

Adur and Worthing Playing Pitch Strategy

Stage C: KEY ISSUES AND FINDINGS REPORT (FINAL NEEDS ASSESSMENT REPORT)

for

Adur & Worthing Councils

1	Context	2
2	Key Findings & Issues - Football	5
3	Key Findings & Issues - Cricket	14
4	Key Findings & Issues - Rugby	16
5	Key Findings & Issues – Hockey	17
6	Key Findings and Issues: General/Other	18
7	Suggested Priority Projects/Sites	19

Please Note: This paper summarises the main points to arise from the Stage C Needs Assessment for the Adur and Worthing PPS. It formed the basis for discussions at the Stage C meeting of the Steering Group. Thus, some of the text is in note form. The key findings and issues have now been further developed and incorporated into the main Strategy document and Action Plans.

There may therefore be some issues addressed in the Strategy which have arisen through discussion of this current document but are not explored within it or vary from that presented here. Key Findings for Tennis and Bowls are not presented here; but are set out in the Main Strategy document.

December 2019

belap

SPORT • HEALTH • PLAN

1 Context

Demand generated from proposed new housing allocations

1.1 An important part of the assessment is to predict the number of teams which will require facilities in the future. For this we have used figures for proposed housing allocations, multiplied by an occupancy figure per household for the actual population growth. As set out in the full Needs Assessment document, the figures for Adur and Worthing are as follows:

Table 1: Estimated derived population from projected number of dwellings

	2028		2036	
	Projected no. of dwellings	Estimated Derived Population	Projected no. of dwellings	Estimated Derived Population
Adur	2701	6131	3130	7105
Worthing	3180	6898	3764	8164

1.2 For this Stage C discussion, we have calculated the number of teams based on the figures to 2028 as they seem more certain and this is ten years away which is probably as far as it is reasonable to look (given the great changes that have even occurred in the number of teams since the last PPS in 2014). The additional population arising from projected new housing between 2028 and 2036 for the two authorities will only result in a marginal increase in teams (as the figures in Table 1 below suggest).

1.3 In the table below, two sets of calculations are presented. The Sport England PPS Calculator works on the principle of meeting peak time demand (it requests the percentage of peak time play). In Adur and Worthing for football, peak demand is on Sunday (55%). But a substantial amount of play is on Saturdays (38%; the residual is midweek). Much may depend on the continuing balance of Sunday v. Saturday play. Therefore the possible range of pitch requirements is given i.e. for adult football, if current peak time figures continue (55%), 0.65 of a pitch will be required, but if 100% of play was on a Sunday, 1.11 pitches would be required (almost double, obviously).

Table 2: Pattern of play for football in Adur and Worthing

	Sat	Sun	Midweek	Total number of teams
Senior Football	22 (38%)	32 (55%)	4 (7%)	58
Ladies		5 (100%)		5
Youth	2 (2%)	113 (98%)		115
Minis	8 (8%)	88 (92%)		96
TOTAL	32 (12%)	238 (87%)	4 (1%)	274

Table 3: Calculations of new teams generated and additional pitch space required, based on projected housing populations (with peak time and without peak time percentages)

	Adur (5759 increase 2018-2028)	Pitches with peak time percentage	Pitches without peak time percentage	Worthing (6898 increase 2018-2028)	Pitches with peak time percentage	Pitches without peak time percentage
Team Type	Teams	Pitches	Pitches	Teams	Pitches	Pitches
Football Adult Men 11v11 (16-45yrs)	2.17	0.69	1.18	1.49	0.47	0.81
Football Adult Women 11v11 (16-45yrs)	0.19			0.12		
Football Youth Boys 11v11 (12-15yrs)	3.11	1.8	1.84	1.68	1.01	1.03
Football Youth Girls 11v11 (12-15yrs)	0.57			0.37		
Football Youth Boys 9v9 (10-11yrs)	1.51	1.02	1.04	1.55	0.91	0.93
Football Youth Girls 9v9 (10-11yrs)	0.57			0.31		
Football Mini Soccer Mixed 7v7 (8-9yrs)	2.35	1.03	1.18	1.87	0.86	0.93
Football Mini Soccer Mixed 5v5 (6-7yrs)	1.60	0.74	0.80	1.49	0.69	0.75
Cricket Open Age Men's (18-55yrs)	0.38	0.15	0.15	1.18	0.44	0.44
Cricket Open Age Women's (18-55yrs)				0.06		
Cricket Junior Boys (7-17yrs)	0.38			0.75		
Cricket Junior Girls (7-17yrs)				0.12		
Rugby Union Senior Men (19-45yrs)	0.19	0.27	0.27	0.25	0.41	0.41
Rugby Union Senior Women (19-45yrs)				0.06		
Rugby Union Youth Boys (13-18yrs)	0.19			0.31		
Rugby Union Youth Girls (13-18yrs)				0.12		
Rugby Union Mini/Midi Mixed (7-12yrs)	0.66			0.31		
Hockey Men (17-55 years)	No teams			0.43	0.09	0.09
Hockey Women (17-55 years)				0.19		
Hockey Juniors (14-16 years)				0.06		

N.Bi Artificial grass pitches requirements are 0.3 3G (for football training, not included in above table. N.Bii. The Pitches column equates to the estimated demand in number of pitches required to meet additional demand during weekly peak period (during the year for cricket). To these estimated increase in the number of teams are added other elements including predicted increases in participation, allowances for deferred, latent and aspirational demand etc, under the relevant sport

1.4 There are other factors to build in to an assessment of future teams. An allowance also needs to be made for:

- Latent demand
- Deferred demand
- Aspirational demand/participation trends

1.5 The Sport England calculator allows for a %age increase to be entered to cover these elements (say 5%) but we prefer to work them out more exactly, based on what clubs have told us and our own analysis. There is also the issue of whether to round the number of teams/pitches up to the nearest whole number. We set out below the calculations for each sport for clarity. This has also built in the likely generation of teams for hockey in Worthing and Adur (based on Worthing Hockey club which plays outside the area) and takes account of future demand for rugby (Worthing Rugby Club similarly plays outside the area and there is a rugby club at Buckingham Park).

1.6 The assessment below predicts numbers of teams based on current peak time play and takes a pragmatic approach to the rounding of teams to the nearest whole number.

Table 4 Predicted future growth in football teams

Table 4A Growth in football teams in Adur

Reason for more teams	Men's teams	Ladies' teams	Youth teams 11v11	Youth teams 9v9	Minis
Population growth to 2028	2	1	4	3	5
Latent demand	1	1	0	0	0
Displaced demand			3		
Aspirations/unmet demand	2	2	1	2	2
TOTAL (29)	5	4	8	5	7
Requirement for pitch space	3		4	3	3

Table 4B Growth in football teams in Worthing

Reason for more teams	Men's teams	Ladies' teams	Youth teams 11v11	Youth teams 9v9	Minis
Population growth to 2028	2	1	3	2	4
Latent demand	2	1			
Displaced demand			3		
Aspirations/unmet demand	2	2	1	2	3
TOTAL (28)	6	4	7	4	7
Requirement for pitch space	4		4	2	3

Table 4C Growth in cricket teams in Adur and Worthing

Reason for more teams	Men's teams	Ladies' teams	Youth boys' teams	Youth girls' teams
Population growth to 2028	3	1	2	1
Latent/displaced demand				
Participation trends	2	1	2	1
Aspirations/unmet demand	1	1	2	2
TOTAL	6	3	6	3
Requirement for pitch space	2 pitches			

Table 4D Growth in rugby teams (based on Shoreham & Worthing RFCs)

Reason for more teams	Men's teams	Women's teams	Youth Boys teams	Youth Girls teams	Mini/Midi teams
Population growth to 2028	2		3		2
Latent demand	No increase in the number of teams, but may result in larger squad sizes or existing players playing more often.				
Aspirations/Unmet demand	1		1		1
TOTAL	3		4		3
Requirement for pitch space	2 pitches				

Table 4E Growth in hockey teams (based on Worthing Hockey Club)

3 additional hockey teams – men's, ladies and one junior teams

1.7 The need for access to additional pitch space can be met by many other ways than providing new pitches. This is explored in subsequent sections

2 Key Findings and Issues (KFI): Football

KFI 1 Capacity of grass pitches to meet existing and future need - Adur

2.1 Adur: Headline Conclusions:

- Provision in Adur is fragmented, with much youth play across many different pitches. There is little room for growth for either adult or youth play; whilst adult play is not expected to increase much, youth play remains buoyant and is expected to increase.
- Only one site in practice has spare capacity for additional adult teams on Sunday mornings i.e. teams which form outside of an existing club (i.e. not at Southwick FC, Shoreham FC or Mile Oak Wanderers FC). This is one of the pitches at Buckingham Park, although the benefit of having a 'spare' pitch which can be rested and then brought back into play during the season might assist pitch quality.
- This does not allow for Lancing Utd FC adult Sunday teams which have to play off-site (Monks Recreation Ground and Victoria Park, Portslade)

- Of the 9 football clubs in Adur running youth sides (97 teams in all) only 3 are based at one site (ASC Strikers – Buckingham Park; Mile Oak Wanderers – Southwick Hill Recreation Ground; and Southwick Rangers – Southwick Recreation Ground). Seagulls FC play at 2 sites and 4 clubs – Fishersgate Flyers, Lancing Utd Youth, Lancing Youth and Lancing Rangers – play across 3 sites. Shoreham FC’s 14 youth sides play across 5 sites. All of the clubs playing out of more than one site use school pitches.
- Of the 12 junior pitches there is nominally room for an additional 4 teams at peak times (Sunday morning) on 4 different pitches. However, two of these pitches are on school sites and the school may feel it has enough teams playing; a third pitch is at Southwick Hill Recreation Ground which is home to Mile End Wanderers. The only true public pitch with any spare capacity for junior play is Quayside Recreation Ground which is a poor quality pitch with no changing facilities.
- There is spare capacity for mini teams at certain sites – particularly in terms of accessibility for Adur residents at - Buckingham Park, Middle Road Recreation Ground, Shoreham Academy Middle Road and Southwick Recreation Ground. Monks Road and Sompting Recreation Ground are overplayed (the former because of its poor quality).
- Grass pitches on school sites, particularly primary schools, are essential in meeting demand for youth provision. There are two 3G FTP facilities on secondary school sites which appear underused for matchplay and could help in alleviating pressure on youth pitches particularly.
- Pitch quality requires improvement at Monks Recreation Ground, East Lancing Recreation Ground, Quayside Recreation Ground and Fishersgate Recreation Ground.
- Other desired developments/enhancements at grounds – some already proposed/in pipeline/or to be discussed at this Stage:
 - Buckingham Park – provision of improved changing facilities
 - Sompting Recreation Ground – pitch enhancements and provision of multi use changing and social facilities on site (draft bid for funding prepared)
 - Quayside Recreation Ground – provision of changing facilities (strategy proposal)
 - Southwick Recreation Ground – provision of small floodlit 3G training area (under construction)
 - Monks Recreation Ground – new changing facilities (plus café, possible MUGA – redevelopment of ground) (design brief currently being prepared)
 - East Lancing Recreation Ground – enhanced changing facilities (being addressed by club/parish council)

By area:

Lancing and Sompting

- If all Lancing Utd FC teams were to play at either Croshaw Recreation Ground and one other site, the additional site would require at least one adult pitch and one youth pitch to accommodate existing teams; plus additional youth to meet growth in demand.
- Sompting football clubs – needs currently met by Sompting Recreation Ground and Sompting Village Primary and The Globe Primary. There might be a little spare capacity at the latter for a youth team, but any expansion in numbers of youth and mini teams in Lancing FC Youth and Lancing Rangers will require additional provision.

- In order to meet growth in numbers of teams and to accommodate teams more rationally, ideally need access to the equivalent of an additional 1-2 adult pitches, 2-3 youth pitches and 2 mini pitches – and thought to be given to how to provide one additional site for Lancing Utd and another site for Lancing FC youth and Lancing Rangers Youth. Youth pitches to ideally be youth 11v11 size.
- Enhancement of East Lancing Recreation Ground pitch (to improve experience for Sunday teams and allow additional off-peak play)
- Redevelopment/enhancement of Monks Recreation Ground – to replace existing adult and one youth/mini pitch (minimum)
- Negotiate access for Saturday and Sunday matchplay for adult and youth teams at Sir Robert Woodard Academy 3G FTP (numbers of grass pitches required could be reduced as a result)
- Access to additional provision required in Lancing – at least one adult pitch and 1 large youth pitch, possibly one mini pitch
- Access to additional provision required in Sompting- at least two x large youth pitches and two x mini pitches. (the latter can be met by the proposal for two youth pitches at West Sompting in the Adur Local Plan)
- Negotiate secure community use agreements at Sompting Village Primary and The Globe Primary
- Negotiate secure community use agreements at Lancing College
- Investigate access for teams at Seaside Primary and North Lancing Primary School (although latter not so accessible)

Shoreham

- Buckingham Park – could take another Sunday team but probably best left to recover. Its youth pitches are being played to a sustainable level by AFC Strikers. Little room for growth
- If all Shoreham Youth teams were to play on the Middle Road site and just one other site, that site would need at least 2, preferably 3 youth pitches.
- In order to meet growth in numbers of teams and to accommodate teams more rationally, ideally need access to the equivalent of an additional 1 adult pitch and 2 youth pitches– plus, in addition thought to be given to how to provide one additional site for Shoreham FC Youth. Youth pitches to ideally be 11v11 size.
- Negotiate access for Saturday and Sunday matchplay for adult and youth teams at Shoreham Academy 3G FTP (numbers of grass pitches required could be reduced as a result)
- Investigate access for teams at Buckingham Park Primary School, St Nicholas & St Mary CoE Primary School and St Peter’s Catholic Primary School

Southwick and Fishersgate

- There is interplay between Fishersgate and Shoreham in that Fishersgate Flyers use a venue in Shoreham; if all matches for this club were to be accommodated on one site, 2 youth (ideally 11v11) and 2 mini pitches would be required.
- There is very little capacity for any expansion for Southwick Rangers FC at Southwick Recreation Ground
- In order to meet growth in numbers of teams and to accommodate teams more rationally, ideally need access to the equivalent of an additional 2 youth pitches and 1 mini pitch – plus, in addition thought to be given to how to provide one site for Fishersgate Flyers. Youth pitches to ideally be 11v11 size
- Negotiate secure community use agreements at Eastbrook Primary Academy
- Upgrade quality at Quayside Recreation Ground and Fishersgate Recreation Ground

2.2 The analysis suggests that an additional 29 teams may form in Adur to 2028 (this needs to be balanced against the recorded decline in adult men’s play). This would suggest that access to additional pitch space equivalent to 3 adult, 4 x 11v11 junior, 3 x 9v9 junior

and 3 mini pitches is required. There are a number of options for meeting this need which will be explored at the Stage C meeting.

KFI 2 Capacity of grass pitches to meet existing and future need - Worthing

2.3 Worthing: Headline Conclusions:

- The findings in Worthing are simpler to present, principally because, whilst the pattern of play by Adur clubs, presents across three fairly distinct 'sub' areas, there is much greater substitutability between grounds by adult men's teams in Worthing – the analysis covers the whole borough quite rationally.

Adult play

- There is great fragmentation of adult play. Taking out for the moment the senior clubs (Worthing Utd FC playing at the Robert Albon Memorial Ground (stadium pitch) and Worthing FC playing at their 3G in Woodside Road) and excluding schools, on pitches which are available for adult teams there are 12 adult pitches marked out on 9 sites catering in total for 18 teams (8 Saturday and 10 Sunday). All the grounds have spare capacity; current usage is as follows:
 - Durrington Recreation Grounds – 2 pitches - 2 teams
 - Fernhurst Recreation Ground – 1 pitch - 2 teams
 - Goring Recreation Ground – 1 pitch - 3 teams
 - Highdown Field – 2 pitches – 2 teams
 - Northbrook – 2 pitches - 5 teams
 - Pond Lane – 1 pitch – 2 teams
 - West Park Recreation Ground – 1 pitch, no use 2019/20 season
 - Worthing Leisure Centre pitch – 1 pitch, 2 teams
 - (Ladydell – 1 pitch, no teams)
- In theory if all the pitches are of good quality these 18 teams – 8 Saturday and 10 Sunday, could be accommodated on 5 pitches. However, we would add the corollary that one of the reasons that demand is declining is because of the fragmentation of the adult game.
- This is in some contrast to the previous PPS which indicated that Goring Recreation Ground, Highdown Field and Northbrook were at capacity or overplayed.
- There is spare capacity for up to 11 teams at peak time (Sundays) at 8 adult pitches in Worthing. 6 of these pitches (capable of accommodating 9 teams) are on public sites (i.e. not leased to clubs). We explore later some of the reasons for this underuse of grounds.

Junior and mini play

- Of 16 junior pitches, one is being overplayed and 10 are being played to a sustainable level. There are 5 pitches in Worthing capable of accommodating up to 6 junior teams in total at peak time (i.e. the odd slot scattered about) but this is very little spare capacity given the expected growth in junior teams. 2 of these pitches are on poorly rated sites – at Homefield Park and Victoria Park. There is virtually no spare capacity at Hillbarn and Rotary grounds and Palatine Park on the adult/large junior and junior pitches.
- There is considerable spare capacity for minis, although the mini pitch at Broadwater Down is busy, as are the 4 mini pitches at Durrington High School (Worthing Dynamos) and the pitch at Victoria Park (poor quality).

- Of the 7 football clubs in Worthing running youth sides (112 teams in all) 3 (involving 62 teams) are based at one site (Worthing FC – Worthing FC; Worthing Town FC – Palatine Park) and Worthing Utd FC (Hillbarn/Rotary). 2 clubs (fielding 7 teams each or less) are playing across 2 sites each (Worthing Brazilian Masters plays some youth teams at Ferring) and, of the other two teams, Worthing Minors Youth (15 teams) play across 4 sites and Worthing Dynamos (22 teams) plays across 3 sites.
- Worthing Minors Youth relies heavily on primary school pitches and almost all play by Worthing Dynamos 23 youth teams is at Durrington High and Junior Schools grass pitches. The club has a long standing relationship with the school which it would like to continue – but there is no room for expansion. The Dynamos also use Worthing FC's 3G FTP for training and mini matches (Saturday mornings).
- So as in Adur, school pitches are an essential part of the stock although less schools are involved. Chatsmore Catholic High School, St Andrews CoE High School and Davison High School for Girls all have pitches which are not being used by the community at present.
- Other comments regarding the quality of the grounds in Worthing are summarised as
 - Durrington Recreation Ground; many clubs mentioned the issue with dog fouling, even though these are good flat pitches. Can be boggy in wet weather. Changing facilities pretty basic; could be better toilets. Not big enough for 4 teams, but rare now to have two matches at once so not an issue.
 - Fernhurst and Goring Recreation ground are perceived as good pitches. Changing facilities at Fernhurst would benefit from a bit of freshening up. One club has aspirations to develop the site to the benefit of elderly residents, with a tea room/conservatory so they can watch football and cricket
 - Northbrook – site regarded as acceptable – this is the largest adult grass multi pitch site in Worthing now
 - Highdown – pitches are acceptable (some problem with rabbit holes), but changing facilities poor
 - Rotary and Hillbarn – regarded as good/acceptable, no issues raised other than around changing facility improvements. However, most of the comments regarding changing facilities whilst certainly improving the experience if they were enhanced would not necessarily increase capacity.
 - Pond Lane – one pitch in operation at the moment is OK.
 - However – opinions can vary - one club said the Leisure Centre pitch was 'shocking' (not cut rolled etc), the next club we spoke to said it was a very good pitch!

2.4 The analysis suggests that an additional 28 teams may form in Worthing to 2028 (this needs to be balanced against the recorded decline in adult men's play). This would suggest that access to additional pitch space equivalent to 4 adult, 4 x 11v11 junior, 2 x 9v9 junior and 3 mini pitches is required. There are a number of options for meeting this need which will be explored at the Stage C meeting.

2.5 For both Adur and Worthing, computation of the location and number of pitches required has to take into account:

- Pitches which are being overplayed where it would be of benefit to have additional provision
- Pitches required to meet demand from specific clubs as their team numbers increase
- Teams which are not able to play at their preferred venue/settlement because of lack of pitch space

- Pitches where issues of quality mean that replacement provision would be beneficial.
- Pitches required for rest and recovery, to address backlogs and to meet demand when pitches are temporarily out of use.

2.6 Moreover, the need for pitch space does not just have to be met through new provision. There are various other ways of providing increased capacity and various scenarios can also be tested by considering what will happen if certain changes to supply or demand occur; these are now considered in turn.:

- A Current spare capacity at existing pitches
- B Reinstating pitches at sites where pitches have existed in the past and/or creating new pitches where there is room on existing sites.
- C Improving the quality of pitches and/or ancillary facilities to increase their capacity (although this rarely solves the problem of peak time demand).
- D Securing or increasing community use of pitches on school sites
- E Transference of activity from grass to 3G FTP provision
- F Providing sites large enough to accommodate a range of youth football teams in one place
- G What if further sports development initiatives or alternative forms of football grow in popularity?

2.7 It can be seen that given the various areas of land and possible permutations, it is very difficult to put a figure on the needs for new provision. Much will depend on the progress made with installing 3G FTPs in the district and whether clubs are happy to take up spare slots on existing pitches.

KFI 3 Provision of 3G Football Turf Pitches

2.8 The assessment of need for 3G FTP provision for training suggests a requirement of an additional 0.5 full size pitches in Adur to meet existing demand and a further one (0.8) full size pitch to meet demand to 2028. For Worthing, the comparable figures are 1.5 and 1.0 (2.5 pitches in total)

2.9 At the moment, less than 5% of teams are playing matches on 3G FTPs. Only Sussex FA's pitch in Lancing and Worthing FC's ground appear to be used for matchplay.

Adur

2.10 Adur has the equivalent of three full size 3G FTPs with community use at present. Usage is summarised as follows:

- Shoreham Academy: full size floodlit 3G FTP. This is well used for youth football training on weekday evenings and Saturday and Sunday mornings; it is not currently used for adult matchplay at the weekends (equivalent to 1 full size 3G FTP).
- The AEEPC (American Express Elite Performance Centre): full size floodlit 3G FTP (plus other 3G FTPs for use by AEEPC only). Full programme of use centering around Albion in the Community and B&HA own teams; some availability to local community teams (equivalent to 0.25 pitch)

- Sir Robert Woodard Academy (SRWA): full size floodlit 3G FTP. Limited community use; considerable spare capacity for both training and matchplay (equivalent to 0.5 pitch)
- The Sussex County FA: full size floodlit 3G FTP. Pitch is virtually at capacity with community teams for matchplay and training (equivalent to 1 pitch)
- Lancing Manor Leisure Centre: 2 x small size floodlit FTPs. Both pitches are heavily booked in evenings; some spare capacity at weekends. (equivalent to 0.25 pitch)

2.11 In addition, it is noted:

- There is an active youth football club at Buckingham Park; the largest public multi pitch site in Adur and Worthing
- Clubs commented extensively on the 'shortage of training facilities in this area' - Real Rosehill train on a Wednesday evening at Falmer Sports Complex on 3G – pitches in evening in Brighton and Shoreham few and far between....used by Power Play (e.g. at Shoreham Academy, and Hove,). Others too far away and very difficult to book - Shoreham Academy - and expensive – Steyning Town Community FC have their own which is also difficult to access. AEEPC impossible to get, Sussex FA at Lancing is perceived as being expensive. SRWA only just available – told not easy to get on there, it was taken up... (Lancing OMC)
- Shoreham FC: There are not enough 3G pitches in the area and the ones that are available are far too expensive to use on a regular basis, costs range from £100 to £120 per hour. This means we cannot expand any further, as we have a waiting list of young kids that want to join us but the lack of pitches is stopping clubs expanding and allowing kids into the sport.'

Worthing

2.12 Worthing currently has the equivalent of 2.25 full size 3G FTPs with community use, as follows:

- Worthing FC's pitch at Woodside Road: fully used by Worthing FC and other community teams, no spare capacity (equivalent to 1 full size 3G FTP)
- Worthing Leisure Centre – 5 small 3G pitches: heavily used for five a side etc equivalent of half (equivalent to 0.5 pitch)
- Worthing High School: minimum sized adult pitch, well used for informal and training, poor floodlighting (equivalent to 0.75 pitch)

2.13 The following is noted:

- Worthing Utd FC has aspirations for a full size 3G FTP facility – but no site yet available
- Worthing College's 3 football teams, which play at the highest standard of HE football, currently use the pitch at the Sussex FA but desire facilities nearer to their site
- Some adverse comment around size of 3Gs at Worthing Leisure Centre and cost; other options: Worthing High School restricted on lights and not good can be dangerous; Worthing FC hire their pitch out but give priority to their club and Palatine Park will be fully used by Worthing Town FC
- Chatsmore Catholic High School has aspirations for a 3G FTP on site
- St Andrews CoE High School is appraising options for replacement of its sand based AGP – possibly with a 3G FTP
- Durrington High School is unhappy at the lack of use of its sand based AGP.

KFI 4: Possible relocation sites for Worthing Utd FC

2.14 The landowner of Worthing United's ground is currently promoting the site through the emerging Worthing Local Plan (along with another site 'Land at Beeches Avenue' which lies adjacent to the west of the club). The Council has made it clear that it would not support the development of the football ground until it can be demonstrated that an alternative (and preferably enhanced) pitch can be delivered.

2.15 There are some possible options to be explored for this within the context of the strategy – potentially involving partnerships between the club, other clubs (rugby for example) and educational establishments (including Worthing College). Land allocated or potential off-site contributions towards a pitch in association with the development at West Durrington also requires considerations.

KFI 5: Recognising and meeting the specific needs of youth football clubs - this has been referred to under the Adur and Worthing sections and specific clubs

KFI 6: Enhancing the quality of existing provision particularly around clubs progressing to the next level and addressing the capacity of the site

2.16 This has not emerged as a particular issue in either Adur or Worthing, with apparently all clubs playing at a site where the facilities are commensurate with league requirements (except possibly Worthing FC's FTP in Woodside Road)

2.17 The following is a very brief summation of the issues and points raised from phone conversations with over football 30 clubs, together with local leagues, governing bodies, Parish Councils and Council officers.

KFI 7: Decline in participation in adult football

2.18 A number of reasons were cited for decline in participation (some of which are touched on above), including:

- Brighton & Hove Albion fixtures exert a strong pull on Saturdays – affects attendance of both players and officials.
- Cost of participating for Saturday players is increasingly a deterrent, especially when it includes training (about 60-70% of Saturday players train compared to 15-20% of Sunday players – a considerable number play for both types of teams)
- Competing attractions for players' time and money means that increasingly younger men prefer to play small sided soccer without the commitment of belonging to an 11v11 team.
- One club said: 'So much easier just to play at a sports centre for a fiver a week. Next season 19/20 will be last season, can't keep saying one more year'.
- Team managers often struggle to get a team out, and the fine for this and covering the cost of referee etc means that without a large enough committed squad, clubs cannot maintain attendance. 5 clubs we spoke to said either their one team would probably not be running next year or one of their teams would go.
- The standard of play is no longer perceived to be as high; some teams have gone to the West Sussex League for better playing standards.
- Although technically adult football, the establishment of a 'Vets' division playing on Sundays has also taken some players away from main Sunday (and Saturday) teams.

- There is a lack of youth players coming through into senior teams – the momentum of youth football is just not maintained.
- The above all has to be weighed up when considering future demand. We therefore believe that the assessment of future numbers of teams as we have set out in Section 8 is at the high end of expected participation, certainly for adult teams.
- Loss of Hillbarn Rotary – clubs tend to look back fondly to when Hillbarn/Rotary was at the heart of adult Saturday/Sunday football with up to 11 pitches. Now clubs are scattered over many sites and there is no similar ‘joined up’ feeling; there has been a lot of movement with clubs migrating around grounds and fragmentation of activity.

KFI 8 Other issues raised by football clubs

- There is a strong feeling that sites have been taken out of public use and because several sites are now leased to clubs, there is a perception that there are ‘not enough pitches’. This has been raised by Worthing clubs in relation to Palatine Park, Hillbarn and Rotary and in Adur in respect of Croshaw Recreation Ground and potentially Sompting Recreation Ground.
- Declining viability of small clubs/support for voluntary clubs: There is a long tradition of small football clubs, fielding one or two adult teams. These are becoming increasingly difficult to run; several clubs told us they would not be running next year. The smaller clubs have difficulty raising a team and then cannot afford the fines; clubs leasing facilities say there is insufficient support for them around maintenance and provision of equipment and the necessary expertise.
- This is linked to a perceived idea that although the cost of hiring pitches has gone up, the standard of maintenance has declined (pitches aren’t cut as regularly) as has the quality of the pitch stock. Grass cuttings left across the pitch and lines only white marked, not with creosote and goals not straight. This is anecdotal evidence but reported because a number of clubs mentioned this. Clubs generally object to having to provide corner flags at some sites (for example). Some rest and recovery should be built into the pitch stock, to give time for management and husbandry of the resource.
- Great emphasis on youth but children are not coming through – there is not enough commitment, direction or governance - no flow in the football, competing attractions of social media etc computer games. Not coming through the ranks, get to u15s and then stop. Boys and girls football is not joined up.

3 Key Findings and Issues (KFI): Cricket

KFI 9 Imbalance in cricket provision across the two authorities

3.1 Less cricket in Adur – it seems that players might go to Brighton or Worthing clubs.... There are two clubs recorded – Southwick CC at Southwick Green and Lancing Manor CC which has a NTW only. The situation in Worthing is very different; there are six ‘traditional’ type cricket grounds, 3 of which have 2 cricket squares, although only the two squares at Manor Park in Worthing can be played simultaneously.

KFI 10 Quality of cricket grounds and changing facilities

3.2 Quality of grounds did not really emerge as an issue. In Adur, the NTW at Lancing Manor was rated as standard as it is not protected or cordoned off, but Southwick Green was rated as good. Southwick CC are planning to move to Buckingham Park for all open age league fixtures in 202 and the facility there will require an upgrade to accommodate this (currently being undertaken).

3.3 In Worthing, Broadwater Green, Goring Recreation Ground, the two squares at Manor Sports Ground and Rotary Ground East were rated as good. Fernhurst Recreation Ground, the two squares at Hillbarn and Rotary Ground West were rated as standard.

3.4 This is not the case for changing facilities and some concerns were raised by the clubs. Whilst appearing adequate from an external visual inspection, the interior of these facilities do not meet current standards in respect of health and hygiene (and/or aspirations), as well as being in need of repair. In particular:

- Broadwater CC – very dated pavilion which is no longer fit for purpose
- Fernhurst Recreation Ground - The pavilion needs a general overall refit and is totally unacceptable hygiene-wise.
- Manor Sports Ground – iconic building which require major remedial works
- Rotary Park – appears quite satisfactory but internally requires upgrading according to the club.
- Lancing Manor clubhouse requires updating, according to Sussex Cricket

KFI 11 Low youth and female participation in cricket?.

3.5 Junior cricket in Adur and Worthing is primarily based at Worthing CC with 7 teams and Chippendale CC and Southwick CC with 4 teams each. The little growth that cricket has experienced is seen in youth cricket. The ECB’s All Stars programme has nationally, been very successful in driving up participation of young people aged 5 – 8 years and offers eight weeks of coaching in a safe and inclusive environment. Goring, Worthing and Southwick CCs are running All Stars cricket which will hopefully translate into extra demand for youth sides.

3.6 Chippendale CC and Worthing CC were the only clubs recorded as fielding female teams. Nationally, this has been an area of growth within the game through such initiatives such as ‘softball cricket’. Girls can also, and often, feature in the mixed junior section of all clubs running youth teams. This growth has yet to be experienced in Adur and Worthing.

KFI 12 Spare capacity at cricket grounds

3.7 71% of adult play is on a Saturday (29% Sunday; no midweek play). For juniors – 78% of play is midweek. Regarding capacity, findings are:

- In Adur: The NTW at Lancing Manor has considerable spare capacity. If just the grass wickets of play at Southwick Green are considered, the pitch is overplayed. But inclusion of the NTW here would give extra capacity. Southwick CC will be playing some games at Buckingham Park next season, so the area will have sufficient capacity.
- The capacity situation in Worthing is different. Around 54% of match equivalent slots are being used (37% if NTWs are included). There is apparently plenty of spare capacity but not at peak time (Saturdays). Any additional Saturday teams could only be accommodated at Hillbarn Recreation Ground (East) (if can be dovetailed in with play on the West pitch) or at Fernhurst or at Rotary East. The wickets at the first two grounds would ideally need to be improved to attract Saturday sides .
- There does not seem to be an easy solution to accommodating the growth in senior teams unless future cricket teams play other formats of the game (T20, limited over cricket, LMS) or in midweek or Sunday leagues.

KF13 Meeting Future growth

3.8 Increase in teams looks to be in the order of up to 9 adult and 9 youth – 18 teams in total. Since junior cricket is played on the same pitches as adult play, and given patterns of play, this number of teams could be accommodated on 2 pitches. But depending on the time of teams (e.g. T20, midweek leagues etc), there is spare capacity at existing pitches (and we have not factored in Buckingham Park in Adur). The need for new provision will arise with more Saturday sides which cannot be accommodated on existing grounds.

KF14 Plenty of capacity for midweek and Sunday play

3.9 The upside of the peaking on Saturdays is that there is a great amount of spare capacity in Worthing for junior (Sunday) play and midweek play – juniors, touring sides, T20, LMS etc. It seems also that there may be some scope for rationalising provision on the two Rotary pitches.

3.10 Are sub standard changing and social facilities deterring this development? Are changing facilities suitable for the development of youth and girls and women's cricket?

3.11 Cricket in Adur and Worthing, whilst of a good quality with some iconic grounds and pavilions, seems to be flatlining. One of the clubs stated 'Numbers have decreased as we believe the interest in the game is slowly declining. Ladies team lost a few players and cannot replace them. Struggling to attract colts to cricket'.

4 Key Findings and Issues (KFI): Rugby

KF15 Shoreham RFC and Buckingham Park

4.1 There are some concerns expressed by the club around the marking of the pitches at Buckingham Park – ideally more pitches to be marked out and for later in the season. The current pitches are overplayed.

KF16 Provision of fit for purpose changing facilities and community building for the rugby club; the development of a community building for the club.

4.2 This is a long standing project and one which the PPS could advise upon. Looking at the site and the fact that it is a multi pitch/sport hub within Adur, is there any scope/possibility still for developing a joint clubhouse/community building/café between all the sports?

4.3 The provision of a World Rugby Regulation 22 3G matchplay facility has not emerged as an issue within the Adur and Worthing area. Shoreham RFC uses the 3G FTP at Sir Robert Woodard Academy during the winter weekly for training.

KF17 Meeting future demand for rugby

4.4 The assessment suggests that demand for up to a further 10 rugby teams could develop in Adur and Worthing, requiring a minimum of an additional two pitches. Options might be to increase capacity at Buckingham Park (mark out more pitches); or gain access to school sites

KF18 Relocation of Worthing Rugby Club

4.5 Worthing RFC has been located at its current site in Angmering for the past 40 years. It runs a full complement of 22 teams: mini/midi, colts and adult teams (3 regular men's XV's and a ladies). There are 7 pitches, 2 of which are floodlit and 2 training grid/smaller pitches. When the 1st team is at home, spectators number between 600-1000. The clubhouse and ancillary facilities are no longer fit for purpose and need enlarging and replacing; more car parking is required. On Sundays when all midi/mini and ladies rugby takes place, the pitches themselves struggle to accommodate the number of teams. The ground is also used for representative fixtures and by local schools. The club owns the freehold of the land which it is in the process of negotiating to sell for residential development, and consequently requires a new site.

4.6 The club estimates that about 60% of its membership comes from Worthing; the remainder from the west as far as Littlehampton and east as far as Shoreham. It considers itself to be a Worthing club and ideally would wish to be located within Worthing. It has considered a number of sites over the years for relocation, some of which have been situated within Worthing.

4.7 Adur & Worthing Councils wish to encourage and support the rugby club to relocate within the Worthing boundary if possible. However, the lack of available land means that finding a site has been problematic.

5 Key Findings and Issues (KFI): Hockey

KF19 Maintaining a hockey presence and facilities for hockey in Adur and Worthing

5.1 There are reasons why Worthing Hockey Club no longer plays at Durrington High School and has relocated to The Angmering School. However, the club still draws the majority of its members from Worthing and is keen to work with local schools in developing hockey through outreach work.

5.2 In the first instance, it is suggested that the PPS should suggest a brokering service between the club and Durrington High School to evaluate the possibilities of DHS becoming a second base for Worthing Hockey Club within Worthing. St Andrews CoE High School for Boys is considering changing its poor quality sand based AGP to a 3G FTP and if hockey usage is not maintained at DHS, the pitch there may also be under threat. This would mean that, other than at Lancing College, there would be no hockey suitable surface within Adur and Worthing.

KF20 Meeting future demand for hockey

5.3 Hockey is experiencing considerable growth, promoted through increasing media profile and international success and the popularity of a range of initiatives to get people playing the sport. The burgeoning growth in junior play looks set to continue and Adur and Worthing Hockey Club is a very proactive club, which through its increasing outreach work, seems to be benefitting from this growth trend. Suggested that a further 3 teams will develop.

5.4 It is important for club development that, wherever possible, club training and matchplay should be located at the same site for all teams and that there are adequate social facilities. Social facilities are an integral part of the hockey 'mix' providing relaxation and hospitality for visiting teams and much needed income to support outreach and coaching work. Moreover, England Hockey is keen to develop hub sites for large hockey clubs. Such a coherent model can ensure that the majority of senior and junior teams can be wholly based at one site, sharing clubhouse and changing facilities and enabling close liaison over training and coaching.

5.5 As far as the aspirations of Worthing Hockey Club is concerned:

- The club wishes to grow its junior side and to run more junior teams, and develop ladies and mixed hockey. It is focusing on a general expansion programme.
- The club is keen to run outreach sessions with schools in Worthing and will investigate use/hire charges for the Durrington High School pitch for this purpose.
- It wishes develop a multi pitch/sport based around the hockey club. At present, the most appropriate location for this is at The Angmering School site.
- The clubhouse is an essential element for the club in generating income to allow it to expand its coaching and outreach programme

6 Key Findings and Issues (KFI): General/Other

(note form)

KFI 21 Encouraging greater use of school pitches – securing greater access

6.1 This needs to be a focal point of this Strategy as, as already mentioned, there is a great stock of football and cricket pitches – or, at the least, large playing fields, which could be better used. However, it is accepted that there are difficulties over the security of educational sites and access, especially for youth teams, to convenient toilets when on site. Moreover, it is recognised that schools frequently no longer have the budget to pay for proper upkeep and maintenance of pitches which means they are frequently not of sufficient quality to sustain matchplay. They can only realistically support line marking and grass cutting.

6.2 Over half the pitch stock is on school sites, including all full size artificial grass pitch provision (except for Worthing FC's pitch). Important for youth overflow – Shoreham Academy Middle Road and Lancing College – for Youth teams from Fishersgate Flyers, Shoreham Utd & Seagulls FCs. Shoreham Academy Middle Road – full up for youth. Other teams in Worthing and Adur using a number of small primary school sites. Worthing High School has a community pitch and ethos but poor floodlighting and undersize facility.

6.3 Schools' engagement with the Strategy consultation process has been very variable, and yet their future buy-in will be of great importance. Several schools have aspirations for new facilities, notably:

- St Andrews CoE High School – aspirations for 3G provision
- Chatsmore Catholic High School – aspirations for 3G provision
- Worthing College – desire for 3G FTP provision
- Durrington High School – unhappy that no hockey club based at the pitch; looking to increase use possibly by change to 3G FTP (see Hockey – Issues)

KF22: Making best use of resources available – multi use sites?

6.4 Grounds need to be multi use with a range of activities and clubs on site to improve sustainability and viability. Need multiple pitches/sports in one venue – where sport is played

6.5 Every playing field within Adur and Worthing now has to 'earn its keep'. There are issues around the underuse of some grounds and it will be important to establish whether enhancing facilities will add to their attractiveness or will be an inefficient use of resources. Are there sites. For example, where the addition of 3G artificial training surfaces would help maintain the viability and attractiveness of the site (e.g. Buckingham Park in Shoreham; Hillbarn/Rotary in Worthing)

KF23: Links to the Healthy Activities Strategy currently being prepared:

6.6 Key themes from this are of importance within the PPS:

- It's all about ACTIVITY – moving inactive people to being active people
- Future proofing
- Parks and green spaces are a palette which need to be maintained to a high standard and be accessible for everyone (gender/age/income equal) so that all the community can use in the way they want...all activities to be validated

- Facilities to be multi use where possible – parks building/changing facilities – cafes, playgroups etc
- Volunteers are critical – eyes and ears for what’s going on and to help maintain areas but also volunteering as an activity in its own right to get people active
- Partnerships and bring partners together – essential in this area where land so limited – commercial, private, education, voluntary etc etc Good communication vital. Making connections – who are the people at the heart of decision making?
- Knowing where everything is – joining it up – maps- websites – signposts on the ground – there’s so much going on but often not known about...
- There will be a delivery group at the end of the Strategy (as there will be for the Playing Pitch Strategy) – to advance proposals, source funding etc . Reporting, updating and monitoring essential
- People need to take responsibility for their own local environment and their own health.

7 Suggested Priority Sites/Projects

7.1 Through the process of this Strategy’s preparation, a number of sites/projects have emerged as being of particular importance to meeting the needs identified both now and through to 2036. Sport England now suggests that these should be included within a Playing Pitch Strategy to focus implementation for the Delivery Group after the Strategy. These are set out below – to be further discussed at the Stage C Meeting (just possible ideas at the moment).

- Upgrade of Monks Recreation Ground
- Protection of Durrington High School artificial turf pitch as sand based OR St Andrews CoE High School for Boys – to maintain
- Integrated changing facilities/social facilities for rugby, cricket, football at Buckingham Park
- Provision of small 3G training area at Buckingham Park
- Encourage matchplay at SRWA Academy and Shoreham Academy 3G FTP
- Provision of fullsize floodlit 3G AGP in Worthing: possible users/anchor clubs:
- Worthing College
- Worthing Utd FC
- Alternative site for Worthing Utd FC
- Upgrade of changing facilities for cricket; Manor Sports Ground? Broadwater CC?

See Main Strategy document and Action Plans.