

Sports Facility Report - Havant Borough

1. Introduction

The report has been produced following a face-to-face interview with Kyle Hanna, Sports Development Officer for Havant Borough Council on 5th June 2008, to complete a questionnaire on facilities planning activity, and a desk-top review of the Havant Open Spaces Plan and PPG17 audit.

2. Facilities Planning Activity

Havant Borough Council commissioned an Open Spaces Plan and PPG17 Audit from Kit Campbell Associates which was completed in January 2006. Quantity and quality standards for both open space and built facilities have been produced and are summarised in this report. The audit forms part of the evidence base for the emerging LDF.

Following the audit consultants PMP were commissioned to undertake a study to review current leisure provision in Havant. The remit considers options to relocate the whole civic complex including the Civic Offices and leisure centre. It also considers the future of Havant Rugby Club.

The report was completed in June 2008 and is currently being considered by members, it has not yet been made available to the County Sports Partnership. The report is understood to presents two options. The first sees Havant Leisure Centre becoming a 'hub' site with other local spokes. Under this option Waterlooville Leisure Centre would be likely to reduce it's provision. The second option sees the two leisure center's remain but with some consolidation of provision.

It is expected that the PMP work will lead to a Facility Development Strategy but the timescales are not clear.

3. Summary of Open Spaces Plan and PPG17 assessments

Typology

The Open Space Audit for Havant was produced in January 2006 and used the following typology

- Allotments
- Amenity Greenspaces: informal recreation spaces, mainly in and around housing
- Artificial Turf Pitches (*)
- Bowling Greens (*)
- Natural Greenspaces: woodland, the canals and all land with a nature conservation value or designation
- Parks and Gardens
- Playing fields, including recreation grounds (*)
- Play areas and playgrounds: equipped play areas intended for children up to the age of about 12
- Tennis and multi-courts: hard surfaced outdoor areas designed for sports such as tennis, netball and 5-a-side football (*)
- Youth facilities: skateboard parks, outdoor basketball hoops and other informal areas intended primarily for teenagers
- Indoor sports facilities (*).

Information collected for those facilities types identified by a (*) has been the focus of further analyses for the purposes of this report.

Quality Standards

The purpose of quality standards is to set out the quality of provision the Council wishes to see in its area. They can form a benchmark for comparison of different facilities of the same type to aid prioritisation of improvements. They can also set out the Council's requirements as a guide for developers on the quality of provision the council will expect them either to provide or fund. The recommended quality standards that have been developed for Havant are listed in Appendix A.

Accessibility Standards

The use of distance thresholds as a planning tool means that it is possible to ignore boundaries and use the typical distances that people are willing to travel different forms of provision

When the audit was carried out in 2006 the Borough had no distance thresholds but Policy R17 in the Local Plan implicitly adopts the distance thresholds in its adopted open space standard (the National Playing Field Association NPFA Six Acre Standard).

The suggested straight line walking and cycling, and driving distance thresholds are set out in Appendix B.

Using the distance thresholds areas of deficiency across the Borough have been mapped.

Overall there appears to be a reasonably good level of accessibility to most forms of provision across the Borough. However, the four areas identified as needing better access to high quality, high value provision are Cowplain, Leigh Park, Waterlooville South/ Purbrook and Hayling Island.

In these areas the focus should be on improving the quality and value of existing sites. There is still a need to make some additional provision, the highest priority needs being:

- Bowling greens in Purbrook, Havant and possibly on Hayling Island. These are not required in the short term but may be needed in 5 - 10 years;
- Junior football pitches in Cowplain, Purbrook and Leigh Park (preferably by converting existing pitches from adult use);
- Mini-soccer pitches in Purbrook, Leigh Park, Emsworth and on Hayling Island;
- Multi-courts in Leigh Park and Waterlooville South;
- Teenage Facilities in Waterlooville and Cowplain.

Quantity Standards

The audit suggests the following standards for future provision:

- Artificial Turf Pitches - 0.25 sq m carpet area per person
- Bowling Greens - 0.16 sq m site area per person
- Equipped Play provision - 0.5 sq m equipped area per person
- Grass Pitches and playing fields/ recreation grounds - 5.4 sq m site area per person
- Indoor Swimming Pools - 0.01 sq m water area per person
- Teenage Facilities - 0.4 sq m facility area per person
- Tennis and other courts - 0.26 sq m court area per person

Athletics Tracks: There is no need identified for an athletics track in Havant.

Artificial Turf Pitches (ATP): The Borough currently has two floodlit ATP's at Havant College and Park Community School. The need for a further two ATP's by 2011 is identified to be designed and managed exclusively for football and some rugby training. One of these should be at the Campdown site, assuming it proceeds and the other at a suitable community school where it can be used by the school for its PE programme and the local community at other times. If Campdown does not proceed both should be on schools sites.

Bowling Greens: The current balance between supply and demand seems about right. The forecast population change and likely growth in demand for bowls means it would be sensible to increase provision from 0.09sq m per person (current) to 0.1 sq m per person.

Grass Pitches: The Borough's pitches could accommodate higher levels of use, and the audit suggest that there is no significant unmet local demand for more football or cricket pitches.

Recommendations include:

- Protecting the current stock of football pitches but enhance those which are unfit for use most often;
- Review match days to balance demand;
- Remark some of the surplus adult pitches for junior football;
- Enhance the maintenance of cricket wickets;
- Create an additional cricket pitch to create a strategic reserve;
- The need for at least one additional cricket pitch is identified as part of the proposed MDA. But generally speaking it will be better to require the construction of a floodlit ATP than more grass football pitches.

Indoor Provision

Ice Rinks: Havant's population is too low to support an ice rink.

Indoor Bowls Halls: There are currently two indoor bowls center's in Havant at the Havant Leisure Centre, and the Warner Lakeside Indoor Bowls Club on Hayling Island. No further provision is required.

Indoor Tennis Halls: The Borough's population is too low to support an indoor tennis center although it may be possible for a commercial operator to develop a center offering indoor courts in a location that would serve customers from both Havant and Portsmouth.

Sports Halls: The current level of provision of badminton courts (48 courts) in Havant is well above that recommended by the Sports Facilities Calculator (32). The population would need to grow by an improbable 58,000 before there is a need for more halls, In the event that there is clearly unmet demand for sports halls the Council's priority should be to work with schools to open up their halls for greater community use.

Indoor Swimming Pools: The sports facilities calculator estimates the demand for swimming pools in Havant as equivalent to 1,154 sq m water area. The current provision of pools at Havant Leisure Centre, Wateroville Pool and Staunton Park School together provide a total of 1,025 sq m. If the population increases by any significant amount then this will generate the need for additional water area according to the calculator level of provision at 0.01 sq m per person.

Tennis and other courts: The current level of provision seems about right. The low level of many existing tennis courts creates an opportunity to convert some to multi-sport courts. This will provide young people in particular with a network of ball courts, and involve the provision of 5-a-side goals and floodlights.

Appendix A - Quality Standards

The purpose of Quality Standards is to set out the quality of provision a Council wishes to see in its area. The following standards have been recommended through Open Spaces Plan and PPG17 Assessment:

Sports Pitches (grass and artificial turf)

Definition:

Pitches for football (all codes), cricket, hockey, rugby (all codes)

Minimum Size:

- 2 pitches with changing accommodation and parking

General Characteristics:

- External lighting in car parking areas
- External lighting on pavilions with PIR detectors
- Signs indicating that dogs must be kept on a lead and any fouling picked up and disposed of responsibly
- Rows of more than eight parking spaces to be separated by soft landscaping
- Adequately separated from adjoining residential properties
- Adequate measures in place to control light spill from floodlighting to adjoining properties and related land

Accessibility:

- Accessible by public transport: nearest bus stop within 400 m of entrance/access points, but preferably 250 m
- Wide access routes with clear sight lines at site entrance/egress
- Hard surfaced paths following desire lines from parking to pavilions
- Paths and buildings fully accessible by wheelchair where appropriate
- Path system appropriate to the circulation needs of players within the site, with wide, hard surfaces in heavily trafficked areas (to avoid constant muddy areas) and from changing pavilions to artificial surfaces

Planting and Biodiversity:

- Strong structure planting around the perimeter of the site using native species (designed as buffer planting to reduce wind on pitches and noise or light spill as appropriate to the site and adjoining properties or roads and also to promote biodiversity)
- Internal structure planting where appropriate
- Amenity or naturalistic landscaping in the vicinity of buildings and car parking

Facilities and Features:

Changing pavilions

- Changing rooms (with the number of rooms appropriate to the number of pitches or other facilities on site) consisting of changing spaces, showers and drying area, plus separate changing for match officials where appropriate
- Capable of simultaneous male and female team and/or officials' use, where appropriate
- First aid room (essential only for pitch sports and athletics)
- Space for refreshments with kitchen
- No rooflights in flat roofs on single storey buildings
- Adequate secure maintenance equipment storage
- Lockable security shutters on all pavilion doors and windows

- Passive surveillance from nearby properties

Pitches, practice areas and other facilities

Correct orientation (pitches generally between 35 degrees west and 20 degrees east of N-S; athletics tracks generally oriented so the finishing straight is not in line with the prevailing south-westerly wind)

- Playing facilities meeting relevant governing body requirements in terms of length, width, even-ness of surface, boundary distances (cricket) and side clearances or safety margins
- Artificial surfaces in good overall condition, free from tears and uneven areas
- Floodlighting to relevant governing body requirements for the standard of play
- No end to end slope on pitches greater than 1:40 (1:80 preferable); no side to side slope greater than 1:40 (1:60 preferable)
- No pitch more than 200 m from nearest changing pavilion
- Well drained pitch surfaces
- Winter sports grass pitches to have pipe drains plus sand slits where necessary (note: sand slits to be renewed every 10 years)
- Artificial surfaces to comply with relevant governing body requirements and BS 7044: Artificial Sports Surfaces
- All artificial surfaces (and any safety surround areas) to be fully enclosed within lockable chain link fence at least 3.0 m high

Management and Maintenance:

- Grass lengths appropriate to sport with full grass cover on grass pitches
- Posts and goals safe and free from rust or sharp edges, with hooks for nets where appropriate
- Line markings straight and easily seen
- Surface repairs carried out quickly and effectively
- Surround netting and entrance gates to artificially surfaced areas in good condition
- Floodlights in full working order
- Information on site ownership and the facilities available at the site entrance
- Contact details for emergencies at any pavilion

Outdoor Sports Facilities:

Athletics Tracks

Definition:

- Facilities for track and field athletics training and competition

Minimum size:

- 400 m x 6 lanes

General Characteristics:

- Track and field facilities which comply with appropriate governing body standards
- Public tracks to have a synthetic surface in good condition; school tracks can be grass
- Oriented so neither the finishing straight nor the direction of the javelin is in line with the prevailing (south-westerly) wind
- Spectator accommodation appropriate to the nature and standard of events likely to be staged
- Adequate changing and officials' accommodation, plus first aid room

Accessibility:

- On-site car parking with sufficient spaces for athletes, officials and spectators
- Wide access routes with clear sight lines at site entrance/egress

- Track and adjoining areas fenced to prevent unauthorised access and use

Planting and Biodiversity:

- Shelter planting as appropriate

Facilities and Features:

- As required by the appropriate governing body standards

Management and Maintenance:

- Grass length on central area of track appropriate to its use (may be for throwing events or pitch use)
- All equipment, including safety equipment, fit for purpose
- Track and field events markings easily seen
- Surface repairs carried out quickly and effectively
- Floodlights in full working order
- Information on site ownership and the facilities available at the site entrance
- Contact details for emergencies at any pavilion

Bowling Greens

Definition:

- Lawn bowls green meeting appropriate governing body standards

Minimum Size:

6 rinks plus banks and ditches, a pathway at least 2 m wide all round the green and a pavilion. This requires a site of not less than approximately 41 x 47 m, ie approximately 1,900 sq m (0.19 hectare).

General Characteristics:

- Green, banks and ditches to meet relevant governing body standards
- No broad-leaved trees overhanging the green

Accessibility:

- Accessible by public transport: nearest bus stop within 400 m of entrance/access points, but preferably 250 m
- Hard surfaced path all round the green

Planting and Biodiversity:

- Shelter planting/screening to provide summer time shelter from wind, privacy for bowlers and support biodiversity

Facilities and Features :

- Greens to have at least six rinks (to allow play along and across the green to even out wear)
- Changing pavilion with at least male and female changing rooms and social area

Management and Maintenance:

- Grass sward kept short and clear of weeds

Tennis Courts and Multi-courts

Definition:

- Tennis courts and multi-use games areas, usually with a hard or synthetic surface, and used for tennis, 5-a-side football, netball, outdoor basketball and roller/in-line skating.

Minimum size:

- 36.5 x 18.25 m (court only) plus surround

General Characteristics:

- Reasonably sheltered from the wind
 - A free-draining or impervious surface laid to appropriate falls to shed water
 - Surrounded by netting which prevents balls escaping from the court(s) area
- Oriented within 30 degrees of north-south

Accessibility:

- Accessible by public transport: nearest bus stop within 400m of entrance/access points, but preferably 250 m

Planting and Biodiversity:

- Amenity planting composed mainly of native species to improve appearance, provide shelter, reduce noise transfer and promote biodiversity

Facilities and Features:

- Posts and tennis nets in good condition, without large holes through which the ball can pass
 - Clearly marked courts with adequate safety surrounds
 - Basketball hoops and football goals, if present, securely fixed with no sharp edges
- Floodlighting (if present) to meet governing body requirements

Management and Maintenance:

- Court(s) surface in good condition

Indoor Sports Halls and Swimming Pools

Definition:

- Large scale indoor sports facilities operated by the public, commercial or voluntary sectors

Minimum Size:

- Sports halls: 4 badminton court hall plus changing
- Pools: 25 m x 4 lanes (8.5 m total width) plus changing

General Characteristics:

- External lighting, with movement or passive infra-red (PIR) detectors
- Entrance clearly identifiable from the car park
- No landscaping in which potential attackers could hide

Accessibility:

- Accessible by public transport: nearest bus stop within 250 m of entrance/access points
- Adequate parking for the range of facilities available, with a tarmac surface in good repair and at least two designated disabled spaces close to the main entrance
- Cycle parking

Planting and Biodiversity:

- Attractive landscaping to the site and building, incorporating native species where possible

Facilities and Features:

Internal Support Areas

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- Reception desk immediately inside main entrance and clearly visible
- Disabled toilets
- Baby changing facility in male and female changing areas or toilets
- General accessibility for people with disabilities – see separate checklist
- Décor and finishes in good condition
- Clear route from reception to changing and activity areas

Activity Areas

- Meeting appropriate governing body or Sport England standards
- Adequate storage, accessed from activity areas
- Mat storage, where required, physically separate and vented to outside air
- Décor and finishes in good condition

Changing Areas

- Separate male and female changing (although mixed sex villages desirable for pools)
- Adequate locker provision
- Adequate shower and toilet provision
- Décor and finishes in good condition

Management and Maintenance

- Professionally managed

Appendix B: Distance Thresholds

Walking and Cycling Thresholds

Form of Provision	Travel time (minutes)	Walking Thresholds (m)	Cycling Thresholds (m)
Artificial Turf Pitches	20	1200	3000
Bowling Greens	15	900	2250
Children's play areas	10	600	n/a
Grass Sports Pitches	15	900	2250
Indoor Sports Facilities	20	1200	3000
Teenage Facilities	10	600	1500
Tennis or Multi-Courts	15	900	2250

Driving Thresholds

Form of Provision	Travel time (minutes)	Distance (Km)
Artificial Turf Pitches	20	7.5
Athletics Training	20	7.5
Bowling Greens	15	3.75
Children's play areas	n/a	n/a
Grass Sports Pitches	15	3.75
Indoor Bowls Centre	20	7.5
Indoor Sports Hall	20	7.5
Indoor Swimming Pool	20	7.5
Teenage Facilities	10	3.75
Tennis or Multi-Courts	15	3.75