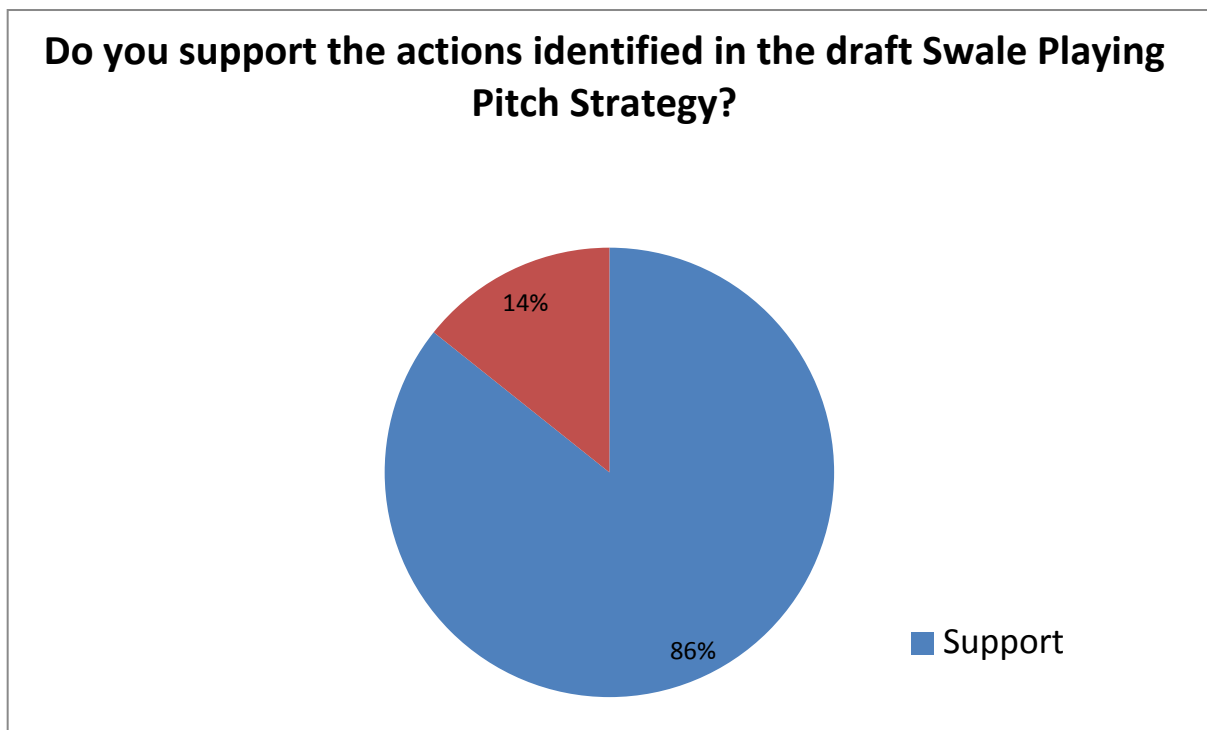


## Playing Pitch Strategy 2016-2026 – Consultation Summary

The consultation for the development of this Strategy took three distinct phases:

- (i) technical assessment audit – this was undertaken by our consultants KKP who met with and visited each of the sites to understand their accessibility, quantity of each type and the quality of playing pitches and ancillary facilities. KKP also consulted Swale BC officers, the Sport England Planning Team, and the key national governing bodies of sport;
- (ii) strategy consultation with stakeholders – following completion of the strategy draft by 4Global, further consultation was undertaken with officers, member committees, the Sport England Planning Team, and national governing bodies of sports; and
- (iii) strategy consultation with residents and users – finally a six week consultation on the draft Strategy document was undertaken on the Swale BC website between February and March 2016. All local stakeholders (eg clubs/ leagues/ facilities/ schools) were written to and encouraged to respond. Regular reminders were sent out during the course of the consultation period. A total of 19 external responses were received. These included comments from the key clubs, facilities and stakeholders in the Borough, and so whilst small, they are considered to be representative of the sector. The results are set out in the chart below:



## Excerpt of Policy Development and Review Committee minutes 28 October 2015

A number of suggestions were tabled at this meeting and have been addressed as set out in the table below.

Meeting suggestion	Consideration
That the wording for Management objective (a) be amended to make it clear how often the area plans would be reviewed and refreshed.	Now states refresh with two yearly updates.
That the Asset Transfer Policy be enhanced if possible.	Document refers to Swale's existing Asset Transfer Policy.
That the wording for objective 3 (k) be enhanced to improve compliance of planning conditions attached to educational facilities.	Now reads "Establish a more coherent, structured relationship with schools to maximise community use of educational facilities".
That a breakdown of usage of sports facilities by women be provided.	Added to document. Males only higher in participation by 0.3%.
That officers ensure that the strategy was robust and compatible with the Swale Local Plan in terms of future developments and Section 106 Agreements.	Each of the management objectives are to be considered in the emerging Local Plan. Surpluses and deficits will be used to challenge developer proposals.

## Excerpts of public comments relevant to Playing Pitch Strategy

Comment	Consideration
Reference could be made to the new Government and Sport England Strategies that are also emphasising getting more people from under-represented groups involved in sport and physical activity. Therefore, reference to supporting local Sports Development initiatives may wish to reflect this.	Agreed. At the time of preparing the first draft of the Strategy the Sport England and government documents were not released.  The stakeholder action group and the new SBC Sport and Physical Activity Framework will respond accordingly to emerging changes.
Swale BC should work with football leagues and the Kent FA to pilot a spring/summer football season - particularly for junior players. This will allow strategic rotation of fields and make additional capacity available through revised programming, and allow 'resting' of fields during periods of environmental stress (i.e. winter, heavy rains and snow).	We agree and this will be taken forward by the stakeholder action group.  It is mentioned in the Strategy about holding a "strategic reserve".

<p>Youth facilities for young rugby players. Additional Areas for Junior Rugby</p>	<p>This is captured in the site-specific area of the strategy. Where clubs have identified an over use of existing sites, we must work with partners such as schools and use our own sites if suitable.</p>
<p>Although over use is noted as a cause of pitch wear, no mention is made of local clubs using these pitches in an uncontrolled manner for training purposes, and the subsequent damage caused.</p>	<p>We agree. Whilst we would not want to discourage local voluntary clubs using our open spaces, this does have an impact on pitch quality and grounds maintenance.  It can also be dangerous when conditions are poor, and therefore we recommend using the multitude of all-weather astro pitches and indoor sports halls.</p>
<p>How will the new facilities be managed on a day-to-day basis?</p>	<p>Any new facilities will be developed with a facility operator in mind. The Council is open to looking at all types of management from both public and private operators, to local voluntary and third sector club/ trust management.</p>
<p>Inclusion of the Kent Growth Infrastructure (GIF) Framework in the Strategy.</p>	<p>Agreed. This is a major document to lead on the growth agenda for Kent, and is now summarised in the plan.  We will also use Swale BC planners to influence Swale's section in the GIF in future.</p>
<p>Suggestions of new provision in West Faversham.</p>	<p>This has been noted and will be considered when it is deemed necessary, due to increasing demand or loss of other sites.</p>
<p>Can find no reference to King George's Park, Park Avenue, Sittingbourne. This has three football pitches in regular use, predominately by U18s, and is not included in the Strategy. Is there any reason for this?</p>	<p>It is included in the technical assessment audit, and is now specifically mentioned in the Strategy as a key site.</p>
<p>The document currently makes reference to the "Bull Lane Recreational Ground"- the Orchard Drive estate was built approximately 35 years ago. The recreation ground is actually in Playstool Close. The document refers to there being no community use. The Recreation Ground is well used, and currently there is a lease agreement with a local football club, and a local community sports club uses the facilities.</p>	<p>This is a misunderstanding. Bull lane is referred to in the Faversham section, and relates to the site in Boughton. The respondent correctly identifies the Sittingbourne site is situated at Playstool Close. This site is now included in the technical assessment.</p>

**Excerpts of comments not directly relevant to Playing Pitch Strategy but captured for others**

<b>Comment</b>	<b>Consideration</b>
There should be more support for access to water sports that is affordable, eg rowing and sailing.	We agree. This will be captured under the Sport and Physical Activity Framework.
Badminton Courts, Tennis Courts - Squash Courts, outside Table Tennis Tables	Most of these are captured in the Indoor Facilities Strategy.  Outdoor table tennis tables will be considered alongside other leisure developments as they arise.