

Community and Sports Focus Group Meeting

20 May 2013 19.30hrs

Minutes

Present: James Roth, Rob Walter, Ian Clarke, Sheelagh Hawkins, Chris Young, Richard Hatton, Andy Glencross, Jacqui Barnes, Warren Lamb, Graham Eames, Beverley Thompson, Nick Dorey, Dawn Peer, Tony Holdsworth.

Attending: Katy Hughes.

Apologies: Angus Ross.

1. Introductions

Richard introduced himself as the new chair of the sport and recreation element of the focus group. Attendees introduced themselves.

2. Minutes of the previous meeting

Minutes of the 22 May meeting were approved as an accurate record of the meeting.

3. Review of the Open space, sport and recreation audit report

3.1 Consideration of the findings in terms of pitches / courts / sports hall provision

Richard Hatton tabled a chart of existing, short term and longer term requirements for football pitches, cricket squares and tennis courts. Richard noted that these figures had been taken from the open space, sport and recreation audit report and he had put them into a single table for ease of use.

Football:

There was a wide ranging discussion on the number & type & size of pitches. James Roth and Warren Lamb believed that the figures shown in the table didn't fully represent what was required. It was noted that an additional type of pitch was required for youth 11-a-side (smaller than an adult 11-a-side pitch). None of this type of pitch exists at present but there will be a need for these pitches for Oakbank School from September.

The approximate age for each classification was recorded.

The following figures were confirmed as being the ideal.

Pitch	Current existing Pitches	Locations of existing provision	Current shortfall	Additional needs by 2026	Total additional needs	Total in 2026
Adult (17+)	2 (11 x 11)	1 @ RG & 1 @ ML	0	1	1	3
Youth (11 – 16)	2 (9 x 9)	1 @ RG & 1 @ ML	2	4	6	8
Junior (8 – 11)	0 (9x9)	N/A	1 or 2 (for Oakbank)	4	5/6	5/6

Mini soccer (<7 and <8) and (<9 and <10)	3 (2 of 7 x 7 and 1 of 5 x 5)	2 @ RG 1 @ SW	5	3	8	11
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Whilst these numbers are a good working template for going forward, Andy Glencross made the point that it was important to ensure that we got the general areas where the pitches can be located with sufficient space & then the actual layouts etc. can be manipulated with respect to size / number / goal size.

Cricket:

Graham Eames reported that the cricket club currently has an 8 wicket facility at Millworth Lane but with varying lengths on them.

He reported that there is a need for 8 or more for the senior players and a further 4 to 6 wickets for the junior players.

He reported a significant demand for places at the club. It was noted that cricket pitches were planned in Arborfield as part of the Arborfield SDL development. It was noted that there is currently no cricket club in existence in Arborfield. It was not known what impact on numbers the development of cricket wickets at Arborfield may have on Shinfield club numbers or demand for places, when balanced against the anticipated increase in residents from the two SDLs.

Richard Hatton noted the proposals for a dedicated cricket area at the Manor site. There was some confusion and a discussion ensued regarding whether the Manor would be an additional site, with cricket still being played also at Millworth Lane, or whether the cricket club would cease at Millworth Lane. Andy Glencross noted that there is an overlap in the season between cricket and football which causes issues for both clubs at Millworth Lane.

It was noted that a junior and senior square would be required longer term by the cricket club. It was noted that the Manor site may be able to accommodate a second square. Graham Eames reported that if two squares were possible at the Manor then relocation to the manor and the cessation of cricket at Millworth Lane would be possible.

Tennis:

Rob Walter reported that the tennis club is happy with the recommended increase in the number of tennis courts required longer term. He noted significant concern regarding access and parking at the Millworth Lane site.

3.2 Consideration of the findings in terms of proposed locations for activities

Andy Glencross noted that if there is a move to a dedicated football / tennis site at Millworth Lane, then there may be some capacity to improve parking and access. It was noted that an additional access road for Shinfield Junior School, off the main A327 Arborfield Road appears on the developers maps and this may allow scope for improved access and additional parking.

James Roth noted that there appears to be a big assumption that the Shinfield Rangers and Spencers Wood football clubs will be able to share facilities at Millworth Lane if all mini soccer is located there. James noted that there are no plans to merge the football clubs.

Andy Glencross displayed two maps with potential sites for pitches. Attendees discussed the proposal for a sports hub at Ryeish Green, incorporating the existing Leisure centre. After discussion, there was a consensus of approval for a hub and pitches on the Ryeish Green site, as opposed to within the green separation space. It was

noted that the locating a hub at the site will be beneficial to Oakbank School and to the community. Attendees discussed the issue of the existing main access to the site (Hyde End Lane) and parking at the site, particularly with respect to the anticipated increase in pupils at Oakbank School expected each year.

Attendees discussed the possibility of locating artificial pitches at the site.

Andy Glencross reported that timings for bringing these changes forward would be known in greater detail towards the end of this year, once the Shinfield West planning application is determined by Wokingham Borough Council.

Richard Hatton noted that the development of the infrastructure will differ depending upon which option is decided.

In summary the meeting believed that the best option for the sports development in the parish would be:

1. There would be the main sports hub based on Ryeish / Oakbank.
2. The Sports hall would be there as well.
3. Extra soccer for the younger children would be provided at Millworth Lane with perhaps some overlap with Shinfield Junior School
4. Cricket would be at the Manor with a new dedicated pitch, pavilion & the capacity for a junior wickets away from the main square.
5. There would be extra tennis capacity at Millworth Lane.

This was very much in line with the solution that Tony Ploszajski had recommended.

4. Review of any areas of concern

Ian Clarke, whilst noting that the consensus of the meeting was that the Ryeish Hub was the best solution, it needs to be fully recognized that the drainage of the site was problematic & that extra volume of traffic would strain the road & access infrastructure.

Andy Glencross discussed the drainage issues, costs and maintenance costs, as identified by the Sports Turf Research Institute report. Significant concern was registered regarding the cost of maintenance of any drainage system installed.

It was noted by attendees that there had been no formal discussion or decision regarding who would manage pitches and a sports hub at Ryeish Green.

Attendees asked whether the developers would fund the cost of the Leisure centre refurbishment? Andy Glencross noted that the developers had been more favourable to option 2, which is the refurbishment of the existing Ryeish Green Leisure centre. Andy Glencross noted that Wokingham Borough Council is looking at quotes and options for the costs of both refurbishment and replacement. It was noted that refurbishment, whilst appearing less costly initially, can result in higher unexpected costs if previously unidentified problems are found.

Attendees discussed the issue of development S106 contributes and requested that money for education from the developers should stay within the parish, and specifically that secondary education money go to Oakbank School.

Andy Glencross asked attendees to consider a proposal for a single junior pitch and a MUGA off Church Lane. Attendees agreed that this would be better as an open space for casual play and to retain the MUGA.

Attendees asked about the music centre. It was noted that there were no decision as yet on its future.

5. Next steps and incorporation into the Neighbourhood Plan

Andy Glencross requested confirmation to Wokingham Borough Council by way of a letter to Andy Couldrick on the chosen proposal, to allow the borough council to progress discussions with the development consortium on the matter.

It was noted that further consultation with the parish council and the local community would be required.

It was proposed that the issue be put to the parish council for approval at the next meeting in July or earlier at a special meeting, if deemed necessary, and a response sent to Wokingham Borough Council following this. Methods of public consultation will be reviewed at the next steering group meeting.

Andy Glencross agreed to liaise with colleagues at Wokingham Borough Council regarding a possible alternative access to the Ryeish Green site. Attendees noted that a clear plan was required to mitigate the anticipated additional traffic.

6. Date of next meeting

A date for a future meeting will be set following the next steering group meeting on 23 July 2013.