Rugby Club – Faversham Recreation Ground
- Sittingbourne Sub Area – Sittingbourne Rugby Club – Gore Court (Top Field)
- Sheppey Sub Area – Sheppey Rugby Club

4.8. Currently Sheppey Rugby Club is the only Club that owns its site with 2 senior rugby pitches, senior football pitch and clubhouse.

4.9. Sittingbourne Rugby Club currently use 2 senior rugby pitches on the Top Field at Gore Court Sports Club and have use of the clubhouse and train on grass land adjacent to the clubhouse. Although the pitches are secure community use the Rugby club has become the largest user of Gore Court Sports Club clubhouse but recognises that it needs its own facilities for the future. Gore Court Sports Club purchased the Top Field in the late 1960's early 1970's and originally used for cricket and hockey

4.10. Faversham Rugby Club have a single senior pitch at Faversham Recreation Ground rented to them but owned by the local authority and their clubhouse is part of the Lodge at Faversham Recreation Ground leased from Swale Borough Council. The club currently has a 10-year lease on the Lodge. The club have been in the Lodge for a number of years as the only tenant until the local authority received Heritage funding and the Lodge was redesigned. The original lease ceased. The redesign of the Lodge with the Heritage Funding has allowed a café style kiosk to open onto the main park with a small loss of space for the rugby club and the kiosk has been leased to a commercial caterer. The club still has access to a garden area, bar and changing facilities at the Recreation Ground.

4.11. The other rugby pitch sites are all unsecured community use sites in education ownership.

Pitch Quality Community Use Rugby Union Sites.

4.12. All sites have been visited and non-technical site assessments have been undertaken to provide an overall quality score that is in line with the RFU guidance provided below. Face to face consultation has taken place with all three rugby clubs.

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- 4.13. The maintenance and drainage scores determine the capacity of a pitch in match equivalents. The drainage scores are based upon a pipe drained system at 5m centres that has been installed in the last eight years; and a slit drained system at 1m centres. If systems are beyond this, then they are considered to be natural drainage – adequate or inadequate depends on pitch condition.

Table 35: RFU pitch assessment guidance

Drainage	Maintenance		
	Poor (M0)	Standard (M1)	Good (M2)
Natural Inadequate (D0)	0.5	1.5	2
Natural Adequate (D1)	1.5	2	3
Pipe Drained (D2)	1.75	2.5	3.25
Pipe and Slit Drained (D3)	2	3	3.5

- 4.14. Table 37 below shows the pitch scores following a non-technical quality assessment of the pitches that are used by the community for rugby in Swale Borough and discussions with the three rugby clubs. This allows us to understand the capacity of each pitch from a community use perspective, using the capacity calculations in Table 36.

Table 36: Community sites and individual pitch capacity

Site Name	Type of pitch	Drainage Score	Pitch maintenance score	Pitch Capacity	Overall capacity of site
Sheppey RUFC	Pitch 1 (Training Pitch Floodlit)	D1	M1	2	4
Sheppey RUFC	Pitch 2 (Main Pitch outside clubhouse)	D1	M1	2	
Sittingbourne RUFC	Pitch1	D1	M1	2	4
Sittingbourne RUFC	Pitch 2	D1	M1	2	
Faversham RUFC	Pitch	D1	M0	1.5	1.5

- 4.15. Sheppey Rugby Club – considers it two pitches are good quality naturally drained and adequate, however pitch maintenance could be improved. There is a third pitch on site that is currently being used for football adjacent to the floodlit training pitch. Based on a drainage Score D1 and maintenance score M1 the two pitches have capacity for 4 MES per week.

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- 4.16. Sittingbourne Rugby Club – considers the 2 pitches it has use of are of good quality. Both pitches are adequately naturally drained. Pitch quality maintenance could be improved. Based on a drainage Score D1 and maintenance score M1 the two pitches have capacity for 4 MES per week. The club trains on a separate grass area with partial floodlights next to the Gore Court Sports Club pavilion.
- 4.17. Faversham Rugby Club – considers its 1 pitch to be adequately naturally drained but has had issues with tree roots from nearby trees protruding through the pitch. The maintenance of the pitch could be improved. Based on a drainage Score D1 and maintenance score M0 the pitch has capacity for 1.5 MES per week. The club trains at the Abbey School either on the 3G AGP or in the school sports Hall. Neither AGP can be used for full contact training.

Proposed Rugby Supply Changes

- 4.18. The identified supply changes are:
1. Sittingbourne Rugby Club via a section 106 agreement will have access to a new site in Wises Lane as part of a housing development. A current planning application is awaiting approval 23/500263/REM - Approval of Reserved Matters for Scale, Appearance, Landscaping, Layout being sought for the Sittingbourne Rugby Club and Community Hub including, 2x RFU compliant rugby pitches and associated parking, pursuant to application 17/505711/HYBRID. The new site will comprise of a sports club and community building, sports club car park, and 2 senior rugby pitches all to RFU standards. The agreement is that the site will be delivered before 180 houses are built. However, floodlights were not agreed as part of the planning permission. A junior rugby pitch and two mini rugby pitches are to be provided on the new primary school playing fields across the road from the new rugby club development. Sittingbourne Rugby Club will be the incumbent sports club and have said they will have access to the junior and two mini rugby pitches on the school site. The club foresee a need to continue use of midweek training sessions on the existing grass area currently being used at Gore Court Sports Club due to no floodlights being allowed at the Wises Lane site.
 2. Faversham Rugby Club has stated during consultation that they have discussed land requirements with the Duchy of Cornwall Development at South East Faversham and that there is a possibility of land being available near to the M2, which would be large enough for 2 senior pitches a car park and a club house for their rugby use, if the development was agreed. The club believe they would have to find the funding to build the clubhouse and develop the pitches.
 3. Sheppey Rugby Club could convert their third pitch back to rugby from football if required. The club has planning permission for the erection of a single-story front and single storey rear extension to the existing clubhouse. The club is looking to modernise the current facilities so it can cater for its wide membership base of women, children and men. The new extension and refurbishment will meet RFU guidance for space and design to provide changing rooms, lavatories, and showers. A larger area for match officials is proposed along with a suitable first aid room/physio room for the club's members. The proposal includes extension of the bar area to allow comfortable viewing of the pitch from the clubhouse and provide a separate function area and members area. The club will have access to funding for the specific use of enhancing its clubhouse facility – Planning Reference 18/503135/OUT 700 new houses - Unilateral Agreement stating £160,000 off site contributions to Sheppey Rugby Club.

Pitch Demand (Step 3)

4.19. For all four sports of the main playing pitch sports, the following pitch demand information, has been gathered, as available, by a combination of data collection and review, surveys and face to face club consultations:

4.20. The sources of information used to establish current rugby pitch demand were:

- Face to face consultations with all three rugby clubs.
- Sport England tools - i.e. Active Places Power and Sports Market Segmentation (SMS) trends and latent demand.
- Club and league websites.

Rugby Demand

4.21. Findings relating to rugby pitch demand in Swale Borough for the 2022/23 season are summarised below.

Clubs and Teams

4.22. The clubs have the following teams 2022/23:

- **Sheppey RFC** (source face to face consultation) – 1st XV men’s, 2nd XV men’s, 1st XV Women’s, U14 youth team. U10, U9, U7 mini midi teams.
- **Sittingbourne RFC** (Source face to face consultation) – 2 adult (male) teams, Development Team playing one game per month, Vets team playing 4 games a year and a Vets team playing in the Kent County Cup. 1 women’s team set up for the first time in 2022. U17 male, U16 male, U15 male, U14 male, U13 male, U12 male, U11 and U10 mixed, U9 mixed, U8 mixed and Under 7’s and 6s mixed.
- **Faversham RFC** (Source face to face consultation) – 2 adult male teams and 1 women’s team.

Table 37: Number of Rugby Union Teams – Swale Borough

Site Name	Adult Men	Adult Women	Juniors U18 – U19	Juniors 13 – 17 years	Minis U12 – U6
Sheppey RUFC	2	1	-	1	3
Sittingbourne RUFC	5	1	-	5	7
Faversham RUFC	2	1	-	-	-
Totals	8	3	-	6	10

Training and Match Demand

- 4.23. The capacity for pitches to regularly accommodate competitive play, training and other activity over a season is determined by quality. As a minimum, the quality, and therefore the capacity, of a pitch affect the playing experience and people's enjoyment of playing rugby. In extreme circumstances it can result in the inability of the pitch to cater for all or certain types of play during peak and off-peak times.
- 4.24. To enable an accurate supply and demand assessment of rugby pitches, the following assumptions are applied:
- All sites that are used for competitive rugby matches are included on the supply side.
 - As a winter sport most mid-week training will take place under floodlights
 - All competitive play is on senior sized pitches (except for where mini or junior pitches are provided).
 - From U14 upwards, teams play 15 v 15 on a full-size pitch.
 - Mini teams (U7-12) play on half of a senior pitch i.e., two teams per senior pitch.
 - For senior and youth teams the current level of play per week is set at 0.5 for each match played based on all teams operating on a traditional home and away basis (assumes half of matches will be played away).
 - For mini teams, play per week is set at 0.25 for each match played based on all teams operating on a traditional home and away basis and playing across half of one adult team pitch or mini pitch.
 - Most male adult club rugby match play takes place on a Saturday afternoon.
 - Colts Rugby U18 match play takes place on Sundays,
 - All U13-U16 rugby takes place both midweek for training and weekends on a Sunday morning for match play.
 - Women's rugby union takes place traditionally on Sunday's pm unless it is University Rugby, which takes place Wednesday afternoons.
 - Training that takes place on club pitches is reflected by the addition of team equivalents. 2 teams training on one pitch on one evening = one match equivalent session.

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- Quality of pitches determines the capacity or number of times a pitch can be played. The RFU has set guidance standards for the number of matches and match equivalent sessions that each grass pitch type should be able to accommodate without adversely affecting its current quality (pitch capacity).
- **Sheppey RFC:**
 - 2 adult (male) teams play on Saturday afternoons (1 MES) and train on Wednesday (1 MES).
 - Women's team train Sunday mornings (0.5 MES) and play Sunday afternoons (0.5 MES).
 - Youth U14's (0.5 MES) and 3 mini/midi teams train and play Sunday AM (0.75 MES).
 - Match play equates to 1.5 MES per week and 1 MES for floodlit midweek training and 1.75 MES for Sunday training. This totals 4.25 match and training equivalent sessions per week.
- **Sittingbourne RFC**
 - 1st XV men's, 2nd XV men's 3rd XV development squad play once a month The legion a social team playing 4 games a season. Vets team competes in the Kent County cup. Adult teams play on a Saturday afternoon and train on Tuesday and Thursday evenings (5 teams = 2.5 MES midweek training per week x 2 equates to 5 MES per week).
 - For senior team match play add the Social Team, Development Team and Vets team together to provide a whole seasons of matches equivalent to 1 team equates to 0.5 MES per week and the 1st XV and 2nd XV equates to 1 MES per week This equates to 1.5 match play MES per week.
 - Women's team train Wednesday midweek 0.5 MES and play Sunday afternoons 0.5 MES
 - U17's play Sunday mornings 0.5 MES and train Wednesday and Thursday midweek 1 MES.
 - U16's train or play every Sunday morning 0.5 MES and train Wednesday midweek 0.5 MES
 - U15's train or play every Sunday morning 0.5 MES and train Tuesdays midweek 0.5 MES.
 - U14's train or play every Sunday morning 0.5 MES and train Tuesdays midweek 0.5 MES
 - U13's train or play Sunday mornings 0.5 MES and train Thursday midweek 0.5 MES
 - U12's train and play Sunday mornings 0.25 MES
 - U10's and U11's train as a combined squad Sundays 0.25 MES
 - U9's train and play Sunday mornings 0.25 MES per week.
 - U8's train and play Sunday morning 0.25 MES per week.
 - U6's and 7's combine training on Sunday morning 0.25 MES per week
 - The total training and match equivalent sessions per week equate to 16.75 MES. Midweek training equates to 11 MES, Sunday training equates to 3.75 MES and match play Saturdays equates to 1.5 MES per week and 0.5 MES Sunday pm.
- **Faversham RFC**
 - 1st XV and 2nd XV men's play Saturday pm 1 MES and train on Tuesdays midweek 1 MES.
 - Women's team plays Sunday pm 0.5 MES and trains on Tuesdays midweek 0.5 MES.
 - The total training and match equivalent sessions per week equate to 3 MES. Midweek training equates to 1.5 MES, match play Saturdays equates to 1 MES per week and 0.5 MES Sunday pm.

Unmet Demand

- 4.25. Clubs have identified unmet demand and aspire to further growth of members and informal participation although consider that that they are operating at capacity on the playing areas they currently have available.
- 4.26. Sheppey RFC aspire to provide the following additional teams: 1 senior vets man's and U12s team = 0.5 MES senior match play and 0.5 MES senior training under floodlights. 0.25 MES training/match play weekly.
- 4.27. Sittingbourne RFC aspire to provide 2 youth girl's teams to support the new women's team. 1 MES training mid-week and 1 MES match play weekends weekly.
- 4.28. Faversham RFC if they had the coaching staff and facilities would like to start a junior section. Not allocated but a scenario 1 junior team and 3 minis would require an additional 0.5 MES mid-week training and 1.25 MES weekend match play and training.
- 4.29. The total additional match play and training MES weekends would be 3 MES and mid-week floodlit training would be 2 MES.

Latent Demand

- 4.30. By providing and promoting more opportunities for social play (e.g. vets sides) and less physically demanding forms of the game (e.g. Adult Touch and TAG) it is clear there is good potential to grow the game further in Swale.

Displaced Demand

- 4.31. There is no imported demand for rugby in Swale. In other words, no clubs and teams based in other local authority areas play or train on rugby pitches in Swale as their home ground.

Future Demand (Rugby Growth) Population Demand

- 4.32. As well as growth through latent demand, there will be growth through population demands.
- 4.33. Swale Borough Council are currently in the process of updating and providing a new local plan that will go to 2040.
- 4.34. The position on housing numbers is for the period 1st April 2022 to 31st March 2040 i.e., 18 years (1078 p.a.) is the need for 19,404. About 8,000 dwellings are already accounted for through allocations in the current local plan, bearing fruits and other planning permissions. This leaves a total of 11,404 new dwellings to be allocated.

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- 4.35. A total of 11,404 homes with an average household size of 2.3 persons provides a new resident population of 26,299. The Sport England Playing Pitch Calculator Tool identifies the demand and need for additional pitches and cost for rugby facilities across Swale up to 2040.
- 4.36. The table below identifies the number of rugby pitches required to meet population increase from new developments by 2040 across Swale. The Playing Pitch Calculator identifies that developer's contributions capital costs towards rugby union between 2023 and 2040 should be £296,175 with lifecycle costs per annum of £63,382 and changing room costs of £698,789. The new population generates match play MES of 1.65 MES per week and training MES under floodlights 1.86 MES per week. The current unmet demand equates to 3 MES match play/training weekends and 2 MES weekday under floodlights per week. The total projected additional MES is 4.65 weekly for match play and training at weekends and 3.86 MES mid-week for training under floodlights.

Table 38: Sport England Playing Pitch Calculator – Population Increase 2023 – 2040.

	Number of pitches required to meet the estimated demand	Capital Cost	Lifecycle Cost (per annum)	Changing rooms (number)	Changing rooms (capital cost)
Total	1.65	£296,175	£63,382	3.31	£698,789
Natural Grass Pitches	1.65	£296,175	£63,382	3.31	£698,789
Rugby Union	1.65	£296,175	£63,382	3.31	£698,789

Summary of Demand, supply and Capacity for Weekly Training and Match Play

- 4.37. Sheppey Rugby Club has demand for 1 MES training mid-week. The women's team and juniors train on a Sunday. Table 40 identifies spare capacity on the training pitch midweek of 1 MES. The spare mid-week 1 MES can accommodate some Sunday training and match play. Overall, there is a shortfall of 0.25 MES.

Table 39: Sheppey Rugby Club Summary of Demand, Supply and Capacity for weekly Training Equivalent Sessions and match play

Cub	Demand Training Equivalent Sessions Per Week	Supply Training equivalent sessions per Week	Overplay Training Equivalent Sessions Per Week.
Sheppey Rugby Club Training Pitch Floodlit	1	2	1
Totals	1	2	1

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Cub	(A) Demand Match Equivalent Sessions per Week and Sunday Morning Training for Women' s Team	(D) Supply Match & Training Equivalent Sessions per Week	(E) Overplay Match and Training Equivalent Sessions per Week
Sheppey Rugby Club			
Pitch 2 has capacity for 2 MES and 1 MES Training Pitch from table above (D)	3.25	3	0..25
Totals	3.25	9	Overall 0.25

4.38. Sittingbourne Rugby Club has demand for 11 MES training mid-week. Sunday training equates to 3.75 MES and match play Saturdays equates to 1.5 MES per week and 0.5 MES Sunday pm. There are no floodlit pitches for mid-week training.

4.39. Training takes place adjacent to the clubhouse at Gore Court. On the basis that there is no pitch as such for training there is a shortfall of 11 MES. There is a 1.75 shortfall of match play and training MES at the weekends.

Table 40: Sittingbourne Rugby Club Summary of Demand, Supply and Capacity for weekly Training Equivalent Sessions and Match Play

Cub	Demand Training Equivalent Sessions Per Week	Supply Training equivalent sessions per Week	Overplay Training Equivalent Sessions Per Week
Sittingbourne Rugby Club Training	11	0	11
Totals	11	0	11

Cub	(A) Demand Match Equivalent Sessions per Week and Sunday Morning Training	(D) Supply Match & Training Equivalent Sessions per Week	(E) Overplay Match and Training Equivalent Sessions per Week
Sittingbourne Rugby Club			
Pitch 1 and 2	5.75	4	1.75
Totals	5.75	4	1.75

4.40. Faversham Rugby Club has demand for 1.5 MES training mid-week. Training currently takes place on the 3G AGP at Abbey School and must be non-contact as this type of pitch is not suitable for full contact rugby union. On this basis there is a shortfall of 1.5 MES training need. There is an even balance between demand and supply for match play MES.

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Table 41: Faversham Rugby Club Summary of Demand, Supply and Capacity for weekly Training Equivalent Sessions and Match Play

Cub	Demand Training Equivalent Sessions Per Week	Supply Training equivalent sessions per Week	Overplay Training Equivalent Sessions Per Week.
Faversham Rugby Club Training	1.5	0	1.5
Totals	1.5	0	1.5
Cub	(A) Demand Match Equivalent Sessions per Week and Sunday Morning Training	(D) Supply Match & Training Equivalent Sessions per Week	(E) Overplay Match and Training Equivalent Sessions per Week
Faversham Rugby Club	1.5	1.5	0
Pitch			
Totals	1.5	1.5	0

- 4.41. Table 42 below provides a summary of the current 2022/23 season demand, supply and capacity for weekly training equivalent sessions and match play across Swale Borough for rugby union. There is a shortfall of 11.5 MES for mid-week weekly floodlight training and a shortfall of 2 MES for match play and weekly training at weekends.

Table 42: Swale Borough Rugby Union Summary of Current 2022/23 Season Demand, Supply and Capacity for weekly Training Equivalent Sessions and Match Play

Cub	Demand Training Equivalent Sessions Per Week	Supply Training equivalent sessions per Week	Overplay Training Equivalent Sessions Per Week.
Swale Borough Training Mid-Week Under floodlights	13.5	2	11.5
Totals	13.5	2	11.5
Cub	(A) Demand Match Equivalent Sessions per Week and Sunday Morning Training	(D) Supply Match & Training Equivalent Sessions per Week	(E) Overplay Match and Training Equivalent Sessions per Week
Swale Borough Match Play and Weekend Training	10.5	8.5	2
Totals	10.5	8.5	2

- 4.42. Table 43 below identifies the current 2022/23 season and future 2040 demand and supply for rugby club MES and pitches. The shortfall in 2040 equates to 15.36 MES for weekly training under floodlights and 6.65 MES for weekend match play and training.

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Table 43: Current and Future Demand to 2040 For Community Rugby club Pitches

	(A) Current Demand Match Equivalent Sessions 2022/23	(B) Current Capacity Weekly Training and Match Equivalents (2022/23)	(C) Current Shortfall Match Equivalent Sessions (2022/23) = (B – A)	(D) Participation Increase Aspirations	(E) Projected Population Increase (2023 – 204)	Future deficit match and Training Equivalent Sessions (2031)
Weekly Training MES Under floodlights - midweek	13.50	2	11.50	2	1.86	15.36
Weekly Match and Training MES - weekend	10.50	8.50	2	3	1.65	6.65

- 4.43. Given the above-mentioned shortfalls, priority should be placed first and foremost on alleviating overplay. Given that the majority of overplay is a result of training demand on grass pitches, it is considered that there is a potential need for additional floodlighting, pitch quality improvements and/or access to World Rugby Regulation 22 compliant AGPs. Scenarios exploring this are evidenced below.

Scenario - Improving pitch quality.

- 4.44. Improving pitch quality and drainage of existing rugby union pitches and the impact on weekly capacity is considered in the table below.
- 4.45. Sheppey Rugby Club pitch improvements would increase capacity by 3 MES per week and would meet the current shortfall as the shortfall is currently for match play and weekend training.
- 4.46. Sittingbourne Rugby Club pitch improvements to its existing pitches at Gore Core Sport Ground would meet the shortfall for match play and weekend training 1.75 MES by increasing capacity by 3 MES. It would not impact on mid-week training as neither pitch is floodlit. There would still be a deficit of 11 MES for mid-week training.
- 4.47. Faversham Rugby Club has balanced play for match play but a shortfall of 1.5 MES for training mid-week under a floodlit pitch. As the club has no access to a floodlit rugby pitch, this shortfall cannot be met by pitch quality improvements. Improving the pitch quality would provide an additional 2 MES allowing for additional junior teams to be able to play matches at weekends but not provide for training MES under floodlights.

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Table 44: Improving Quality and Drainage of Rugby Pitches and impact on weekly capacity.

Site	Match & Training Capacity Weekly	Overplayed MES Weekly	Improve Quality of Maintenance/ Drainage	Overplay/Spare Capacity after improving quality of Drainage and Maintenance Weekly
Sheppey Sports Club	Pitch 1 (Outside clubhouse) 2 MES Pitch 2 floodlit pitch (Both pitches Maintenance M1/ Drainage D1) 2 MES Total 4 MES	Total 0.25 MES	Maintenance at highest. M2 (2 MES) Improve drainage to pipe and slit increase to D3/M2 MES (3.5 MES x 2 pitches = 7MES) from D1/M1 (2 MES x 2 pitches = 4 MES) weekly improvement = 3 MES Total weekly increased capacity equates to 3 MES.	2.75 MES
Sittingbourne Rugby Club	Pitch 1 - 2 MES Pitch 2 – 2MES (Both pitches Maintenance M1/ Drainage D1) Total 4 MES	Total 12.75 MES	Improve maintenance to M2 and drainage to pipe and slit D3 = M2/D3 (2 pitches x 3.5 MES) = 7 MES from M1/D1 (2 x 2 MES) = 4 MES Total weekly increased capacity equates to 3 MES	9.75 MES
Faversham Rugby Club	Pitch 1 - (Maintenance M0/ Drainage D1) Total 1.5 MES	6 MES	Improve maintenance to M2 and drainage to pipe and slit D3 = M2/D3. (1 pitch x 3.5 MES) = 3.5 MES from M0/D1 (1.5 MES x 1) = 1.5 MES. Total weekly increased capacity equates to 2 MES.	2 MES
Totals				5 MES

4.48. By improving the maintenance to good M2 and providing pipe and slit drainage D3 across all sites and pitches still leaves a shortfall of 5 MES.

4.49. This indicates that there is a need for additional pitches or access to a World Rugby Regulation 22 Compliant pitch to alleviate this overplay.

Scenario – Sittingbourne Rugby Club Wises Lane

- 4.50. If Sittingbourne Rugby Club moved to Wises Lane and the quality of the pitches was maintenance M2, and drainage was pipe and slit D3 M2/D3 for each of the pitches this would equate to 2 senior pitches and 1 junior pitch and 2 mini soccer pitches providing 3.5 MES each equating to 17.5 MES. This meets the current match play and weekend training MES requirements of 5.75 MES but will not meet the 11 MES mid-week floodlit training shortfall as none of the pitches will be floodlit.

Scenario- Increasing Access to Rugby Union Floodlit Training Provision

- 4.51. If Faversham Rugby Club could have access to 2 rugby pitches as part of any new development in Faversham and these pitches were floodlit and provided maintenance M2 and drainage was piped and slit the training and match play MES would provide for 7 MES. This would provide for the current 3 MES required for training and match play weekly and provide the necessary MES weekly for junior teams to be developed.
- 4.52. Sittingbourne Rugby Club weekly training midweek equates to 11 MES. The club does not have access to floodlit pitches. If 1 floodlit pitch was provided this would be equivalent to 3.5 MES weekly. There would still be a shortfall of 7.5 MES. If the 2 senior and the school junior pitch at the proposed Wises Lane site were floodlit this would provide 1.5 MES weekly under floodlights but would still not be sufficient to meet match play MES at the weekends, Consideration should be given to provision of a World Rugby 22 Regulation 22 pitch to meet current and future demand.
- 4.53. An option could be to explore in partnership with the FA Football Foundation provision of a World Rugby Regulation 22 compliant AGP as there is a shortfall of Football 3G AGPs in the Sittingbourne sub area,

5. Rugby Union Summary

- 5.1 This section summarises the findings from the rugby analysis, which will form the basis of the recommendation and action plan section for SBC Playing Pitch Strategy 2023.
- 5.2 Table 45. includes the response to 5 key questions, which provide a standardised illustration of supply and demand for playing pitch sports provision. It shows the Analysis from the 2023 PPS.

Table 45: Key PPS findings for Rugby in Swale Borough

Key Question	Swale BC PPS Analysis 2023
<p>What are the main characteristics of the current supply and demand for provision?</p>	<p>In the 2020/23 season, there are 6 sites providing 9 senior rugby pitches across Swale Borough. A third pitch at Sheppey Rugby Club is currently used for football. Faversham sub area has 3 senior pitches, Sittingbourne sub area 4 senior pitches and Sheppey sub area 2 senior pitches.</p> <p>There are 3 secured community use club sites one in each sub area:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Faversham Sub Area – Faversham Rugby Club – Faversham Recreation Ground • Sittingbourne Sub Area – Sittingbourne Rugby Club – Gore Court (Top Field) • Sheppey Sub Area – Sheppey Rugby Club <p>Currently Sheppey Rugby Club is the only Club that owns its site with 2 senior rugby pitches, senior football pitch and clubhouse.</p> <p>Sittingbourne Rugby Club currently use 2 senior rugby pitches on the Top Field at Gore Court Sports Club and have use of the clubhouse and train on grass land adjacent to the clubhouse. Although the pitches are secure community use the Rugby Club has become the largest user of Gore Court Sports Club clubhouse but recognises that it needs its own facilities for the future. Gore Court Sports Club purchased the Top Field in the late 1960's early 1970's and was originally used for cricket and hockey.</p> <p>Faversham Rugby Club have a single senior pitch at Faversham Recreation Ground rented to them but owned by the local authority and their clubhouse is part of the Lodge at Faversham Recreation Ground leased from Swale Borough Council. The club currently has a 10-year lease on the Lodge.</p> <p>The club have been in the Lodge for several years as the only tenant until the local authority received Heritage funding and the Lodge was redesigned. The original lease ceased. The redesign of the Lodge with the Heritage Funding has allowed a café style kiosk to open onto the main park with a small loss of space for the rugby club and the kiosk has been leased to a commercial caterer. The club still has access to a garden area, bar and changing facilities at the Recreation Ground.</p> <p>The other rugby pitch sites are all unsecured community use sites in education ownership. Faversham – Queen Elizabeth Grammar School 1 rugby pitch and Abbey School 1 rugby pitch. Sittingbourne – Fulston Manor school 2 rugby pitches.</p> <p>There is no current provision of a World Rugby Regulation 22 AGP.</p>

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Key Question	Swale BC PPS Analysis 2023
	<p>Sheppey Rugby Club – considers it two pitches are good quality naturally drained and adequate, however pitch maintenance could be improved. There is a third pitch on site that is currently being used for football adjacent to the floodlit training pitch. Based on a drainage Score D1 and maintenance score M1 the two pitches have capacity for 4 MES per week.</p> <p>Sittingbourne Rugby Club – considers the 2 pitches it has use of are of good quality. Both pitches are adequately naturally drained. Pitch quality maintenance could be improved. Based on a drainage Score D1 and maintenance score M1 the two pitches have capacity for 4 MES per week. The club trains on a separate grass area with partial floodlights next to the Gore Court Sports Club pavilion.</p> <p>Faversham Rugby Club – considers its 1 pitch to be adequately naturally drained but has had issues with tree roots from nearby trees protruding through the pitch. The maintenance of the pitch could be improved. Based on a drainage Score D1 and maintenance score M0 the pitch has capacity for 1.5 MES per week. The club trains at the Abbey School either on the 3G AGP or in the school sports Hall. Neither AGP can be used for full contact training.</p> <p>The clubs have the following teams 2022/23:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sheppey RFC (source face to face consultation) – 1st XV men's, 2nd XV men's, 1st XV Women's, U14 youth team. U10, U9, U7 mini midi teams. • Sittingbourne RFC (Source face to face consultation) – 2 adult (male) teams, Development Team playing one game per month, Vets team playing year and a Vets team playing in the Kent County Cup. 1 women's team set up for the first time in 2022. U17 male, U16 male, U15 male, U14 male U12 male, U11 and U10 mixed, U9 mixed, U8 mixed and Under 7's and 6s mixed. • Faversham RFC (Source face to face consultation) – 2 adult male teams and 1 women's team. <p>Training and Match Demand 2022/23 Season</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sheppey RFC: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➢ 2 adult (male) teams play on Saturday afternoons (1 MES) and train on Wednesday (1 MES). ➢ Women's team train Sunday mornings (0.5 MES) and play Sunday afternoons (0.5 MES). ➢ Youth U14's (0.5 MES) and 3 mini/midi teams train and play Sunday AM (0.75 MES). ➢ Match play equates to 1.5 MES per week and 1 MES for floodlit midweek training and 1.75 MES for Sunday training. This totals 4.25 match and training equivalent sessions per week. • Sittingbourne RFC <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➢ 1st XV men's, 2nd XV men's 3rd XV development squad play once a month the legion a social team playing 4 games a season. Vets team competes in the Kent County cup. Adult teams play on a Saturday afternoon and train on Tuesday and Thursday evenings (5 teams = 2.5 MES midweek training per week x 2 equates to 5 MES per week). ➢ For senior team match play add the Social Team, Development Team, and Vets team together to provide a whole seasons of matches equivalent to 1 team equates to 0.5 MES per week and the 1st XV and 2nd XV equates to 1 MES per week This equates to 1.5 match play MES per week. ➢ Women's team train Wednesday midweek 0.5 MES and play Sunday afternoons 0.5 MES. ➢ U17's play Sunday mornings 0.5 MES and train Wednesday and Thursday midweek 1 MES. ➢ U16's train or play every Sunday morning 0.5 MES and train Wednesday midweek 0.5 MES. ➢ U15's train or play every Sunday morning 0.5 MES and train Tuesdays midweek 0.5 MES.

Key Question	Swale BC PPS Analysis 2023
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ U14's train or play every Sunday morning 0.5 MES and train Tuesdays midweek 0.5 MES. ➤ U13's train or play Sunday mornings 0.5 MES and train Thursday midweek 0.5 MES. ➤ U12's train and play Sunday mornings 0.25 MES. ➤ U10's and U11's train as a combined squad Sundays 0.25 MES ➤ U9's train and play Sunday mornings 0.25 MES per week. ➤ U8's train and play Sunday morning 0.25 MEs per week. ➤ U6's and 7's combine training on Sunday morning 0.25 MES per week ➤ The total training and match equivalent sessions per week equate to 16.75 MES. Midweek training equates to 11 MES, Sunday training equates to 3.75 MES and match play Saturdays equates to 1.5 MES per week and 0.5 MES Sunday pm. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Faversham RFC <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ 1st XV and 2nd XV men's play Saturday pm 1 MES and train on Tuesdays midweek 1 MES. ➤ Women's team plays Sunday pm 0.5 MES and trains on Tuesdays midweek 0.5 MES. ➤ The total training and match equivalent sessions per week equate to 3 MES. Midweek training equates to 1.5 MES, match play Saturdays equates to 1 MES per week and 0.5 MES Sunday pm. <p>Summary of Training and Match Demand</p> <p>Sheppey Rugby Club has demand for 1 MES training mid-week. The women's team and juniors train on a Sunday. There is spare capacity on the training pitch midweek of 1 MES. The spare mid-week 1 MES can accommodate some Sunday training and match play. Overall, there is a shortfall of 0.25 MES.</p> <p>Sittingbourne Rugby Club has demand for 11 MES training mid-week. Sunday training equates to 3.75 MES and match play Saturdays equates to 1.5 MES per week and 0.5 MES Sunday pm. There are no floodlit pitches for mid-week training. Training takes place adjacent to the clubhouse at Gore Court. On the basis that there is no pitch as such for training there is a shortfall of 11 MES. There is a 1.75 shortfall of match play and training MES at the weekends.</p> <p>Faversham Rugby Club has demand for 1.5 MES training mid-week. Training currently takes place on the 3G AGP at Abbey School and must be non-contact as this type of pitch is not suitable for full contact rugby union. On this basis there is a shortfall of 1.5 MES training need. There is an even balance between demand and supply for match play MES.</p> <p>Sheppey Rugby Club has planning permission to improve its clubhouse. Sittingbourne Rugby Club are waiting for new provision to be provided at Wises Lane as part of a Section 106 Agreement that will provide a new club house 2 senior pitches and on an adjacent school site access to a junior and 2 mini rugby pitches.</p> <p>Faversham Rugby Club aspires to move from Faversham Recreation Ground to a new 2 pitch and clubhouse facility that could be provided for from the Duchy of Cornwall's proposed new housing development in Faversham, but no planning application has come forward.</p>

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Key Question	Swale BC PPS Analysis 2023
<p>Is there enough accessible and secured community use provision to meet current demand</p>	<p>The current provision is secured but there is not sufficient capacity of match equivalent session (MES) to meet weekly training and match play demand.</p> <p>Sheppey Rugby Club - Overall, there is a shortfall of 0.25 MES.</p> <p>Sittingbourne Rugby Club - On the basis that there is no pitch as such for training that has floodlights, there is a shortfall of 11 MES weekly. In addition, there is a 1.75 MES shortfall of match play and training MES at the weekends.</p> <p>Faversham Rugby Club has demand for 1.5 MES training mid-week. Training currently takes place on the 3G AGP at Abbey School and must be non-contact as this type of pitch is not suitable for full contact rugby union. On this basis there is a shortfall of 1.5 MES training need weekly. There is an even balance between demand and supply for match play MES.</p> <p>Across Swale Borough there is a shortfall of 11.5 MES for mid-week weekly floodlight training and a shortfall of 2 MES for match play and weekly training at weekends.</p>
<p>Is the provision that is accessible of sufficient quality and appropriately maintained.</p>	<p>All three community rugby union sites could improve pitch maintenance to M2 and drainage to pipe and slit.</p> <p>Sheppey Rugby Club pitch improvements would increase capacity by 3 MES per week and would meet the current shortfall as the shortfall is currently for match play and weekend training.</p> <p>Sittingbourne Rugby Club pitch improvements to its existing pitches at Gore Core Sport Ground would meet the shortfall for match play and weekend training 1.75 MES by increasing capacity by 3 MES. It would not impact on mid-week training as neither pitch is floodlit. There would still be a deficit of 11 MES for mid-week training.</p> <p>Faversham Rugby Club has balanced play for match play but a shortfall of 1.5 MES for training mid-week under a floodlit pitch. As the club has no access to a floodlit rugby pitch, this shortfall cannot be met by pitch quality improvements. Improving the pitch quality would provide an additional 2 MES allowing for additional junior teams to be able to play matches at weekends but not provide for training MES under floodlights.</p>
<p>What are the main characteristics of the future supply and demand for provision</p>	<p>Sport England Playing Pitch Calculator identifies that developer's contributions capital costs towards rugby union between 2023 and 2040 should be £296,175 with lifecycle costs per annum of £63,382 and changing room costs of £698,789.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>The rugby clubs current unmet demand equates to 3 MES match play/training weekends and 2 MES weekday under floodlights per week.</p> <p>The total projected additional MES to 2040 is 4.65 weekly for match play and training at weekends and 3.86 MES mid-week for training under floodlights.</p> <p>Including the current demand and supply, unmet demand and future population demand, the shortfall in 2040 equates to 15.36 MES for weekly training under floodlights and 6.65 MES for weekend match play and training.</p>

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Key Question	Swale BC PPS Analysis 2023
<p>Is there enough accessible and secured community use provision to meet future demand</p>	<p>There is a need to protect the current rugby union provision unless improved better facilities that are accessible for the existing rugby clubs are provided as replacement before the existing rugby facilities are closed.</p> <p>Given the above-mentioned shortfalls, priority should be placed first and foremost on alleviating overplay. Given that the majority of overplay is a result of training demand on grass pitches, it is considered that there is a potential need for additional floodlighting, pitch quality improvements and/or access to World Rugby Regulation 22 compliant AGPs.</p> <p>With provision of a new rugby club facility at Wises Lane for Sittingbourne Rugby Club which would provide a new club house well maintained and drained pitches - 2 senior pitches and access to a junior and 2 mini rugby pitches, this would equate to 17.5 MES. This will meet the current match play and weekend training MES requirements of 5.75 MES but will not meet the 11 MES mid-week floodlit training shortfall as none of the pitches will be floodlit. This will however, meet the demand for match play in the future.</p> <p>Consideration should be given to provision of a World Rugby 22 Regulation 22 pitch to meet current and future demand.</p> <p>An option could be to explore in partnership with the FA Football Foundation provision of a World Rugby Regulation 22 compliant AGP as there is a shortfall of Football 3G AGPs in the Sittingbourne sub area,</p> <p>Sheppey Rugby Club can improve its pitch maintenance and drainage. This will increase capacity by 3 MES per week and would meet the current shortfall as the shortfall is currently for match play and weekend training and meet future demand.</p> <p>Faversham Rugby would need to move from Faversham Recreation Ground to new facilities that provided a minimum of 2 pitches as a minimum 1 pitch would need to be floodlit and both pitches providing maintenance of M2 and drainage piped and slit. This would meet future demand.</p>

Rugby Union Draft Recommendations

5.3 The key issues for rugby union and draft recommendations are:

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.

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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 PitchPower 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.

6. Cricket

Cricket Club Demand and Number of Teams

- 6.1. This section provides an overview of the clubs and teams that play in the Swale Borough area. Table 47, 48 & 49 provides a breakdown of clubs and the number of team's adult men's, adult women, and junior teams. The clubs and teams are divided into the three sub areas agreed at Stage A Faversham, Sittingbourne, and Sheppey.

Table 46: Faversham Cricket Clubs and Team Numbers

Faversham Cricket Clubs and Team Numbers	Male Adult	Male Junior	Female Junior	Mixed Junior	Total
Bapchild Cricket Club	5	3	1		9
Boughton Under Blean Cricket Club	1				1
Davington Priory Cricket Club	1				1
Faversham Cricket Club	4	2		4	10
Norton Sports Cricket Club	1				1
Selling Cricket Club	1				1
Sheldwich Cricket Club	2	2			4
Eastling Cricket Club	1				1
Three Horseshoes Cricket Club	1				1
Totals	17	7	1	4	29

- 6.2. There are 9 community cricket clubs based in the Faversham sub area. Between them, the 9 clubs support 17 adult male open age teams either playing on a Saturday, Sunday, or midweek. There are 12 junior teams of which 1 is a girls' team and 3 mixed teams. The peak time of play is a Saturday for clubs with more than 1 team. The remaining 1 team clubs peak time is a Sunday for adults. Majority of junior games take place mid-week.

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Table 47: Sittingbourne Cricket Clubs and Team Numbers

Sittingbourne Cricket Clubs and Team Numbers	Male Adult	Male Junior	Female Junior	Mixed Juniors	Total
Bobbing Court and Lower Halstow Cricket Club	1				1
Borden Cricket Club	2				2
Bredgar Cricket Club	2				2
Gore Court Cricket Club	4				4
Milstead Cricket Club	2				2
Newington Cricket Club	3				3
Rodmersham Cricket Club	4	6		1	11
Upchurch Cricket Club	4	4			8
Woodcombe Cricket Club	1				1
Totals	23	10	0	1	34

- 6.3. There are 9 community cricket clubs based in the Sittingbourne sub area. Between them, the 9 clubs support 23 adult male open age teams either playing on a Saturday, Sunday, or midweek. There are 10 junior male teams and 1 mixed team. The peak time of play is a Saturday for adults and mid-week for juniors.

Table 48: Sheppey Cricket Clubs and Teams

Sheppey Cricket Clubs and Team Numbers	Male Adult	Male Junior	Female Junior	Total
Eastchurch Cricket Club	2			2
Minster Cricket Club	8	4		12
Sheppey Cricket Club	2	1		3
Swale Prison Officers Cricket Club	1			1
Totals	13	5	0	18

- 6.4. There are 4 community cricket clubs based in the Sheppey sub area. Between them, the 3 clubs support 13 adult male open age teams either playing on a Saturday, Sunday, or midweek. There are 5 junior male teams. The peak time of play is a Saturday for adults and mid-week for juniors.

6.5. In total Swale Borough has 53 adult male cricket teams, 22 junior male teams and 1 junior girls' team and 5 mixed teams. A total of 81 teams.

All Stars Cricket (5-8-year-olds) and Dynamos Cricket (8 – 11-year-olds)

6.6. All Stars Cricket is a nationwide programme developed by the ECB and the Elite Coach Development team that aims to inspire 5- to 8-year-olds to take up cricket and to acquire the skills to play the game and connect them to the stars of English cricket.

6.7. Dynamos Cricket – Provides the next step for those graduating from All Stars Cricket and is an introduction for all 8 – 11-year-olds new to the sport. Complementing junior cricket, Dynamos provides children with a social offer focussed on developing fundamental movement skills and applying them in an exciting game of countdown cricket.

6.8. In Swale there are 6 identified clubs that have undertaken All Stars coaching. These are:

- Bapchild Cricket Club
- Faversham Cricket Club
- Rodmersham Cricket Club
- Upchurch Cricket Club
- Minster Cricket Club
- Sheppey Cricket Club

6.9. In the past Bobbing Court and Lower Halstow CC have participated in the All-Stars programme.

6.10. Bredgar Cricket Club has introduced youth and junior cricket training on Fridays. Despite a good attendance the club are not in the position to provide age group teams yet but aspire to in the future.

Women's and Girls Softball and Hardball

6.11. No clubs have been identified as providing women's softball sessions and no club has a women's team. Bapchild Cricket Club has 1 girls' team and Faversham Cricket Club has 4 mixed junior teams and Rodmersham Cricket Club has 1 mixed team. Women and girl's cricket is an area that Kent Cricket and the ECB will wish to increase participation in the future.

Unmet demand

6.12. None of the community clubs has identified unmet demand (for example waiting lists for junior sections).

Latent and Future demand

- 6.13. More accessible facilities and shorter, less formal game formats are being developed and promoted by the ECB in response to national research into the state of the game and to encourage more participation within these groups. Non-traditional community cricket - i.e., single teams, predominantly comprising players of South Asian or Black Caribbean heritage playing short format cricket in community or commercial leagues - is not currently taking place in Swale. Neither is informal Street 'Tapeball' Cricket taking place on an identifiable scale in any locations in the borough.
- 6.14. Currently no clubs in the borough have disability cricket sections.
- 6.15. Some clubs have identified that the adult men's game is finding it hard to maintain teams. Some clubs are struggling to provide 11 players and have had to cancel games during the 2023 season.
- 6.16. Some clubs that have identified that they wish to provide additional teams over the next 2 seasons. These are:
- Bapchild Cricket Club – 2 junior teams (10 MES per season)
 - Bredgar Cricket Club – 1 junior team. (5 MES per season)
 - Gore Court Cricket Club – 2 junior teams (10 MES per season)
 - Upchurch Cricket Club – 4 men's teams 2 junior teams (50 MES per season)
 - Milstead Cricket Club – 1 junior team (5 MES per season)
 - Rodmersham Cricket Club – 1 junior team (5 MES per season)
 - Newington Cricket Club – 1 men's team (10 MES per season)
 - Minster Cricket Club – 2 junior teams (10 MES per season)
- 6.17. The additional teams will create a need for 105 additional MES per season.

Displaced demand

- 6.18. Rainham Cricket Club 3rd XI from the Medway Council area play home games at Newington Cricket Club alternate Saturdays. Rainham Cricket Club 4th XI play at Bobbing and Lower Halstow Cricket Club Saturdays. Kent Cricket 60+ and 70+ teams play cricket midweek at Upchurch Cricket Club, Newington Cricket Club and Gore Court Cricket Club.
- 6.19. Some club's teams in Swale must use alternative cricket club facilities as there are insufficient cricket squares at their home grounds. These teams are:
- Bapchild 3rd XI play at Bobbing Court and Lower Halstow Cricket Club – Saturdays.

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- Sheppey Cricket Club all teams play at Eastchurch Cricket Club and Swale Prison Officers Cricket Club use Eastchurch Cricket Club for midweek and ad hoc games.

Future Playing Pitch (Cricket) Demand – Population Growth

- 6.20. As well as growth through latent demand, there will be growth through population demands.
- 6.21. Swale Borough Council are currently in the process of updating and providing a new local plan that will go to 2040.
- 6.22. The position on housing numbers is for the period 1st April 2022 to 31st March 2040 i.e., 18 years (1078 p.a.) is the need for 19,404. About 8,000 dwellings are already accounted for through allocations in the current local plan, bearing fruits and other planning permissions. This leaves a total of 11,404 new dwellings to be allocated.
- 6.23. A total of 11,404 homes with an average household size of 2.3 persons provides a new resident population of 26,299. The Sport England Playing Pitch Calculator Tool identifies the need and cost for cricket facilities across Swale up to 2040.
- 6.24. The table below identifies the number of cricket grounds required to meet population increase from new developments by 2040 across Swale. The Playing Pitch Calculator identifies that developer’s contributions capital costs towards cricket between 2023 and 2040 should be £1,080,590 with lifecycle costs per annum of £218,279 and changing room costs of £1,236,129. The new population generates 128 match equivalent sessions per season. The latent demand equates to 105 MES per season. The total projected additional MES is 233 MES.

Table 49: Sport England Playing Pitch Calculator – Population Increase 2023 – 2040

	Number of pitches required to meet the estimated demand	Capital Cost	Lifecycle Cost (per annum)	Changing rooms (number)	Changing rooms (capital cost)
Total	2.92	£1,080,590	£218,279	5.85	£1,236,129
Natural Grass Pitches	2.92	£1,080,590	£218,279	5.85	£1,236,129
Cricket	2.92	£1,080,590	£218,279	5.85	£1,236,129

Pitch Supply

- 6.25. In the 2023 season, there were 23 maintained fine turf cricket squares providing 202 pitches across Swale Borough, across 21 sites used by community cricket clubs.

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- 6.26. There are no sites that are currently classed as unsecured. Although Rodemrsham Cricket club lease expires in 2024.
- 6.27. There are 2 non-turf pitches at 2 secured community use sites.
- 6.28. In addition to the above fine turf supply there is 1 school Sittingbourne School with a cricket square. Non turf pitches are at the following schools - Borden Grammar School, Fulston Manor School, Queen Elizabeth's Grammar School, Westlands School, and the Abbey School within the borough. Clubs do not usually access the schools natural grass cricket pitch facilities or the non turf facilities and no Swale cricket club has been identified as using school facilities.
- 6.29. Sheppey Cricket Club have moved from Sheppey Sports Club, which is now just used for football and are playing at Eastchurch Cricket Club.
- 6.30. There are concerns at the possible loss of Woodcombe Cricket Club square at Murston Recreation Ground managed by Woodcombe Sports and Social Club. The club withdrew from the Kent Village League in 2022 and have not signed up for the 2023 season. The site is mainly football.

Local Authority Parks Pitches

- 6.31. There are no identified cricket pitches managed by Swale Borough Council provided in Local Parks. Any facility that the Council own are leased to cricket clubs.

Secured and Unsecured Community Use Pitches

- 6.32. All club sites are secured for community use.
- 6.33. There are some sites that are required to renew their lease.
- Rodmersham Cricket Club must renew by 2024 and has a lease arrangement with a developer. The club would like to be able to purchase the land.
 - Borden Cricket Club part of the Borden Sports Association who lease the grounds form Borden Parish Council need to renew their lease. There are 2 years left.
- 6.34. Bapchild Cricket Club has issues with the Highsted Park New Garden Community proposal and planning application for 11,500 dwellings. The club has formally responded to the initial consultation and states that it stands by its submission of objection with the revised planning application submitted in December 2022. The Club is not adverse to the proposal based on the principal that the Club would not be required to: - Relocate from their current ground (permanently or temporarily) - Move the cricket square - Reduce the size of the current pitch or non-playing areas (although non-playing areas could be moved) - Increase its operating costs unduly as a result of the plan and the - Pavilion (changing rooms, toilets, kitchen, storage room, bar and seating area), outbuilding (garage), nets, parking areas etc are replaced with similar or larger facilities to today's current standards if so required.

- 6.35. The Duchy of Cornwall land at Southeast Faversham between the A2 and the M2 is proposing 2,500 homes although no planning application has been submitted. The current Faversham Cricket Club site is leased to the club by the Duchy of Cornwall, and it is understood that via consultation with the Duchy of Cornwall the club has agreed to move to a new site with the same facilities as currently within the proposed development although no planning application has come forward yet. Faversham Cricket Club has chosen this site despite being offered alternative facilities provided through a section 106 agreement at Graveney Road and Lady Dane Farm Love Lane. This leaves a question mark over the land at Graveney Road and Lady Dane Farm Love Lane. The current proposal is for the site to be used for football.
- 6.36. Outline planning application for Orchard View Teynham – Master plan identifies a cricket square pavilion and changing facilities and car park.
- 6.37. The following table 51 provides a full overview of supply for all cricket pitches in the area.

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Table 50: Cricket site breakdown

Site	Playing Pitch Sites – currently providing community use for cricket	Cricket Club	Post Code	Ownership	Secured/Unsecured/Unavailable Community Use	Squares	Pitches Senior (Grass)	Pitches (non turf)	Quality Grass Pitches	Quality of Pavilion	Sub Area
1	Bapchild Cricket Club	Bapchild Cricket Club	ME9 9LZ	Sports Club Rented from Farmer	Yes	1	14		Standard	Standard	Faversham
2	Belmont Park Throwley	Eastling Cricket Club	ME13 0HH	Trust (House & Gardens)	Yes	1	6		Standard	Standard	Faversham
3	Cadmans Meadow - Selling Cricket Club	Selling Cricket Club	ME13 3RQ	Sports Club	Yes	1	10		Good	Good	Faversham
4	Davington Priory Cricket Club	Davington Priory Cricket Club	ME13 7TE	Local Authority Leased to Club	Yes	1	6		Standard	Poor	Faversham
5	Faversham Cricket Club (Formerly Macknade Cricket Club)	Faversham Cricket Club	ME13 8XF	Club lease from Duchy of Cornwall	Yes	1	14		Good	Standard	Faversham
6	Norton Park	Norton Sports Cricket Club	ME13 0SN	Sports Club	Yes	1	6		Standard	Standard	Faversham
7	Sheldwich Lees Village Green	Sheldwich Cricket Club	ME13 0LY	Common Land Sheldwich Lees	Yes	1	7		Standard	Standard	Faversham
8	Sparrows Hill	Boughton under Blean Cricket Club	ME13 9TX	Club rent from Mount Ephraim Estate	Yes	1	4		Standard	Standard	Faversham
9	Herne Hill Village Hall Forstal	Three Horseshoes Cricket Club	ME 13 9UA	Rented from Parish Council	Yes	1	5		Standard	Good	Faversham
10	The Playstool	Borden Cricket Club	ME9 8LP	Borden Parish Council Leased to Borden Sports Association. Cricket Club is part of the Association	Yes	1	8		Standard	Good	Sittingbourne
11	Bredgar Recreation Ground	Bredgar Cricket Club	ME9 8EP	Parish Council Rent to the Club	Yes	1	8		Standard	Poor	Sittingbourne

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Site	Playing Pitch Sites – currently providing community use for cricket	Cricket Club	Post Code	Ownership	Secured/Unsecured/Unavailable Community Use	Squares	Pitches Senior (Grass)	Pitches (non turf)	Quality Grass Pitches	Quality of Pavilion	Sub Area
12	Chapel Meadow	Bobbing Court & Lower Halstow Cricket Club, Bapchild Cricket Club 3 rd XI	ME9 7AA	Sports Club	Yes	1	9		Standard	Standard	Sittingbourne
13	Gore Court Cricket Club (The Grove)	Gore Court Cricket Club, Kent Cricket 60+ teams	ME10 1YT	Sports Club	Yes	1	10		Good	Good	Sittingbourne
14	Gore Court Cricket Club (The Grove) Top Field (By Primary School)	Gore Court Cricket Club	ME10 1LU	Sports Club subject to 299-year lease with Swale BC	Yes	1	8		Standard	N/A	Sittingbourne
15	Holywell Meadow	Upchurch Cricket Club, Kent cricket 60+ teams	ME9 7AD	Sports Club own site with club house	Yes	1	10		Good	Good	Sittingbourne
16	Holywell Meadow (New Ground)	Upchurch Cricket Club	ME9 7AD	2nd pitch leased from local farmer	Yes	1	10		Good	N/A	Sittingbourne
17	Milstead Cricket Club -	Milstead Cricket Club	ME9 0RX	Sports Club	Yes	1	10		Standard	Good	Sittingbourne
18	Murston Recreation Ground	Woodcombe Cricket Club	ME10 3RT	Local Authority Leased to Club	Yes	1	6		Standard	Good	Sittingbourne
19	Rodemersham Cricket Club	Rodemersham Cricket Club and Schools Cricket	ME9 0PR	!5-year lease owned by a developer lease runs out in 2024	Yes	1	15		Good	Standard	Sittingbourne
20	Rooks Woods	Newington Cricket Club & Rainham Cricket club 3 rd XI	ME9 8NN	Leased to sports club from a private individual	Yes	1	7		Good	Good	Sittingbourne
21	Gilbert Hall	Minster Cricket Club	ME12 3RF	Kent County Council 10-year lease remaining	Yes	1	14		Good	Good	Sheppey
22	Gilbert Hall Nursery Ground	Minster Cricket Club	ME12 3RF	As above	Yes	1	6		Standard	N/A	Sheppey

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Site	Playing Pitch Sites – currently providing community use for cricket	Cricket Club	Post Code	Ownership	Secured/Unsecured/Unavailable Community Use	Squares	Pitches Senior (Grass)	Pitches (non turf)	Quality Grass Pitches	Quality of Pavilion	Sub Area
23	Shurland	Eastchurch Cricket Club, Sheppey Cricket Club & Swale Prison Officers Cricket Club	ME12 4BN	Held in Trust with a peppercorn Rent to Swale BC	Yes	1	9		Standard	Good	Sheppey

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6.38. School sites which are not used by clubs but would-be unsecured usage if they were available for use or used, are provided in table 52 below.

Table 51: Swale Borough School Cricket Facilities

Site	Post Code	Management	Unavailable	Squares	Pitches	Non-Turf Pitch
The Abbey School – Faversham	ME13 8RZ	Education	Unavailable	0	0	1
Queen Elizabeth Grammar School – Faversham	ME10 4DB	Education	Unavailable	0	0	1
Westlands School - Sittingbourne	ME10 1PF	Education	Unavailable	0	0	1
Sittingbourne Community College	ME10 4NL	Education	Unavailable	1	6	0
Fulton Manor School	ME10 4HS	Education	Unavailable	0	0	1
Borden Grammar School	ME10 3DB	Education	Unavailable	0	0	1

Quality, Capacity Supply and Demand Assessment

- 6.39. Each site (and pitch) has been provided with a quality rating. The capacity rating per pitch has been agreed with the ECB a poor pitch rating is zero, standard pitch rating four and a good pitch rating five.
- 6.40. The total capacity for grass cricket pitches across Swale Borough is shown in table 53 below. There are 898 available match equivalents per season. The demand in 2023 is for 527 match equivalent sessions per season, with a theoretical underplay of 371 match equivalent sessions per season across the whole of Swale Borough. The new population generates 128 match equivalent sessions per season. The latent demand equates to 105 MES per season. The total projected additional MES is 233 MES. Theoretically the additional MES required by 2040 can be met from the existing theoretical underplay. This may well require developer contributions to be used to improve exiting cricket facilities across Swale to meet the needs of the new population by 2040.
- 6.41. Overplay occurs at 1 site across Swale. Rooks Woods Newington Cricket Club (Sittingbourne sub area). The remainder of the sites across Swale each have a theoretical underplay.

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Playing Pitch Strategy

Table 52: Pitch Quality Ratings and Supply and Demand capacity

Site No.	Playing Pitch Sites – currently providing community use for cricket	Playing Pitch Sites – currently providing community use for cricket (A)	Squares (B)	Wickets Senior (grass) (C)	Quality Grass Pitches (Wickets) (D)	Capacity per pitch (Wicket) (E)	Cricket Capacity Grass pitch per season (2023) (F)	Demand per season (2023) (H)	Capacity Demand Balance per Season (2023) (I) = (F) – (H)	Sub Area
1	Bapchild Cricket Club	Bapchild Cricket Club	1	14	Standard	4	56	43	13	Faversham
2	Belmont Park Throwley	Eastling Cricket Club	1	6	Standard	4	24	6	18	Faversham
3	Cadmans Meadow	Selling Cricket Club	1	10	Good	5	50	10	40	Faversham
4	Davington Priory Cricket Club	Davington Priory Cricket Club	1	6	Standard	4	24	10	14	Faversham
5	Faversham Cricket Club	Faversham Cricket Club	1	14	Good	5	70	61	9	Faversham
6	Norton Park	Norton Sports Cricket Club	1	6	Standard	4	24	10	14	Faversham
7	Sheldwich Lees. Village Green	Sheldwich Cricket Club	1	7	Standard	4	28	18	10	Faversham
8	Sparrows Hill	Boughton under Blean Cricket Club	1	4	Standard	4	16	7	9	Faversham
9	Herne Hill Village Hall Forstall	Three Horseshoes Cricket Club	1	5	Standard	4	20	12	8	Faversham
10	The Playstool	Borden Cricket Club	1	8	Standard	4	32	14	18	Sittingbourne
11	Bredgar Recreation Ground	Bredgar Cricket Club	1	8	Standard	4	32	17	15	Sittingbourne
12	Chapel Meadow	Bobbing Court & Lower Halstow Cricket Club, Bapchild Cricket Club 3 rd XI 8 MES Saturday Rainham Cricket Club 4 th XI 8MES Saturday	1	9	Standard	4	36	25	11	Sittingbourne

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Playing Pitch Strategy

Site No.	Playing Pitch Sites – currently providing community use for cricket	Playing Pitch Sites – currently providing community use for cricket (A)	Squares (B)	Wickets Senior (grass) (C)	Quality Grass Pitches (Wickets) (D)	Capacity per pitch (Wicket) (E)	Cricket Capacity Grass pitch per season (2023) (F)	Demand per season (2023) (H)	Capacity Demand Balance per Season (2023) (I) = (F) – (H)	Sub Area
13	Gore Court Cricket Club (The Grove)	Gore Court Cricket Club, Kent Cricket 60+ & 70+ age group teams play at the site. 5 MES per season mid-week.	1	10	Good	5	50	19	31	Sittingbourne
14	Gore Court Cricket Club (The Grove Top Field)	Gore Court Cricket Club	1	8	Standard	4	32	9	23	Sittingbourne
15	Hollywell Meadow	Upchurch Cricket Club, Kent Cricket 60+ teams 1 MES mid-week.	1	10	Good	5	50	44	6	Sittingbourne
16	Hollywell Meadow)	Upchurch Cricket Club	1	10	Good	5	50	8	42	Sittingbourne
17	Milstead Cricket Club	Milstead Cricket Club	1	10	Standard	4	40	11	29	Sittingbourne
18	Murston Recreation Ground	Woodcombe Cricket Club	1	6	Standard	4	24	0	24	Sittingbourne
19	Rodmersham Cricket Club	Rodmersham Cricket Club and Schools Cricket	1	15	Good	5	75	61	14	Sittingbourne
20	Rooks Woods	Newington Cricket Club & Rainham Cricket Club 3 rd XI 8 MES Saturday Kent Cricket 60+ & 70+ teams 7 MES mid-week.	1	7	Good	5	35	40	-5	Sittingbourne
21	Gilbert Hall	Minster Cricket Club	1	14	Good	5	70	63	7	Sheppey
22	Gilbert Hall Nursery ground	Minster Cricket Club also used by St Georges Church of England Primary School	1	6	Standard	4	24	15	9	Sheppey

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Site No.	Playing Pitch Sites – currently providing community use for cricket	Playing Pitch Sites – currently providing community use for cricket (A)	Squares (B)	Wickets Senior (grass) (C)	Quality Grass Pitches (Wickets) (D)	Capacity per pitch (Wicket) (E)	Cricket Capacity Grass pitch per season (2023) (F)	Demand per season (2023) (H)	Capacity Demand Balance per Season (2023) (I) = (F) – (H)	Sub Area
23	Shurlands	Eastchurch Cricket Club, Sheppey Cricket Club & Swale Prison Officers Cricket Club.	1	9	Standard	4	36	24	12	Sheppey
Total			23	202			898	527	371	

6.42. Peak demand varies in the sub areas. The Faversham sub area has peak time of play on Sundays and Sittingbourne and Sheppey sub areas peak time of play is on Saturdays.

6.43. The table below identifies capacity at peak time of play: The orange squares identify that there is balanced play and that no more matches can be accommodated. Green means that the square can accommodate an additional match. Red identifies sites where the square is already over played during the week. - Saturday, Sunday, and midweek play.

Table 53: Peak Time Demand and availability of additional play

Site No.	Playing Pitch Sites – currently providing community use for cricket	Sub Area	Peak Time Availability Saturday	Peak time Availability Sunday	Peak time Availability Midweek
			Saturday	Sunday	Midweek
1	Bapchild Cricket Club	Faversham			
2	Belmont Park Throwley	Faversham			
3	Cadmans Meadow	Faversham			
4	Davington Priory Cricket Club	Faversham			
5	Faversham Cricket Club	Faversham			
6	Norton Park	Faversham			
7	Sheldwich Lees. Village Green	Faversham			

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Site No.	Playing Pitch Sites – currently providing community use for cricket	Sub Area	Peak Time Availability Saturday	Peak time Availability Sunday	Peak time Availability Midweek
			Saturday	Sunday	Midweek
8	Sparrows Hill	Faversham			
9	Herne Hill Village Hall Forstall	Faversham			
10	The Playstool	Sittingbourne			
11	Bredgar Cricket Club	Sittingbourne			
12	Chapel Meadow	Sittingbourne			
13	Gore Court	Sittingbourne			
14	Gore Court Top Field	Sittingbourne			
15	Hollywell Meadow	Sittingbourne			
16	Hollywell Meadow	Sittingbourne			
17	Milstead Cricket Club	Sittingbourne			
18	Murtston Recreation Ground	Sittingbourne			
19	Rodmersham Cricket club	Sittingbourne			
20	Rooks Woods	Sittingbourne			
21	Gilbert Hall	Sheppey			
22	Gilbert Hall Nursery Ground	Sheppey			
23	Shurland Meadow	Sheppey			

6.44. With only 1 team using a square at any one time, there is available spare capacity at 16 sites on a Saturday, 22 sites on a Sunday and 21 Sites mid-week.

Faversham Sub Area – site issues from consultation

6.45. The Faversham sub area has 9 sites with 9 squares. Bapchild Cricket Club Cricket Club has a third team on a Saturday that must play at an alternative ground. All sites are under played.

6.46. There are not any non turf pitches at community cricket club sites in the Faversham sub area. Overall capacity is 312 match equivalent sessions and demand is 177 with a theoretical spare capacity of 135 match equivalents sessions per season.

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- 6.47. Except for Bapchild Cricket Club and Faversham Cricket Club all clubs in the Faversham sub area could accommodate additional play at peak time on a Saturday. All clubs can accommodate additional play on a Sunday and midweek.
- 6.48. 2 cricket sites provide 'Good' quality grass facilities. 7 sites provide 'Standard' quality grass facilities and could be improved too 'Good'. If these sites are improved to 'Good' this would raise capacity of play. 2 sites have good quality pavilions. Davington Priory Cricket Club pavilion is poor, and the remaining sites are all standard quality pavilions.
- 6.49. There is a need to safeguard and protect all cricket sites across Faversham sub area unless better quality and improved provision will replace sites such as Bapchild Cricket Club and Faversham Cricket Club. Sport England Playing Pitch Calculator should be used to identify capital pitch, changing room and lifecycle costs to be provided by developer contributions for individual developments in the Faversham area between 2023 – 2040.
- 6.50. The table below identifies cricket club's comments and other identified issues in the Faversham area:

Table 54: Cricket Club comments and other identified issues Faversham Sub Area

Club	Comments
Bapchild Cricket Club	Main concerns involve the existing Highsted Park Planning application. The Club is not adverse to the proposal based on the principal that the Club would not be required to: - Relocate from their current ground (permanently or temporarily) - Move the cricket square - Reduce the size of the current pitch or non-playing areas (although non-playing areas could be moved) - Increase its operating costs unduly as a result of the plan and the - Pavilion (changing rooms, toilets, kitchen, storage room, bar and seating area), outbuilding (garage), nets, parking areas etc are replaced with similar or larger facilities to today's current standards if so require
Selling Cricket Club	Good quality square and received a Sport England Grant a while ago to assist with renewing the pavilion.
Davington Priory Cricket Club	Outfield suffers from dog fouling and pavilion is old and outdated.
Faversham Cricket Club	Duchy of Cornwall proposes a new housing development at Southeast Faversham – As part of the consultation process the developer and Faversham Cricket Club are committed to relocating the club ground to a large central green in Southeast Faversham as part of this development, placing the club at the heart of the new community. A new pavilion and facilities will be provided alongside the new cricket field, which will become a new community space for hire. The clubs 2017 Manifesto states: "By launching a major project to make the existing ground one of excellence with a new cricket square built to modern standards with a fine outfield clear of the A2 and with play from north to south so that evening sun does not, as at present interfere with play. Re-site and build a new dedicated but multi-use cricket pavilion. Install high quality practice nets. Allow for a better entrance to the ground with good parking facilities. Provide good facilities for spectators and guests to enjoy. Preserve benefits of existing Faversham cricket ground within green hinterland south of A2 currently under threat from a house building onslaught."

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Club	Comments
Sheldwich Cricket Club	Pavilion is wooden but in reasonable condition. Club celebrated its centenary in 2022.
Boughton under Blean Cricket Club	Team numbers stayed the same for past 2 seasons - club maintain the ground and pavilion, no difference in quality from last season, uneven outfield.
Three Horseshoes Cricket Club	Parish council cut the outfield and Club look after the square; football is marked on the outfield.

Sittingbourne Sub Area – site issues from consultation

- 6.51. The Sittingbourne sub area has 11 sites with 11 squares. Upchurch Cricket Club and Gore Court Cricket Clubs have access to 2 squares each.
- 6.52. Newington Cricket Club is slightly overplayed by 5 match equivalent sessions per season.
- 6.53. There are no community club non turf pitches in the Sittingbourne sub area.
- 6.54. Overall capacity is 456 match equivalent sessions and demand is 248 with a theoretical spare capacity of 208 match equivalent sessions per season.
- 6.55. Saturdays is peak time of play. Upchurch Cricket Club, Rodmersham Cricket Club and Newington Cricket Club have no spare space for additional match play on a Saturday. There is availability at all other sites on Saturdays and availability at all sites Sundays and mid-week to increase matches.
- 6.56. 5 cricket sites provide 'Good' quality grass facilities. 7 sites provide 'Standard' quality grass facilities and could be improved too 'Good'. If these sites are improved to 'Good' this would raise capacity of play.
- 6.57. 5 cricket sites have good quality pavilions, 3 have standard quality and Bredgar Cricket club has a poor-quality pavilion.
- 6.58. There is a need to safeguard and protect all cricket sites across Sittingbourne sub area unless better quality and improved provision will replace sites such as Bobbing court and Lower Halstow Cricket Club. Sport England Playing Pitch Calculator should be used to identify capital pitch, changing room and lifecycle costs to be provided by developer contributions for individual developments in the Sittingbourne area between 2023 – 2040.
- 6.59. The table below identifies cricket club's comments and other identified issues Sittingbourne Sub Area:

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Table 55: Cricket Club Comments and other identified issues Sittingbourne Sub Area

Club	Comments
Bordon Cricket club	Number of depressions due to other use makes fielding interesting. Evidence of dog fouling and unofficial use. 2 years left on lease outfield considered under size senior football pitch on outfield. Club would like a mobile net cage.
Bredgar Cricket Club	Club has started youth training on Fridays. The youth numbers have increased. However, due to the wide variety of age ranges the club are not able to have a full youth team yet.
Bobbing Court and Lower Halstow Cricket Club	There is an outline planning application (22/503654) for 2,500 new dwellings. The development site includes Bobbing Court and Lower Halstow cricket ground. The application states there is potential to relocate the existing ground to contribute to the heart of the development as part of a new central green with a new cricket pitch and pavilion. Bapchild Cricket Club 3 rd XI play at the ground (Saturdays 8 MES per season).
Gore Court Cricket Club	Same players for past 4 years. Must travel to Canterbury or Medway for Winter nets none in Swale. Ground not fenced and dog walkers use the ground Groundsman's shed has been broken into and damage has been caused to the outfield. We need permanent practice nets. Kent Cricket 60+ played 6 midweek matches at the ground in 2022. The clubhouse carpark has been resurfaced and remarked (Section 106 agreement) plus will have £5,000 towards new nets from section 106 funding in the future.
Upchurch Cricket Club	Has suffered from vandalism and has had astro turf stolen from nets and external lighting stolen. Kent Cricket Club 60+ midweek 5 games in 2022 Installation of a new fully carpeted 3 lane 33m enclosed non-turf cricket practice facility with security fencing.
Woodcombe Cricket Club	Square surrounded by football pitches. Cricket teams have reduced. Woodcombe CC withdrew from Kent village League in 2022 and have not applied for 2023 season.
Rodmersham Cricket Club	Lease runs out in 2024 need to protect. Club aspires to purchase the ground from current owner (Developer). Cricket Club hires 4 pitches to Milton and Fulstead FC Mini 7v7 and mini 5v5 no impact on outfield. Hold other events as well. Participated in All stars and Dynamos cricket 30 participants in each 2022. School's matches played 5 matches midweek
Newington Cricket Club	Square had diesel oil poured on it before beginning of 2022 season. Club raised the funds for the costly repairs. The pavilion has been broken into previously following refurbishment. Club is security conscious and has CCTV.

Sheppey Sub Area – Site issues from consultation

- 6.60. The Sheppey sub area has 2 sites with 3 squares. Shurlands home to Eastchurch Cricket Club, Sheppey Cricket Club, and ad hoc games for Swale Prison Officers.
- 6.61. There are 2 cricket grounds with non turf pitches these are Gilbert Hall Sports Ground and Eastchurch Cricket Club. Neither non turf pitch is used for competitive matches.
- 6.62. Overall capacity is 130 match equivalent sessions per season and demand is 102 match equivalent sessions per season with a theoretical spare capacity of 28 match equivalent sessions per season.
- 6.63. Gilbert Hall Main Sports Ground square can accommodate additional play at peak time on a Sunday and the Nursery Ground on a Saturday. Eastchurch Cricket club could accommodate additional play on a Sunday but would need to improve the quality from standard too good to increase capacity as currently the square provides balanced play.
- 6.64. The Gilbert Hall Main sports Ground square is good quality, and the nursery and Shurlands’ are standard quality. If these sites are improved to ‘Good’ this would raise capacity of play.
- 6.65. Both sites’ pavilions are good quality.
- 6.66. The table below identifies cricket club’s comments and other identified issues:

Table 56: Cricket Club Comments and Other Identified Issues

Club	Comments
Minster Cricket Club – Gilbert Hall	Non turf pitch not used for competitive matches 4 changing rooms on site with separate changing for juniors and men
Shurlands – Eastchurch Cricket Club and Sheppey Cricket Club	Planning application 19/500887/FULL provides £8,895 for formal sport contribution towards the upgrade and enhancement of the quality of the pavilion facilities at the cricket ground Shurland Meadow.

7. Cricket Summary

- 7.1 This section summarises the findings from the cricket analysis, which will form the basis of the recommendation and action plan section for SBC Playing Pitch Review 2023.
- 7.2 Table 57. includes the response to 5 key questions, which provide a standardised illustration of supply and demand for playing pitch sports provision. It shows the Analysis from the 2023 PPS.
- 7.3 This section summarises the findings from the cricket analysis, which will form the basis of the recommendation and action plan section for the SBC PPS 2023.

Table 57: Key PPS findings for cricket in Swale Borough

Key Question	Swale BC PPS Analysis 2023
<p>What are the main characteristics of the current supply and demand for provision?</p>	<p>In the 2023 season, there are 23 maintained fine turf cricket squares providing 202 pitches across Swale Borough, across 21 sites used by community cricket clubs.</p> <p>There are no sites that are classed as unsecure.</p> <p>There are 2 non-turf pitches at 2 secured community use sites.</p> <p>In addition to the above fine turf supply there is 1 school Sittingbourne School with a cricket square. Non turf pitches are at the following schools - Borden Grammar School, Fulston Manor School, Queen Elizabeth’s Grammar School, Westlands School and the Abbey School within the borough. Clubs do not usually access the schools natural grass cricket pitch facilities or the non turf facilities and no Swale cricket club has been identified as using school facilities.</p> <p>There are no identified cricket pitches managed by Swale Borough Council provided in Local Parks. Any facility that the Council own are leased to cricket clubs.</p> <p>Bapchild Cricket Club has issues with the Highsted Park New Garden Community proposal and planning application for 11,500 dwellings. The club has formally responded to the initial consultation and states that it stands by its submission of objection with the revised planning application submitted in December 2022. The Club is not adverse to the proposal based on the principal that the Club would not be required to: - Relocate from their current ground (permanently or temporarily) - Move the cricket square - Reduce the size of the current pitch or non-playing areas (although non-playing areas could be moved) - Increase its operating costs unduly as a result of the plan and the - Pavilion (changing rooms, toilets, kitchen, storage room, bar and seating area), outbuilding (garage), nets, parking areas etc are replaced with similar or larger facilities to today’s current standards if so required.</p> <p>The Duchy of Cornwall land at South East Faversham between the A2 and the M2 is proposing 2.500 homes although no planning application has been submitted. The current Faversham Cricket Club site is leased to the club by the Duchy of Cornwall and it is understood that via consultation with the Duchy of Cornwall the club has agreed to move to a new site with the same facilities as currently within the proposed development although no planning application has come forward as yet.</p>

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Key Question	Swale BC PPS Analysis 2023
	<p>Faversham Cricket Club has chosen this site despite being offered alternative facilities provided through a section 106 agreement at Graveney Road and Lady Dane Farm Love Lane. This leaves a question mark over the land at Graveney Road and Lady Dane Farm Love Lane. The current proposal is for the site to be used for football.</p> <p>Outline planning permission for Orchard View Teynham – Master plan identifies a cricket square pavilion and changing facilities and car park. (16/507689/OUT granted permission 23/6/21)</p> <p>Peak demand varies in the sub areas. The Faversham sub area has peak time of play on Sundays (mainly due to friendly games being played) and Sittingbourne and Sheppey sub areas peak time of play is on Saturdays.</p> <p>With only 1 team using a square at any one time, there is available spare capacity at 16 sites on a Saturday, 22 sites on a Sunday and 21 Sites mid-week across Swale BC.</p> <p>In the Faversham Sub Area 2 cricket sites provide 'Good' quality grass facilities (Faversham Cricket Club and Selling Cricket Club). 7 sites provide 'Standard' quality grass facilities and could be improved too 'Good'. If these sites are improved to 'Good' this would raise capacity of play (Bapchild Cricket Club, Eastling Cricket Club, Davington Priory Cricket Club, Norton Sports Cricket Club, Sheldwich Cricket Club, Boughton under Blean Cricket Club and Three Horeshoes Cricket Club). 2 sites have good quality pavilions. Davington Priory Cricket Club pavilion is poor quality, and the remaining sites are all standard quality pavilions.</p> <p>The Sittingbourne Sub area has 11 sites with 11 squares. Upchurch Cricket Club and Gore Court Cricket Clubs have access to 2 squares each. There are no community club non turf pitches in the Sittingbourne sub area.</p> <p>Overall capacity is 456 match equivalent sessions and demand is 248 with a theoretical spare capacity of 208 match equivalent sessions per season.</p> <p>Newington Cricket Club is slightly overplayed by 5 match equivalent sessions per season. The pitch facilities are classified as good quality and there is no room for improvement.</p> <p>Saturdays is peak time of play. Upchurch Cricket Club, Rodmersham Cricket Club and Newington Cricket Club have no spare space for additional match play on a Saturday. There is availability at all other sites on Saturdays and availability at all sites Sundays and mid-week to increase matches.</p> <p>5 cricket sites provide 'Good' quality grass facilities. 6 sites provide 'Standard' quality grass facilities and could be improved too 'Good' (Borden Cricket club, Bredgar Cricket Club, Bobbing Court and Lower Halstow Cricket club, Gore Court Cricket Club Top field, Milstead Cricket club and Woodcombe Cricket Club). If these sites are improved to 'Good' this would raise capacity of play.</p> <p>5 cricket sites have good quality pavilions,3 have standard quality and Bredgar Cricket Club has a poor-quality pavilion.</p> <p>The Sheppey Sub Area Overall capacity is 130 match equivalent sessions per season and demand is 102 match equivalent sessions per season with a theoretical spare capacity of 28 match equivalent sessions per season.</p> <p>Gilbert Hall Main Sports Ground square can accommodate additional play at peak time on a Sunday and the Nursery Ground on a Saturday. Eastchurch Cricket Club could accommodate additional play on a Sunday but would need to improve the quality from standard too good to increase capacity as currently the square provides balanced play.</p>

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Key Question	Swale BC PPS Analysis 2023
	<p>The Gilbert Hall Main Sports Ground square is good quality and therefore cannot be improved only maintained as good quality.</p> <p>The Nursery and Shurlands' are standard quality. If these sites are improved to 'Good' this would raise capacity of play.</p> <p>Both sites' pavilions are good quality.</p> <p>In 2023 Swale Borough had 53 adult male cricket teams, 22 junior male teams, 1 junior girls' team and 5 mixed teams. A total of 81 teams.</p> <p>There are 9 community cricket clubs based in the Faversham sub area. Between them, the 9 clubs support 17 adult male open age teams either playing on a Saturday, Sunday, or midweek. There are 12 junior teams of which 1 is a girls' team and 3 mixed teams.</p> <p>There are 9 community cricket clubs based in the Sittingbourne sub area. Between them, the 9 clubs support 23 adult male open age teams either playing on a Saturday, Sunday or midweek. There are 10 junior male teams and 1 mixed team.</p> <p>There are 4 community cricket clubs based in the Sheppey sub area. Between them, the 4 clubs support 13 adult male open age teams either playing on a Saturday, Sunday or midweek. There are 5 junior male teams.</p>
<p>Is there enough accessible and secured community use provision to meet current demand</p>	<p>The school sites are not used by the community cricket clubs and are not considered suitable.</p> <p>All community use sites are deemed to be secured for community use. However, there are issues with leases that require renewing at some sites and all cricket sites require protection within the Local Plan.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rodmersham Cricket Club has to renew its lease by 2024 and has a lease arrangement with a developer. The club would like to be able to purchase the land. • Borden Cricket Club part of the Borden Sports Association who lease the grounds from Borden Parish Council need to renew their lease. There are 2 years left. <p>Some sites are associated with current planning applications such as Bapchild Cricket Club and Bobbing Court and Lower Halstow. Faversham Cricket Club has had discussions with developers over new housing developments and a new cricket facility in Faversham but as, yet no planning application has been received. No site should be lost for housing unless an improved replacement cricket facility is provided before the loss of the original facility.</p> <p>There are 898 available cricket match equivalent sessions per season. The demand in 2023 is for 527 match equivalent sessions per season, with a theoretical underplay of 371 match equivalent sessions per season across the whole of Swale Borough.</p> <p>Overplay occurs at 1 site across Swale. Rooks Woods - Newington Cricket Club (Sittingbourne sub area). The remainder of the sites across Swale each have a theoretical underplay.</p> <p>There are not any non turf pitches at community cricket club sites in the Faversham sub area. Overall capacity in the Faversham sub area is 312 match equivalent sessions and demand is 177 with a theoretical spare capacity of 135 match equivalent sessions per season.</p> <p>There are no non turf cricket facilities at community cricket clubs in the Sittingbourne Sub Area. Overall capacity is 456 match equivalent sessions and demand is 248 with a theoretical spare capacity of 208 match equivalent sessions per season.</p>

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Key Question	Swale BC PPS Analysis 2023
	<p>There are 2 cricket grounds with non turf pitches in the Sheppey Sub Area these are Gilbert Hall Sports Ground and Eastchurch Cricket Club. Neither non turf pitch is used for competitive matches. Overall capacity is 130 match equivalent sessions per season and demand is 102 match equivalent sessions per season with a theoretical spare capacity of 28 match equivalent sessions per season.</p>
<p>Is the provision that is accessible of sufficient? quality and appropriately maintained.</p>	<p>Sites providing Standard pitch quality could be improved to Good quality. Individual site improvements in capacity are shown below:</p> <p>Faversham Sub Area</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bapchild Cricket Club - Improve Standard – Good increase MES per season by 14. • Eastling Cricket Club– Improve Standard – Good increase MES per season by 6. • Selling Cricket Club – Improve Standard – Good increase MES per season by 6. • Davington Priory Cricket Club – Improve Standard – Good increase MEs per season by 6. • Sheldwich Cricket Club - Improve Standard – Good – increase MES per season by 7. • Boughton Under Blean Cricket Club – Improve Standard – Good increases MES per season by 4. • Three Horseshoes Cricket Club – Improve Standard – Good increases MES per season by 5. <p>Sittingbourne Sub Area</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Borden Cricket Club - Improve Standard – Good increase MES per season by 8. • Bredgar Cricket Club– Improve Standard – Good increase MES per season by 8. • Bobbing Curt and Lower Halstow Cricket Club – Improve Standard – Good increase MES per season by 9. • Gore Court Cricket Club Top Field – Improve Standard – Good increase MES per season by 8. • Milstead Cricket Club - Improve Standard – Good – increase MES per season by 10. • Woodcombe Cricket Club – Improve Standard – Good increases MES per season by 6. <p>Sheppey Sub Area</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gilbert Hall Nursery Ground – Improve Standard – Good Increases MES per season by 6. • Shurlands Cricket Ground – Improve Standard – good increases MES per season by 9. <p>There are issues with the quality of pavilion provision.</p> <p>Faversham Sub Area.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Faversham Cricket Club aspire to rebuild their pavilion. • Davington Priory Cricket Club has a poor pavilion that requires rebuilding. <p>Sittingbourne Sub Area</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bredgar Cricket Club has a poor-quality pavilion.

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Key Question	Swale BC PPS Analysis 2023
What are the main characteristics of the future supply and demand for provision	<p>Sport England Playing Pitch Calculator identifies that developer’s contributions capital costs towards cricket between 2023 and 2040 should be £1,080,590 with lifecycle costs per annum of £218,279 and changing room costs of £1,236,129.</p> <p>The new population generates 128 match equivalent sessions per season. The latent demand equates to 105 MES per season. The total projected additional MES for cricket per season is 233 MES.</p>
Is there enough accessible and secured community use provision to meet future demand	<p>The current underplay of 377 MES per season can accommodate the projected additional MES per season of 233 within the existing club facilities, Newington Cricket Club cannot be improved in quality to provide additional capacity.</p> <p>There is a need to protect the current provision unless improved better facilities that are accessible for the existing cricket clubs are provided as replacement before the existing cricket facilities are closed.</p> <p>Outline planning permission for Orchard View, Teynham – Master plan identifies a cricket square pavilion and changing facilities and car park as being provided.</p>

7.4 The key issues for cricket and draft recommendations are:

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:
 - Rodmersham Cricket Club – club to negotiate with landowner.
 - Borden Cricket Club – club to negotiate with Parish Council.

6. Need to improve the quality of pavilions at the following sites:
 - Faversham Cricket Club
 - Davington Priory Cricket Club
 - Bredgar Cricket Club

8. Hockey

Introduction

- 8.1. This appendix to the Swale Borough Playing Pitch Strategy 2023 details the current picture of facility supply and demand for the playing pitch **hockey** - at playing field sites in the Swale Borough Council area.

Pitch Supply (Step 2)

- 8.2. For all the playing pitch sports included in the scope of the PPS for Swale Borough, the supply information has been gathered, by a combination of data collection and review, and consultations with all three hockey clubs
- 8.3. Sources of information – The sources of information used to establish current pitch supply were latest Sport England Active Places Power audit for playing pitches; NGB club and team data, club consultation and club websites; and information provided by schools.
- 8.4. Site visits and inspections – Visits to the sand based artificial grass pitches in Swale Borough suitable for hockey and visual, non-technical inspection.

Hockey Supply

Number and sizes of pitches

- 8.5. The audit of AGP's in Swale Borough is shown in Table 59 below and identifies community and non-community use pitches.

Table 58: Current Community and Non-Community Use AGPs that can be used for Hockey – Swale Borough Council area

Playing Pitch Sites – Currently Providing Community Use for Hockey	Ownership and Use	No of AGPS	Sub Area	Sand Filled /Sand Dressed/ Water Based	Floodlit	Built and Last Refurbished	Condition – Quality Rating	Community hours Availability
Borden Grammar School ME10 4DB	Education - Secured	1 x AGP 97 x 62	Sittingbourne	Sand Filled	Yes	2018	Good Lighting need to be replaced with LED bulbs.	Monday – Friday 17.00 – 21.30 Sat & sun 09.00 - 18.00

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Playing Pitch Strategy

Playing Pitch Sites – Currently Providing Community Use for Hockey	Ownership and Use	No of AGPS	Sub Area	Sand Filled /Sand Dressed/ Water Based	Floodlit	Built and Last Refurbished	Condition – Quality Rating	Community hours Availability
Sittingbourne School ME10 4NL	Education – Unsecured use	1 x AGP 54 x 35	Sittingbourne	Sand Filled	Yes	2007	Standard – too small for competitive hockey	Monday – Friday 17.00 -21.00 Sat & Sun – 10.00 - 16.00
Westlands School ME10 1PF	Westlands School are the Landlord leased to Gore Court Westlands Limited Secured Use	1 x AGP 100 x 60	Sittingbourne	Sand Filled	Yes	New pitch and base constructed July 2023	New AGP 2023. Lights require to be replaced with LED	Monday – Friday 17.00 – 22.00 Sat & Sun – 09.00 – 18.00
HMP Elmley ME12 4DZ	Prison Service Unavailable for community use	1 x AGP 96 x 63	Sheppey	Sand Dressed	No	2000	Not seen but planning application to remove and replace with smaller 3G AGP	Not Available

8.6. The AGPs used by hockey clubs are:

- Borden Grammar School. The facility provides secured community use for Sittingbourne Hockey Club and Faversham Ladies Hockey Club.
- Westlands School AGP. This facility provides secured community use for Gore Court Hockey Club.

8.7. The Sittingbourne School AGP is too small for competitive hockey and is mainly used for football training. The HMP Elmley AGP is not available for community use and has no floodlights.

Unsecured / Secured Community Use pitches.

8.8. There are two AGPs that provide secured community use - Borden Grammar School and Westlands School AGP.

Pitch Quality

- 8.9. Borden Grammar School AGP is rated as good with the carpet refurbished in 2018. There is a need to replace the floodlights with LED.
- 8.10. The Westlands School AGP subbase and carpet were replaced July 2023. The lights also need upgrading to LED.
- 8.11. Sittingbourne School is standard quality and HMP was not visited as it is within a prison.

Ancillary Facilities

- 8.12. Sittingbourne Hockey Club have a pavilion with changing and bar facilities adjacent to the AGP and is in good condition, the bar area has been refurbished. However, there is a need to replace a boiler.
- 8.13. Gore Court Hockey Clubs clubhouse is not on site, it's around 1/4 mile from the AGP. The Gore Court Clubhouse at the Grove is also home to Gore Court Cricket club and currently Sittingbourne Rugby Club. The rugby club will move to new accommodation once their new site has been provided as part of a Section 106 agreement at Wisers Road Housing Development. The car park at the clubhouse at Gore Court has recently been resurfaced and remarked as part of this section 106 agreement.

Proposed Hockey Supply Changes

- 8.14. Gore Court Hockey Club in the longer term, are in discussion with local developers with Section 106 requirements; but that is a project 10 years hence, if at all. The Section 106 discussion involves provision of a 2-pitch site and are keen to explore any developments that could take place in Borden as well.
- 8.15. Both Gore Court Hockey Club and Sittingbourne Hockey Club are identified to share £50,807 as off-site contributions towards pitches from the Section 106 agreement at Wisers Road.

Pitch Demand (Step 3)

- 8.16. For all four of the main playing pitch sports, the following pitch demand information, has been gathered, by a combination of data collection and review, and consultation:
- Sources of information – The sources of information used to establish current hockey pitch demand were:
 - Consultation meeting with Sittingbourne Hockey Club, Faversham Hockey Club and Gore Court Hockey Club,
 - England Hockey
 - Club and league websites.

Hockey Demand

8.17. Findings relating to hockey pitch demand in Swale Borough are summarised below.

Clubs and Teams

Sittingbourne Hockey Club (Formerly Old Bordenians Hockey Club)

8.18. Sittingbourne Hockey Club play matches and train at Borden Grammar School. Number of teams 2022/23 season:

- 5 men's teams
- 2 women's teams
- Under 16 Boy's
- Under 14's Boy's
- Under 10's
- Under 8's

8.19. The men's and women's teams play matches on Saturdays. The club has a larger boy's junior section than female but have training groups for mixed U8, boys under 10, 12, 14 and 16. Girls U12 and U14.

8.20. In terms of leagues:

- Men's 1st XI: South East Men's Premier League
- Men's 2nd XI: South East Men's Division 2 Invicta
- Men's 3rd XI: South East Men's Division 3 Invicta
- Men's 4th XI: South East Men's Division 7 Invicta
- Men's 5th XI: South East Men's Division 9 Invicta
- Women's 1st XI: South East Women's Division 1 Invicta
- Women's 2nd XI: South East Women's Division 2 Invicta
- Boys Under 16 – South East Boy's U16 Tier 3 League East
- Boy's Under 14's Kent League.
- Under10 and Under 8 friendlies

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8.21. Sittingbourne Hockey Club - Training times:

Table 59: Adults Training

Team/Session	Day	Time	Hours
Senior Men's	Wednesday	19.30-21.30	2
Walking Hockey	Thursday	19.00-20.00	1
Women's & Girl's 16+	Tuesday	19.00-21:00	2
Club Goal keepers	Thursday	19:00-21:30	2.5

Table 60: Junior Training

Team/Session	Day	Time	Hours
Minis mixed U8, Junior girls U10, U12 & U14, Junior Boy's U10 & U12	Monday	18.00-19.00	1
Junior boy's U14, Youth Academy Boy's U16.	Wednesday	18.00-19.30	1.5
Kent U16's	Friday	19.00-21.00	2

8.22. Consultation with the club identified the Club hosts the Kent Hockey U16 Boy's Academy and is an integral part of England Hockey's Player Pathway. The club also partners with Access Sport to provide Flyers Hockey (Disability) at different school venues across Swale. Faversham Ladies Hockey club are playing matches on Saturdays at the Sittingbourne Hockey Club AGP in the 2022/23 season.

Table 61: Membership Sittingbourne Hockey Club 2019/20 Season - Category 1 Players – junior or adult club members who play in regular league hockey or tournaments

	M 5-10	F 5-10	M 11-13	F 11-13	M 14-16	F 14-16	M 17-18	F 17-18	M 19-21	F 19-21	M 22-25	F 22-25	M 26-35	F 26-35	M 36-45	F 36-45	M 46+	F 46+	Total
2019/20	15	21	16	4	15	8	29	15	14	10	4	3	3	1	7	14	5	3	187

*Club was known as Old Bordenians at this time

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Table 62: Membership Sittingbourne Hockey 2020/21 Season - Category 1 Players – junior or adult club members who play in regular league hockey or tournaments

	M U18	F U18	M 18+	F 18+	Total
2021/22	57	18	83	24	182

Table 63: Category 2 Players 2019/20 – junior or adult club member takes part in social hockey activity (eg play nights, small, sided sessions, back to hockey, summer league, walking hockey etc)

	M 5-10	F 5-10	M 11-13	F 11-13	M 14-16	F 14-16	M 17-18	F 17-18	M 19-21	F 19-21	M 22-25	F 22-25	M 26-35	F 26-35	M 36-45	F 36-45	M 46+	F 46+	Total	
2019/20	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Table 64: Category 2 Players 2021/22 – junior or adult club member takes part in social hockey activity (eg play nights, small, sided sessions, back to hockey, summer league, walking hockey etc)

	M U18	F U18	M 18+	F 18+	Total
2021/22	0	0	10	5	15

Faversham Ladies Hockey Club

8.23. Faversham Ladies Hockey Club play matches Saturdays in the South East Division 6 Invicta league:

- 1 women's team

8.24. The club does not train and has moved from Westlands School AGP to play their matches at Borden Grammar School AGP (Sittingbourne Hockey Club) for the 2022/23 season. This allows Faversham Ladies to access the Sittingbourne Hockey Club pavilion on site and provide after games hospitality. The club only provides 1 umpire for matches.

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Table 65: Membership Faversham Ladies Hockey Club 2019/20 Season - Category 1 Players – junior or adult club members who play in regular league hockey or tournaments

	M 5-10	F 5-10	M 11-13	F 11-13	M 14-16	F 14-16	M 17-18	F 17-18	M 19-21	F 19-21	M 22-25	F 22-25	M 26-35	F 26-35	M 36-45	F 36-45	M 46+	F 46+	Total
2019/20	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	6	3	10	22

Table 66: Membership Faversham Ladies Hockey Club 2020/21 Season - Category 1 Players – junior or adult club members who play in regular league hockey or tournaments

	M U18	F U18	M 18+	F 18+	Total
2021/22	0	2	0	20	22

Table 67: Category 2 Players 2019/20 – junior or adult club member takes part in social hockey activity (eg play nights, small, sided sessions, back to hockey, summer league, walking hockey etc)

	M 5-10	F 5-10	M 11-13	F 11-13	M 14-16	F 14-16	M 17-18	F 17-18	M 19-21	F 19-21	M 22-25	F 22-25	M 26-35	F 26-35	M 36-45	F 36-45	M 46+	F 46+	Total
2019/20	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Table 68: Category 2 Players 2021/22 – junior or adult club member takes part in social hockey activity (eg play nights, small, sided sessions, back to hockey, summer league, walking hockey etc)

	M U18	F U18	M 18+	F 18+	Total
2021/22	0	0	0	0	0

8.25. The membership data above indicates a small club with an ageing membership.

Gore Court Hockey Club

8.26. Gore Court Hockey Club play matches and train at Westlands School AGP. The league games are played on Saturdays with vets and mixed teams playing on Sundays. The club stated during consultation that on a typical Saturday, fixtures commence at 10.15am and the final game start time is 16.30pm. The club has the following number of teams:

- 5 men's teams
- 3 women's teams
- 1 men's vets' team
- 1 mixed team
- U 8's x 2
- U 10s x 2
- Boy's U12
- Boy's U14
- Girl's U14
- Mixed U16s

8.27. The teams play in the following leagues:

- Gore Court Men's 1 - South East Men's Division 1 East
- Gore Court Men's 2 – South East Men's Division 1 Invicta
- Gore Court Men's 3 - South East Men's Division 3 Invicta
- Gore Court Men's 4 – South East Men's Division 5 Invicta
- Gore Court Men's 5 – South East Men's Division 9 Invicta
- Gore Court Ladies 1 – South East Women
- Gore Court Ladies 2 – South East Women's Division 3 Invicta
- Gore Court Ladies Development Team - South East Women's Division 6 Invicta
- Gore Court Men's Vets Sundays
- Gore Court Mixed Sundays
- 2 mixed U8s
- 2 mixed U10s
- Boys U12
- Boys U14
- Girls U14

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- Mixed U16s

8.28. Gore Court Hockey Club - Training times:

Table 69: Adults Training

Team/Session	Day	Time	Hours
Men's 3 XI – Men's 5 XI	Wednesday	18.30-19.30	1
Men's 1 XI & 2 XI	Wednesday	19:30-21:00	1.5
Women's 1 XI	Tuesday	20.00-21:30	1.5
	Thursday	20:00-21:00	1
Women's 2 XI - 3 XI	Tuesday	19:00-20:00	1

Table 70: Junior Training

Team/Session	Day	Time	Hours
Juniors Year 7 and below	Sunday	09.30-10.30	1
Juniors Year 8 and above	Sunday	10.30–12.00	1.5

- 8.29. The Club has approximately 80 junior members attached to the club and approximately 55 train every Sunday morning. The club also organises back to hockey sessions during the week.

Table 71: Membership Faversham Ladies Hockey Club 2019/20 Season - Category 1 Players – junior or adult club members who play in regular league hockey or tournaments

	M 5-10	F 5-10	M 11-13	F 11-13	M 14-16	F 14-16	M 17-18	F 17-18	M 19-21	F 19-21	M 22-25	F 22-25	M 26-35	F 26-35	M 36-45	F 36-45	M 46+	F 46+	Total
2019/20	12	11	10	9	15	11	15	15	8	9	13	12	6	6	4	5	5	2	168

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Table 72: Membership Faversham Ladies Hockey Club 2020/21 Season - Category 1 Players – junior or adult club members who play in regular league hockey or tournaments

	M U18	F U18	M 18+	F 18+	Total
2021/22	52	54	53	38	197

Table 73: Category 2 Players 2019/20 – junior or adult club member takes part in social hockey activity (eg play nights, small, sided sessions, back to hockey, summer league, walking hockey etc)

	M 5-10	F 5-10	M 11-13	F 11-13	M 14-16	F 14-16	M 17-18	F 17-18	M 19-21	F 19-21	M 22-25	F 22-25	M 26-35	F 26-35	M 36-45	F 36-45	M 46+	F 46+	Total	
2019/20	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Table 74: Category 2 Players 2021/22 – junior or adult club member takes part in social hockey activity (eg play nights, small, sided sessions, back to hockey, summer league, walking hockey etc)

	M U18	F U18	M 18+	F 18+	Total
2021/22	0	0	0	0	0

Hockey Match Slots Required Each Week

8.30. Table 75 provides the match slots required on Swale Hockey AGPs.

Table 75: Match Slots Required Each Week Swale Borough

Kirklees Hockey Clubs	Adult Teams				Juniors	Totals	Match Slot (Adult) Requirements	Match Slot (Junior) Requirements
	Senior Men	Senior Women	Mixed	Veterans				
Faversham Ladies Hockey Club	0	1	0	0	0	1	0.50	0
Gore Court Hockey Club	5	3	1	1	8	18	5	4

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Kirklees Hockey Clubs	Adult Teams				Juniors	Totals	Match Slot (Adult) Requirements	Match Slot (Junior) Requirements
	Senior Men	Senior Women	Mixed	Veterans				
Sittingbourne Hockey Club	5	2	0	0	4	11	3.50	2
Total Teams	10	6	1	1	12	30	9	6
Total Teams Playing on a Saturday	10	6	0	0	0	16	8	0
Total Teams Playing on a Sunday	0	0	1	1	12	14	1	6

- 8.31. Westlands School AGP home to Gore Court Hockey Club provides hockey matches from 10.30am on a Saturday with last match commencing at 16.30pm. This allows for 5 matches on a Saturday. There are sufficient match slots at Westlands School AGP to meet the current adult match play needs of Gore Court Hockey Club. There are 8 junior teams, a veterans and mixed adult team at Gore Court Hockey Club and Westlands School AGP can accommodate these teams on a Sunday if the juniors are not playing at a Central Venue.
- 8.32. Faversham Ladies Hockey Club use Sittingbourne Hockey Clubs AGP at Borden Grammar School. Borden Grammar School AGP has 4 games on a Saturday and there are sufficient match slots for this and requires 2 match slots on a Sunday.

Training Capacity

- 8.33. There is a need for 21 hours of hockey training to meet the mid-week training needs of Sittingbourne and Gore Court Hockey Clubs. Both clubs have priority over any other club or use at their respective AGPs.
- 8.34. There is a total of 40 hours mid-week for training slots across both AGPs Monday – Friday 6.00pm – 10.00pm. There is sufficient time and slots for training for hockey across Swale currently.

Unmet and Latent Demand

- 8.35. Gore Court hockey Club has stated that they would like to increase adult teams by 1 men's and 1 women's team in the future, Faversham Ladies Hockey Club stated that they would not be increasing teams in the future and Sittingbourne Hockey Club stated they would like to increase by 1 men's and 1 women's team and an U12's team.
- 8.36. This would require an additional 2 match slots on a Saturday and 0.5 match slots on a Sunday.

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- 8.37. Gore Court Hockey Club have had discussions with developers who have submitted an outline planning application for Highsted Park Garden Village and the outline application identifies a site in the southern part of the development site for 2 AGPs both would be floodlit and provides appropriate changing and pavilion facilities for an anchor tenant such as Gore court Hockey Club.

Displaced demand

- 8.38. There are no imported hockey clubs from other local authorities using Swale AGPs.
- 8.39. From a sub area perspective only the Sittingbourne sub area has AGP provision (2 AGPs) and 2 hockey clubs Sittingbourne and Gore Court Hockey Clubs. Faversham sub area has Faversham Ladies Hockey Club, but no AGP provision and Sheppey sub area has neither AGP provision nor a hockey club.

Future Demand 2040 – Population Growth

- 8.40. Swale Borough Council is undertaking a local plan review. The Council has made the decision to delay any formal consultation on the local plan review until the Levelling Up and Regeneration Bill obtains Royal Assent. This is because of the uncertainty around the national policy direction and the concern that any formal consultation now would need to be redone in the near future.
- 8.41. The position on housing numbers is for the period 1st April 2022 to 31st March 2040, i.e., for 18 years (at 1,078 p.a.) is **19,404**. About 8,000 dwellings are already accounted for through allocations in the current local plan, Bearing Fruits, and other planning permissions. The Council has not decided as yet where the remaining housing need could be met. However, there are a number of planning/outline planning applications that have been submitted or are expected to be submitted. A total of 11,404 homes with an average household size of 2.3 persons provides a new resident population of 26,299. The Sport England Playing Pitch Calculator Tool identifies the need and cost for cricket facilities across Swale up to 2040.
- 8.42. The table below identifies the number of hockey AGPs required to meet population increase from new developments by 2040 across Swale. The Playing Pitch Calculator identifies that developer's contributions capital costs towards hockey between 2023 and 2040 should be £367,357 with lifecycle costs per annum of £11,388 and changing room costs of £161,253.
- 8.43. The new population generates 1.52 match equivalent sessions weekly for adults and 1.01 match equivalent sessions on a Sunday for juniors. The latent demand equates to an additional 2 match slots on a Saturday and 0.5 match slots on a Sunday. Future population and latent demand to 2040 equates to 3.52 match equivalent sessions weekly on a Saturday and 1.51 match equivalent sessions on a Sunday.

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Table 76: Sport England Playing Pitch Calculator – Population Increase 2023 – 2040.

	Number of pitches required to meet the estimated demand	Capital Cost	Lifecycle Cost (per annum)	Changing rooms (number)	Changing rooms (capital cost)
Total	0.38	£367,357	£11,388	0.76	£161,253
	0.38				
	0.38				
Artificial Grass Pitches		£367,357	£11,388	0.76	£161,253
Sand Based		£367,357	£11,388	0.76	£161,253
3G		£0	£0	0.00	£0

8.44. Additional population will mean additional facilities for hockey to meet the needs of the new population in the future. There will be a need for an additional 1 x AGP for hockey in the future.

8.45. Longer term, Gore Court Hockey Club do not see a sustainable future at Westlands School and are focused on 3 potential opportunity areas:

- Highsted Park Development
- Bobbing Development
- Pitch at the current club house

9. Hockey Key Findings and Recommendations

9.1. This section summarises the findings from the hockey analysis, which will form the basis of the recommendation and action plan section for SBC Playing Pitch Strategy Review. The below includes the response to 5 key questions, which are asked for all PPS studies across the UK to provide a standardised illustration of supply and demand for sports provision. The right-hand side provides the answer to the question under analysis 2023.

Table 77: Key PPS findings for Hockey in Swale Borough

Key Question	Analysis PPS 2023
What are the main characteristics of the current supply and demand for provision?	<p>There are 2 AGPs suitable for hockey play across Swale Borough.</p> <p>The AGPs used by hockey clubs are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Borden Grammar School. The facility provides secured community use for Sittingbourne Hockey Club and Faversham Ladies Hockey Club. • Westlands School AGP. This facility provides secured community use for Gore Court Hockey Club. <p>The Sittingbourne School AGP is too small for competitive hockey and is mainly used for football training. The HMP Elmley AGP is not available for community use and has no floodlights.</p> <p>Borden Grammar School AGP is rated as good with the carpet refurbished in 2018. The life of a carpet is estimated to be 10 years depending on how the carpet is used and maintained. There is a need to replace the floodlights with LED.</p> <p>The Westlands School AGP subbase and carpet were replaced July 2023. The lights also need upgrading to LED.</p> <p>Sittingbourne Hockey Club have a pavilion with changing and bar facilities adjacent to the AGP and is in good condition, the bar area has been refurbished. However, there is a need to replace a boiler.</p> <p>Gore Court Hockey Clubs clubhouse is not on site, it's around 1/4 mile from the AGP. The Gore Court Clubhouse at the Grove is also home to Gore Court Cricket club and currently Sittingbourne Rugby Club. The rugby club will move to new accommodation once their new site has been provided as part of a Section 106 agreement at Wises Road Housing Development. The car park at the clubhouse at Gore Court has recently been resurfaced and remarked as part of this section 106 agreement.</p> <p>Sittingbourne Hockey Club play matches and train at Borden Grammar School. Number of teams 2022/23 season:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 5 men's teams • 2 women's teams • Under 16 Boy's • Under 14's Boy's • Under 10's • Under 8's

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Key Question	Analysis PPS 2023
	<p>The men's and women's teams play matches on Saturdays. The club has a larger boy's junior section than female but have training groups for mixed U8, boys under 10, 12, 14 and 16. Girls U12 and U14. Club hosts the Kent Hockey U16 Boy's Academy and is an integral part of England Hockey's Player Pathway. The club also partners with Access Sport to provide Flyers Hockey (Disability) at different school venues across Swale.</p> <p>Faversham Ladies Hockey Club has 1 adult ladies' team and play matches on Saturdays at the Sittingbourne Hockey Club AGP in the 2022/23 season.</p> <p>Gore Court Hockey Club play matches and train at Westlands School AGP. The league games are played on Saturdays with vets and mixed teams playing on Sundays. The club stated during consultation that on a typical Saturday, fixtures commence at 10.15am and the final game start time is 16.30pm. The club has the following number of teams:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 5 men's teams • 3 women's teams • 1 men's vets' team • 1 mixed team • U 8's x 2 • U 10s x 2 • Boy's U12 • Boy's U14 • Girl's U14 • Mixed U16s <p>The Club has approximately 80 junior members attached to the club and approximately 55 train every Sunday morning. The club also organises back to hockey sessions during the week.</p>
<p>Is there enough accessible and secured community use provision to meet current demand</p>	<p>The AGPs at Westlands School and Borden Grammar School provide enough accessible and secured community use provision to meet the current demand of the three Swale Borough Hockey Clubs for match play and training. Both Gore Court Hockey Club and Sittingbourne Hockey club have priority over any other sports for match play and training slots on the 2 AGPs.</p>
<p>Is the provision that is accessible of sufficient quality and appropriately maintained?</p>	<p>The 2 x AGPs are of good quality and the changing and clubhouse facilities are adequate quality. Gore Court Hockey Club travels approximately 1 quarter of a mile from the AGP to the clubhouse that is not on site at Westlands AGP.</p> <p>The sports lighting requires replacing and upgrading to LED at both AGP sites.</p>

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Key Question	Analysis PPS 2023
What are the main characteristics of the future supply and demand for provision?	<p>Additional population by 2024 generates 1.52 match equivalent sessions weekly for adults and 1.01 match equivalent sessions on a Sunday for juniors.</p> <p>The latent demand equates to an additional 2 match slots on a Saturday and 0.5 match slots on a Sunday.</p> <p>Future population and latent demand to 2040 equates to 3.52 match equivalent sessions weekly on a Saturday and 1.51 match equivalent sessions on a Sunday.</p> <p>Additional population will mean additional facilities for hockey to meet the needs of the new population in the future. There will be a need for an additional 1 x AGP for hockey in the future.</p>
Is there enough accessible and secured community use provision to meet future demand?	<p>There will not be sufficient accessible and secured community use hockey provision to meet future demand.</p> <p>A third hockey AGP is required by 2040. Ideally provision of a 2 x AGP facility with changing and clubhouse would be a sustainable option but leave one of the existing AGPs redundant.</p>

Hockey Draft Recommendations PPS Review 2023:

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 3rd 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.

10. Tennis Court Analysis and Recommendations

- 10.1. The Lawn Tennis Association's (LTA) vision for tennis which has recently been introduced following a major consultative process. The vision is 'Tennis Opened Up' and the mission is to grow tennis by making it more relevant, accessible, welcoming, and enjoyable. Strategic initiatives at county and national level aim to support this'. The recent joint LTA and UK Government Parks Tennis Project investment (£30 million) is designed to open tennis to people of all backgrounds, improve access to tennis across the nation, and provide greater opportunities for children and adults to be active. Park tennis courts are particularly important in providing affordable, engaging, and accessible opportunities for more female players and those from lower socioeconomic backgrounds, as well as being the most popular venue for women to play after they have left education.
- 10.2. The LTA's mission is to grow tennis by making courts accessible, welcoming, and enjoyable. Ensuring local communities have access to quality facilities is critical to attracting and retaining more players. As such, the LTA's Quick Access Loan Scheme aims to provide interest-free loans to support venues investment in facilities, prioritising the installation and construction of covered courts.
- 10.3. The objectives of the fund are to:
- Provide covered or sports-lit playing facilities to encourage community accessible play all year.
 - Retain and increase the number of participants at the venue.
 - Offer and increase both non-members pay and play usage and coaching opportunities.
 - Grow the numbers of adults and juniors on the coaching programme.
 - Provide seamless booking of tennis courts and lessons through an [online booking system](#)

Parks Investment Project

- 10.4. The LTA wants to work with local networks, to promote a joined up, transformational improvement to existing facilities, largely through increasing the number of courts that are floodlit and covered but also courts that can be booked online. Swale Borough Council are engaged with the LTA and are working in partnership to increase usage and financial sustainability.
- 10.5. Swale Borough Council has been included in the Parks Investment Project in collaboration with the LTA and The Department for Digital, Culture, Media, & Sport.
- 10.6. The following works commenced in August 2023 with a finish time of 8 – 10 weeks:
- King George Playing Fields (4 Courts) - court resurface and repaint, reconstruction where required, re clad fencing, new nets and posts and lite access gate system.
 - Milton Recreation Ground (3 Courts floodlit) = court resurface and repaint and premium access gate system.

- 10.7. SBC has provided funding for upgrading the tennis court lighting at Milton Recreation Ground to LED.
- 10.8. In addition to the above the Council have given the following commitments to the LTA:
- Maintaining the refurbished tennis courts and a repaint/resurface within the 15-year funding obligation period, with the annual sinking fund recommended by the LTA at £1,200 per court per annum, and a further £600 for each floodlit court per annum.
 - Commitment to ongoing sustainability to enable the above, The Council has introduced pay & play sessions at both venues while retaining some free sessions, alongside income from the incumbent Tennis Club at Milton. Season tickets will be available at both venues and coaching will be available at the Milton venue.
 - The Council will need to retain all courts as tennis courts once refurbishment works are completed for the 15-year funding obligation period if the LTA. All the courts at both sites will be dedicated to tennis.
 - The Council will remain responsible for the ongoing control, operation, management, and maintenance of both sites. The Council will then have contracts in place to outsource ongoing coaching/organised activity with local clubs/coaches.
- 10.9. A new affordable, paid for model has been implemented at all sites, ensuring the long-term playing condition of the courts, and offering a sustainable approach to their ongoing maintenance and refurbishment.
- 10.10. Residents will be able to use Clubspark – an online booking system - to book and pay for sessions on court. Additionally, through Clubspark residents can access tennis coaching sessions (for all ages and abilities), and secure household membership for just £40 a year. Household membership allows tennis court access limited to 3 sessions of up to 2 hours per session, for everyone at the registered address.
- 10.11. All LTA registered venues and accredited coaches can use ClubSpark free of charge. ClubSpark is a flexible and simple venue management platform with multiple products and applications to help venues, local authorities and coaches manage their sport. It is a tool that is offered for free as part of LTA venue registration and allows administrators to manage all functions at their venue(s).
- 10.12. LTA data on national tennis playing demand patterns is instructive for describing activity patterns in Swale.
- 10.13. **Location of play:** The importance of parks courts is emphasised by the following data on where people play tennis. Parks are the highest where people play 31%. Hence the need to protect Swale's Park facilities and enhance them.

Swale Borough Council

Playing Pitch Strategy

Table 78: National Survey – Location of Play 2018 (Source: Statistical)

Location	% Players
Parks	31%
Education sites	22%
Tennis clubs	19%
Other (i.e., Leisure centres)	28%

10.14. **Organised play:** Parks players are less reliant on organised tennis activity but heavily reliant on using parks for social tennis with friends and family:

Table 79: National survey Organised Play

Type of Tennis	% Parks Players	% Club Players
Social tennis with friends/family	90%	74%
Informal tennis	15%	18%
Individual tennis competition	2%	17%
Group coaching/lessons	2%	15%
Team tennis competition	1%	13%
Private lessons	1%	11%
Cardio tennis	3%	8%

10.15. **Satisfaction levels with courts:** The % of players of each type who are 'very satisfied' are as follows:

Table 80: National Survey – Satisfaction Levels with Courts

Aspects of courts	% Parks players	% Club players
Safety of courts	28%	49%

Swale Borough Council *Playing Pitch Strategy*

Aspects of courts	% Parks players	% Club players
Proximity to home	31%	45%
Condition of courts	13%	39%
Ease of booking	16%	35%
Cost of courts	36%	31%
Availability of courts	19%	30%
Number of courts	13%	30%
Customer service	10%	27%
Ancillary facilities	5%	26%

10.16. **Awareness of local tennis courts:** The importance of publicising court availability is emphasised by the following findings.

Table 81: National Survey – Awareness of Local Tennis Courts

Type of court	% People aware
Parks courts	31%
Tennis club courts	28%
Leisure centres	27%
Education courts	15%
Indoor tennis centres	10%

Swale - Supply Tennis Courts

10.17. Table 83 below provide a breakdown of tennis court sites in the study area. The quality rating of a site is calculated using the following LTA **criteria**:

- **Good** - Good playing surface, courts recently been upgraded, resurfaced, nets and fencing in working order.

Swale Borough Council

Playing Pitch Strategy

- **Average** – Court colour is fading or showing signs of wear. The surface remains largely intact. The court life, prior to needing resurfacing, would be extended for up to 5 years by cleaning and repainting of the existing surface.
- **Below Average** – Court is showing clear signs of deterioration including cracking, loosening of fretting of the surface. This indicates the court needs resurfacing.
- **Poor** - Playing surface poor, slippery playing surface, poor drainage, cracks on the playing surface and surrounding area, court markings hardly visible, no nets or nets damaged, surrounding fencing poor/dangerous.

Table 82: Outdoor Tennis Provision by Site – Swale Borough

Outdoor Tennis sites	Sub Area	Site Type/Secured /Unsecured Use	Tennis courts			Site Quality
			All Courts	Surface	Floodlit	
Borden Grammar School	Sittingbourne	Education Unsecured	6	Tarmac	No	Poor
Highsted Grammar School	Sittingbourne	Education Unsecured	7	Tarmac	Yes	Poor
King George Playing Field	Sittingbourne	Local Authority Secured	4	Tarmac	No	Good once refurbished
Milton Recreation Ground	Sittingbourne	Local Authority Secured	3	Tarmac	Yes	Good once refurbished
The Appleyard	Sittingbourne	Private Club Secured	3	2 All-weather 1 Grass	2 all-weather floodlit	Standard
Tunstall Primary School	Sittingbourne	Education unsecured	6	Tarmac	No	Standard
Woodstock Broadoak Road	Sittingbourne	Sports Club	4	Tarmac	No	Disused - Poor
Faversham Recreation Ground	Faversham	Club Secured	3 + 2 mini	Nonporous acrylic	Yes	Good
Dawes Community Association Hernehill Tennis and 5-a-side	Faversham	Community Association Secured	1	Sand based	Yes	Standard
Queen Elizabeth Grammar School	Faversham	Education Unsecured	4	Tarmac	No	Standard
HMP Swaleside	Sheppey	HMS Prisons Unsecured not available for public use	2	Tarmac	No	Standard
Oasis Academy Sheerness	Sheppey	Education Unsecured	3	Tarmac	No	Poor
Sheppey Leisure Complex	Sheppey	Swale Leisure Secured	1	Tarmac	No	Standard
Total			46+ 2 minis		16	

Swale Borough Council

Playing Pitch Strategy

10.18. There are 46 tennis courts in operation in Swale Borough located at 14 sites.

10.19. Secured community use tennis sites are provided by:

- The Local Authority who manages and operate tennis courts located across 2 park sites that have recently been refurbished – King George Playing Fields Sittingbourne 4 courts and Milton Recreation Ground 3 floodlit courts.
- Sheppey Leisure operates 1 court at Sheppey Leisure Centre,
- The Appleyard a private sports club operates 2 all-weather floodlit tennis courts and a grass court in the summer months.
- Dawes Community Association Hernehill operates a tennis court that is also used for 5-a-side football with floodlights.

10.20. There are two membership tennis clubs affiliated to the Lawn Tennis Association in Swale.

- Faversham Lawn Tennis Club – Faversham Recreation Ground 3 floodlit courts and 2 mini courts). Secured community use.
- Sittingbourne Tennis Club – Milton Recreation Ground (3 floodlit courts), Secured community use

10.21. There are 2 tennis courts at HMP Swaleside that are not available for public use.

10.22. There are five education sites providing 26 courts. The education sites are classified as unsecure sites for community use. The usage cannot be guaranteed without a formal community use agreement in place.

10.23. There are 4 disused tennis courts at Sittingbourne FC Woodstock Park Broadoak Road, Sittingbourne. This site is part of the Highsted planning application Land to the South and East of Sittingbourne, currently undecided and is proposing that 2 tennis courts will be replaced as part of any new developments.

10.24. Faversham Tennis Club are reaching capacity and have considered providing a fourth court at Faversham. Recreation Ground. The club cannot proceed with this due to a tree that would need to be replaced but this has a preservation order which prevents the loss of the tree.

10.25. Sittingbourne Tennis Club is a recently new tennis club in Sittingbourne. The club is seeking a lease agreement with SBC to use the Milton Recreation Ground Courts and to have use of a pavilion on site.

10.26. The Local Authority sites King George Playing Fields and Milton Recreation Ground Sittingbourne both recently refurbished provide good quality courts as do Faversham Tennis club at Faversham Recreation Ground. Faversham Tennis club are about to have their courts re painted (winter 2023).

Swale Borough Council

Playing Pitch Strategy

10.27. Standard quality courts are provided at The Appleyard, Tunstall Primary School, Sheppey Leisure Centre, Dawes Community Association Hernhill and Queen Elizabeth Grammar School. Poor quality courts are provided at Oasis Academy Sheerness, Highsted Grammar School, and Borden Grammar School.

Swale - Demand Tennis Courts

10.28. The LTA advises that the capacity of public community courts on Local Authority sites to be 7 hours per day for non-floodlit courts and 12 hours per day for floodlit courts.

10.29. When considering secured community use tennis courts only. SBC provides 7 tennis courts on sites that they manage. Three of these courts are floodlit.

10.30. It is estimated that the 4 non floodlit courts contribute 28 hours per day and 196 hours per week and the three floodlit courts contribute 36 hours per day and 252 hours per week of playing capacity to meet demand for informal tennis in Swale. This equates to 1,920 hours per month (30-day average) or 23,040 hours per year.

10.31. Faversham Lawn Tennis Club, the Appleyard, Dawes Community Association and Sheppey Leisure Centre provide 1 non floodlit tennis court and 6 floodlit tennis courts. Applying the same ratio of use as public courts, clubs non floodlit tennis courts provide 7 hours use per day and 49 hours per week. Floodlit tennis courts provide 72 hours per day and 504 hours per week. A total of 3,630 hours per month. (30-day average) or 43,560 hours per year.

10.32. When adding the parks and club courts monthly hours of court supply together, the total monthly hours of use available equals 5,550.

10.33. Sport England Active Lives data for 2021/2022 informs us that 2.9% of the population across Swale Borough participate in tennis activity at least once a year. The Census 2021 identifies the Swale borough population to be 151,700. 2.9 % of the population equates to 3171 persons participating in tennis.

10.34. Assuming an average of 3 people per court per 'booking / use' (to account for an even split between singles, doubles, and some sessions where 3 people share a court) equates to 1,850 (5,550 total hours of monthly use /3) sessions per month played on public and sports club courts. If each match lasts for 1 hour on average this means that when considering public and club courts, they are operating for 1,850 hours out of a possible 5,550 hours per month 33.3% of their total operational capacity.

10.35. According to data provided by the LTA's online booking system (Clubspark) with court access technology, the average level of utilisation in venues (UK wide) is 53%. By this barometer Swale is estimated to be currently operating significantly below average levels in terms of its utilisation of tennis courts. The new improved gate access systems now in place for 2023 at King George V and Milton Recreation Ground will provide Swale with up-to-date accurate usage data.

10.36. **Population growth:** A scenario has been modelled for future needs based on 2.9% of the population participating in tennis.

Swale Borough Council

Playing Pitch Strategy

- 10.37. Swale Borough Council are currently in the process of updating and providing a new local plan that will go to 2040.
- 10.38. The position on housing numbers is for the period 1st April 2022 to 31st March 2040 i.e., 18 years (1078 p.a.) is the need for 19,404. About 8,000 dwellings are already accounted for through allocations in the current local plan, bearing fruits and other planning permissions. This leaves a total of 11,404 new dwellings to be allocated.
- 10.39. A total of 11,404 homes with an average household size of 2.3 persons provides a new resident population of 26,299.
- 10.40. By applying the Active Lives 2.9% of Swale Borough residents participating in tennis in the past twelve months to the increased population 26,299 equates to an increase in participation of 763 people. Assuming an average of 3 people per court per 'booking / use' (to account for an even split between singles, doubles, and some sessions where 3 people share a court) this equates to 254 (763/3) sessions per month played on public courts. If each match lasts for 1 hour on average this means that when considering secured use public courts and club courts only, they would be operating for an additional 254 hours. This with the current estimated 1,850 hours of use totals 2,104 hours out of possible 5,550 hours per month 38% of their total operational capacity.
- 10.41. The theoretical observations above suggest that there is no need for additional courts to be provided to meet future population needs. However, with the investment being provided to install access gates in 2023 across the local authority two park's courts sites, the actual usage of courts will be able to be monitored and inform future decision making.
- 10.42. The LTA has stated that new provision is always welcome to fulfil strong playing demand in Swale. Future trends may be the need to improve 'wrap around' facilities in parks. This includes floodlighting of courts to improve all year round play and ensure coaching income in parks is not too seasonal.
- 10.43. This also includes toilet, pavilion, and path lighting around tennis facilities to encourage comfortable and safe routes to and from courts. These facilities will also be key to driving junior and adult coaching programmes and competitions within parks.
- 10.44. The LTA are keen to increase provision in the Swale borough area. The LTA will object to the loss of any tennis court across Swale borough.
- 10.45. All tennis courts should be protected within the Swale Borough Local Plan. Any courts proposed to be lost should be replaced with at least equivalent provision in terms of quantity and quality.

Tennis Draft Recommendations

1. The Protection of all community use tennis courts across Swale Borough Council. Any courts proposed to be lost should be replaced with at least equivalent provision in terms of quantity and quality.
2. Swale Borough Council and the Lawn Tennis Association (LTA) to work together to:
 - Develop strong local park and other community tennis venue partnerships to deliver inclusive and sustainable tennis provision for all.
 - Invest in great people delivering great experiences in parks.
 - Target investment in “welcoming “park facilities for people to socialise and play.
3. Monitor and use the gate access systems installed to identify demand currently and for the future and use the findings to promote tennis across Swale Borough. There is a need to consider a review of tennis usage on the parks bookable courts so actual demand/use can be understood and future provision planned for more accurately.
4. Future trends may be the need to improve ‘wrap around’ facilities in parks. This includes floodlighting of courts to improve all year round play and ensure coaching income in parks is not too seasonal. This also includes toilet, pavilion, and path lighting around tennis facilities to encourage comfortable and safe routes to and from courts. These facilities will also be key to driving junior and adult coaching programmes and competitions within parks.
5. Swale Borough Council needs to broadly encourage and support the work to link between venues, coaches, and schools to ensure the young people across Swale have an opportunity to participate in tennis.
6. The LTA to work with clubs through its club network to develop opportunities for growth in the tennis workforce to support the tennis environments.
7. There is a need to monitor the capacity of use at Faversham Tennis club and to consider how an additional court can be provided for use by the club in the future if required.

11. Bowls Green Analysis and Recommendations

- 11.1. Bowls England is responsible for governance administration and promotion of Flat Green Lawn Bowls in England. It was formed in 2008 following a unification of the English Bowling Association (EBA) and English Women's Bowling Association (EWBA).
- 11.2. The 2021-26 England Bowls Strategy 'Fit for the Future' frames a new and exciting course for the sport. England Bowls believe it will:
- Unite the sport behind a compelling vision, creating a sense of belonging and source of inspiration for its volunteers.
 - Guide the staff team's activity allowing it to better allocate resources to the areas that matter most.
 - Help put issues and problems into a broader context, engendering a can-do, optimistic culture.
 - Build confidence and enthusiasm amongst current partners and act as a catalyst to forge new relationships.
 - Enable it to articulate with one voice because those outside its sport should care.
- 11.3. The five-year plan, launched in August 2021, is designed with the goal of getting more people playing and enjoying bowls.
- 11.4. It sets out the England Bowls vision for the sport, how it plans to achieve its objectives and what success looks like in 2026. The priorities that will get England Bowls to its target of **One Million Bowls Experiences** by 2026 are:
- **Building the brand of bowls** by increasing focus on international & top domestic bowls and utilising opportunities such as Birmingham 2022 to achieve larger media coverage.
 - **Ensuring the sport is truly accessible** to all by offering different formats of the game which suit all time constraints, as well as driving more people to clubs in new ways.
 - **Creating positive playing experiences for everyone** who steps on the green, both for casual and competitive players, as well as growing our events calendar and introducing a Performance Pathway
 - **Putting volunteers first**, as the lifeblood of our sport, by increasing our support for clubs to empower them to thrive.
 - **Leading the sport with purpose** by developing our Governance structures, diversifying our revenue streams, and work collaboratively with all the sport's key stakeholders.
- 11.5. The bowls facilities in Swale Borough provide for England Bowls – Flat green and is played on a flat grass (or artificial) surface called the 'green' that should be either rectangular or square. The length of the green in the direction of play should be between 31 metres and 40 metres.
- 11.6. The green is divided into sections called 'rinks' which should be between a minimum of 4.3 metres and a maximum of 5.8 metres wide for outdoor play.
- 11.7. Surrounding the green is a ditch, and a bank where markers indicate the boundaries and centre lines of each rink.

Swale Borough Council

Playing Pitch Strategy

11.8. Each game is split into individual ends. At the start of each end one player will place the mat on the centre line of the rink and deliver the jack. The jack is then put on the centre line at the other end of the rink. The jack must be a minimum of 23 metres from the mat at the start of the end.

Swale Borough Supply

11.9. There are eight England Bowls flat green bowls greens in Swale Borough.

11.10. Table 84. below provides details of the bowls sites, which all have one green and six rinks except for Leavelands Bowls Club that has 2 rinks. All but one green is considered secure. The green at Kemsley Bowls Club is considered unsecured due to problems with the lease between the new landlord and the club.

11.11. This leaves seven of the eight bowling greens classed as secured community use. Two bowls club sites are owned by Swale Borough Council - Faversham Recreation Bowls Club have a self-management arrangement although the council remains responsible for the buildings and Queenborough Bowls Club. Has a long lease with 10-year reviews first review is due 2023.

11.12. Boughton under Blean leases its site from a local farmer. The remainder are in private club ownership.

Table 83: Flat Green Bowls Sites in Swale Borough

Site Name	Sub Area	Ownership	Management & Membership	Security of Use	Number: Green – Rinks	Quality: Green – Clubhouse
Boughton under Blean Bowls Club ME13 9NA	Faversham	Club -Long term lease from Local Landowner Wellbrook Farm	Club – 41 Members	Secured	1 – 6	Standard - Standard
Faversham Recreation Bowls Club (Faversham Recreation Ground) ME13 8HA	Faversham	Faversham Municipal Charities Lease to the Local Authority – the club have a self-management agreement although the Council remains responsible for the structure and external maintenance of the buildings.	Club – 48 members	Secured	1 - 6	Good -Good
Leavesland Bowls Club ME13 0NP	Faversham	Club – Private house	Club – Members 10	Secured	1 – 2	Good– Good
Kemsley Bowls Club ME10 2RL	Sittingbourne	Private ownership Leased to club	Club – 21 members	Unsecured	1 – 6	Standard – Good

Swale Borough Council

Playing Pitch Strategy

Site Name	Sub Area	Ownership	Management & Membership	Security of Use	Number: Green – Rinks	Quality: Green – Clubhouse
Milton Regis Bowls Club ME10 2PS	Sittingbourne	Club	Club – 32 members	Secured	1 – 6	Good – Good
Appleyard Bowls Club ME10 1QN	Sittingbourne	Private	Club – 22 Members	Secured	1 – 6	Standard – Good
Queenborough Bowls Club ME11 5DP	Sheppey	Local Authority – Leased to Club 99 years subject to 10-year reviews.	Club – 37 members	Secured	1 – 6	Standard – Good
Sheerness Town (St Georges) bowls Club ME12 1QT	Sheppey	Club Ltd Company	Club – 37 Members	Secured	1 – 6	Standard – Good

11.13. There is a disused bowls club at Sittingbourne FC, Woodstock Park. This site is part of the Highsted planning application Land to the South and East of Sittingbourne, currently undecided and is proposing that the disused bowls green will be replaced.

11.14. Table 84 also provides non-technical site assessment scores for the quality of the bowling green and the clubhouse.

- Boughton under Blean Bowls Club – in 2021 the green was attacked by leather jackets. The grubs of this insect eat the grass roots and decimated the green until in 2022 the green had to be closed as it had become unplayable. The club has taken big steps to ensure the green is in tip top condition for 2023 season and is quality rated as standard. The pavilion/clubhouse is rated as good quality.
- Faversham Recreation Bowls Club has an annual fine turf assessment carried out by STRI on behalf of Swale Borough Council. The assessment identifies the work needed to keep the fine turf bowls green in good condition. The visual assessment undertaken as part of this study rated the green as good quality and the pavilion as good quality. There are areas of squirrel damage on the green.
- Leaves end Bowls Club is in the grounds of Monks Cottage which is a private dwelling. There are 10 members, and the 2-rink green is maintained to a good quality by the owner. The pavilion is small but of good quality.
- Kemsley Bowls Club green is maintained by the club members and is rated as standard quality with a good quality pavilion. There are issues with the ownership with the club not having any long-term lease in place and the owner wishing to sell the land. Due to the lease issue the site is rated as unsecured.

Swale Borough Council

Playing Pitch Strategy

- Milton Regis Bowls Club green s maintained by the club and provides a good quality green and clubhouse.
- Appleyard Bowls Club green is maintained by the private sports club and is rated as standard with a good quality pavilion.
- Queenborough Bowls Club has an annual fine turf assessment carried out by STRI on behalf of Swale Borough Council. The assessment identifies the work needed to keep the fine turf bowls green in good condition. The visual assessment undertaken as part of this study rated the green as good quality and the pavilion as good quality. The club has installed a new hi-tech watering system that will be able to water more of the green and will be controlled by an app so can be watered more often. The club are also getting a better-quality seed that has a greater germination period along with a better wetting agent. With these improvements the visual quality assessment is standard, but this will probably improve to good with the watering and other maintenance improvements the club are undertaking. The clubhouse is rated as good.
- Sheerness Town St Georges Bowls Club the fine turf bowls green rated as standard quality and good quality rated clubhouse.

Bowls Demand

- 11.15. This study has identified 248 affiliated bowls members in Swale Borough. The clubs have stated that membership remains roughly the same as previous years and that they are targeting younger players as it is hard to maintain an ageing membership.
- 11.16. Although Bowls England has noted a decline in membership rates since its inception in 2008. Kent Bowling Association has seen a decline in club memberships and clubs in the Kent County area.
- 11.17. Faversham Recreation Bowls Club has the highest membership with 48 members and Leavesland Bowls Club has the lowest with 10 members.
- 11.18. Future demand patterns are likely to be like current levels, based on participation trends. Sport England Active Lives survey suggests 2.1% of the Swale population participated in flat green bowls activities in 2021/2022.
- 11.19. Swale Borough Council are currently in the process of updating and providing a new local plan that will go to 2040.
- 11.20. The position on housing numbers is for the period 1st April 2022 to 31st March 2040 i.e., 18 years (1078 p.a.) is the need for 19,404. About 8,000 dwellings are already accounted for through allocations in the current local plan, bearing fruits and other planning permissions. This leaves a total of 11,404 new dwellings to be allocated.
- 11.21. A total of 11,404 homes with an average household size of 2.3 persons provides a new resident population of 26,299.

Swale Borough Council

Playing Pitch Strategy

- 11.22. If participation trends remain the same. The higher population projections will create a requirement for 2.1% additional capacity of the new population by 2042. This equates to approximately 553 additional bowls players. Spare capacity at the existing bowls facilities will be able to accommodate all additional future demand. Based on the 8 clubs across Swale Borough this equates to 69 new members each by 2042.
- 11.23. If the Highsted Housing development comes to fruition and the disused bowls green at Sittingbourne Football Club is replaced with a new bowls green this would provide for 9 bowls greens across Swale and an average increase in memberships of 62 members his participation per green. To accommodate this participation clubs may wish to consider artificial grass replacements for the fine turf greens ensuring bowls play all year round.
- 11.24. There will be a need to ensure that bowls clubhouses are large enough to accommodate the additional demand.
- 11.25. It is also recommended that Bowls England work with Clubs to encourage improved awareness of facilities and that Clubs are well linked to participation programmes and support with marketing.

Bowls Green Draft Recommendations

- 11.26. Protecting existing bowls greens through the Local Plan will be key both to securing local provision by ensuring that planning policy supports the retention of existing facilities, unless the loss of a facility would involve its replacement with a facility of at least the equivalent size, quality and accessibility or create improvements to be able to increase capacity at nearby bowls greens. This includes protecting the disused green at Woodstock Broadoak Road Sittingbourne.
- 11.27. Future housing developments should be asked for development funding contributions to ensure that existing bowls clubs have sufficient pavilion space and good quality greens to provide for new residents across Swale Borough.
- 11.28. Where clubs have larger memberships artificial grass greens should be considered to replace the fine turf green and provide for all year-round participation.

12. Netball Analysis and Recommendations

- 12.1. England Netball is the governing body of the sport and supports the development of the game in Swale Borough.
- 12.2. In November 2021 England Netball launched a 10-year 'Adventure Strategy' for the game with a new brand identity for the organisation.
- 12.3. England Netball's 'Adventure Strategy' shares a purpose-led ambition for the game, to build on the momentum the sport has seen in recent years and take it to new heights for the decade ahead.
- 12.4. The 'Adventure Strategy' outlines the intention to: -
- accelerate the development and growth of the game at every level, from grassroots to the elite,
 - elevate the visibility of the sport, and
 - lead a movement to impact lives on and beyond the court.
- 12.5. At the heart of its purpose, England Netball, will remain dedicated to increasing opportunities for women and girls to play the game as a priority, working tirelessly to address the gender participation gap in sport that has widened since the global pandemic.
- 12.6. Underpinned by years of engaging with and delivering netball for female communities, the organisation pledges to understand, support and nurture women and girls more deeply at every life stage, at every age.
- 12.7. The organisation is also committed to opening the sport to new audiences in every community, so netball better represents the rich diversity of the country it proudly represents, and ensures the sport continues to evolve and adapt to thrive in the future, helping to create a truly inclusive sport for all where everyone can belong, flourish and soar. A recent partnership announcement with England Men's and Mixed Netball Association (EMMNA) to help develop and grow male participation in the game, supports this commitment as England Netball pledges to promote difference and embrace the opportunity to make the sport a possibility within everyone's reach.
- 12.8. Transforming netball for children and young people is a strategic priority to protect the future of the sport. Collaborating with schools and policy makers to extend physical literacy within, and after the school day with a focus on netball specific provision will pave the way for greater community participation. The organisation will accelerate the expansion of its Bee Netball programme for young children, whilst supporting teens and young women to stay in the game to keep them physically active and in the game for life.
- 12.9. The facility development aspirations stated within the Strategy are to: -
- Take a fresh look at the spaces required to support the sport, creating accessible places in every community to allow netball to be incorporated into how and where women and girls live their lives.

Swale Borough Council

Playing Pitch Strategy

- Protect, enhance, and extend the network of homes that house the sport at a local and regional level.
- Develop an elite domestic professional competition that supports full time athletes underpinned by a world class infrastructure and environments.

12.10. For England Netball to achieve its ambitions to make the game accessible to wider audiences and in every community, it encourages Local Authorities to adopt policies within Playing Pitch Strategies and Built Facilities Strategies that: -

- Facilitates informal netball activity within neighbourhood multi use games areas for example by installing combined outdoor basketball and netball goals and part courts in Neighbourhood Equipped Areas for Play (NEAPs).
- Incorporates the cultural and health needs of women and girls within any designs for improved or new facilities.
- Protects and enhances netball facilities within all Primary and Secondary School environments so they offer a positive first experience of the sport for students and the wider community during out of school hours.
- Supports the installation of floodlights on outdoor courts to increase all year-round use.
- Facilitates the development of netball growth programmes, club training and competition within public leisure centres.
- Where appropriate, supports the development of netball homes and performance environments that enable local women and girls to pursue a career in netball as an elite athlete, official, coach or administrator.

12.11. England Netball's programmes of recognised and authorised activities are:

- 7-a-side Netball – single gender full seven aside version of the game in accordance with England Netball and/or World Netball rules.
- Fast5 / FastNet – single gender five/seven aside version of the game in accordance with England Netball and World Netball rules and regulations.
- Indoor Netball (or Nets) – single gender or mixed gender version of the game in accordance with England Netball and/or World Indoor Netball Association (WINA) rules and regulations.
- ParaNetball – Versions of the game that are endorsed by England Netball in recognition of the participants' disability.
- England Netball participation programmes delivered by approved persons/groups, including:
 - Back to Netball
 - Bee Netball
 - Netball Now
 - Walking Netball
- Mixed Netball (all versions listed above) – England Netball welcomes Mixed Netball as a growing form of the game and recognises Mixed Netball in the following contexts:
 - At a recreational level – defined as the casual participation in training, a non-competitive or competitive game at a local or county level, where the result does not have a consequence on a league, tournament, or series of games at a regional level or above.

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- At a Performance level– training and competition delivered specifically by England Netball, England Netball Men’s, and Mixed Netball Association (EMMNA) and registered VNSL Clubs only. In this context mixed netball can be in the form of mixed gender teams or competition between single gender teams of opposing gender.

Swale - Supply Netball Courts

12.12. Table 85 below provide a breakdown of netball court sites in the study area. The quality rating of a site is calculated using the following **criteria**:

- **Good** - Good playing surface, courts recently been upgraded, resurfaced, posts and fencing in working order.
- **Average** – Court colour is fading or showing signs of wear. The surface remains intact. The court life, prior to needing resurfacing, would be extended for up to 5 years by cleaning and repainting of the existing surface.
- **Below Average** – Court is showing obvious signs of deterioration including cracking, loosening of fretting of the surface. This indicates the court needs resurfacing.
- **Poor** - Playing surface poor, slippery playing surface, poor drainage, cracks on the playing surface and surrounding area, court markings hardly visible, no post or posts damaged, surrounding fencing poor/dangerous.

Table 84: Netball Court Provision by Site – Swale Borough

Outdoor Netball sites	Sub Area	Site Type/Secured / Unsecured Use	Netball Courts			Site Quality
			All Courts	Surface	Floodlit	
Borden Grammar School	Sittingbourne	Education Unsecured	4	Tarmac	No	Poor
Highsted Grammar School	Sittingbourne	Education Unsecured	7	Tarmac	Yes	Poor
The Sittingbourne School	Sittingbourne	Education Unsecured	3	MUGA	Yes	Standard
Westlands School	Sittingbourne	Education Unsecured	6	Tarmac	No	Poor
Queen Elizabeth Grammar School	Faversham	Education Unsecured	4	Tarmac	No	Standard
Oasis Academy Minster Road	Sheppey	Education Unsecured	4	Tarmac	Yes	Standard
Total			28		14	

12.13. There are twenty-eight outdoor netball courts across Swale Borough all located at 6 education sites. Courts used by the community are at the Sittingbourne School and Oasis Academy.

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- 12.14. The Sittingbourne School 3 netball courts are provided on a MUGA, and the Oasis Academy 4 netball courts are provided on tarmac with no additional markings.
- 12.15. All netball sites are on education sites and are therefore considered unsecured. They can only be in secured use if a formal community use agreement is in place.
- 12.16. Standard quality courts are provided at The Sittingbourne School, Oasis Academy and Queen Elizabeth Grammar School. Poor quality courts are provided at Westlands School, Highsted Grammar School, and Borden Grammar School.

Swale - Demand Netball Courts

- 12.17. In the past an England Netball affiliated league has taken place at The Sittingbourne School but currently this league is not operating.
- Sittingbourne & District Netball league games were played on Sunday mornings at 9:30am and 11am for the Winter Season which ran from September to April and the Summer Season which ran from May to August.
- 12.18. However, there are two unaffiliated netball leagues operated by Leagues 4 You. One at Oasis Academy on Monday evenings providing netball for the following unaffiliated teams:
- | | |
|---------------------|--------------------|
| • Belles | • Flyers |
| • Sheppey Ballers | • The Cheeky Girls |
| • Minster Maidens | • Sheppey Lions |
| • Sheppey Netchicks | • Red Devils |
| • Double Ds | • |
- 12.19. A second non-affiliated league operates at The Sittingbourne School on Wednesday evenings and caters for the following unaffiliated teams:
- | | |
|------------------------------|--------------------------|
| • Spectrum | • Sittingbourne Saphires |
| • Tunstall Mums | • Basket Cases 2 |
| • Chaos | • Pink Panthers |
| • Bourne Belles Abbey School | |
- 12.20. The above leagues identify that there is a demand for netball across the Swale Borough community. In addition, there is a walking netball club that organises sessions at the sports hall at The Abbey School Faversham on Tuesdays. This is organised by Age UK Faversham and Sittingbourne.

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12.21. The one identified affiliated netball club in Swale is Comets Netball Club.

12.22. Comets Netball Club has been competing in Swale, Kent, and the Southeast for over 20 years and has grown to over ninety members. Throughout the Junior and Senior Squads, the clubs aim is to play at the best of our ability and just as importantly to have fun and enjoy it.

12.23. Comets Netball Club currently run U12, U14, U16, and Senior Teams which participate in the following Leagues:

- London and Southeast Regional League
- Kent County Senior and Junior Leagues
- Polytechnic Invitational League
- Medway Summer League
- Maidstone & Malling Netball League

12.24. The club is Sport England Clubmark accredited as we have achieved the England Netball Silver CAPS award.

12.25. The CAPS netball scheme helps clubs' function in the most efficient way and is linked to Sport England Clubmark scheme. This scheme ensures good practice in the development of players, coaches and umpires at all levels and offers a way of maximising SAFE and CHILD FRIENDLY activities. In line with the Clubmark award, CAPS focuses on four key area that impact netball clubs:

- Duty of care and child protection
- Coaching and Competition
- Club Management and Administration
- Sports Equity and Ethics

12.26. Training is held weekly for all age groups. Summer training takes place at The Sittingbourne School outdoor courts and winter training takes place indoors at the following sites:

- Seniors on Wednesday evenings 7:30pm – 9.30pm at The Abbey School Sports Centre, London Rd Faversham ME13 8RZ
- Under 16 (years 10 and 11) on Wednesday evenings 6.00pm – 7.30pm at The Abbey School Sports Centre, London Rd Faversham ME13 8RZ
- Under 12s and Under 14 on Tuesday evenings at Fulston Manor School

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- 12.27. The senior team play indoors at the Polo Farm Canterbury where a two-court netball sports hall is available. The Teams also play at central venue sites out of Swale Borough at the following venues:
- London & Southeast Regional League – Various venues in Kent, Surrey, Sussex & Middlesex—Comets home Venue – Polo Farm Sports Club, Littlebourne Road Canterbury Kent CT3 4AF - played Saturdays.
 - Kent County Senior League - Various Venues throughout Kent — Comets home Venue – Polo Farm Sports Club, Littlebourne Road Canterbury Kent CT3 4AF -played Sundays.
 - London Polytechnic Invitational league 0 Home matches - Dartford Science Technology College Health Lane Dartford Kent DA1 2LY mostly Saturdays and some Sundays Away matches played at various venues within the M25.
 - Kent Junior League— Central venue—Rainham School for Girls Derwent Way Gillingham Kent ME8 0BX – played Sundays twice a month.
 - Medway Junior Netball League – Central Venue – Rainham School for Girls Derwent Way Gillingham Kent ME8 0BX – played Saturdays.
- 12.28. **Population growth:** A scenario has been modelled for future needs based on 1.6% of the population participating in netball based on participation data for Swale Borough taken from sport England Active Lives data 2021 - 2022.
- 12.29. Swale Borough Council are currently in the process of updating and providing a new local plan that will go to 2040.
- 12.30. The position on housing numbers is for the period 1st April 2022 to 31st March 2040 i.e., 18 years (1078 p.a.) is the need for 19,404. About 8,000 dwellings are already accounted for through allocations in the current local plan, bearing fruits and other planning permissions. This leaves a total of 11,404 new dwellings to be allocated.
- 12.31. A total of 11,404 homes with an average household size of 2.3 persons provides a new resident population of 26,299.
- 12.32. By applying the Active Lives 1.6% of Swale Borough residents participating in netball in the past twelve months to the increased population 26,299 equates to an increase in participation of 420 people. This will create a requirement for additional capacity by 2040.
- 12.33. The Kent Netball Development Officer has stated that the England Netballs current priorities in Swale Borough are to rebuild England Netball participation programmes including Back to Netball, Walking Netball, Netball Now and Bee Netball and to support local leagues and clubs, and to grow volunteers and coaches.
- 12.34. There is no evidence of unmet demand for outdoor netball courts in Swale Borough at present, although future demand patterns are likely to increase based on participation trends and population projections.

Netball Draft Recommendations

1. The Protection of all community use netball courts across Swale Borough Council. Any courts proposed to be lost should be replaced with at least equivalent provision in terms of quantity and quality.
2. Swale Borough Council and England Netball to work together to rebuild England Netball participation programmes in Swale Borough including Back to Netball, Walking Netball, Netball now and Bee Netball.
3. When developing new Multi Use Games Areas (MUGAs) in the future. Provide netball markings, this is to ensure that netball courts are marked on all MUGAs to promote the expansion of the game.
4. Negotiate formal community use agreements s part of the planning process on education sites current and at new school developments to ensure use by the community of sports courts on education sites in the future.