



**WYRE FOREST PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY**

**ASSESSMENT REPORT**

**APRIL 2017**

QUALITY, INTEGRITY, PROFESSIONALISM

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## ABBREVIATIONS

3G	Third generation (artificial turf)
AGP	Artificial grass pitch
ANOG	Assessing Needs and Opportunities Guide
BE	Bowls England
BC	Bowls Club
CC	Cricket Club
ECB	England and Wales Cricket Board
EH	England Hockey
FA	Football Association
FC	Football Club
FIT	Fields in Trust
GIS	Geographical Information Systems
IOG	Institute of Groundsmanship
KKP	Knight, Kavanagh and Page
LMS	Last Man Stands
LTA	Lawn Tennis Association
NGB	National Governing Body of Sport
NPPF	National Planning Policy Framework
PPS	Playing Pitch Strategy
PIP	Pitch Improvement Programme
RFC	Rugby Football Club
RFU	Rugby Football Union
S106	Section 106
TGR	Team Generation Rate
TC	Tennis Club
WFDC	Wyre Forest District Council

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## PART 1: INTRODUCTION AND APPROACH

1. This is the Playing Pitch Assessment Report prepared by Knight Kavanagh & Page (KKP) for Wyre Forest District Council (WFDC) and its partners. It will provide the necessary robustness and direction to inform decisions affecting the provision of outdoor sports facilities and to support sports development objectives. It forms part of a wider Open Space, Sport & Recreation Study.
2. This report presents a supply and demand assessment of playing pitch facilities in accordance with Sport England's Playing Pitch Strategy Guidance: An approach to developing and delivering a playing pitch strategy. It has been followed to develop a clear picture of the balance between the local supply of, and demand for, playing pitches.
3. The guidance details a stepped approach to developing a PPS. These steps are separated into distinct stages:
  - ◀ Stage A: Prepare and tailor the approach (Step 1)
  - ◀ Stage B: Gather information and views on the supply of and demand for provision (Steps 2 & 3)
  - ◀ Stage C: Assess the supply and demand information and views (Steps 4, 5 & 6)
  - ◀ Stage D: Develop the strategy (Steps 7 & 8)
  - ◀ Stage E: Deliver the strategy and keep it robust and up to date (Steps 9 & 10)
4. Stages A to C are covered in this report.

### **Stage A: Prepare and tailor the approach**

5. The primary purpose of the Playing Pitch Strategy (PPS) is to provide a strategic framework which ensures that the provision of outdoor playing pitches meet the local needs of existing and future residents across Wyre Forest. The Strategy is being produced in accordance with Sport England Playing Pitch Strategy Guidance (October 2013 as updated in March 2014) and the national planning guidance and provide robust and objective justification for future playing pitch provision throughout the District.
6. One of the core planning principles of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) is to improve health, social and cultural wellbeing for all, and deliver sufficient community and cultural facilities and services to meet local needs. Section 8 of the NPPF deals specifically with the topic of healthy communities. Paragraph 73 discusses the importance of access to high quality open spaces and opportunities for sport and recreation that can make an important contribution to the health and well-being of communities.

### ***Why the PPS is being developed?***

7. As part of the preparation of the current Core Strategy (Adopted 2010), the study "Open Space Sport and Recreation Assessment" was published in October 2008.
8. To support the current review of the Wyre Forest Local Plan the District Council wishes to prepare a new evidence base in respect of playing pitch, built facilities and other sport, leisure and open space requirements so that:
  - ◀ it can inform the preparation of the Local Plan Review Preferred Option and, in particular, the Pre-Submission version of the Local Plan Review
  - ◀ it is in conformity with recent Sport England guidance;

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- ◀ it assists the Council to prepare a robust and up to date assessment of need to meet all of the requirements of the Framework, especially paragraph 73 of the NPPF and assist, where appropriate, the implementation of paragraph 74 of the NPPF;
  - ◀ the Council has an up-to-date robust overall assessment of supply/demand, and identification of new playing field and built facility requirements to meet the planned growth to enable the development of appropriate policy within the Local Plan Review;
  - ◀ the Council has an up-to-date robust assessment of informal leisure, open space and other green infrastructure assets' requirements to meet the needs of the Local Plan Review;
  - ◀ the Council has a robust evidence base to:
    - ◀ negotiate and apply provision at the major growth sites that may be proposed in the Local Plan Review.
    - ◀ inform the negotiation of public open space section 106 contributions with developers.
    - ◀ inform the infrastructure requirements as part of the preparation by the Council of a revised Infrastructure Delivery Plan and associated work on CIL, should the Council choose to pursue a CIL Charging Schedule.
9. The corporate approach of the Wyre Forest District Council Directorate of Community & Wellbeing is to concentrate investment in improving the quality of existing provision in the District. In respect of urban areas of the District, this often means that development is expected to contribute to off-site improvements. In the future as part of the Local Plan Review, if development is proposed on greenfield sites adjacent to the urban areas, then a more conventional approach of on-site provision may be appropriate.

## **Wyre Forest District Council: Core Strategy (2006-2026)**

10. Wyre Forest's Core Strategy identifies the type of place the District will be in 2026. To achieve this, the strategy lists 13 key development objectives, which are listed below.

*Table 1.2: WFDC's key development objectives*

Number	Objective
1	To provide a range of high-quality, highly energy efficient, and affordable housing options for residents of all ages and needs to achieve sustainable communities.
2	To diversify and grow the District's economy, emphasising the development of the service sector, high tech industry and sustainable tourism.
3	Continue to develop Kidderminster as the strategic centre for the District and beyond and to maintain the important roles of Stourport-on-Severn and Bewdley as market towns.
4	Support the viability of the District's villages and rural areas and assist in opportunities for diversification.
5	Safeguard and enhance the District's unique landscape character, Green Belt, natural environment and green infrastructure.
6	To conserve and enhance the District's heritage assets.
7	Safeguard and enhance natural resources, minimise waste and increase recycling, especially the re-use of land and buildings.
8	Safeguard and replenish the District's rich and varied biodiversity and geodiversity, including that within the three town centres.
9	Ensure the District is equipped to adapt to and mitigate the impacts of climate change by ensuring that future developments are low or zero-carbon and that they do not increase flood risk to new and existing property.
10	Improve the District's air quality, particularly in the town centre areas of Kidderminster, Stourport-on-Severn and Bewdley.

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Number	Objective
11	Support the development of an accessible, integrated, sustainable transport network through new and existing developments to provide attractive alternatives for all residents and visitors and promote sustainable freight transport.
12	Help foster community pride and healthy lifestyles in the District through supporting and involving its many local communities in both the urban and rural areas
13	Maximise community cohesion and safety and ensure new developments positively contribute towards crime reduction, improved health care and education across the District for the benefit of all residents.

11. To help foster healthy lifestyles, The District Council will resist the loss of any community services and facilities, including leisure facilities, unless an appropriate alternative is provided or, evidence is presented that the facility is no longer required and suitable alternative uses have been considered. Any alternative provision should be of equal or better quality and be located in an appropriate and, where feasible, sustainable location.
12. The District Council is currently in the early stages of undertaking a Local Plan Review. The new Local Plan will replace the current Adopted Core Strategy, Site Allocations and Policies Local Plan and Kidderminster Central Area Action Plan. It is anticipated that the new Local Plan will be adopted in late 2017.

## ***Sports Partnership Herefordshire and Worcestershire: Sports Facilities Framework 2010-2026***

13. The Sports Facilities Framework 2010-2026 provides a strategic and coherent link between the West Midlands Regional Sports Facilities Framework (2007) and the relevant existing or emerging strategies of the individual local authorities and other key partners within the sub-region.
14. The Framework highlights gaps in facility provision across Herefordshire and Worcestershire, and identifies the most appropriate options to address them. In relation to the sports covered in this needs assessment, this framework recommends the following which are specifically related to the Wyre Forest District.
  - ◀ Badminton: A Community Badminton Centre should be developed in Wyre Forest District Council. The facility should be appropriately designed, with a minimum of a four court sports hall. The site should be located on a school site, ideally linked to an existing club.
  - ◀ Basketball: develop a specialist basketball centre in response to need, geographically spread in urban location to maximise accessibility. The Centre would need to be in a six court sports hall, however it doesn't specify which authority should house it.
  - ◀ Gymnastics: enhance existing provisions to cater for a wide range of disciplines.
  - ◀ Rowing: to improve access to rivers and improved club houses and ancillary facilities.
  - ◀ Swimming: Currently there is no 50m competition pool in the County. A feasibility study would be required to determine the viability. In addition, pools should have a minimum number of hours specified to support performance training.
15. The above Framework was developed at a time when local authorities were operating within a different financial climate and there was the opportunity to develop facilities through a range of funding initiatives including Sport England Grant funding, NGB funding and Building Schools for the Future. Therefore, it is relevant to note that today's financial climate is totally different and the aspiration to achieve these developments is somewhat curtailed.

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## ***Worcestershire Health and Wellbeing Board: Joint Health & Wellbeing Strategy 2016-21***

16. The strategy's vision is to ensure Worcestershire residents are healthier, live longer, and have a better quality of life, especially those communities and groups whose health is currently the poorest. To achieve this vision, the key priorities are as follows:
- ◀ Good mental health and well-being throughout life.
  - ◀ Being active at every age.
  - ◀ Reducing harm from alcohol at all ages.
17. To achieve the priority of being active at every age, the strategy lists the key performance indicators:
- ◀ Reduce the number of children aged 4 - 5 classified as overweight or obese.
  - ◀ Reduce the number of children aged 10 – 11 classified as overweight or obese.
  - ◀ Increase cycling and walking travel measures for adults
  - ◀ Increase the number of adults achieving at least 150 minutes of physical activity per week in accordance with UK Chief Medical Officer (CMO) recommended guidelines on physical activity.
  - ◀ Develop programmes for older people taking up Strength and Balance training.
  - ◀ Enhance the numbers of people, including volunteers, taking part in health walks.

### ***Playing Pitch Strategy vision***

18. *“To produce a robust and comprehensive Strategy which will provide the essential evidence base for informing decisions on planning and investment in the pursuit to provide appropriate outdoor sports provision for all.”*
19. The strategy will run to 2021 (five years based on Sport England recommendations), but should be reviewed on an annual basis to keep it up-to-date and robust. The population projections will run to 2034 (in line with the Local Plan). The review and monitoring process will be developed in accordance with Stage E of the PPS guidance and adopted with the Strategy.

### ***Key outcomes of the study***

20. The outcomes of the study are identified as follows:
- ◀ Provide robust and up-to-date assessments of the needs and opportunities for new provision in the Local Plan Review period up to 2034.
  - ◀ Provide evidence to help protect and enhance existing playing pitch provision and other outdoor sports facilities.
  - ◀ Identify specific needs and quantitative or qualitative shortfalls or spare capacity.
  - ◀ Help to inform the assessment of planning applications.
  - ◀ Identify potential changes and their impact to the supply of provision due to capital programmes.
  - ◀ Provide a priority list of deliverable projects which will help to meet any current deficiencies and provide for future demands
  - ◀ Provide evidence to help secure internal and external funding.
  - ◀ Identify opportunities for asset transfer.

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## ***Meeting Sport England PPS requirements***

21. In order to meet Sport England requirements there is a need to:
- ◀ Support the improving health and well-being and increasing participation in sport.
  - ◀ Identify sports development programmes and changes in how the sports are played.
  - ◀ Provide evidence to help protect and enhance existing provision.
  - ◀ Inform the development and implementation of planning policy.
  - ◀ Inform the assessment of planning applications.
  - ◀ Identify potential changes to the supply of provision due to capital programmes e.g. for educational sites.
  - ◀ Review budgetary pressures and ensure the most efficient management and maintenance of playing pitch provision.
  - ◀ Develop a priority list of deliverable projects that will help to meet any current deficiencies provide for future demands and feed into wider infrastructure planning work.
  - ◀ Prioritise internal capital and revenue investment.
  - ◀ Provide evidence to help secure internal and external funding.
22. One of the core planning principles of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) is to improve health, social and cultural wellbeing for all, and deliver sufficient community and cultural facilities and services to meet local needs. Section 8 of the NPPF deals specifically with the topic of healthy communities. Paragraph 73 discusses the importance of access to high quality open spaces and opportunities for sport and recreation that can make an important contribution to the health and well-being of communities.
23. Paragraphs 73 and 74 of the NPPF discuss assessments and the protection of “existing open space, sports and recreational buildings and land, including playing fields”. A Playing Pitch Strategy will provide the evidence required to help protect playing fields to ensure sufficient land is available to meet existing and projected future pitch requirements.
24. Paragraph 76 and 77 promote the identification of important green spaces by local communities and the protection of these facilities. Such spaces may include playing fields.

## ***Scope***

25. The following facility types are to be included in the study, as identified by the District Council:
- ◀ Football pitches (including grass and 3G pitches)
  - ◀ Rugby union pitches (including grass and 3G pitches)
  - ◀ Cricket pitches
  - ◀ Hockey pitches i.e. artificial grass pitches (AGPs)

## ***Management arrangements***

26. A Project Team from the Council has worked with KKP to ensure that all relevant information is readily available and to support the consultants as necessary to ensure that project stages and milestones are delivered on time, within the cost envelope and to the required quality standard to meet Sport England guidance.

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28. Further to this, the Steering Group is and has been responsible for the direction of the PPS from a strategic perspective and for supporting, checking and challenging the work of the project team. The Steering Group is made up of representatives from the District Council, Sport England, Sports Partnership Herefordshire and Worcestershire and the pitch sport NGBs.
29. It will be important for the Steering Group to continue once the PPS has been finalised for several reasons, including a continuing responsibility to:
  - ◀ Be a champion for playing pitch provision in the area and promote the value and importance of the PPS.
  - ◀ Ensure implementation of the PPS's recommendations and action plan.
  - ◀ Monitor and evaluate the outcomes of the PPS.
  - ◀ Ensure that the PPS is kept up to date and refreshed.

## **Study area**

30. Wyre Forest is a district in Worcestershire, covering the towns of Kidderminster, Stourport-on-Severn and Bewdley, and several civil parishes and their villages. Indeed, there are 12 parish town/councils covering the Area, some of which, own/manage playing pitch provision. It is bordered by the local authorities including South Staffordshire, Dudley, Bromsgrove, Wychavon and Malvern Hills.
31. The total population, from the 2015 Mid-Year Estimates in Wyre Forest was 99,5031 with slightly more females to males. There is a higher proportion of 65-79 year olds in Wyre Forest (18%) compared to the West Midlands (15.9%). This age group will increase in size over the coming years as people live longer. These residents are likely to be retired and time rich, with a need to be as physically active as possible in order to remain independent. As a combination of factors, it suggests careful consideration should be given to the development of sport and physical activity offers within the area.
32. The majority of the population is centred in and around the central (Kidderminster) and southern (Stourport) areas of the District.

## **Sub areas**

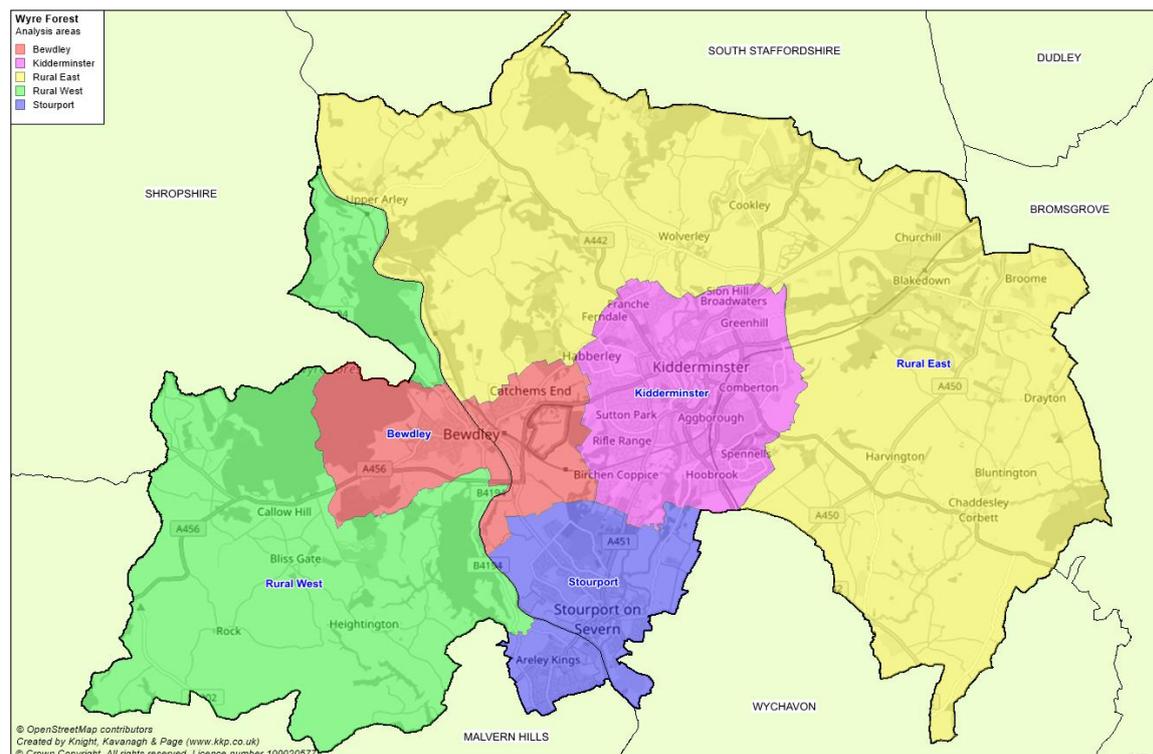
33. The District has been split into five distinct areas for the purpose of this study to further recognise how the different sports are played across District.
  - ◀ Bewdley
  - ◀ Stourport
  - ◀ Kidderminster
  - ◀ Rural East
  - ◀ Rural West

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<sup>1</sup> Source: ONS 2015 Mid Year Estimate

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Figure 1.1: Study area map



## Stage B: Gather information and views on the supply of and demand for provision

34. It is essential that a PPS is based on the most accurate and up-to-date information available for the supply of and demand for playing pitches. This section provides details about how this information has been gathered in Wyre Forest.

### *Gather supply information and views – an audit of playing pitches*

35. PPS guidance uses the following definitions of a playing pitch and playing field. These definitions are set out by the Government in the 2015 'Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (England) Order<sup>2</sup>.
36. It should be noted that the reference to five years within the Order is purely in relation to whether Sport England should be consulted in a statutory capacity. The fact that a playing field may not have been marked out for pitch sport in the last five years does not mean that it is no longer a playing field. Definitions are as follows:
- ◀ **Playing pitch** – a delineated area of 0.2ha or more which is used for association football, rugby, cricket, hockey, lacrosse, rounders, baseball, softball, American football, Australian football, Gaelic football, shinty, hurling, polo or cycle polo.
  - ◀ **Playing field** – the whole of a site which encompasses at least one playing pitch.

<sup>2</sup> [www.sportengland.org](http://www.sportengland.org)>Facilities and Planning> Planning Applications

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37. Although the statutory definition of a playing field is the whole of a site with at least one pitch of 0.2ha or more, this PPS takes into account smaller sized pitches that contribute to the supply side, for example, 5v5 mini football pitches. This PPS counts individual grass pitches (as a delineated area) as the basic unit of supply. The definition of a playing pitch also includes artificial grass pitches (AGPs).
38. As far as possible the assessment report aims to capture all of the pitches within Wyre Forest. However, there may be instances, for example, on school sites, where access was not possible and has led to omissions within the report. Where pitches have not been recorded within the report they remain as pitches and for planning purposes continue to be so. Furthermore, exclusions of a pitch does not mean that it is not required from a supply and demand point of view.

## **Quantity**

39. All playing pitches are included irrespective of ownership, management and use. Playing pitch sites were initially identified using Sport England's Active Places web based database. The Council and NGBs supported the process by checking and updating this initial data. This was also verified against club information supplied by local leagues. For each site the following details were recorded in the project database (which will be supplied as an electronic file):

- ◀ Site name, address (including postcode) and location
- ◀ Ownership and management type
- ◀ Security of tenure
- ◀ Total number, type and quality of pitches

## **Accessibility**

40. Not all pitches offer the same level of access to the community. The ownership and accessibility of playing pitches also influences their actual availability for community use. Each site is assigned a level of community use as follows:

- ◀ **Community use** - pitches in public, voluntary, private or commercial ownership or management (including education sites) recorded as being available for hire and currently in use by teams playing in community leagues.
- ◀ **Available but unused** - pitches that are available for hire but are not currently used by teams which play in community leagues; this most often applies to school sites but can also apply to sites which are expensive to hire.
- ◀ **No community use** - pitches which as a matter of policy or practice are not available for hire or used by teams playing in community leagues. This should include professional club pitches along with some semi-professional club pitches, where play is restricted to the first or second team.
- ◀ **Disused** – sites that are not being used at all by any users and are not available for community hire either. Once these sites are disused for five or more years they will then be categorised as 'lapsed sites'.
- ◀ **Lapsed** - last known use was as a playing field more than five years ago. These fall outside of Sport England's statutory remit but still have to be assessed using the criteria in paragraph 74 of the National Planning Policy Framework and Sport England would nonetheless challenge a proposed loss of playing pitches/playing field which fails to meet such criteria. It should be emphasised that the lawful planning use of a lapsed site is still that of a playing field.

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41. In addition, there should be a good degree of certainty that the pitch will be available to the community for at least the following three years. A judgement is made based on the information gathered and a record of secured or unsecured community use put against each site. NB: This refers to pitches in community use and not lapsed/disused sites.

## **Quality**

42. The capacity of pitches to regularly provide for competitive play, training and other activity over a season is most often determined by their quality. As a minimum, the quality and therefore the capacity of a pitch affects the playing experience and people's enjoyment of a sport. In extreme circumstances it can result in a pitch being unable to cater for all or certain types of play during peak and off peak times.
43. It is not just the quality of the pitch itself which has an effect on its capacity but also the quality, standard and range of ancillary facilities. The quality of both the pitch and ancillary facilities will determine whether a pitch is able to contribute to meeting demand from various groups and for different levels and types of play.
44. The quality of all pitches identified in the audit and the ancillary facilities supporting them are assessed regardless of ownership, management or availability. Along with capturing any details specific to the individual pitches and sites, a quality rating is recorded within the audit for each pitch.
45. These ratings are used to help estimate the capacity of each pitch to accommodate competitive and other play within the supply and demand assessment.
46. In addition to undertaking non-technical assessments (using the templates provided within the guidance and as determined by NGBs), users and providers were also consulted on the quality and in some instances the quality rating was adjusted to reflect this.

## **Gather demand information and views**

47. Presenting an accurate picture of current demand for playing pitches (i.e. recording how and when pitches are used) is important when undertaking a supply and demand assessment. Demand for playing pitches in Wyre Forest tends to fall within the following categories:
- ◀ Organised competitive play
  - ◀ Organised training
  - ◀ Informal play
48. In addition, unmet and displaced demand for provision is also identified on a sport by sport basis. Unmet demand is defined as the number of additional teams that could be fielded if access to a sufficient number of pitches (and ancillary facilities) was available. Displaced demand refers to teams that are generated from residents of the area but due to any number of factors do not currently play within the area.
49. Current and future demand for playing pitches is presented on a sport by sport basis within the relevant sections of this report.

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50. A variety of consultation methods were used to collate demand information about leagues, clubs, county associations and national/regional governing bodies of sport. Face to face consultation was carried out with key clubs from each sport. This allowed for the collection of detailed demand information and an exploration of key issues to be interrogated and more accurately assessed.
51. For data analysis purposes an online survey (converted to postal if required) was utilised. This was sent to all clubs not covered by face to face consultation.
52. Local sports development officers, county associations and regional governing body officers advised which of the clubs to include in the face to face consultation. Sport England was also included within the consultation process prior to the project commencing. Issues identified by clubs returning questionnaires were followed up by telephone or face to face interviews. The response rates of such consultation are as follows:

*Table 1.3: Summary of response rates*

Sport	Total number	Number responding	Response rate	Methods of consultation
Football clubs	38	30	79%	Face to face
Football teams	140	125	89%	Online survey Telephone
Cricket clubs	16	13	81%	Online survey Telephone
Rugby union clubs	3	2	67%	Face to face Telephone
Hockey clubs	2	2	100%	Face to face Telephone
Primary schools	28	21	75%	Online survey Telephone
Secondary schools	5	4	80%	Face to face
Parish/town councils	12	12	100%	Face to face Online survey Telephone

### ***Future demand***

53. Alongside current demand, it is important for a PPS to assess whether the future demand for playing pitches can be met. Using population projections, and proposed housing growth (if available), an estimate can be made of the likely future demand for playing pitches.

### ***Housing growth***

54. Notwithstanding ONS figures on population growth, it is recommended that regard is given to Wyre Forest's housing need, which is listed in Wyre Forest District Core strategy (Policy DS05). The Local Authority plan to deliver 4,000 net additional dwellings for the period covering 2006 – 2026.

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55. During 2009 the Council undertook a Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment (SHLAA) to assess the indicative capacity for potential residential sites within the District and to inform the production of the Local Development Framework. The sites identified through the SHLAA process have also been subject to an independent viability appraisal. Based on this evidence provided and reflecting the principle to provide the majority of new housing development within the main towns of Kidderminster and Stourport-on-Severn, the table below sets out the level of housing that could be delivered within each five year phasing period.

*Table 1.4: Anticipated level of housing delivery that could occur within the District's settlements*

Location	2006-2011	2011-2016	2016-2021	2021-2016
Kidderminster	630	780	660	400
Stourport	330	680	160	70
Bewdley	100	80	-	-
<b>Rural areas</b>	140	90	160	-
<b>Total</b>	1200	<b>1630</b>	<b>980</b>	<b>470</b>

## *Population growth*

56. The resident population in Wyre Forest is recorded as 99,503<sup>3</sup> and by 2034 (in line with the Local Plan Review timeframe), the District's population is projected to increase to 103,999<sup>4</sup> an increase of 4,496 (or equivalent to a percentage increase of 4.5%) according to ONS data.
57. Team generation rates (TGRs) are used to provide an indication of how many people it may take to generate a team (by gender and age group), in order to help estimate the change in demand for pitch sports that may arise from any population change in the study area.
58. Future demand for pitches is calculated by adding the percentage increases, to the ONS population increases in each analysis area. This figure is then applied to the TGRs and is presented on a sport by sport basis within the relevant sections of this report. Other information sources that were used to help identify future demand include:
- ◀ Recent trends in the participation in playing pitch sports.
  - ◀ The nature of the current and likely future population and their propensity to participate in pitch sports.
  - ◀ Feedback from pitch sports clubs on their plans to develop additional teams.
  - ◀ Any local and NGB specific sports development targets (e.g. increase in participation).

## **Stage C: Assess the supply and demand information and views**

59. Supply and demand information gathered within Section B was used to assess the adequacy of playing pitch provision in Wyre Forest. It focused on how much use each site could potentially accommodate (on an area by area basis) compared to how much use is currently taking place.

<sup>3</sup> Source: ONS 2015 Mid-Year Estimate

<sup>4</sup> Source: ONS 2012-based projections 2012-2037. Released: 29 May 2014

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## ***Understand the situation at individual sites***

60. Qualitative pitch ratings are linked to a pitch capacity rating derived from NGB guidance and tailored to suit a local area. The quality and use of each pitch is assessed against the recommended pitch capacity to indicate how many match equivalent sessions per week (per season for cricket) a pitch could accommodate.
61. This is compared to the number of matches actually taking place and categorised as follows, to identify:

Potential spare capacity: Play is below the level the site could sustain.	
At capacity: Play is at a level the site can sustain.	
Overused: Play exceeds the level the site can sustain.	

## ***Develop the current picture of provision***

62. Once capacity is determined on a site by site basis, actual spare capacity is calculated on an area by area basis via further interrogation of temporal demand. Although this may have been identified, it does not necessarily mean that there is surplus provision. For example, spare capacity may not be available when it is needed or the site may be retained in a 'strategic reserve' to enable pitch rotation to reduce wear and tear.
63. Capacity ratings assist in the identification of sites for improvement/development, rationalisation, decommissioning and disposal.

## ***Develop the future picture of provision - scenario testing***

64. Modelling scenarios to assess whether existing provision can cater for unmet, displaced and future demand is made after the capacity analysis. This will also include, for example, removing sites with unsecured community use to demonstrate the impact this would have if these sites were to be decommissioned in the future.

## ***Identify the key findings and issues***

65. By completing Steps 1-5 it is possible to identify several findings and issues relating to the supply, demand and adequacy of playing pitch provision in Wyre Forest. This report seeks to identify and present the key findings and issues, which should now be checked, challenged and agreed by the Steering Group prior to development of the Strategy (Section D).
66. The following sections summarise the local administration of the main grass pitch sports in Wyre Forest. Each provides a quantitative summary of provision and a map showing the distribution of facilities. It also provides information about the availability of facilities to/for the local community and, the governing body of each sport and regional strategic plan (where they exist). Local league details are provided in order to outline the competitive structure for each sport. The findings of club consultation and key issues for each sport are summarised.

# WYRE FOREST PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY ASSESSMENT REPORT

## PART 2: FOOTBALL

### 2.1: Introduction

67. Worcestershire County FA is the primary organisation responsible for the development of football in Wyre Forest. It is also responsible for the administration, in terms of discipline, rules and regulations, cup competitions and representative matches, development of clubs and facilities, volunteers, referees, coaching courses and delivering national football schemes.
68. This section of the report focuses on the supply and demand for grass football pitches. Part 3 captures supply and demand for third generation (3G) artificial grass pitches (AGPs). In the future, it is anticipated that there will be a growing demand for the use of 3G pitches for competitive football fixtures, especially to accommodate mini and youth football.

### Consultation

69. In addition to face to face consultation with key clubs, an electronic survey was sent to all football clubs playing in Wyre Forest and leagues accommodating Wyre Forest based teams with contact details having been provided by the Worcestershire County FA. Consultation (either through a survey or face to face interview) represents a 79% club response rate and an 89% team response rate. The results are used to form key issues within this section of the report. The following clubs and league were met with face to face or consulted via telephone:

- ◀ Areley Kings Youth FC
- ◀ Bewdley Town FC
- ◀ Kidderminster Athletic FC
- ◀ Mostyn Rangers Youth FC
- ◀ Rock Sports FC
- ◀ Rock Sports Youth FC
- ◀ Wilden Village FC
- ◀ Kidderminster Sunday League

### 2.2: Supply

70. The audit identifies a total of 97 grass football pitches within Wyre Forest across 33 sites. Of these, 85 are available, at some level, for community use across 25 sites, as presented in the table below. The Kidderminster Analysis Area contains the most community available pitches (30), whereas the Rural West Analysis Area contains the least amount (five).

Table 2.1: Summary of grass football pitches available to the community

Analysis area	Available for community use					Totals
	Adult	Youth 11v11	Youth 9v9	Mini 7v7	Mini 5v5	
Bewdley	4	-	2	1	-	7
Kidderminster	10	-	8	7	5	30
Rural East	12	-	4	6	-	22
Rural West	4	-	-	1	-	5
Stourport	9	2	4	4	2	21
<b>Wyre Forest</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>85</b>

## WYRE FOREST PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY ASSESSMENT REPORT

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71. There are a large number of adult pitches identified in Wyre Forest when compared to other pitch sizes, which reflects that the majority of teams use adult pitches. It should be noted, however, that nationally many youth 11v11 teams are playing on adult pitches, which may in part be due to a lack of dedicated youth 11v11 pitches rather than a preference for adult pitches.
72. In accordance with the FA Youth Review, u17s and u18s can play on adult pitches. The FA's recommended pitch size for adult football is 100x64 metres. The recommended size of a youth pitch is 91x55 metres for u16s and u15s, 82x50 metres for u14s and u13s and 73x46 metres for u12s and u11s. The recommended size for 7v7 pitches (u10s and u9s) is 55x37 metres and for 5v5 pitches (u8s and u7s) it is 37x27 metres.
73. Please refer to the FA website page to view pitch and goal posts sizes in more detail:  
<http://www.thefa.com/my-football/football-volunteers/runningaclub/yourfacilities/technicalstandards.aspx>
74. In Wyre Forest, 39 youth 11v11 (u13-u16) teams currently use adult pitches and the following sites contain adult pitches that are used solely by youth 11v11 teams. These sites can therefore provide a starting point to increase youth 11v11 provision as no adult teams would be adversely affected by a pitch re-configuration (although there may be a need to retain adult pitches if shortfalls are identified).
- ◀ Bewdley Leisure Centre
  - ◀ Habberley Sports Field

### ***Management***

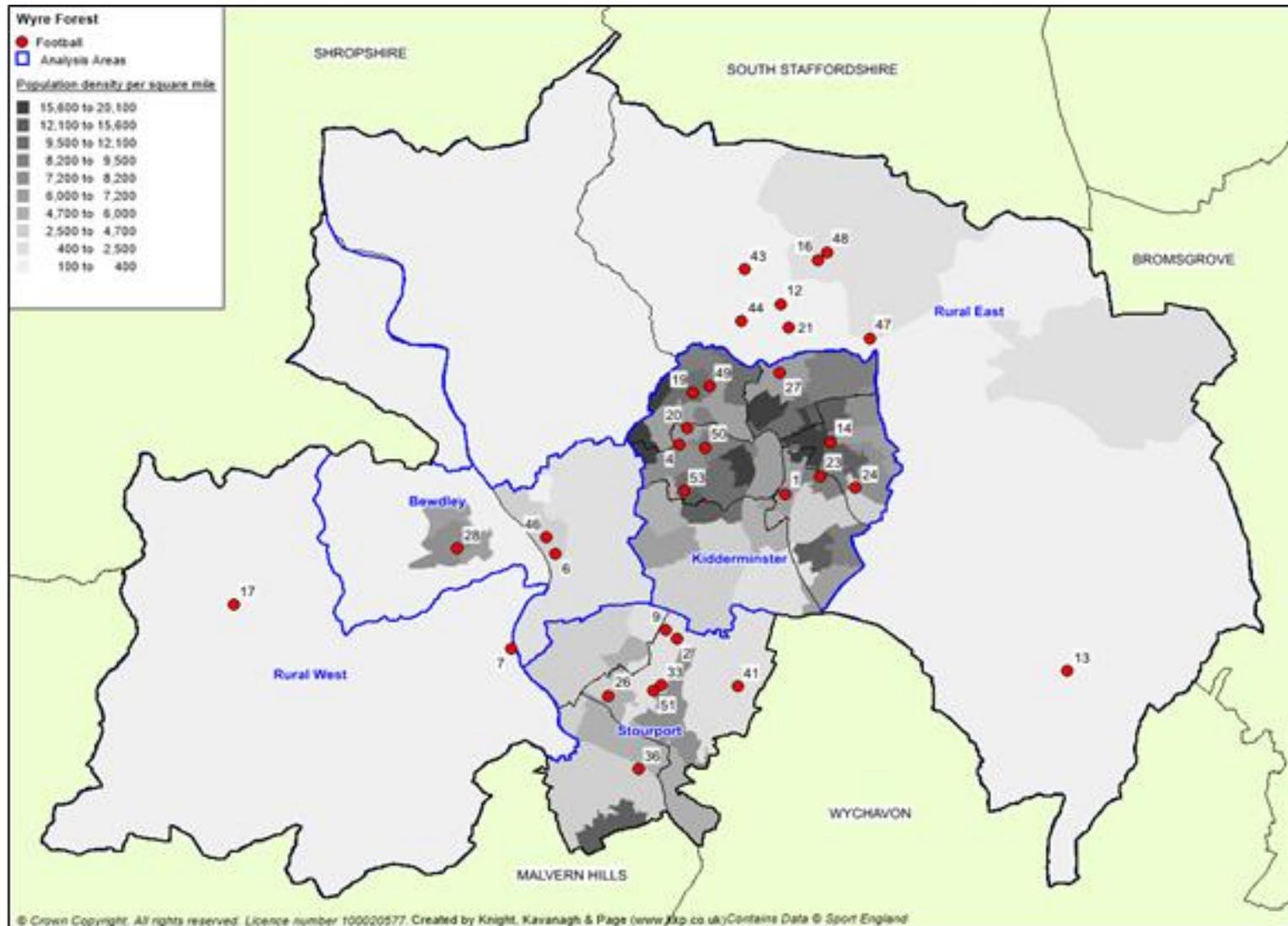
75. Of community available pitches, six are managed by Places for People Leisure on behalf of the District Council, which is responsible for the maintenance of those pitches; 25 by schools/colleges/universities, 39 by sports clubs, 14 by local leagues and the remaining one is privately managed.

### ***Future Supply***

76. In the near future work is to commence at Birmingham Metropolitan College by Severn Trent Water. This work will result in three adult pitches being removed and resupplied on the site. Once the work has completed the three adult pitches will then be established once again, resulting in an overall increase of three adult pitches on this site.

# WYRE FOREST PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY ASSESSMENT REPORT

Figure 2.1: Location of all football pitches in Wyre Forest



# WYRE FOREST PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY ASSESSMENT REPORT

## Pitch quality

77. The quality of football pitches in Wyre Forest has been assessed via a combination of site visits (using non-technical assessments as determined by The FA) and user consultation to reach and apply an agreed rating as follows:
- ◀ Good
  - ◀ Standard
  - ◀ Poor
78. Pitch quality primarily influences the carrying capacity of a site; often pitches lack the drainage and maintenance necessary to sustain levels of use. It is likely that pitches which receive little to no ongoing repair or post-season remedial work will be assessed as poor, therefore limiting the number of games able to take place each week without it having a detrimental effect on quality. Conversely, well maintained pitches which are tended to regularly are likely to be of a higher standard and capable of taking a number of matches without a significant reduction in surface quality.
79. Private sites (e.g. sports clubs) typically offer better quality facilities than Council parks/playing fields and school pitches. In general, such sports clubs tend to have dedicated ground staff or volunteers working on pitches and the fact that they are often secured by fencing prevents unofficial use. The maintenance of Council sites tends to be less frequent and unofficial use of these sites can further exacerbate quality issues.
80. The percentage parameters used for the non-technical assessments were as follows; Good (>80%), Standard (50-80%), Poor (<50%). The final quality ratings assigned to the sites also take into account the user quality ratings gathered from consultation.
81. The table below summarises the quality of pitches that are available for community use. In total, two pitches are assessed as good quality, 65 as standard quality and 17 are deemed to be poor quality.

Table 2.2: Pitch quality assessments (community use pitches)

Adult pitches			Youth pitches			Mini pitches		
Good	Standard	Poor	Good	Standard	Poor	Good	Standard	Poor
-	29	10	-	16	4	2	20	4

82. The non-technical pitch quality audit shows that the majority of pitches are standard quality. The majority of football pitches in the District have been leased to Worcestershire FA or have, in turn, sub-leased or licensed sites to clubs or leagues. Those sites tend to receive a basic level of maintenance that is restricted to bi-weekly grass cutting, annual seeding of goalmouths and annual aeration. The majority of pitches within schools also receive basic maintenance. Maintenance of pitches at club sites varies; some clubs hire dedicated ground staff whilst others depend on remedial work by volunteers that is often limited by cost and a lack of specialised equipment.
83. Overall, 76% of the adult pitches available for community use are assessed as standard quality, 24% as poor quality and none are good quality. Whilst 20% of youth pitches available to the community are poor quality and 80% are standard quality. The only good quality pitches are mini 7v7 size, which makes up only 8% of the mini pitches available for community use in Wyre Forest. The majority of mini pitches available for community use are standard quality (77%), whilst 15% are deemed poor quality.

## WYRE FOREST PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY ASSESSMENT REPORT

84. The most common factors attributed to pitch quality are a need for drainage work and more frequent maintenance.

### **Overmarked pitches**

85. Overmarking of pitches can cause notable damage to the surface quality and lead to overuse beyond recommended capacity. In some cases, mini pitches may be marked onto senior pitches or mini matches may be played widthways across adult or youth pitches. This can lead to targeted areas of surface damage due to a large amount of play focused on high traffic areas, particularly the middle third of the pitch. Overmarking of pitches not only influences available capacity, it may also cause logistical issues regarding kick off times; for example, when two teams of differing age formats are due to play at the same site at the same time.
86. There are also a number of pitches marked onto or overlapping cricket outfields. This creates availability issues as the cricket season begins in April when the football season is still ongoing and the football season begins in August as cricket fixtures are still being played. Generally, cricket is given priorities at such sites, meaning football teams either have to finish their season early or have to relocate to another site. The table below highlights all sites containing over marked pitches.

*Table 2.3: Sites containing over marked pitches*

Site ID	Site	Pitch Quality	Comments
6	Bewdley Leisure Centre	Standard	An adult pitch is over marked with a youth 9v9 pitch.
12	Brown Westhead	Standard	Two adult pitches are over marked by youth 9v9 pitches.
13	Chaddesley Corbett Sports Ground	Standard	One adult pitch which overlaps a cricket outfield.
14	Chester Road Cricket Ground	Poor	Two mini 7v7 and two youth 9v9 pitches all marked on a cricket outfield.
16	Cookley Playing Fields	Standard	Two adult, two mini 7v7 and one youth 9v9 pitch all marked on a cricket outfield.
17	Far Forest Society Pavilion and Sports Ground	Poor	A mini 7v7 pitch is over marked on an adult pitch.
20	Habberley Sports Field	Standard	Two adult pitches are over marked with a youth 9v9 pitches; and two youth 9v9 pitches are over marked with mini 7v7 pitches.
41	Wilden Top	Standard	One adult pitch is over marked with a youth 9v9 pitch.
44	Wolverley Playing Fields	Standard	An adult pitch is over marked with a youth 9v9 pitch.

87. It is also worth noting that although pitches at Lea Castle Drive are not technically over marked, however, due to the proximity of the third adult pitch to the first, matches cannot be played on those two pitches concurrently.

# WYRE FOREST PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY ASSESSMENT REPORT

## *Ancillary facilities*

88. The term ancillary facilities take into account clubhouse buildings, changing facilities and car parking, amongst other things but excluding the playing pitches. Clubs which have reported information regarding ancillary facilities have rated them on a good, standard or poor quality rating. The following comments were made regarding ancillary provision at sites used by football clubs:

*Table 2.4: Comments on ancillary facilities*

Site	Analysis area	Pitches served	Comments
Areley Kings Sports Ground	Stourport	5	Good quality ancillary facilities.
Baxter Business and Enterprise College	Kidderminster	1	Adequate ancillary facilities made available for community use.
Bewdley Leisure Centre	Bewdley	3	Good quality ancillary facilities with officials and teams have own showers.
Bewdley Town Football Club	Rural West	2	Good quality ancillary facilities.
Birmingham Metropolitan College (Centre of Sporting Excellence)	Stourport	7	Currently having to utilise class rooms as changing facilities and no showers available. Also the car park is inadequate.
Brown Westhead	Rural East	10	Adequate changing facilities but the boiler is an inadequate size for the facility.
Chaddesley Corbett Sports Ground	Rural East	1	Adequate changing facilities which are shared with rugby union and cricket clubs.
Cookley Playing Fields	Rural East	5	Good quality ancillary facilities.
Far Forest Society Pavilion and Sports Ground	Kidderminster	3	Good quality ancillary facilities.
Habberley Sports Field	Kidderminster	11	Adequate changing facilities with shared showers and toilets.
King Charles I Secondary School	Kidderminster	1	Good quality ancillary facilities.
Lea Castle Drive	Kidderminster	3	Four poor quality changing facilities which have no electricity, gas nor water. The building has suffered from a high amount of vandalism.
Springfield Park	Kidderminster	2	Adequate changing facilities but the boiler is an inadequate size for the facility.
Stourport Swifts FC	Stourport	1	Adequate changing facilities which have been subject to recent vandalism.
Wilden Top	Stourport	3	Good ancillary facilities with self contained showers and toilets.
Wolverley Ce Secondary Schools	Rural East	3	Good quality ancillary facilities.
Wolverley Playing Fields	Rural East	3	Good quality ancillary facilities but with smashed windows.

# WYRE FOREST PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY ASSESSMENT REPORT

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## ***Security of tenure***

89. Tenure of sites in Wyre Forest is generally secure i.e. through a long term lease or a guarantee that the pitch will continue to be provided over the next three years, with most sites ensuring community use is available.
90. In general, no clubs report major issues with current ownership or lease agreements, Some clubs may aspire to acquire land through an asset transfer or long term lease, however, each club and site should be individually considered prior to a final decision being made.
91. Tenure of some sites does remain unsecure, notably at schools and academies which state their own policies and are more likely to restrict levels of community use. A reason for this may be that a school has questioned the profitability and benefits of community use, noting that the damage caused and the expense of staffing offsets any income.
92. Many sites owned by the District Council have been leased to Worcestershire FA which has, in turn, sub-leased or licensed those sites to clubs or leagues. Kidderminster & District Sunday League has a licence on Brown Westhead, Springfield Park and White Wickets. The League reports that although it has a licence on White Wickets the site is no longer used due to the reported poor quality of the site.

## ***Football pyramid demand***

93. Clubs within the step system must adhere to ground requirements set out by the FA. The higher the level of football being played the higher the requirements. Clubs cannot progress into the league above if the ground requirements do not meet the correct specifications. Ground grading assesses grounds from A to H, with 'A' being the requirements for Step 1 clubs. There are three clubs in Wyre Forest that play within the football pyramid:
  - ◀ Bewdley Town FC – Step 6
  - ◀ Kidderminster Harriers FC – Step 2
  - ◀ Stourport Swifts FC – Step 5
94. None of the aforementioned clubs reported concerns regarding whether they are meeting the league requirements at their respective home venues. It is therefore assumed that none of the three clubs has an issue with meeting ground grading standards.

## **2.3: Demand**

95. A total of 140 teams were identified as playing within Wyre Forest across 38 clubs. This consists of 32 men's teams, 4 women's teams, 54 youth boys' teams, eight youth girls' teams, one girl's mini soccer team and 41 mixed mini soccer teams.

# WYRE FOREST PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY ASSESSMENT REPORT

Table 2.5: Summary of competitive teams currently playing in Wyre Forest

Analysis area	No. of teams playing					Total
	Adult	Youth 11v11	Youth 9v9	Mini 7v7	Mini 5v5	
Bewdley	1	1	4	1	-	7
Kidderminster	8	9	2	10	14	43
Rural East	14	22	6	4	2	48
Rural West	3	3	-	-	-	6
Stourport	10	7	8	7	4	36
<b>Wyre Forest</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>140</b>

96. The majority of teams play in the Rural East Analysis Area (48 teams), with the fewest number of teams playing in the Bewdley Analysis Area (seven teams). This does not correspond with there being more pitches in the Kidderminster Analysis Area. However, a close inspection of the figures suggests that the majority of teams play in the Rural East and Kidderminster Areas which does correlate with these two areas having the most number of pitches. The most prevalent playing format in Wyre Forest is youth 11v11 football (42 teams).
97. The way in which people want to play football is changing, especially for adult men. There is a national trend of players opting to play small sided versions of the game as people want to be able to fit it into busy lifestyles. Shorter versions of the sport allow players to do this, and if this trend continues there is likely to be demand for more access to 3G pitches.

## **Football leagues**

98. In Wyre Forest the main football leagues supported by clubs from the area are:
- ◀ Kidderminster & District Sunday League
  - ◀ Mercian Fortis Junior Football League
  - ◀ Stourbridge & District Youth & Girls Football League
  - ◀ Stourport & District Youth Football League
99. The Kidderminster & District Sunday League has seen a decrease in the number of teams participating over the past few seasons. It currently has 63 teams across five divisions, where as in the 2014/15 season it had 71 teams across six divisions. It is suggested by the League that pitch quality across the District, a lack of interest and ancillary provision quality all contribute to this reduction in team numbers. The League recognises that it loses six teams per season, on average, whilst minimal additions offset some of the losses.
100. Both the Mercian Fortis Junior Football League and Stourbridge & District Youth & Girls Football League run concurrent boys' and girls' leagues. This is not the case in the Stourport & District Youth Football League which is a boys' only league.

# WYRE FOREST PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY ASSESSMENT REPORT

## ***Latent & unmet demand***

101. Unmet demand is existing demand that is not getting access to pitches. It is usually expressed, for example, when a team is already training but is unable to access a match pitch, or when a league has a waiting list due to a lack of pitch provision, which in turn is hindering the growth of the league. Latent demand is when clubs feel that a lack of pitches is preventing the creation of squads. No clubs report unmet or latent demand being an issue within Wyre Forest.

## ***Displaced demand***

102. Displaced demand refers to teams that are currently accessing pitches for their home fixtures or training outside of the area in which they are registered, normally because their pitch requirements cannot be met. Currently there is only one club registered in Wyre Forest that has a team playing fixtures outside of the area, Redman FC, which is displaced to compete in Worcestershire FA Summer League that operates on a central venue basis at Worcester University and Bromsgrove. However, as this is not due to a lack of pitch access, this is not accounted for within the supply and demand analysis.
103. There is also one team that reports being displaced out of Wyre Forest to access adequate training facilities. Sporting Rangers FC has a senior men's team which accesses provision at a school in Stourbridge (Dudley) for its training demand.

## ***Future demand***

104. Future demand can be defined in two ways, through participation increases and using population forecasts.

### *Population increases*

105. Team generation rates are used to calculate the number of teams likely to be generated in the future (2034) based on population growth. It is predicted that there will be a possible increase of six youth boys' teams, whilst participation increases within other age groups will be accommodated within existing squads.

*Table 2.6: Team generation rates (2034)*

Age group	Current population within age group	Current no. of teams	Team Generation Rate	Future population within age group	Predicted future number of teams	Additional teams that may be generated from the increased population
Senior Men (16-45)	16,618	32	1:519	16,326	31	0
Senior Women (16-45)	16,563	4	1:4141	15,592	3	0
Youth Boys (12-15)	3,119	54	1:58	3,495	60	6
Youth Girls (12-15)	2,890	8	1:361	3,195	8	0
Mini-Soccer Mixed (6-9)	4,330	42	1:103	4,364	42	0

# WYRE FOREST PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY ASSESSMENT REPORT

Table 2.7: Analysis area Team generation rates 2034

Age group	Additional teams that may be generated from the increased population (by Analysis Area)					
	Bewdley	Kidderminster	Rural East	Rural West	Stourport	Total <sup>5</sup>
Senior Men's (16-45)	0	0	0	0	0	0
Senior Women (16-45)	0	0	0	0	0	0
Youth Boys (12-15)	0	1	2	0	0	3
Youth Girls (12-15)	0	0	0	0	0	0
Youth Boys (10-11)	0	0	0	0	0	0
Youth Girls (10-11)	0	0	0	0	0	0
Mini-Soccer Mixed (8-9)	0	0	0	0	0	0
Mini-Soccer Mixed (6-7)	0	0	0	0	0	0

106. Team generation rates (TGRs) based on future population growth, by analysis area, indicate that participation is anticipated to increase for youth boys teams only. Forecasts suggest that participation increases are enough to amount to the creation of at least:

- ◀ 3 youth 11v11 boys' teams

107. TGRs are based exclusively on future population forecasts and do not account for societal factors or changes in the way people may wish to play sport. Similarly, TGRs cannot account for specific targeted development work within certain areas or focused towards certain groups, such as NGB initiatives or coaching within schools. For example, there is a focus on developing girl's football nationally which is likely to lead to more girls' teams in the future and therefore increased demand for pitches.

108. It is important to note that there has been a recent decrease nationally in participation at adult level and that the number of FA affiliated adult teams playing competitive football has dropped. Similarly, there has been a decline in the number of youth players making the transition from youth football to adult leagues.

### *Participation increases*

109. A number of clubs report aspirations to increase the number of teams they provide. Of the clubs which quantify their *potential* increase, there is a predicted growth of 16 teams equating to 0.5 adult, three youth 11v11, 2.5 youth 9v9 and two mini 5v5 match equivalent sessions.

<sup>5</sup> When applied District wide, team generation rates forecast the total new participants sufficient to create an additional 50 teams. However, participation increases are not sufficient to equate to the creation of whole teams in some Areas, for example in practice only four whole teams can be created from increases equivalent to 4.5 teams. Therefore, when team generation rates are applied on an Analysis Area level, in practice it is likely that 41 new teams can be created with residual demand from participants additional to this likely to form part of existing squads.

# WYRE FOREST PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY ASSESSMENT REPORT

Table 2.8: Potential team increases identified by clubs

Club	Analysis area	Future demand	Match equivalent sessions <sup>6</sup>	Pitch type
Sporting Rangers FC	Rural East	1 x mini 5v5	0.5	Mini 5v5
Cookley Sports FC	Rural East	2 x mini 5v5	1	Mini 5v5
		2 x youth 9v9	1	Youth 9v9
		2 x youth 11v11	1	Youth 11v11
Ferndale Youth FC	Rural East	1 x mini 5v5	0.5	Mini 5v5
Kidderminster Harriers DC	Stourport	2 x youth 9v9	1	Youth 9v9
		4 x youth 11v11	2	Youth 11v11
Areley Kings FC	Stourport	1 x adult	0.5	Adult
Rock Sports Youth FC	Rural West	1 x youth 9v9	0.5	Youth 9v9
<b>Totals</b>			<b>0.5</b>	<b>Adult</b>
			<b>5.5</b>	<b>Youth</b>
			<b>2</b>	<b>Mini</b>

110. The total future demand expressed amounts to eight match equivalent sessions, the majority of which is identified in the Stourport Analysis Areas (3.5).

## 2.4: Capacity analysis

111. The capacity for pitches to regularly provide for competitive play, training and other activity over a season is most often determined by quality. As a minimum, the quality and therefore the capacity of a pitch affects the playing experience and people's enjoyment of playing football. 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. Pitch quality is often influenced by weather conditions and drainage.
112. As a guide, The FA has set a standard number of matches that each grass pitch type should be able to accommodate without adversely affecting its current quality (pitch capacity). Taking into consideration the guidelines on capacity the following ratings were used in Wyre Forest:

Adult pitches		Youth pitches		Mini pitches	
Pitch quality	Matches per week	Pitch quality	Matches per week	Pitch quality	Matches per week
Good	3	Good	4	Good	6
Standard	2	Standard	2	Standard	4
Poor	1	Poor	1	Poor	2

113. Table 2.9 applies the above pitch ratings against the actual level of weekly play recorded to determine a capacity rating as follows:

<b>Potential capacity</b>	Play is below the level the site could sustain
<b>At capacity</b>	Play matches the level the site can sustain
<b>Overused</b>	Play exceeds the level the site can sustain

<sup>6</sup> Two teams require one pitch to account for playing on a home and away basis. Therefore 0.5 pitches can therefore be seen in the table where there is latent demand for one team.

# WYRE FOREST PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY ASSESSMENT REPORT

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## ***Education sites***

114. To account for curricular/extra-curricular use of education pitches it is likely that the current usage at such sites will need to be adjusted. This adjustment is generally dependent on the amount of play carried out and also the number of pitches on site. The only time this would not happen is when a school does not use its pitches at all and the sole use is community use.
115. For Wyre Forest, pitch usage at primary schools, secondary schools, academies, colleges and independent schools has been adjusted by a single match equivalent session per pitch to account for curriculum use.

## ***Peak time***

116. Spare capacity can only be considered as actual spare capacity if pitches are available at peak time. In Wyre Forest, peak time for adult and youth 11v11 size pitches is considered to be Sunday PM, as this is when the majority of teams access this pitch type. For youth 9v9 and mini pitches peak time is considered to be Saturday AM.

## WYRE FOREST PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY ASSESSMENT REPORT

Table 2.9: Football pitch capacity analysis

Site ID	Site name	Postcode	Available for community use?	Type of tenure <sup>7</sup>	Analysis area	Pitch type	Pitch size	Over marked?	Agreed quality rating	No. of pitches	Current play (match sessions)	Site capacity <sup>8</sup> (match sessions)	Overused (+), At Capacity (/) or Potential to Accommodate additional play (-)	Pitches available in peak period	Comments
1	Aggborough Stadium	DY10 1NB	Yes	Secure	Kidderminster	Adult		No	Standard	1	1	2	-1	1	Actual spare capacity of one match equivalent session
2	Areley Kings Sports Ground	DY13 8AB	Yes	Secure	Stourport	Adult		No	Standard	2	3.5	4	-0.5	0.5	Actual spare capacity of 0.5 match equivalent sessions
						Mini	(5v5)	No	Standard	1	1	4	-3	0	No actual spare capacity
						Mini	(7v7)	No	Standard	1	1	4	-3	0	No actual spare capacity
						Youth	(9v9)	No	Standard	1	1.5	2	-0.5	0	No actual spare capacity
4	Baxter Business and Enterprise College	DY11 5PQ	No	Unsecure	Kidderminster	Mini	(7v7)	No	Standard	1	2	4	-2	0	No actual spare capacity
6	Bewdley Leisure Centre	DY12 1BL	Yes	Secure	Bewdley	Adult		Yes/No	Standard	2	2	4	-2	1.5	Actual spare capacity of 1.5 match equivalent sessions
						Youth	(9v9)	Yes	Standard	1	1	2	-1	0	No actual spare capacity
7	Bewdley Town Football Club	DY12 2TJ	Yes	Secure	Rural West	Adult		No	Poor	2	2.5	2	0.5	0.5	Overplayed pitch
9	Birmingham Metropolitan College (Centre of Sporting Excellence)	DY11 7DY	Yes	Secure	Stourport	Adult		No	Poor	4	8.5	4 - 12	4.5	3	Overplayed pitch
						Mini	(7v7)	No	Poor	1	2	2 - 6	-	0	Pitch is at capacity
						Youth	(9v9)	No	Poor	2	3.5	2 - 4	1.5	0.5	Overplayed pitch
12	Brown Westhead	DY10 3PX	Yes	Secure	Rural East	Adult		Yes/No	Standard	6	7.5	12	-4.5	2.5	Actual spare capacity of 2.5 match equivalent sessions
						Mini	(7v7)	No	Good	2	1	12	-11	1	Actual spare capacity of one match equivalent session
						Youth	(9v9)	Yes	Standard	2	1.5	4	-2.5	0.5	Actual spare capacity of 0.5 match equivalent sessions
13	Chaddesley Corbett Sports Ground	DY10 4RE	Yes	Secure	Rural East	Adult		No	Standard	1	1	2	-1	1	Actual spare capacity of one match equivalent session
14	Chester Road Cricket Ground	DY10 1TH	Yes	Secure	Kidderminster	Mini	(7v7)	No	Poor	2	4.5	4	0.5	0.5	Overplayed pitch
						Youth	(9v9)	No	Poor	2	1	2	-1	1.5	Actual spare capacity discounted due to exceeding potential capacity

<sup>7</sup> Unless local information suggests otherwise it can be assumed that the availability of all pitches in Council, town and parish council and sports club ownership will be secure.

<sup>8</sup> Based on pitch quality The FA recommends a maximum number of match sessions to be accommodate per pitch type. Please refer to Section 2.4 for the full breakdown.

**WYRE FOREST PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY  
ASSESSMENT REPORT**

Site ID	Site name	Postcode	Available for community use?	Type of tenure <sup>7</sup>	Analysis area	Pitch type	Pitch size	Over marked?	Agreed quality rating	No. of pitches	Current play (match sessions)	Site capacity <sup>8</sup> (match sessions)	Overused (+), At Capacity (/) or Potential to Accommodate additional play (-)	Pitches available in peak period	Comments
16	Cookley Playing Fields	DY10 3RH	Yes	Secure	Rural East	Adult		No	Standard	2	5.5	4	1.5	0	Overplayed pitch
						Mini	(7v7)	No	Standard	2	1.5	8	-6.5	0.5	Actual spare capacity of 0.5 match equivalent sessions
						Youth	(9v9)	No	Standard	1	1.5	2	-0.5	0	No actual spare capacity
17	Far Forest Society Pavilion and Sports Ground	DY14 9DB	Yes	Secure	Rural West	Adult		Yes/No	Poor	2	0.5	2	-1.5	2	Actual spare capacity discounted due to exceeding potential capacity
						Mini	(7v7)	Yes	Poor	1	0	2	-2	1	Actual spare capacity discounted due to poor pitch quality
19	Franche Primary School	DY11 5QB	Yes-unused	Unsecure	Kidderminster	Mini	(5v5)	No	Standard	2	2	8	-6	2	Actual spare capacity discounted as it is an unused school site
							(7v7)	No	Standard	2	2	8	-6	2	Actual spare capacity discounted as it is an unused school site
						Youth	(9v9)	No	Standard	2	2	4	-2	2	Actual spare capacity discounted as it is an unused school site
20	Habberley Sports Field	DY11 6AA	Yes	Secure	Kidderminster	Adult		Yes	Standard	2	4.5	4	0.5	0	Overplayed pitch
						Mini	(5v5)	No	Standard	3	4.5	12	7.5	0	No actual spare capacity
							(7v7)	Yes	Standard	3	2	8	-6	0	No actual spare capacity
						Youth	(9v9)	Yes	Standard	4	1	8	-7	2	Actual spare capacity of two match equivalent sessions
21	Heathfield School	DY10 3QE	No	Unsecure	Rural East	Mini	(7v7)	No	Standard	1	1	4	-3	1	Actual spare capacity discounted as site is unavailable for community use
						Youth	(11v11)	No	Standard	2	2	4	-2	2	Actual spare capacity discounted as site is unavailable for community use
							(9v9)	No	Standard	1	1	2	-1	1	Actual spare capacity discounted as site is unavailable for community use
23	King Charles I Secondary School	DY10 1XA	No	Unsecure	Kidderminster	Adult		No	Good	1	1	3	-2	1	Actual spare capacity discounted as site is unavailable for community use

**WYRE FOREST PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY  
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Site ID	Site name	Postcode	Available for community use?	Type of tenure <sup>7</sup>	Analysis area	Pitch type	Pitch size	Over marked?	Agreed quality rating	No. of pitches	Current play (match sessions)	Site capacity <sup>8</sup> (match sessions)	Overused (+), At Capacity (/) or Potential to Accommodate additional play (-)	Pitches available in peak period	Comments
24	King Charles I Secondary School (Lower Site)	DY10 3ED	No	Unsecure	Kidderminster	Adult		No	Good	1	1	3	-2	1	Actual spare capacity discounted as site is unavailable for community use
						Youth	(9v9)	No	Good	1	1	4	-3	1	Actual spare capacity discounted as site is unavailable for community use
26	Morgan Advanced Ceramics Ltd	DY13 0DW	Yes	Secure	Stourport	Adult		No	Poor	1	0.5	1	-0.5	1	Actual spare capacity discounted due to exceeding potential capacity
27	Springfield Park	DY10 2PS	Yes	Secure	Kidderminster	Adult		No	Standard	2	0.5	4	-3.5	2	Actual spare capacity of two match equivalent sessions
28	St Annes C.E. Primary School	DY12 2UQ	Yes	Secure	Bewdley	Mini	(7v7)	No	Standard	1	1.5	4	-2.5	0.5	Actual spare capacity of 0.5 match equivalent sessions
						Youth	(9v9)	No	Standard	1	2	2	-	0.5	Pitch is at capacity
33	Stourport High School	DY13 8AX	Yes	Unsecure	Stourport	Youth	(11v11)	No	Standard	2	2.5	4	-1.5	1.5	Actual spare capacity of 1.5 match equivalent sessions
36	Stourport Swifts FC	DY13 0AA	Yes	Secure	Stourport	Adult		No	Standard	1	1	2	-1	1	Actual spare capacity of one match equivalent session
40	White Wickets Sports Fields	DY11 5AL	Yes - unused	Secure	Kidderminster	Adult		No	Poor	1	0	1	-1	1	Actual spare capacity is discounted due to the poor pitch quality.
									Standard	1	0	2	-2	2	Actual spare capacity of two match equivalent sessions
41	Wilden Top	DY13 9JF	Yes	Secure	Stourport	Adult		Yes	Standard	1	0.5	2	-1.5	1	Actual spare capacity of one match equivalent session
						Mini	(7v7)	No	Standard	1	2.5	4	-1.5	0	No actual spare capacity
						Youth	(9v9)	Yes	Standard	1	1	2	-1	1	Actual spare capacity of one match equivalent session
43	Wolverley Ce Secondary School	DY11 5XQ	Yes	Unsecure	Rural East	Adult		No	Standard	1	1.5	2	-0.5	1	Actual spare capacity discounted due to exceeding potential capacity
						Mini	(7v7)	No	Standard	2	2.5	8	-5.5	2	Actual spare capacity of two match equivalent sessions

**WYRE FOREST PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY  
ASSESSMENT REPORT**

Site ID	Site name	Postcode	Available for community use?	Type of tenure <sup>7</sup>	Analysis area	Pitch type	Pitch size	Over marked?	Agreed quality rating	No. of pitches	Current play (match sessions)	Site capacity <sup>8</sup> (match sessions)	Overused (+), At Capacity (/) or Potential to Accommodate additional play (-)	Pitches available in peak period	Comments
44	Wolverley Playing Fields	DY11 5TR	Yes	Secure	Rural East	Adult		Yes/No	Standard	2	3.5	4	-0.5	1.5	Actual spare capacity discounted due to exceeding potential capacity
						Youth	(9v9)	Yes	Standard	1	0	2	-2	1	Actual spare capacity of one match equivalent session
46	Bewdley School and Sixth Form Centre	DY12 1BL	Yes-unused	Unsecure	Bewdley	Adult		No	Standard	2	2	4	-2	2	Actual spare capacity discounted as it is an unused school site
47	Lea Castle Drive	DY10 3PU	Yes	Secure	Kidderminster	Adult		No	Standard	3	0.5	6	-5.5	3	Actual spare capacity of three match equivalent sessions
48	Cookley Seabright Primary School	DY10 3TA	No	Unsecure	Kidderminster	Mini	(7v7)	No	Standard	1	1	4	-3	1	Actual spare capacity discounted as site is unavailable for community use
49	St Catherine's Primary School	DY11 5HP	Yes-unused	Unsecure	Kidderminster	Mini	(7v7)	No	Standard	1	1	4	-3	1	Actual spare capacity discounted as it is an unused school site
50	St John's CE Primary School	DY11 6AP	No	Unsecure	Kidderminster	Youth	(9v9)	No	Standard	1	1	2	-1	1	Actual spare capacity discounted as site is unavailable for community use
51	Burlish Park Primary School	DY13 8LA	Yes-unused	Unsecure	Stourport	Mini	(5v5)	No	Standard	1	1	4	-3	1	Actual spare capacity discounted as it is an unused school site
						Mini	(7v7)	No	Standard	1	1	4	-3	1	Actual spare capacity discounted as it is an unused school site
53	Sutton Park Community Primary School	DY11 6PH	No	Unsecure	Kidderminster	Mini	(7v7)	No	Standard	1	1	4	-3	1	Actual spare capacity discounted as site is unavailable for community use
54	Hartlebury C of E Primary School	DY11 7TD	No	Unsecure	Kidderminster	Mini	(5v5)	No	Standard	1	1	4	-3	1	Actual spare capacity discounted as site is unavailable for community use

# WYRE FOREST PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY ASSESSMENT REPORT

## 2.5: Supply and demand analysis

### *Spare capacity*

117. The next step is to ascertain whether or not any identified 'potential capacity' can be deemed 'actual spare capacity'. There may be situations where, although a site is highlighted as potentially able to accommodate some additional play, this should not be recorded as spare capacity against the site. For example, a site may be managed to regularly operate slightly below full capacity to ensure that it can cater for a number of regular friendly matches and activities that take place but are difficult to quantify on a weekly basis.
118. The previous table considers site by site the capacity of the pitches to accommodate further play and for them to be deemed as having 'actual spare capacity'. A pitch is only said to have 'actual spare capacity' if it is available for community use and available at the peak time for that format of the game. Any pitch not meeting these criteria has been discounted.
119. Pitches that are of a poor quality are not deemed to have actual spare capacity due to the already low carrying capacity of the pitches. Any identified spare capacity should be retained in order to relieve the pitches of use, which in turn will aid the improvement of pitch quality. It must also be noted that teams do not want to play on poor quality pitches.
120. School sites that are currently available for community use but unused are also not considered to have actual spare capacity as the full existence of these pitches cannot be determined. Further consultation with the providers is therefore recommended to fully understand community use aspects, i.e. are the pitches available during peak time and are they available throughout the playing season.
121. Actual spare capacity has been aggregated up by area and by pitch type.

*Table 2.10: Actual spare capacity summary*

Analysis area	Actual spare capacity (match sessions per week)				
	Adult	Youth (11v11)	Youth (9v9)	Mini (7v7)	Mini (5v5)
Bewdley	1.5	-	-	0.5	-
Kidderminster	8	-	2	-	-
Rural East	3.5	-	1.5	3.5	-
Rural West	-	-	-	-	-
Stourport	2.5	1.5	1	-	-
<b>Wyre Forest</b>	<b>15.5</b>	<b>1.5</b>	<b>4.5</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>-</b>

122. The table shows a total of 25.5 match equivalent sessions of actual spare capacity across Wyre Forest with the most expressed on adult pitches and in the Kidderminster Analysis Area.

### *Overplay*

123. Overplay occurs when there is more play accommodated on a site than it is able to sustain (which can often be due to the low carrying capacity of the pitches). In Wyre Forest, 14 pitches are overplayed across five sites by a total of nine match equivalent sessions. Six of the match equivalent sessions of overplay are one pitch at Birmingham Metropolitan College (Centre of Sporting Excellence), with these pitches being poor quality with significant drainage issues; and being subject to both curriculum use in addition to community use by clubs such as Kidderminster Harriers DC.

# WYRE FOREST PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY ASSESSMENT REPORT

124. Of the overplayed pitches, ten are assessed as poor quality across three sites, accounting for seven match equivalent sessions. An improvement in quality at these sites will result in a reduction of overplay.

Table 2.11: Overplay on pitches

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Pitch type	No. of pitches	Capacity rating
7	Bewdley Town Football Club	Rural West	Adult	2	0.5
9	Birmingham Metropolitan College (Centre of Sporting Excellence)	Stourport	Adult	4	4.5
			Youth 9v9	2	1.5
14	Chester Road Cricket Ground	Kidderminster	Mini 7v7	2	0.5
16	Cookley Playing Fields	Rural East	Adult	2	1.5
20	Haberley Sports Field	Kidderminster	Adult	2	0.5

125. The majority of overplay occurs on adult pitches (seven) with no recorded overplay on mini 5v5 or youth 11v11 pitches. More overplay occurs in the Stourport Analysis Area (six) than any other analysis area, which is understandable considering that 36 teams are based there but there are only 21 pitches available for community use.

Table 2.12: Summary of overplay

Analysis area	Overplay (match sessions per week)				
	Adult	Youth (11v11)	Youth (9v9)	Mini (7v7)	Mini (5v5)
Bewdley	-	-	-	-	-
Kidderminster	0.5	-	-	0.5	-
Rural East	1.5	-	-	-	-
Rural West	0.5	-	-	-	-
Stourport	4.5	-	1.5	-	-
<b>Wyre Forest</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>1.5</b>	<b>0.5</b>	<b>-</b>

## 2.6: Conclusions

126. Having considered supply and demand, the tables below identify current demand (i.e. spare capacity taking away overplay and any latent/ displaced demand) in each of the analysis areas for the different pitch types, based on match equivalent sessions. Future demand is based on team generation rates (broken down by analysis area) which are driven by population increases as well as club development plans to increase their number of teams.

Table 2.13: Spare capacity/ overplay of adult pitches

Analysis area	Actual spare capacity <sup>9</sup>	Demand (match equivalent sessions)			
		Overplay	Current position	Future demand	Total
Bewdley	1.5	-	1.5	-	1.5
Kidderminster	8	0.5	7.5	-	7.5
Rural East	3.5	1.5	2	-	2
Rural West	-	0.5	0.5	-	0.5
Stourport	2.5	4.5	2	0.5	2.5
<b>Wyre Forest</b>	<b>15.5</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8.5</b>	<b>0.5</b>	<b>8</b>

<sup>9</sup> In match equivalent sessions

## WYRE FOREST PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY ASSESSMENT REPORT

127. Currently, there are 8.5 match equivalent sessions of actual spare capacity across Wyre Forest, with the highest amount being in Kidderminster (7.5 match sessions). However, two analysis areas, Rural West and Stourport express a shortfall due to overplay (2.5 match sessions in total). With future demand factored in, overall spare capacity amounts to 8 match sessions on adult pitches in Wyre Forest.

Table 2.14: Spare capacity/ overplay of youth 11v11 pitches

Analysis area	Actual spare capacity <sup>10</sup>	Demand (match equivalent sessions)			
		Overplay	Current position	Future demand	Total
Bewdley	-	-	-	-	-
Kidderminster	-	-	-	0.5	0.5
Rural East	-	-	-	1	1
Rural West	-	-	-	-	-
Stourport	1.5	-	1.5	2	0.5
<b>Wyre Forest</b>	<b>1.5</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>1.5</b>	<b>3.5</b>	<b>2</b>

128. Currently, there is just 1.5 match equivalent sessions of actual spare capacity across Wyre Forest, with most analysis areas having the right amount of pitches to accommodate current demand and the spare capacity of 1.5 match sessions expressed in Stourport. With future demand factored in, there become shortfalls on youth 11v11 pitches in Kidderminster, Rural East and Stourport analysis areas totalling two match equivalent sessions.
129. In addition, please note that a further 39 youth 11v11 teams are recorded as playing on adult pitches, meaning the shortfall of youth 11v11 pitches is exacerbated. As such, there is a clear need for an increase in youth 11v11 provision in order for this play to be transferred on to the correct pitch size. This will in turn reduce overplay on adult pitches, as will pitch quality improvements.

Table 2.15: Spare capacity/ overplay of youth 9v9 pitches

Analysis area	Actual spare capacity <sup>11</sup>	Demand (match equivalent sessions)			
		Overplay	Current total	Future demand	Total
Bewdley	-	-	-	-	-
Kidderminster	2	-	2	-	2
Rural East	1.5	-	1.5	1	0.5
Rural West	-	-	-	0.5	0.5
Stourport	1	1.5	0.5	1	1.5
<b>Wyre Forest</b>	<b>4.5</b>	<b>1.5</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>2.5</b>	<b>0.5</b>

130. The current picture shows that there is an overall spare capacity of 3 match sessions on 9v9 pitches, with Stourport having a small shortfall of 0.5 match sessions. Factoring in future demand, this spare capacity reduces to 0.5 match sessions, with Rural West and Stourport showing shortfalls.

<sup>10</sup> In match equivalent sessions

<sup>11</sup> In match equivalent sessions

# WYRE FOREST PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY ASSESSMENT REPORT

Table 2.16: Spare capacity/ overplay of mini 7v7 pitches

Analysis area	Actual spare capacity <sup>12</sup>	Demand (match equivalent sessions)			
		Overplay	Current total	Future demand	Total
Bewdley	0.5	-	0.5	-	0.5
Kidderminster	-	0.5	0.5	-	0.5
Rural East	3.5	-	3.5	-	3.5
Rural West	-	-	-	-	-
Stourport	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Wyre Forest</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>0.5</b>	<b>3.5</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>3.5</b>

131. There is current spare capacity overall on 7v7 pitches amounting to 3.5 match session, however, Rural West and Stourport are operating at capacity and Kidderminster is slightly overplayed. As there is no future demand identified, the picture remains the same in the future.

Table 2.17: Spare capacity/ overplay of mini 5v5 pitches

Analysis area	Actual spare capacity <sup>13</sup>	Demand (match equivalent sessions)			
		Overplay	Current total	Future demand	Total
Bewdley	-	-	-	-	-
Kidderminster	-	-	-	-	-
Rural East	-	-	-	2	2
Rural West	-	-	-	-	-
Stourport	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Wyre Forest</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>

132. The current situation for mini 5v5 pitches is that all areas are played to capacity with no spare capacity or overplay identified. However, when accounting for future demand there is a shortfall of 2 match sessions overall due to overplay in Rural East.

## Summary

133. Taking into account the above tables, the table below summarises the level of spare capacity and shortfalls on each pitch type across Wyre Forest as a whole.

Table 2.18: Spare capacity/overplay summary in Wyre Forest

Pitch type	Demand (match equivalent sessions)				
	Actual spare capacity <sup>14</sup>	Overplay	Current total	Future demand	Total
Adult	15.5	7	8.5	0.5	8
Youth 11v11	1.5	-	1.5	3.5	2
Youth 9v9	4.5	1.5	3	2.5	0.5
Mini 7v7	4	0.5	3.5	-	3.5
Mini 5v5	-	-	-	2	2

<sup>12</sup> In match equivalent sessions

<sup>13</sup> In match equivalent sessions

<sup>14</sup> In match equivalent sessions

# WYRE FOREST PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY ASSESSMENT REPORT

134. Although there are no overall current shortfalls in Wyre Forest, there are shortfalls in some analysis areas for some pitch types. However, when taking into account future demand there are overall shortfalls on youth 11v11 and mini 5v5 pitch types.
135. Despite current spare capacity it should be considered that some of the spare capacity exists on school pitches which may not remain secure in the longer term. Despite spare capacity there is still a need to improve pitch quality as a large number of sites were assessed as poor or standard.

## Football – grass pitch summary

- ◀ The audit identifies a total of 97 grass football pitches within Wyre Forest across 33 sites. Of these, 85 are available, at some level, for community use across 25 sites.
- ◀ Many youth 11v11 teams (39) are playing on adult pitches, which may in part be due to a lack of youth 11v11 pitches rather than a preference for adult pitches. It may also be due to the Council not differentiating between adult and youth 11v11 pitches on its sites, allowing greater flexibility in relation to seasonal lettings.
- ◀ Of the pitches available for community use, two pitches are assessed as good quality, 65 as standard quality and 18 are deemed to be poor quality.
- ◀ In Wyre Forest there are number of football pitches overmarked onto other pitch types, whether this be other football pitch types or on cricket outfield. Overmarking of pitches can cause notable damage to the surface quality and lead to overuse beyond recommended capacity.
- ◀ In general, users report that there is an adequate standard of ancillary provision servicing sites in Wyre Forest although some sites do suffer from vandalism, for example, at Lea Castle Drive and at Stourport Swifts FC.
- ◀ No clubs report a concern regarding security of tenure in relation to an existing site or a preferred home venue.
- ◀ Many sites owned by the District Council have been leased to Worcestershire FA which has, in turn, sub-leased or licensed those sites to clubs or leagues. Kidderminster & District Sunday League has a licence on Brown Westhead, Springfield Park and White Wickets.
- ◀ A total of 140 teams were identified as playing within Wyre Forest across 38 clubs. This consists of 32 men's teams, four women's teams, 54 youth boys' teams, eight youth girls' teams, one girl's mini soccer team and 41 mixed mini soccer teams.
- ◀ There are three clubs in Wyre Forest that play within the football pyramid and must adhere to ground requirements set out by the FA; Bewdley Town, Kidderminster Harriers and Stourport Swifts.
- ◀ Applying the Wyre Forest team generation rates by analysis area predicts growth of three youth boys' teams by 2034. Further to this, clubs report aspirations for future teams amounting to eight match equivalent sessions, the majority of which is identified in the Stourport Analysis Areas (3.5).
- ◀ There is a total of 25.5 match equivalent sessions of actual spare capacity across Wyre Forest with the most expressed on adult pitches and in the Kidderminster Analysis Area.
- ◀ In Wyre Forest, 14 pitches are overplayed across five sites by a total of nine match equivalent sessions. Six of the match equivalent sessions of overplay are one pitches at Birmingham Metropolitan College (Centre of Sporting Excellence), with these pitches being poor quality with significant drainage issues; and being subject to both curriculum use in addition to community use by clubs such as Kidderminster Harriers DC.
- ◀ Although there are no overall current shortfalls in Wyre Forest, there are shortfalls in some analysis areas for some pitch types. However, when taking into account future demand there are overall shortfalls on youth 11v11 and mini 5v5 pitch types.
- ◀ Despite current spare capacity it should be considered that some of the spare capacity exists on school pitches which may not remain secure in the longer term. Despite spare capacity there is still a need to improve pitch quality, particularly where assessed as poor.

# WYRE FOREST PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY ASSESSMENT REPORT

## PART 3: THIRD GENERATION TURF (3G) ARTIFICIAL GRASS PITCHES (AGPS)

### 3.1 Introduction

136. 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 at mini soccer and youth level. The preferred surface is medium pile 3G (55-60mm). Only competition up to (but not including) regional standard can take place on short pile 3G (40mm).
137. World Rugby 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 union. The artificial surface standards identified in Regulation 22 allows matches to be played on surfaces that meet the standard, meaning full contact activity, including tackling, rucking, mauling and lineouts can take place. For rugby league, the equivalent is known as RFL Community Standard.

Table 3.1: 3G type and sport suitability

Surface	Category	Recommended sports	Comments
Rubber crumb	Long pile 3G	Rugby union Rugby league Football	Rugby (if compliant to World Rugby regulation 22 and/or RFL Community Standard) and football surface
Rubber crumb	Medium pile 3G	Football	Performance standard to meet FIFA Quality or FIFA Quality Pro after FIFA or IMS testing. FIFA Quality PRO is generally for clubs on Step 1 or Step 2 of the football pyramid and is not recommended for heavy community use (as it is a higher pitch quality). FIFA Quality is more suitable for high levels of demand and places more emphasis on the product's ability to sustain acceptable performance.
Rubber crumb	Short pile 3G	Football Hockey (training only)	Acceptable surface for some competitive football and can be used for hockey training

### 3.2 Current provision

138. A full size 3G pitch is considered by the FA to measure at least 100x64 metres (106x70 metres including run offs). There are two full size 3G pitches in Wyre Forest and both comply with this specification. Both pitches are floodlit, available for community use and located on education sites. Both pitches are FIFA approved.

Table 3.2: Full size 3G pitches in Wyre Forest

Site ID	Site name	Postcode	Analysis area	Pitch type	Quality	On the FA register?
4	Baxter Business and Enterprise College	DY11 5PQ	Kidderminster	Medium Pile 3G (55-60mm)	Standard	FIFA approved
23	King Charles I Secondary School	DY10 1XA	Kidderminster	Medium Pile 3G	Standard	FIFA approved

# WYRE FOREST PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY ASSESSMENT REPORT

139. In addition, there are six small sided 3G pitches in the District. These pitches are generally not suitable for match play but can be used to accommodate training demand, small-sided commercial leagues and social use, this is usually dependent on whether the pitch is floodlit.
140. A significant amount of training demand takes place on sand based AGPs, such as those located at Stourport Sports Club. Although not suitable for match play, this surface type can be effectively used for training demand. More information on sand based pitches is covered within Part 6. Hockey.

*Table 3.3: Additional supply of 3G pitches*

Site ID	Site	Postcode	Analysis area	Pitch type	Size	Floodlit?
52	Wyre Forest Leisure Centre	DY11 7DT	Kidderminster	Medium Pile 3G	7v7	Yes
				Medium Pile 3G	5v5	Yes
				Medium Pile 3G	5v5	Yes
				Medium Pile 3G	5v5	Yes
				Medium Pile 3G	5v5	Yes
				Medium Pile 3G	5v5	Yes

### **Availability**

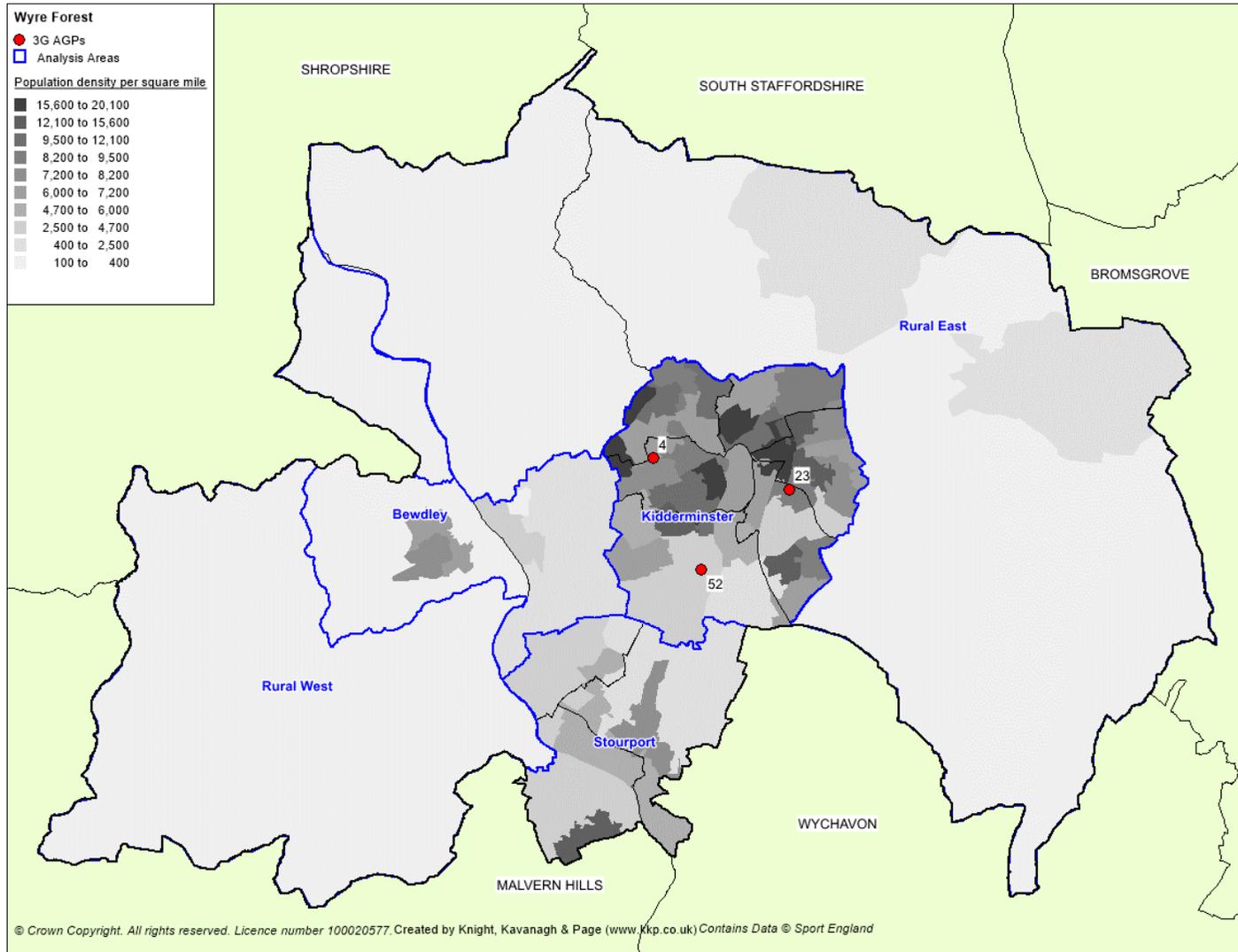
141. As the two full size pitches are located at education sites it is believed that school/college use takes president in the daytime and that pitches are then available in the evenings and at weekends for community use. The pitch at King Charles I Secondary School has limited opening times for evenings, with a noise abatement order restricting opening time up to 8pm.

### **Quality**

142. The carpet of an AGP usually lasts for approximately ten years and it is recommended that a sinking fund is put into place to enable long term sustainability, ongoing repairs and future refurbishment beyond this time period.
143. All pitches in Wyre Forest have been built or refurbished within the last ten years and each has been assessed as standard quality.

# WYRE FOREST PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY ASSESSMENT REPORT

Figure 3.1: Location of all 3G pitches in Wyre Forest



# WYRE FOREST PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY ASSESSMENT REPORT

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## 3.3 Demand

144. Both full size 3G pitches currently servicing Wyre Forest are reported as operating at or close to capacity during midweek at desirable times, especially in the winter. Furthermore, clubs report the need for additional training facilities.

### *Football*

145. The FA considers high quality 3G pitches as an essential tool in promoting coach and player development. The pitches can support intensive use and as such are great assets for football use. Primarily, such facilities have been installed for social use and training, however, they are increasingly used for competition, which The FA wholly supports.

### *Training demand*

146. Getting access to good quality, affordable training facilities is a problem for many clubs throughout the country. In the winter months, midweek training is only possible at floodlit facilities.
147. The FA's long term ambition is to provide every affiliated team in England the opportunity to train once per week on a floodlit 3G surface, together with priority access for every Charter Standard Community Club through a partnership agreement. In order to calculate the number of football teams a 3G pitch can service for training, peak time access is considered to be from 18:00 until 22:00 Tuesday-Thursday resulting in an overall peak period of 12 hours per week. Mondays and Fridays are not included within this calculation as it is considered that most teams do not want to train in such close proximity to a weekend match.
148. Full size 3G pitches are divided into thirds or into quarters for training purposes meaning they can accommodate either three or four teams per hour and either 36 or 48 teams per week (during the peak training period). Based on an average of these numbers it is therefore estimated that 42 teams can be accommodated on one full size 3G pitch for training.
149. As there are 140 teams currently playing in Wyre Forest this means there is a demand for four full size 3G pitches (rounded up from 3.3). When considering future demand (based on population increases and future demand expressed by clubs), there is a demand for four full size pitches (rounded up from 3.9), which means a current shortfall of two pitches.

### *Moving match play to 3G pitches*

150. Improving pitch quality is one way to increase the capacity at sites but given the cost of doing such work and the continued maintenance required (and associated costs) alternatives need to be considered that can offer a more sustainable model for the future of football. The alternative to grass pitches is the use of 3G pitches for competitive matches.
151. In order for competitive matches to be played on 3G pitches, the pitch should be FA tested and approved and added to the FA pitch register, which can be found at: <http://3g.thefa.me.uk/>.

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152. Pitches can also undergo FIFA testing to become a FIFA Quality pitch (previously FIFA One Star) or a FIFA Quality Pro pitch (previously FIFA Two Star), with pitches commonly constructed, installed and tested in situ to achieve either accreditation. This comes after FIFA announced changes to 3G performance in October 2015 following consultation with member associations and licenced laboratories. The changes are part of FIFA's continued ambition to drive up performance standard in the industry and the implications are that all 3G pitches built through the FA framework will be constructed to meet the new performance criteria.
153. The changes from FIFA One Star to FIFA Quality will have minimal impact on the current hours of use guidelines, which suggests that One Star pitches place more emphasis on the product's ability to sustain acceptable performance and can typically be used for 60-85 hours per week with a lifespan of 20,000 cycles. In contrast, pitches built to FIFA Quality Pro performance standards are unlikely to provide the hours of use that some FIFA Two Star products have guaranteed in the past (previously 30-40 hours per week with a lifespan of 5,000 cycles). Typically, a FIFA Quality Pro pitch will be able to accommodate only 20-30 hours per week with appropriate maintenance due to strict performance measurements; however, in recent years, manufacturers have developed products capable of sustaining 50-60 hours per week, thereby offering a viable business model for many providers.
154. Clubs playing in the football pyramid on 3G pitches meeting FIFA One Star or Two Star guidelines will still be expected to certify their pitches annually, however, if any pitch replacement takes place the Club will need to meet the new FIFA performance criteria of FIFA Quality/Quality Pro.
155. To stay on the FA register, pitches below the national league pyramid require FA testing every three years. In Wyre Forest, the two full sized 3G pitches have undergone testing and are therefore FA approved.
156. Using a model developed by the FA the following scenario sets out the number of 3G pitches that would be required if all of the competitive mini and 9v9 teams were moved across to 3G. First is the need to ascertain the number of teams playing and when:

*Table S.1: Number of mini and 9v9 teams playing competitively*

Pitch type	Pitch size	Peak period	No. of teams
Youth	9v9	Saturday AM	22
Mini	7v7	Saturday AM	22
Mini	5v5	Saturday AM	20
<b>Total</b>			<b>64</b>

157. This is then translated in to the number of 3G pitches required:

*Table S.2: Number of 3G AGPs that may be required*

Format	No Teams per time (x)	No matches at PEAK TIME (y)= x/2	3G units per match (z)	Total units required formats (A)=(y)*(z)	3G pitches required B= (A)/64
5v5	20	10	4	40	<b>0.6</b>
7v7	22	11	8	88	<b>1.4</b>
9v9	22	11	10	110	<b>1.7</b>
Total:					<b>3.7</b>

# WYRE FOREST PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY ASSESSMENT REPORT

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158. In order to accommodate all of the mini and 9v9 match play on 3G pitches there would be a need for **four AGPs** across the District.
159. The approach/assumptions to the calculations in the table above are as follows:
- ◀ A team playing a 'home' match every other week - therefore dividing the number of teams by two with the result rounded up to provide a figure for the number of matches a week during the peak period (Table S.2 Column y).
  - ◀ A 3G pitch being available for four hours a day during the peak period (e.g. 10am to 2pm). Therefore, all demand being programmed over the four hour period.
  - ◀ Using a unit measure which can be applied to the different formats of the game to quantify how a pitch can be used during this four hour period (Table S.2 Column z). One unit is taken as equating to a quarter of a full size 3G AGP for 15 minutes. Therefore, a full size 3G AGP provides four units per 15 minutes and 16 units per hour. Across the four hour period this totals a capacity of 64 units (16 units per hour x 4 hours).
160. It must also be noted that, whilst smaller size pitches are not factored into the above calculations, they can be used to accommodate some demand. If all existing small size 3G pitches also became FA registered to host competitive matches, the need for more full size 3G pitches would reduce.

## ***Rugby***

161. At present there are no World Rugby compliant 3G pitches in Wyre Forest. None of the rugby unions clubs in the area utilise an artificial surface for any demand, training or match play. However, should a compliant 3G pitch be established in the area local rugby union clubs could utilise some capacity for training demand, reducing overplay on existing rugby union pitches.

## **3.4 Supply and demand analysis**

162. The current supply of (two) full size 3G pitches is currently at capacity. The FA model suggests that to meet training demand there is a current need for four full size community available pitches within Wyre Forest. There are currently two and although there is a network of smaller 3G pitches which support the stock there is a clear need for more 3G pitches to be developed.
163. Priority should therefore be placed on the creation of new full size 3G pitches in order to reduce shortfalls. Additionally, the current pitch stock requires sustaining. To that end, providers are encouraged to put sinking funds in place to ensure future refurbishment and it is recommended that all new and existing pitches undergo FA testing every three years to remain or become FA approved to host competitive matches.

# WYRE FOREST PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY ASSESSMENT REPORT

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## **3G summary**

- ◀ There are two, standard quality, full size 3G pitches within Wyre Forest, both of which are available to the community, floodlit and FIFA approved.
- ◀ There are also six smaller size 3G pitches in the District.
- ◀ Both full size 3G pitches currently servicing Wyre Forest are reported as operating at or close to capacity.
- ◀ In order to satisfy current and future training demand, there is a need for four full size 3G pitches.
- ◀ Moving all competitive mini and 9v9 football matches from grass pitches to 3G pitches would require four full size 3G pitches.
- ◀ Priority should be placed on the creation of new full size 3G pitches in order to reduce shortfalls and the current pitch stock requires sustaining.

# WYRE FOREST PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY ASSESSMENT REPORT

## PART 4: RUGBY UNION

### 4.1: Introduction

164. The Rugby Football Union (RFU) is the national governing body for rugby union. It is split into six areas across the Country with a workforce team that covers development, coaching, governance and competitions. A full-time development officer is responsible for Wyre Forest (as part of the Worcestershire & Greater Birmingham region) and works closely with all clubs to maximise their potential. This work involves developing club structures, including working towards the RFU accreditation (Clubmark) and the development of school-club structures. The rugby union playing season operates from September to May.

#### **Consultation**

165. There are three rugby clubs in Wyre Forest:

- ◀ Chaddesley Corbett RFC
- ◀ Kidderminster Carolians RFC
- ◀ Stourport RFC

166. Kidderminster Carolians RFC and Stourport RFC were both consulted with through face-to-face consultations, whilst Chaddesley Corbett RFC consulted with via telephone.

### 4.2: Supply

167. Within Wyre Forest there are a total of nine sites containing ten senior, one junior and four mini rugby union pitches. Of these, nine senior and all junior and mini pitches are available for community use.

168. Although there are dedicated mini pitches identified, it must be noted that most junior and mini rugby traditionally takes place on over marked senior pitches. This is the case across Wyre Forest, including at sites with dedicated junior/mini markings. Although mini pitches may not be formally marked out, pitches are often marked with cones on senior pitches, contributing to pitch usage.

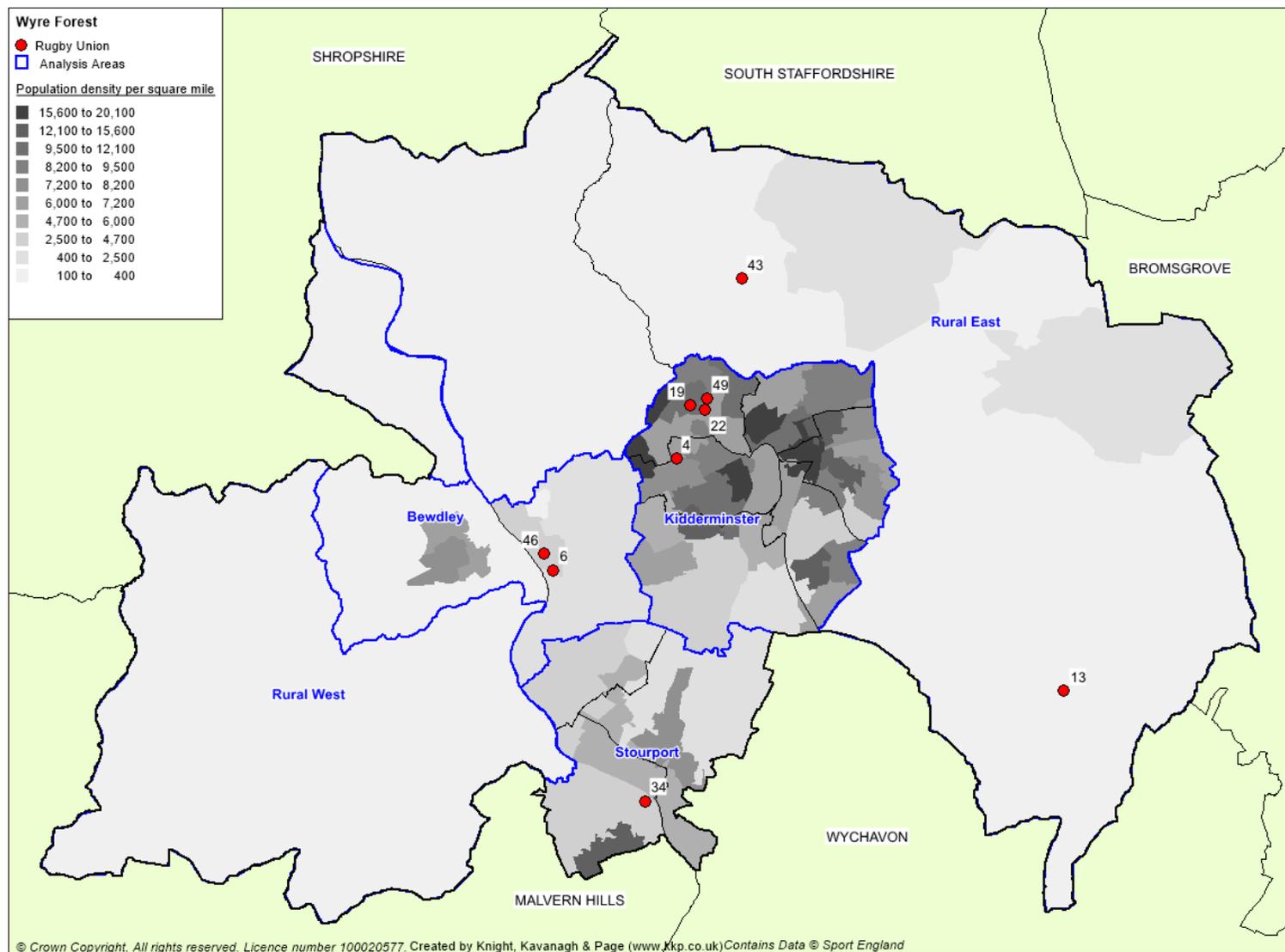
169. As seen in the table below, the largest number of community available pitches are located in the Kidderminster Analysis Area.

*Table 4.1: Summary of grass rugby union pitches available for community use*

Analysis area	No. of senior pitches	No. of junior pitches	No. of mini pitches
Bewdley	1	-	-
Kidderminster	3	-	4
Rural East	3	1	-
Rural West	-	-	-
Stourport	3	-	-
<b>Wyre Forest</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>4</b>

# WYRE FOREST PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY ASSESSMENT REPORT

Figure 4.1: Rugby union pitch locations in Wyre Forest



# WYRE FOREST PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY ASSESSMENT REPORT

## **Future developments**

170. Kidderminster Carolians RFC and the District Council are in negotiations regarding the creation and use of a senior rugby union pitch on White Wickets Sports Field. Should a pitch be established then it is understood that the Club will accommodate some of it junior rugby on the site, in addition to some training demand from mini and junior teams on weekends when matches are not be played. It is recognised that the lease also includes a bowling green on the same site, which the Club feel could be used to accommodate some of the youngest mini rugby.
171. This will add to the current supply of rugby union pitches, accommodating growth of participation within the sport.

## **Pitch quality**

172. The methodology for assessing rugby pitch quality looks at two key elements; the maintenance programme and the level of drainage on each pitch. An overall quality based on both drainage and maintenance can then be generated.
173. The agreed rating for each pitch type also represents actions required to improve pitch quality. A breakdown of actions required based on the ratings can be seen below:

*Table 4.2: Definition of maintenance categories*

Category	Definition
M0	Action is significant improvements to maintenance programme
M1	Action is minor improvements to maintenance programme
M2	Action is no improvements to maintenance programme

*Table 4.3: Definition of drainage categories*

Category	Definition
D0	Action is pipe drainage system is needed on pitch
D1	Action is pipe drainage is needed on pitch
D2	Action is slit drainage is needed on pitch
D3	No action is needed on pitch drainage

*Table 4.4: Quality ratings based on maintenance and drainage scores*

		Maintenance		
		Poor (M0)	Adequate (M1)	Good (M2)
Drainage	Natural Inadequate (D0)	Poor	Poor	Standard
	Natural Adequate (D1)	Poor	Standard	Good
	Pipe Drained (D2)	Standard	Standard	Good
	Pipe and Slit Drained (D3)	Standard	Good	Good

174. The figures 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 that has been installed in the last five years.

## WYRE FOREST PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY ASSESSMENT REPORT

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175. Of the community available pitches in Wyre Forest nine are assessed as poor quality and five are assessed as standard quality. No pitches are assessed as good quality, nor are any pitches considered to have a formal drainage system installed. In total, 8 pitches are deemed to have a standard level of maintenance (M1), these are mostly at sites used by community clubs, including Kidderminster Carolians Rugby Club and Stourport Rugby Football Club.

*Table 4.5: Quality of pitches available for community use*

Senior pitches			Junior pitches			Mini pitches		
Good	Standard	Poor	Good	Standard	Poor	Good	Standard	Poor
-	4	5	-	-	1	-	1	3

176. The table overleaf shows the quality ratings for each of the pitches in Wyre Forest based on a combination of non-technical site assessment scores as well as user ratings.

## WYRE FOREST PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY ASSESSMENT REPORT

Table 4.6: Site quality ratings

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Community use?	Security of tenure	Pitch type	Non technical assessment score <sup>15</sup>	Quality rating	Floodlit?
4	Baxter Business and Enterprise College	Kidderminster	No	Unsecure	Senior	M1 / D1	Standard	No
6	Bewdley Leisure Centre	Bewdley	Yes-unused	Secure	Senior	M1 / D1	Standard	No
13	Chaddesley Corbett Sports Ground	Rural East	Yes	Secure	Senior	M0 / D1	Poor	No
					Junior	M0 / D0	Poor	Yes <sup>16</sup>
19	Franche Primary School	Kidderminster	Yes-unused	Unsecure	Mini	M0 / D1	Poor	No
					Mini	M0 / D1	Poor	No
22	Kidderminster Carolians RFC	Kidderminster	Yes	Secure	Mini	M1 / D1	Standard	No
					Senior	M1 / D1	Standard	Yes
					Senior	M1 / D1	Standard	No
					Senior	M1 / D1	Standard	No
34	Stourport Rugby Football Club	Stourport	Yes	Secure	Senior	M1 / D0	Poor	No
					Senior	M1 / D0	Poor	Yes
					Senior	M1 / D0	Poor	No
43	Wolverley CE Secondary School	Rural East	Yes-unused	Unsecure	Senior	M0 / D1	Poor	No
49	St Catherine's Primary School	Kidderminster	Yes	Unsecure	Mini	M0 / D1	Poor	No

<sup>15</sup> Where no information was supplied regarding maintenance M0 was appointed.

<sup>16</sup> Pitch is partially floodlight along one touchline.

# WYRE FOREST PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY ASSESSMENT REPORT

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177. Poor quality pitches are found at the following sites:

- ◀ Chaddesley Corbett Sports Ground
- ◀ Franche Primary School
- ◀ Stourport Rugby Football Club
- ◀ Wolverley CE Secondary School
- ◀ Bewdley School and Sixth Form Centre
- ◀ St Catherine's Primary School

178. All of the above are assessed as poor quality due to either drainage issues or poor maintenance.

179. Two of the three community club rugby sites have poor pitches, with only Kidderminster Carolians RFC having standard quality pitches. The pitches at Stourport Rugby Football Club have a poor level of drainage and are located on a floodplain. On the same site there are plans for a third cricket square to be created, which will then mean the installation of pipe drainage for the rugby union pitches; improving pitch quality and capacity.

### ***Ancillary facilities***

180. Rugby union in Wyre Forest is largely club driven at club owned or managed sites, all of which have access to changing facilities. The ancillary facilities at Stourport RFC received funding as part of the World Cup legacy, allowing the Club to improve the bar and kitchen areas. The toilets in the clubhouse serve both spectators and players, whilst the four changing rooms on site are poor quality and require significant modernisation. As the site is a multi-sport site, with cricket and rugby union clubs sharing the one clubhouse; from April to the end of September the ancillary facilities are used solely by the Cricket Club. This means that the Stourport RFC have to play matches away from home at the start and end of the season as there are not enough changing rooms to serve both sports simultaneously.

181. Chaddesley Corbett RFC reports that the Club received a grant from Sport England several years ago that allowed the Club to make refurbishments to the existing clubhouse facility. Repairs were made to the roof, walls and electrical wiring. It was acknowledged that the changing facilities on site require significant improvement, including the shower and toilet facilities. It is felt that the current quality of the ancillary facilities is not preventing the Club from developing; however, it is acknowledged that should improvements be made, it could result in attracting players to the Club.

182. Kidderminster Carolians RFC did not report any issues concerning its ancillary facilities, rating them as good quality and adequately serving all of the current pitches.

### ***Security of tenure***

183. There are no reported issues with security of tenure. All community clubs are secure at respective sites. Stourport RFC, lease the land as part of Stourport Sports Association along with Stourport Swifts and Stourport CC. The lease was signed in 1976 for 100 years and has 59 years remaining.

## WYRE FOREST PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY ASSESSMENT REPORT

184. Kidderminster Carolians RFC also leases its home venue. The lease, from the Council, has 86 years remaining and includes the pitches, clubhouse and floodlights. The Club also utilise a mini pitch at St Catherine's Primary School for the under 7s age group. There is no formal usage agreement in place but the School do use the site during the week for netball (marked on the car park). The Council and Kidderminster Carolians RFC are in discussions regarding a 50 year lease agreement for White Wickets Sports Fields.
185. Chaddesley Corbett RFC lease the site, as part of an overarching Chaddesley Corbett Sports Club incorporating cricket, rugby union and football clubs, from the local educational authority. The lease is long term and tenure is considered secure.

### 4.3: Demand

186. Demand for rugby pitches in Wyre Forest tends to fall within the categories of organised competitive play and organised training.

#### *Competitive play*

187. Three rugby union clubs play within Wyre Forest. Clubs vary in size; Kidderminster Carolians RFC consists of three senior teams six junior and six mini teams, where as Stourport RFC has two senior, one junior and three mini teams.
188. In total there are seven senior men's, seven junior boys' and 14 (mixed) mini teams across the clubs, as broken down overleaf. There are no women's or girls' rugby teams in Wyre Forest.

*Table 4.7: Summary of demand*

Club	Analysis area	No. of rugby union teams				
		Men's	Women's	Boys'	Girls'	Mini
Chaddesley Corbett RFC	Rural East	2	-	-	-	5
Kidderminster Carolians RFC	Kidderminster	3	-	6	-	6
Stourport RFC	Stourport	2	-	1	-	3
<b>Total</b>		<b>7</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>14</b>

#### *Training demand*

189. Throughout the country, many rugby teams train at their home ground on match pitches. As a result, usage is concentrated which reduces the capacity for match play on these pitches and means they are more likely to be overplayed. A key factor in determining the extent of training on match pitches is the presence of floodlighting.
190. In Wyre Forest, Kidderminster Carolians RFC accesses the one floodlit pitch at its home ground for four match equivalent sessions per week for training purposes. The senior teams and Under 19s train twice a week, on Tuesday and Thursday evenings, whilst the remaining mini and junior teams all train on Wednesday evening at the Club's home venue.

## WYRE FOREST PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY ASSESSMENT REPORT

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191. Stourport RFC has training demand equating to two match equivalent sessions per week, with the two senior teams and Under 16s training twice per week on the one floodlit pitch. The two mini teams of the Club do not have any training demand during the week.
192. Chaddesley Corbett RFC has a partially floodlit junior sized pitch which also accommodates all of the senior training demand. The Club also has portable floodlighting which is placed on the opposite side of the pitch to enable total use of the pitch for one match equivalent session per week.

### **3G pitches**

193. The alternative to training on grass pitches is the use of 3G pitches. World Rugby 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 union.
194. A World Rugby compliant pitch also enables the transfer of match demand from grass pitches onto 3G pitches, which alleviates overplay of grass pitches and as a result protects quality. The RFU investment strategy into AGPs considers sites where grass rugby pitches are over capacity and where an AGP would support the growth of the game at the host site and for the local rugby partnership, including local clubs and education sites.
195. At present there are no World Rugby compliant pitches available within Wyre Forest. There are 3G pitches in the study area which could accommodate training use provided they had spare capacity, however, this training use should only be non-contact activity, as without World Rugby compliance certification no contact rugby union can take place on any of the surfaces.
196. Nationally clubs identify the use of 3G pitches for training as a method of protecting the match pitches and providing a high quality surface for full contact practice. Competitive play continues to take place on grass pitches for the most part, with ad hoc use of 3G pitches for fixtures in the case of unsuitable pitches due to waterlogging or frost.
197. It is the intention of the RFU investment strategy into AGPs to invest in communities across the country where grass rugby pitches in the local community are over capacity and where the installation of an AGP would support the growth of the game at the host site and for the local rugby partnership, including local rugby clubs and other organisations within the Local Authority. The RFU is keen to work with partners such as the Council and the FA to look at sites of mutual interest for future AGP provision.

### **Future demand**

198. Future demand can be defined in two ways, through participation increases and using population forecasts.

# WYRE FOREST PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY ASSESSMENT REPORT

## *Population increases*

199. Team generation rates are used below as the basis for calculating the number of teams likely to be generated in the future based on population growth (2034). It is predicted that future population increases will be accommodated within existing playing squads, with no additional teams to be created. This does not, however, take into consideration contextual events such as World Cup or RFU initiatives, which may further increase interest in participation and subsequent demand for pitches.

*Table 4.8: Team generation rates (2034)*

Age group	Current population within age group	Current no. of teams	Team Generation Rate <sup>17</sup>	Future population within age group (2034)	Predicted future number of teams	Additional teams that may be generated from the increased population
Senior Mens (19-45)	14,665	7	1:2095	14,423	6.9	0
Senior Womens (19-45)	14,794	0	0	13,846	0.0	0
Junior Boys (13-18)	3,261	7	1:466	3,455	7.4	0
Junior Girls (13-18)	3,040	0	0	3,166	0.0	0
Mini rugby mixed (7-12)	6,183	14	1:442	6,528	14.8	0

## *Participation increases*

200. No clubs in the Wyre Forest area report any unmet demand which they expect to accommodate in the future. Stourport RFC disclosed that the current number of junior teams has decreased in the last four years.
201. Chaddesley Corbett RFC noted that the senior men's second team is newly established this season, whilst, there has been an increase of mini teams each season with a new under sevens' team established each season. Kidderminster Carolians RFC noted that new mini teams are created each season, compensating for the loss of a junior team which has become part of the senior section. This has resulted in the net number of mini and junior teams remaining the same.
202. Clubs did not disclose ambitions for future teams other than new mini teams being introduced each year to reinforce existing mini and junior sections. The clubs have set participation targets which would have been created in conjunction with the RFU.
203. Chaddesley Corbett RFC is to reaffirm the second senior men's team that was established this season and continue to add one mini team each season. There is an acceptance within the Club that once mini players reach junior age it is likely that players will move to larger local clubs, thus inhibiting junior growth within the Club.
204. Stourport RFC has been provided targets to add a new mini team each season, cementing the continuation present within the Club, until the mini and junior sections are full.

<sup>17</sup> Please note TGR figures are rounded to the nearest whole number.

## WYRE FOREST PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY ASSESSMENT REPORT

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205. Kidderminster Carolians RFC has been set a target to establish a girls section within the Club, building on the All Schools programme being run locally. The Club previously had a senior women's team and aspires to eventually re-establish this team from a junior girls' section.

### ***School rugby***

206. Within Wyre Forest the RFU is running the All Schools programme in three secondary schools. King Charles I School & Sixth Form Centre, Baxter College and Wolverley CE Secondary School are all in the second year of the four year programme. All of the schools are linked to Kidderminster Carolians RFC which reported some benefit of the programme, particularly with the recent establishment of a training group of under 13s girls.
207. Stourport High School is currently involved with some of the activity that the aforementioned schools participate in, without receiving the same direct support from the RFU. It is hoped that a similar arrangement will be agreed for the 2017/18 season with Bewdley High School meaning that, in total, five secondary schools, in the Wyre Forest area, will be taking part in consistent rugby union activity with some support from the RFU. Stourport High School has links to Stourport RFC with the Club reporting benefits of this link evidenced in the strength of the Club's oldest junior team.
208. All three clubs in Wyre Forest have links with local primary schools, hosting tournaments at club sites. Each club hopes to benefit from these links by continuing to create new mini teams each season, recognising that incorporating players at younger ages can help strengthen other sections of the clubs.

### ***The peak period***

209. In order to fully establish actual spare capacity the peak period needs to be established for all types of rugby. For senior teams, it is considered to be Saturday PM as all senior teams play at this time. Peak time for junior and mini rugby in Wyre Forest is Sunday AM.

## **4.4: Capacity analysis**

210. The capacity for pitches to regularly accommodate competitive play, training and other activity over a season is most often determined by quality. As a minimum, the quality and therefore the capacity of a pitch affects the playing experience and people's enjoyment of playing rugby. In extreme circumstances it can result in the inability of a pitch to cater for all or certain types of play during peak and off peak times. To enable an accurate supply and demand assessment of rugby pitches, the following assumptions are applied to site by site analysis:
- ◀ All sites that are used for competitive rugby matches (regardless of whether this is secured community use) are included on the supply side.
  - ◀ Use of school pitches by schools has been included in the Match equivalent sessions column, usually with one match equivalent session per pitch added.
  - ◀ All competitive play is on senior sized pitches (except for where mini pitches are provided).
  - ◀ From U13 upwards, teams play 15 v15 and use a full pitch.
  - ◀ Mini teams (U6-U12) may play on half of a senior pitch i.e. two teams per senior pitch or a dedicated mini pitch.

# WYRE FOREST PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY ASSESSMENT REPORT

- ◀ 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 playing on a senior pitch, 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 senior pitch.
- ◀ Senior rugby generally takes place on Saturday afternoons.
- ◀ Junior rugby generally takes place on Sunday mornings.
- ◀ Mini rugby generally takes place on Sunday mornings.
- ◀ Training that takes place on club pitches is reflected by the addition of match equivalent sessions.
- ◀ Match equivalents have been calculated on the basis that 30 players (two teams) train on the pitch for 90 minutes (team equivalent of one) per night.

211. As a guide, the RFU has set a standard number of matches that each pitch should be able to accommodate:

*Table 4.9: Pitch capacity (matches per week) based on quality assessments*

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

212. Capacity is based upon a basic assessment of the drainage system and maintenance programme ascertained through a combination of the quality assessment and consultation. This guide, however, is only a very general measure of potential pitch capacity. It does not account for specific circumstances at time of use and it assumes average rainfall and an appropriate end of season rest and renovation programme.

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Table 4.10: Rugby union provision within Wyre Forest

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Community use?	Pitch type	Quality rating	Floodlit?	Match equivalent sessions (per week)	Pitch capacity (sessions per week)	Capacity rating	Comments
4	Baxter Business and Enterprise College	Kidderminster	No	Senior	Standard	No	1	2	-1	A standard quality senior pitch which has one match equivalent session of capacity. The pitch is subject to curriculum use but is not available for use by the community.
6	Bewdley Leisure Centre	Bewdley	Yes-unused	Senior	Standard	No	0	2	-2	An unused standard quality senior pitch which has 2 match equivalent sessions of spare capacity.
13	Chaddesley Corbett Sports Ground	Rural East	Yes	Senior	Poor	No	1	1.5	-0.5	A poor quality senior pitch which has 0.5 match equivalent sessions of potential spare capacity.
				Junior	Poor	Yes	1.5	0.5	1	A poor quality junior pitch which is overplayed by one match equivalent session.
19	Franche Primary School	Kidderminster	Yes-unused	Mini	Poor	No	1	1.5	-0.5	A poor quality mini pitch which has 0.5 match equivalent sessions of spare capacity. The pitch is subject to curriculum use and is available for community use but is currently unused.
				Mini	Poor	No	1	1.5	-0.5	A poor quality mini pitch which has 0.5 match equivalent sessions of spare capacity. The pitch is subject to curriculum use and is available for community use but is currently unused.
22	Kidderminster Carolians RFC	Kidderminster	Yes	Mini	Standard	No	2.5	2	0.5	A standard quality mini pitch which is overplayed by 0.5 match equivalent sessions.
				Senior	Standard	Yes	5	2	3	A standard quality senior pitch which is overplayed by two match equivalent sessions and subject to all midweek training demand from Kidderminster Carolians RFC.
				Senior	Standard	No	2	2	-	A senior pitch of standard quality which is at capacity.
				Senior	Standard	No	1.5	2	-0.5	A standard quality senior pitch with 0.5 match equivalent sessions of spare capacity.
34	Stourport Rugby Football Club	Stourport	Yes	Senior	Poor	No	1	1.5	-0.5	A poor quality senior pitch which has 0.5 match equivalent sessions of potential spare capacity.
				Senior	Poor	Yes	2	1.5	0.5	A poor quality senior pitch which is overplayed by 0.5 match equivalent sessions.
				Senior	Poor	No	1.25	1.5	-0.25	A poor quality senior pitch which has 0.25 match equivalent sessions of potential spare capacity.
43	Wolverley CE Secondary School	Rural East	Yes-unused	Senior	Poor	No	1	1.5	-0.5	A poor quality senior pitch which has 0.5 match equivalent sessions of spare capacity. The pitch is subject to curriculum use and is available for community use but is currently unused.
49	St Catherine's Primary School	Kidderminster	Yes	Mini	Poor	No	1.5	1.5	-	A poor quality mini pitch which is at capacity. The pitch is subject to curriculum use in addition to community use by Kidderminster Carolians RFC.

# WYRE FOREST PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY ASSESSMENT REPORT

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## 4.5: Supply and demand analysis

### *Spare capacity*

213. The next step is to ascertain whether or not any identified 'potential capacity' can be deemed 'actual capacity'. There may be situations where, although a site is highlighted as potentially able to accommodate some additional play, this should not be recorded as spare capacity against the site. For example, a site may be managed to regularly operate slightly below full capacity to ensure that it can cater for a number of regular friendly matches and activities that take place but are difficult to quantify on a weekly basis.
214. Where the spare capacity is minimal, it should be retained in order to protect quality and therefore no actual spare capacity currently exists. At educational sites where minimal capacity exists, it should be retained to protect the quality for educational use. It should be considered that some pitches that display potential spare capacity have been discounted due to the poor quality of the pitches. If the drainage system or maintenance programmes of these pitches were improved then pitch capacity would increase, creating additional actual spare capacity.

### *Club sites*

215. Of the club sites with spare capacity, Chaddesley Corbett Sports Ground does not have any actual spare capacity at peak time for senior matches or mini and junior matches. One pitch is overplayed by one match equivalent sessions, therefore if additional teams were created then further pitches would be required on site or another site would need to be utilised.
216. Stourport Rugby Football Club currently has 0.75 match equivalent sessions of spare capacity across three poor quality senior pitches. Although actual spare capacity equating to two match equivalent sessions is available at peak times for both senior matches and mini and junior matches this should be discounted to protect the pitch integrity. Therefore no actual spare capacity exists at this site; if additional teams were created then pitches would become either played to capacity or overplayed.
217. Kidderminster Carolians RFC currently has one senior pitch, of standard quality, with 0.5 match equivalent sessions of spare capacity. For senior peak time 0.5 match equivalent sessions of actual spare capacity exists, as is the case at min and junior peak time. This means that the Club's growth would not negatively affect pitch quality, provided pitch capacity is not exceeded. However, with the prospective use of a pitch at White Wickets the Club should be able to continue to grow without adversely affecting pitch quality.

### *Overplay*

218. Four pitches are overplayed in Wyre Forest; three senior and one mini; accumulating to five match equivalent sessions. The floodlit pitches at all club sites are overplayed, mainly as a result of accommodating Clubs' training demand. However, it should be noted that the mini pitch at Kidderminster Carolians RFC is also overplayed by 0.5 match equivalent sessions.

# WYRE FOREST PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY ASSESSMENT REPORT

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## 4.6: Conclusions

219. Although there is potential spare capacity on some of the school sites this is minimal and often on pitches that are poor quality and already used by the school. Priority should therefore be placed on protecting and improving the existing stock of pitches at club sites, as well as alleviating overplay at club sites.
220. As clubs are generally reluctant to hire secondary venues, it is not as simple as to transfer play away from club home venues to a site with actual spare capacity. Instead, shortfalls should be reduced first and foremost through improving pitch quality at the site.
221. Alternatively, or additionally, one of the main reasons for overplay is training on match pitches. A practical way to alleviate this would be to install additional floodlighting. By having more floodlit pitches, training demand can be spread across more pitches (or on separate land), therefore resulting in less confined overuse. If additional, permanent floodlighting cannot be provided, another alternative would be to supply portable floodlights, which would allow the Clubs to rotate training across different areas. Finally, if training could be moved off site this would alleviate overplay.
222. Improving pitch quality, particularly by improving drainage could also alleviate some of the overplay. This will be considered further within the strategy.

### **Rugby union summary**

- ◀ Within Wyre Forest there are nine sites containing 11 senior and four mini rugby union pitches. Of these, ten senior and all mini pitches are available for community use.
- ◀ Of the pitches available to the community four are assessed as standard quality and ten are assessed as poor quality.
- ◀ Three rugby union clubs play within Wyre Forest, consisting of seven senior men's, seven junior boys' and 14 (mixed) mini teams.
- ◀ Kidderminster Carolians RFC accesses its floodlit for at least four match equivalent sessions per week for training purposes, whilst Stourport RFC access a floodlit pitch and Chaddesley Corbett RFC access a partially floodlit pitch; both for one match equivalent session per week for training purposes.
- ◀ It is predicted that future population increases (2034) will not generate additional teams. Participation increases will be absorbed in to existing teams.
- ◀ All clubs, in conjunction with the RFU, have set participation targets. In addition to these all three clubs want to create an additional mini team at the youngest age group each season. Kidderminster Carolians RFC also hope to establish a junior girls' section.
- ◀ Four pitches are overplayed in Wyre Forest, three senior size and one mini, amounting to five match equivalent sessions.
- ◀ Although there is limited current community use on most education sites the unsecure nature of these pitches mean that they cannot be relied upon to provide sufficient capacity.
- ◀ Priority should therefore be placed on protecting and improving the existing stock of club pitches, as well as alleviating overplay to help accommodate future demand expressed by the clubs.
- ◀ Given the poor quality of many of the pitches in Wyre Forest emphasis should be placed on improving both maintenance and drainage systems of pitches, particularly those servicing community club use. Installing additional floodlighting across all community club sites should also be considered to allow increased dispersion of training demand and the option for evening fixtures.

# WYRE FOREST PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY ASSESSMENT REPORT

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## PART 5: CRICKET

### 5.1: Introduction

223. Worcestershire Cricket Board (WCB) is the main governing and representative body for cricket within the District. Its aim is to promote the game at all levels through partnerships with professional and recreational cricketing clubs, and other appropriate agencies.
224. WCB is currently working with the England & Wales Cricket Board (ECB) on delivering its new five year plan, Cricket Unleashed. Its success will be measured by the number of people who support, play and follow the whole game, and is based upon five key areas (More play, great teams, inspired fans, good governance and social responsibility and strong finance and operations).
225. Senior cricket is typically played on Saturday afternoons, however; there is some play both on Sunday afternoons and midweek when teams typically play in short format competitions. There are also a number of local cricket leagues across Wyre Forest which service teams in the area. Some of the main senior leagues include:
- ◀ Birmingham & District Premier Cricket League (BDPCL)
  - ◀ Wilden Industrial Estates Cricket League (WIECL)
  - ◀ Worcestershire County Cricket League (WCCL)
  - ◀ Worcestershire Sunday Border League (WSBL)
  - ◀ Worcestershire Sunday Club League (WSCL)
226. The youth league structure in Wyre Forest tends to be club based matches which are played midweek or on Sunday mornings dependant on age group. There is usually no conflict with access to squares and any midweek matches are usually played on different nights, whilst Sunday morning matches are played before senior matches in the afternoon. The main leagues for junior cricket are Worcestershire Cricket Board Junior and Youth Club Competitions.

### **Consultation**

227. Consultation was carried out with clubs playing in Wyre Forest being sent an online survey to complete. Based on the contact information supplied by WCB and Wilden Industrial Estates Cricket League organisers, consultation currently represents an 81% club response rate (13 out of 16). The following clubs completed a survey:
- ◀ Areley Kings Players CC
  - ◀ Arley CC
  - ◀ Bewdley CC
  - ◀ Chaddesley Corbett CC
  - ◀ Cookley CC
  - ◀ Hare & Hounds CC
  - ◀ Kidderminster CC
  - ◀ Pack Horse Inn CC
  - ◀ Stagborough CC
  - ◀ Stone CC
  - ◀ Stourport CC
  - ◀ West Hagley CC
  - ◀ Wilden Village CC

## WYRE FOREST PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY ASSESSMENT REPORT

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### 5.2: Supply

228. In total there are 11 fine turf cricket squares in Wyre Forest including multiple fine turf squares at Chaddesley Corbett Sports Ground, Chester Road Cricket Ground and Stourport-on-Severn Cricket Club. All fine turf cricket squares are available for community use. There are no fine turf squares at school sites. Six fine turf squares are also supplemented with non-turf pitches laid alongside them.

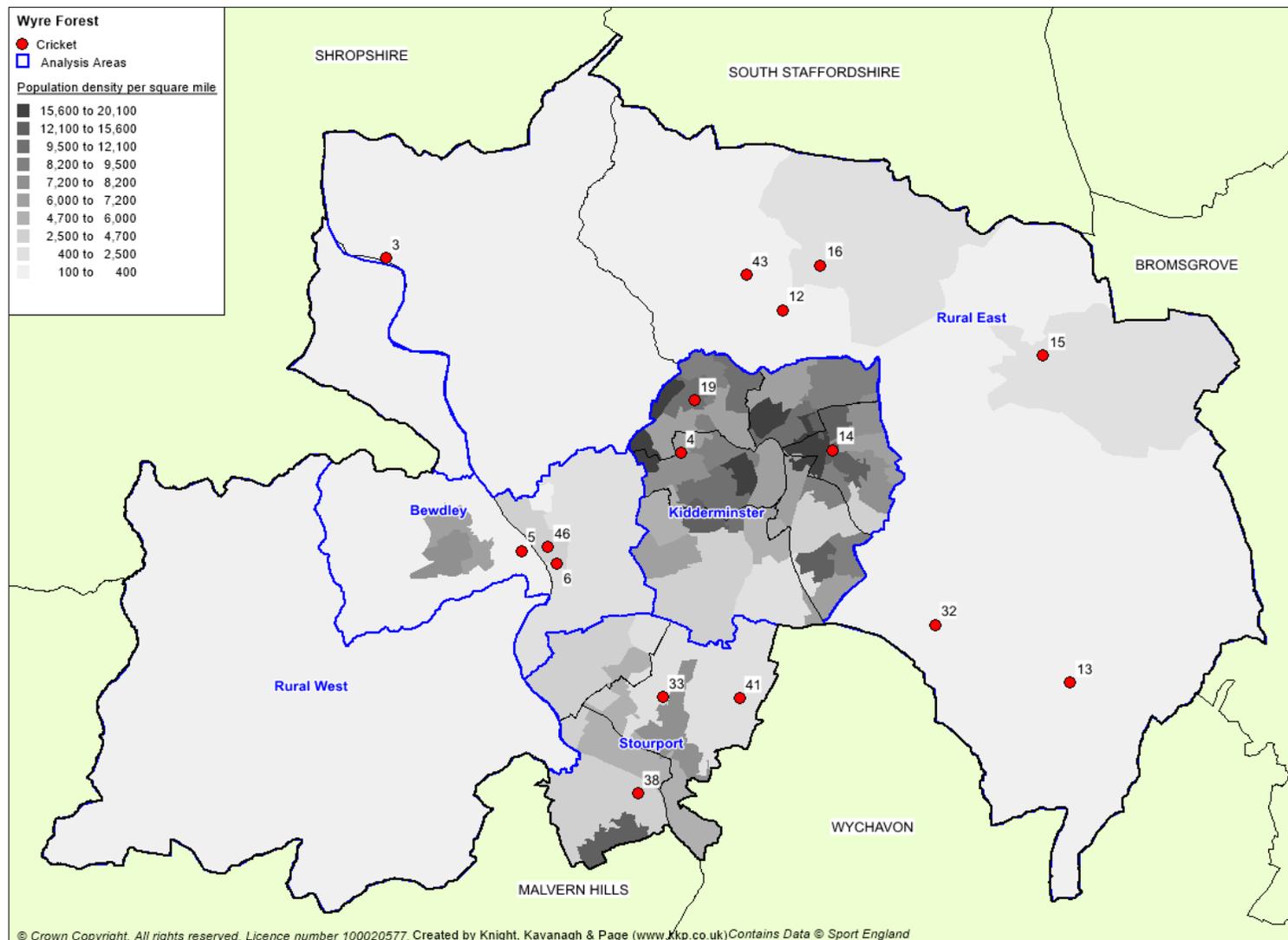
*Table 5.1: Summary of grass cricket pitches in Wyre Forest*

Analysis area	No. of available pitches	No. of unavailable pitches	Total
Bewdley	1	-	1
Kidderminster	2	-	2
Rural East	6	-	6
Rural West	-	-	-
Stourport	2	-	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>11</b>

229. There are 11 fine turf cricket squares in Wyre Forest which are all available for community use in some capacity. The Rural East Analysis Area has the majority of pitches (55%) whilst the Rural West Analysis Area has no fine turf cricket squares.

# WYRE FOREST PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY ASSESSMENT REPORT

Figure 5.1: Location of cricket pitches in Wyre Forest



# WYRE FOREST PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY ASSESSMENT REPORT

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## **Quality**

230. Pitch quality ratings determined by non-technical quality assessments and user feedback found two fine turf squares (18%) to be of good quality and nine (82%) to be of standard quality. No fine turf pitches were deemed to be of poor quality. For each site rating, please refer to Table 3.5.
231. The outfield at Chester Road Cricket Ground is also used for football during the cricket off-season, which contributes to an uneven outfield. Kidderminster CC also report, of the site, that the pitch is standard quality with poor grass coverage which is as a result of a lack of adequate preparation of the square. Stone CC believe that the pitch at the Club's home venue is of standard quality despite the outfield being uneven. It is not felt that this impacts on the overall quality of the playing surface.
232. Bewdley, Cookley and Stourport cricket clubs all report no issues regarding pitch quality. Bewdley CC rate the pitch as good quality; however, it was mentioned that as a result of overplay the pitch is gradually becoming slower and lower, which could in the future impact on the pitch quality.
233. Club consultation suggests that access to proper and suitable preparation and remedial equipment is generally not a concern amongst clubs in Wyre Forest.
234. Maintaining a high quality square is one of the most important aspects of cricket. If the wicket is poor, it can affect the quality of the game and can, in some instances, become dangerous. To obtain a full technical assessment of wicket and squares, the ECB recommends a Performance Quality Standard Assessment (PQS). The PQS looks at a cricket square to ascertain whether the square meets the Performance Quality Standards which are benchmarked by the Institute of Groundsmanship. The report identifies surface issues and suggests options for remediation together with likely costs.

## **Future supply**

235. Bewdley CC has been searching for an appropriate second venue from which it can build capacity for future growth. The Club hopes that once a venue is located and a pitch is established to an appropriate standard then any overplay that currently exists at its home venue will be relocated to the new venue, along with some junior play, creating future capacity on both pitches.
236. Stourport CC recently obtained matched funding from Sport England to establish a new eight wicket fine turf square between existing rugby union pitches. The Club reports that the commencement of the project will be in Spring 2017. It suggests that the establishment of a new square will help alleviate play on existing pitches whilst also enabling it to build future capacity.

## **Non-turf pitches (NTPs)**

237. There are 17 non-turf pitches (NTPs) located across 13 sites, of which, five are at school sites. In total there are 13 NTPs available for community use in some capacity, with the two unavailable NTPs both located at school sites.

## WYRE FOREST PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY ASSESSMENT REPORT

238. Wilden Village CC reports that the outfield of the pitch at Wilden Top (a non turf pitch) suffers from a significant amount of unofficial use, dog fouling, litter and damage to the surface. Similar issues are reported by Chaddesley Corbett CC with dog fouling and unofficial use contributing to damage of both the outfield and the square. The Club reports that although the pitch is of standard quality, the outfield can be uneven at the start of the season due to winter use for youth and mini football.
239. An NTP is considered able to take 60 matches per season although this may include training sessions where on occasions mobile nets may be used as a practice facility. Six NTPs are situated on fine turf squares, five at club sites therefore access and use is generally limited by midweek match play where accompanying fine turf squares.
240. ECB TS6 Guidance: Performance Standards for Cricket Pitches Intended for Outdoor Use sets requirements for NTPs to be used for matches and practice areas, though there are currently no standards for outfields. The ECB highlights that NTPs which follow this guidance are suitable for high level play.
241. The ECB Get the Game On campaign is focused on increasing participation and reducing the number of matches cancelled in order to keep people interested and playing. During the campaign's inaugural year in 2015 there were 6% more games played nationally with 5% less matches cancelled. Use of NTPs for league cricket may present a way forward to fulfilling more fixtures and use of NTPs for league cricket may increase in future.
242. Play on NTPs is not preferred in Wyre Forest for senior club cricket and with only Bewdley CC men's Wilden League teams using one for match play at Bewdley Cricket Ground. Given the current supply and limited use, Wyre Forest is well served for NTPs at present and in view of future demand. Senior club match play at weekends is generally not permitted to take place on NTPs but they may be used for junior matches or matches in senior short format competitions. Some junior teams at Bewdley CC and Stourport CC utilise NTPs that are in place at respective home venues.

Table 5.2: Summary of NTPs in Wyre Forest

Site ID	Site	Analysis area	No. of NTPs	Quality	Position
4	Baxter Business and Enterprise College	Kidderminster	1	Standard	Standalone
5	Bewdley Cricket Ground	Bewdley	1	Standard	Square
6	Bewdley Leisure Centre	Bewdley	1	Poor	Standalone
12	Brown Westhead	Rural East	3	Standard	Standalone
13	Chaddesley Corbett Sports Ground	Rural East	1	Standard	Square
14	Chester Road Cricket Ground	Kidderminster	1	Good	Standalone
			1	Standard	Square
15	Churchill & Blakedown Sports Centre	Rural East	1	Standard	Square
16	Cookley Playing Fields	Rural East	1	Standard	Square
19	Franche Primary School	Kidderminster	1	Standard	Standalone
33	Stourport High School	Stourport	1	Standard	Standalone
38	Stourport-On-Severn Cricket Club	Stourport	1	Standard	Square
41	Wilden Top	Stourport	1	Standard	Standalone

## WYRE FOREST PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY ASSESSMENT REPORT

Site ID	Site	Analysis area	No. of NTPs	Quality	Position
43	Wolverley CE Secondary School	Rural East	1	Standard	Standalone
46	Bewdley School and Sixth Form Centre	Bewdley	1	Standard	Standalone

### ***Last man stands (LMS)***

243. Last Man Stands (LMS) is a short format of cricket operated on a franchise basis but affiliated to the ECB, where matches are typically played midweek on NTPs. There are currently no LMS leagues covering the Wyre Forest area, with the closest prospective venues for the format located in Birmingham and Worcester respectively.

### ***Ancillary facilities***

244. Quality and access to required match day and preparatory facilities varies between clubs in Wyre Forest. The extent of ancillary facilities required also differs between times of play; for example, senior teams playing at weekends typically need to access clubhouse and kitchen facilities to provide teas, whereas for junior and senior matches played midweek this is often not required and more emphasis is on access to suitable changing facilities.
245. Ancillary facilities at Arley Sports & Social Club, Bewdley Cricket Ground, Chaddesley Corbett Sports Ground and Cookley Playing Fields are all deemed to be of good quality by the clubs that use the respective sites. Kidderminster CC report that the existing ancillary facilities at Chester Road Cricket Ground are of poor quality and require modernising in order to help the Club continue to develop and to adequately cope with existing and future membership.
246. Stone CC also report poor ancillary facilities, however, rather than just modernisation of existing facilities, it reports that the clubhouse should be rebuilt if it is to adequately support the Club's progression.
247. Wilden Village CC report that although the current ancillary facilities are of a standard quality, it was noted that only two changing rooms exist with no officials' room and that there have been recent attempted break ins to the facility.
248. Stourport CC report that the existing ancillary facilities are of standard quality, however, it is recognised that once a new, third, fine turf pitch is established at the site then the existing number of changing rooms will be unable to cope with potential pitch usage. The Club currently has four changing rooms within the clubhouse and are concerned that once the third pitch is established then any teams playing on this pitch will not have a changing room to use. It hopes to address this issue once the new pitch has been created.

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## **Security of tenure**

249. Four cricket clubs in Wyre Forest are considered to have secured use through either ownership or long term leasehold of the site. Wilden Village CC, Bewdley CC and Kidderminster CC are the only clubs that own home venues and can therefore be considered secure. Stourport CC leases the site from Stourport Sports Association, which is a conglomeration of Stourport CC, Stourport RUFC and Stourport Swifts FC, with the Sports Association leasing the site from the District Council, with 60 years remaining on the lease.
250. Four clubs also lease home venues, however, due to the short amount of time remaining on them, they cannot be considered secure. Those clubs should consider plans to extend leases where possible. Stone CC (5 years), Chaddesley Corbett CC (14 years), Cookley CC (unsure) and Arley CC (5 years) are the respective clubs with unsecure leases.
251. Clubs that rent home venues in the District do so on a match-by-match basis, usually from clubs that own home venues. Four clubs that play in the Wilden Industrial Estate League rent home venues on this basis and therefore their tenure cannot be considered secure, despite recognition that the pitches will continue to be in existence.

## **3.3: Demand**

252. Demand at cricket clubs in Wyre Forest varies, with some having as many as seven senior teams with several junior age groups whilst others have just one senior team. Please note that the assessment includes demand recorded from the 16 clubs which are affiliated to WCB or play in the Wilden League.

*Table 5.3: Summary of team demand in Wyre Forest*

<b>Age group</b>	<b>Male</b>	<b>Female</b>	<b>Total</b>
Senior	38	1	<b>39</b>
Junior	26	-	<b>26</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>65</b>

253. There are 39 senior teams and 26 junior teams playing competitive cricket matches in Wyre Forest as shown above, totalling 65 affiliated cricket teams playing within the District.
254. Women's and girl's cricket is a national priority and there is a target to establish two girls' and one women's team in every local authority over the next five years. 8-10% of the Whole Sport Plan funding is focused around women and girls and talent ID. Stourport CC is the sole provider of women's cricket in Wyre Forest, providing one women's teams; with no exclusive girls' teams being provided in the Area. It may be that although no girls' teams exist at present, there may still be girls participating in the junior teams recorded as regularly competing.
255. All clubs that report having just one senior men's team, compete in the Wilden Industrial Estates Cricket League. Bewdley CC has the largest number of teams with a total of 14, nine, of which, are junior teams. Both Stourport CC and Kidderminster CC have thirteen teams respectively.

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## Leagues

256. The majority of senior men's club teams in Wyre Forest play within the Wilden Industrial Estates League (15) and the Worcestershire County Cricket Leagues (15). The Wilden League takes place midweek whilst the Worcestershire County Cricket League takes place on Saturday afternoon.
257. Teams that play within the Wilden Industrial Estates League generally rent home venues from other cricket clubs' on a seasonal basis. This can be beneficial to both the hosting club and the renting team, providing competitive midweek usage of club sites, without the added costs of maintaining a permanent home venue. It also allows the renting teams greater flexibility in terms of where it wishes to be based for the season and can be adjusted dependent on the areas from which team members come from.
258. A number of teams do not play in organised leagues, preferring to play friendly matches against similar standard players or guest teams. It should also be noted that the sole women's team in the District does not compete in an organised league.

## Future demand

259. Team generation rates are used below as the basis for calculating the number of teams likely to be generated in the future based on population growth.

Table 5.4: Team generation rates (2034)

Age group	Current population within age group	Current no. of teams	Team generation rate	Future population within age group (2034)	Predicted future number of teams	Additional teams that may be generated from the increased population
Senior Mens (18-55)	22,528	38	1:593	21,232	36	0
Senior Womens (18-55)	22,686	1	1:22,686	20,527	1	0
Junior Boys (7-17)	5,994	26	1:231	6,291	27	1
Junior Girls (7-17)	5,539	0	0	5,775	0	0

260. Team generation rates based on future population, in each analysis area, indicate likelihood that no new teams will be created. The TGRs indicate that any increase in participation will be accommodated within existing teams, not resulting in an increased demand for match sessions.
261. It is important to note that TGRs are based on population figures and cannot account for specific targeted development work within certain areas or focused towards certain groups, such as NGB initiatives or coaching within schools as part of the Chance 2 Shine or All Stars Cricket programmes.
262. Further to this, some clubs in the District have plans relating to increasing participation. For example, Bewdley CC report plans to increase the number of senior men's team by one, creating a sixth senior men's team. The Club also plans to create a senior women's team and two additional junior teams which will all play at the current home venue.

## WYRE FOREST PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY ASSESSMENT REPORT

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263. Stourport CC and Cookley CC both report ambitions to create one additional senior men's team each and one new junior team. Both clubs suggest that any new teams would be accommodated at respective home venues.
264. Senior men's teams in Wyre Forest competing at peak time (Saturday PM) currently play an average of 11 home matches each season, so assuming that new teams participate at peak time this increase equates to a requirement for approximately 33 additional adult match sessions per season to accommodate three new teams. Senior women's teams currently play on average two home games per season at peak time (Sunday PM) with the future club demand suggesting the additional two match sessions to be accommodated. Junior boys' teams play an average of five home matches per season, representing a further requirement for approximately 20 junior match sessions per season to accommodate proposed new teams.

### ***Displaced demand***

265. Displaced or exported demand refers to Wyre Forest based teams that are currently accessing pitches outside of the District for their home fixtures, normally because their pitch requirements cannot be met, which is usually because of pitch supply, in some cases quality issues or stipulated league requirements for access to certain facilities. In the same manner, it also refers to demand imported from other local authorities into the District based on the same reasoning.
266. Bewdley CC has a senior men's team which is currently displaced outside of the District. The Club's 3rd team utilises a pitch at Moffat's Preparatory School which falls within Shropshire. During consultation, it did report that the preferred location for the team would be at Bewdley Cricket Ground; however, the site does not have the required number of pitches to accommodate the additional team. No other clubs report teams which are displaced from the District.

### ***Unmet demand***

267. Unmet demand is existing demand that is not getting access to pitches. It is usually expressed, for example, when a team is already training but is unable to access a match pitch, or when a league has a waiting list. No clubs report unmet demand existing in the area.

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## 5.4: Capacity analysis

268. Capacity analysis for cricket is measured on a seasonal rather than weekly basis. This is due to playability (i.e. only one match is generally played per square per day at weekends or weekday evening). Wickets are rotated throughout the season to reduce wear and allow repair. Therefore, it is more accurate to assess capacity seasonally rather than weekly. The capacity of a square to accommodate matches is driven by the number and quality of wickets. This section presents the current square stock available for cricket and illustrates the number of competitive matches per season per square.
269. To help calculate square capacity, the ECB suggests that a good quality fine turf wicket should be able to take five matches per season per grass wicket (adults). This information is used to allocate capacity ratings as follows:

<b>Potential capacity</b>	Play is below the level the site could sustain
<b>At capacity</b>	Play matches the level the site can sustain
<b>Overused</b>	Play exceeds the level the site can sustain

## WYRE FOREST PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY ASSESSMENT REPORT

Table 5.5: Fine turf cricket square capacity (sites with recorded community)

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Secured/unsecured	Available for community use?	Teams/groups accommodated	Quality rating <sup>18</sup>	No. of pitches	No. of fine turf wickets	Actual play (sessions per season)	Capacity (sessions per season)	Capacity rating (sessions per season)
3	Arley Sports & Social Club	Rural East	Secured	Yes	Arley CC	Standard	1	6	12	30	-18
5	Bewdley Cricket Ground	Bewdley	Secured	Yes	Bewdley CC	Standard	1	12	64	60	4
13	Chaddesley Corbett Sports Ground	Rural East	Secured	Yes	Chaddesley Corbett CC	Standard	1	12	60	95	-35
					Waterfront CC	Standard	1	7			
14	Chester Road Cricket Ground	Kidderminster	Secured	Yes	Areley Kings Players	Good	1	14	125	175	-50
					Kidderminster CC	Standard	1	9			
15	Churchill & Blakedown Sports Centre	Rural East	Secured	Yes	Gas CC	Standard	1	7	5	35	-30
16	Cookley Playing Fields	Rural East	Secured	Yes	Cookley CC	Standard	1	12	30	60	-30
32	Stone Cricket Club	Rural East	Secured	Yes	Hare & Hounds CC	Standard	1	10	33	50	-17
38	Stourport-On-Severn Cricket Club	Stourport	Secured	Yes	Stagborough CC	Good	1	8	60	60	-
					Stourport CC	Standard	1	4			

<sup>18</sup> As derived from the non technical site assessments

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## 5.5: Supply and demand analysis

### *Spare capacity*

270. The next step is to ascertain whether or not any identified 'potential capacity' can be deemed 'actual spare capacity' by which it is available at peak time. There may be situations where, although a site is highlighted as potentially able to accommodate some additional play, this should not be recorded as spare capacity against the site. For example, a site may be managed to regularly operate slightly below full capacity to ensure that it can cater for a number of regular training sessions, or to protect the quality of the site.
271. In order to fully establish actual spare capacity, the peak period needs to be established. An analysis of match play identifies that peak time demand for fine turf squares for senior cricket is Saturday afternoon (17 teams), though there is also demand for midweek cricket (15 teams), with minimal Sunday afternoon play for senior teams (six teams). Not all of the midweek demand for senior cricket utilises natural grass pitches, with two teams reporting the use of NTPs for midweek play.
272. Those sites which display potential capacity but are without colour have been excluded from the capacity analysis on the basis that they do not exhibit enough spare capacity to accommodate another senior club team, based on an average of 11 home matches per team each season.
273. Of those sites with existing community use, six show as having potential spare capacity on senior grass squares in Wyre Forest, totalling 180 match sessions per season.

*Table 5.6: Actual square capacity on fine turf cricket squares at senior peak time (Saturday PM)*

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Capacity rating (sessions per season)	Match sessions available (Sat PM)	Comment
3	Arley Sports & Social Club	Rural East	18	1	Actual spare capacity available
13	Chaddesley Corbett Sports Ground	Rural East	35	0.5	Actual spare capacity available
14	Chester Road Cricket Ground	Kidderminster	50	0.5	Actual spare capacity available
15	Churchill & Blakedown Sports Centre	Rural East	30	1	Actual spare capacity available
16	Cookley Playing Fields	Rural East	30	-	No capacity available at peak time
32	Stone Cricket Club	Rural East	17	0.5	Actual spare capacity available
				<b>3.5</b>	<b>Total</b>

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274. In practice, although 6 sites display potential spare capacity, only 5 are available at senior peak time (Saturday afternoon). There are 3.5 match equivalent sessions available at this time, with four sites are in the Rural East totalling three match sessions and one site in Kidderminster providing 0.5 match equivalent sessions.
275. There are four sites with actual spare capacity to accommodate more senior teams midweek; amounting to three match equivalent sessions. They are:
- ◀ Arley Sports & Social Club
  - ◀ Chaddesley Corbett Sports Ground
  - ◀ Churchill & Blakedown Sports Centre
  - ◀ Cookley Playing Fields
276. As mentioned earlier in the section, junior teams can play on NTPs and generally play midweek on a variety of days. Therefore, spare capacity is considered to exist for junior matches both now and in the future where sites display potential spare capacity. Furthermore, junior play has less impact on the quality of the pitches and therefore pitches are likely to be able to accommodate more play.

## ***Overplay***

277. Only one site in Wyre Forest is deemed to be overplayed; Bewdley Cricket Ground which is overplayed by four match equivalent sessions per season, across one natural grass pitches. Bewdley Cricket Ground is solely used by Bewdley CC which provides five senior men's teams and nine junior teams, playing at both the weekend and midweek. Two of the senior teams and three of the junior teams utilise an NTP which accompanies the natural grass square, yet despite this the natural grass pitch is overplayed by four match sessions per season.

## **5.6: Conclusions**

278. Overall there is sufficient supply of cricket pitches at present to cater for demand from clubs within Wyre Forest at peak times. There are five sites with actual spare capacity located across Rural East and Kidderminster analysis areas respectively, amounting to 3.5 match sessions, on Saturday afternoons, and capacity of 150 sessions per season.
279. The one displaced team from Wyre Forest, Bewdley CC 3rd team, would ideally wish to return to the District. If the Team could find a suitable venue within Wyre Forest then an additional 11 matches per season would be allocated and 0.5 match equivalent sessions at peak time would need to be accommodated. The team could not be accommodated at Bewdley Cricket Ground at present, however, if the Club found an appropriate secondary venue, which it is currently searching for, then there is potential to for the displaced team to relocate back to Wyre Forest.
280. Future population increases indicate the need to accommodate three additional senior men's teams, equating to 1.5 extra match sessions at senior peak time and a total requirement of 33 matches per season. In addition to this, reported club demand indicates aspirations for an additional one senior women's team, with peak time being Sunday PM and a requirement of two matches per season; and four junior teams, peak time Sunday AM and a total requirement for 20 matches per season.

## WYRE FOREST PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY ASSESSMENT REPORT

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281. Although this level of overall future demand is able to be accommodated within the existing supply across the District, capacity in each Area is limited, with the Rural West, Stourport and Bewdley analysis areas having no spare capacity but Bewdley CC and Stourport CC both wanting to establish additional teams.
282. The nature of league cricket is typically based at club sites and access to pitches at other clubs is dependent on relations with the resident club. Capacity exists within the Rural East and Kidderminster analysis areas which could accommodate future demand, however, only Cookley CC report plans to establish new teams, one senior and one junior, which could only be accommodated outside of peak time (no actual spare capacity on Saturday pm).
283. Demand for senior club cricket at peak time can currently be catered for sufficiently by existing provision; however, though this audit determines the picture for weekend club based play, given the decline in weekend participation nationally and increased interest in short formats of the game, it is likely that there will be an increase in demand for use of cricket pitches midweek, whilst new teams may not all play at peak time but in fact the peak time may shift to midweek.

### Cricket summary

- ◀ In total, there are 11 fine turf cricket squares identified in Wyre Forest. All 11 fine turf cricket squares in Wyre Forest which are available for community use in some capacity with none at school sites.
- ◀ The Rural East Area has the most pitches overall (55%) with the Rural West Area having no fine turf pitches.
- ◀ There are 15 NTPs located across 13 sites, of which, three are located at school sites. In total there are 13 NTPs available for community use in some capacity, with the two unavailable both located at school sites.
- ◀ Pitch quality ratings show two fine turf squares (18%) to be of good quality and nine (82%) to be of standard quality. No fine turf squares were deemed to be poor quality.
- ◀ Four clubs are considered to have security of tenure at their home venues, as a result of either owning or having a long term lease of the site.
- ◀ There are 65 affiliated cricket teams playing competitive matches in Wyre Forest made up of 38 senior men's cricket teams, one senior women's team and 26 junior teams.
- ◀ Future demand projections from TGRs predicts an increase of one junior boy's participation but this will not equate to the creation of additional teams; whilst club future demand projections represent a total requirement for a further 35 senior match sessions and 20 junior match sessions.
- ◀ There is a high demand locally for midweek fixtures, whilst nationally there has been an increase of participation in shorter format games, often played midweek. If the national trend continues, then peak time for senior men's matches may change from Saturday afternoon to midweek.
- ◀ Of those sites with existing community use, there are six which show potential spare capacity on senior grass squares in Wyre Forest, totalling 180 match sessions per season. Only 5 are available at senior peak time (Saturday afternoon) when there are 3.5 match sessions available allowing for a further 120 matches per season between them.
- ◀ Only the fine turf square at Bewdley Cricket Ground is considered to be overplayed by a total of four matches per season. The fine turf pitches at Stourport are deemed to be at capacity.
- ◀ Overall there is sufficient supply of cricket pitches at present to cater for demand from clubs within Wyre Forest at peak times. However, in order to accommodate the level of future demand expressed, new senior teams would have to play outside the peak period i.e. Sunday or midweek.

# WYRE FOREST PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY ASSESSMENT REPORT

## PART 6: HOCKEY

### 6.1: Introduction

284. Hockey in England is governed by England Hockey (EH). Competitive league hockey matches can only be played on sand based, sand dressed or water based artificial grass pitches (AGPs). Although competitive play cannot take place on third generation turf pitches (3G), 40mm pitches may be suitable, in some instances, for school training and are preferred to poor grass or tarmac surfaces. For adults, a full size pitch for competitive matches must measure 91.4 x 55 metres.
285. It is considered that a hockey pitch can accommodate a maximum of 4 matches on one day provided that the pitch has floodlighting. Generally, senior teams play matches on a Saturday, whereas junior teams play matches on a Sunday.

#### **Club consultation**

286. There are two hockey clubs in Wyre Forest, Kidderminster HC and Stourport HC. Both clubs were consulted with either via a face to face consultation or telephone consultation.

### 6.2: Supply

287. There are three full size sand filled/dressed AGPs in Wyre Forest, located on one site, Stourport Sports Club. All pitches are floodlit and available for community use. Stourport High School use the pitches for curriculum use during the day.

*Table 6.1: Sand-based AGPs by location*

Site ID	Site	Analysis area	Surface	Size (m)	Year provided/ resurfaced	Quality
35	Stourport Sports Club	Stourport	Sand dressed	102 x 63	2013	Good
			Sand filled	102 x 63	2015	Good
			Sand dressed	102 x 63	2000	Poor

288. In addition to the three full sized pitches, there is also a small sized, sand filled AGP located at Wolverley Ce Secondary School. This pitch is available for community use but is currently not floodlit and therefore is not available throughout the hockey season for training, however, it should be noted that an application for floodlighting has been submitted by the School and if granted the pitch would be suitable to accommodate some training demand if required.

#### **Management**

289. All of the pitches are on a site owned and managed as a sports club, with representatives from all seven partners on the Board of Directors. The partners within the sports club are Wyre Forest District Council, Kidderminster & Stourport Athletic Club, Stourport HC, Stourport High School, Kidderminster & District Netball League and Wyre Forest Cycle Racing Club.

# WYRE FOREST PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY ASSESSMENT REPORT

## **Availability and usage**

290. All full size AGPs are readily available to the community during the peak period (Monday to Thursday 17:00-21:00; Friday 17:00-19:00; Saturday and Sunday 09:00-17:00) as identified by Sport England's Facilities Planning Model (FPM). Stourport High School has access to the pitches throughout the school week for both curricular and extra-curricular use.

*Table 6.2: Availability of full size sand-based AGPs*

Site ID	Site	Availability in the peak period (hours)	Comments
35	Stourport Sports Club	29	Monday-Friday 18:00 - 22:00 Weekend 09:00 - 22:00
35	Stourport Sports Club	29	Monday-Friday 18:00 - 22:00 Weekend 09:00 - 22:00
35	Stourport Sports Club	29	Monday-Friday 18:00 - 22:00 Weekend 09:00 - 22:00

291. All pitches are accessed for hockey purposes by both Kidderminster and Stourport hockey clubs. The remaining capacity is used for football training purposes, although there is some spare capacity.

## **Quality**

292. Depending on levels of use, it is considered that the carpet of an AGP usually lasts for approximately ten years.
293. Club feedback also supports that the pitch built in 2000 is poor quality and is deemed dangerous by clubs with the lines having raised and the pitch requiring resurfacing. It has also exceeded the suggested ten year carpet lifespan. Active Places information and club feedback suggests that the other two AGPs were built in 2013 and refurbished in 2015 respectively and as such are assessed as good quality.

## **Ancillary provision**

294. All sand-based AGPs are serviced by good quality changing facilities and no issues were reported. Car parking appears adequate; however, it is reported that occasionally during peak periods of match play some participants are required to park on grass areas.

## **Security of tenure**

295. Stourport HC is considered to have security of tenure at Stourport Sports Club as a partner within the overarching sports club. Kidderminster HC was previously based at King Charles I School, accessing the School's sand based AGP for its match and training demand. However, when the School resurfaced the pitch two to three years ago to a 3G surface, which is unsuitable for hockey, the Club relocated to Stourport Sports Club. Kidderminster HC currently rent the pitches at Stourport Sports Club on a match-by-match basis.

# WYRE FOREST PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY ASSESSMENT REPORT

## 6.3: Demand

296. There are two clubs playing in Wyre Forest catering for both males and females at senior and junior level. Kidderminster HC consists of just one male and one female team, whilst Stourport HC consists of eight men's teams, seven women's teams, four junior boys' teams and six junior girls' teams. Four of the senior teams (two men's and two women's) are veterans teams, that play infrequent matches, with flexible starting times.

*Table 6.3: Number of teams in Wyre Forest*

Name of club	Number of teams				
	Men's	Women's	Mixed	Boys'	Girls'
Kidderminster HC	1	1	-	-	-
Stourport HC	7	7	1	4	6

### ***Future demand***

297. Stourport HC did not express ambitions to increase the number of senior teams that are currently representing the Club. However, the Club is undertaking outreach programmes in local primary schools, with ambitions to increase the number of junior teams representing the Club.

298. Kidderminster HC has concerns that the recent trend of a reduced number of teams representing the Club will continue. When the Club was based at King Charles I School there were eight teams regularly competing, however, at present the Club only has two teams (one men's and one women's). The Club is concerned that it will fold within the next 12 months with existing members either joining Stourport HC or ceasing to participate in the sport. It feels that the relocation away from Kidderminster has been a contributing factor to the reduced playing numbers. It is for this reason that neither of the two teams currently trains during the week as the distance from the players' locations to the currently used site.

### ***Peak time demand***

299. All senior teams within Wyre Forest play their matches on a Saturday, whilst all junior teams play matches on a Sunday.

## 6.4 Supply and demand analysis

300. Based on teams playing alternate home and away fixtures and based on a floodlit pitch being able to accommodate a maximum of four matches on one day, as suggested by England Hockey, there is sufficient supply to meet the current levels of demand. Additionally neither club reported any issues regarding access for matches or training.

301. For junior hockey, there is often less need for access to pitches as there are fewer teams and matches are most commonly played on Sundays. Some of the younger aged teams also only require half a pitch, meaning two matches can be played side by side at the same time, with matches also lasting for less time. Current supply meets club demand for junior hockey and will continue to do so with potential additional teams.

## WYRE FOREST PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY ASSESSMENT REPORT

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302. Stourport HC reports that it is adequately provided for in terms of both its current and future demand in relation to the pitches at Stourport Sports Club for matches based on a model of accommodating four home teams per pitch on Saturdays and Sundays. The Club is also adequately provided for in relation to training time. The access to two, potentially three, pitches means that teams are able to train at the preferred times.
303. Kidderminster HC can also be adequately accommodated at the Stourport Sports Club for matches. As mentioned previously the Club does not currently train and therefore no training times need to be acquired. If it does fold, as it predicts, then there would be an increase in the number of match slots available during the peak period.
304. Priority should be focused on ensuring that all three pitches at Stourport Sports Club remain fit for purposes and that they are protected for hockey usage. It should be noted that as the only venue with hockey appropriate pitch provision all pitches should be retained. Ensure that sinking funds are in place for resurfacing and maintenance.

### **Hockey summary**

- ◀ There are three full size, sand-based AGPs in Wyre Forest, all of which are available to the community and floodlit, all located at Stourport Sports Club.
- ◀ All full size AGPs are readily available to the community during the peak period, as identified by Sport England's Facilities Planning Model (FPM).
- ◀ Stourport and Kidderminster hockey clubs are both based at Stourport Sports Club, where all three pitches are accessed, although there is some spare capacity for further hockey.
- ◀ Further to the hockey use, the pitches are also heavily used for football training.
- ◀ Two of the three pitches were either established or resurfaced in the last ten years (2013 and 2015 respectively). The third pitch is deemed poor quality and has not been resurfaced since it was first established in 2000.
- ◀ Stourport HC has aspirations to increase the number of junior teams representing the Club and is undertaking outreach programmes at local primary schools to achieve this.
- ◀ Kidderminster HC expects the recent trend of a decreasing number of teams will continue and that the Club will fold within the next 12 months.

# WYRE FOREST PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY ASSESSMENT REPORT

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## APPENDIX 1: NEXT STEPS

As detailed earlier, this report presents a supply and demand assessment of playing pitch facilities in accordance with Sport England's Playing Pitch Strategy Guidance: An approach to developing and delivering a playing pitch strategy. It has been followed to develop a clear picture of the balance between the local supply of, and demand for, playing pitches.

The guidance details a stepped approach to developing a Playing Pitch Strategy (PPS). These steps are separated into distinct stages:

- ◀ Stage A: Prepare and tailor the approach (Step 1)
- ◀ Stage B: Gather information and views on the supply of and demand for provision (Steps 2 & 3)
- ◀ Stage C: Assess the supply and demand information and views (Steps 4, 5 & 6)
- ◀ Stage D: Develop the strategy (Steps 7 & 8)
- ◀ Stage E: Deliver the strategy and keep it robust and up to date (Steps 9 & 10)

Stages A to C are covered in this report.

Once this report is agreed by the Steering Group, development of the Strategy (Stage D) will begin which includes development of a range of scenarios to test recommendations prior to development of the recommendations and subsequent site by site action plan.

# WYRE FOREST PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY ASSESSMENT REPORT

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## APPENDIX 2: SPORTING CONTEXT

The following section outlines a series of national, regional and local policies pertaining to the study and which will have an important influence on the Strategy.

### National context

The provision of high quality and accessible community outdoor sports facilities at a local level is a key requirement for achieving the targets set out by the Government and Sport England. It is vital that this strategy is cognisant of and works towards these targets in addition to local priorities and plans.

### *Sport England*

Sport England (SE) aims to ensure positive planning for sport, enabling the right facilities to be provided in the right places, based on up to date assessment of need for all levels of sport and all sectors of the community. This draft assessment report has been produced for BDC using the principles and tools identified in the Sport England guide 'Assessing Needs and Opportunities for Indoor and Outdoor Sports Facilities' (ANOG).

Figure 2.1: ANOG model



### *Sporting Future: A new strategy for an active nation*

A new Government strategy for sport was released in December 2015. This confirms the recognition and understanding that sport makes a positive difference through broader means and that it will help the sector to deliver five simple but fundamental outcomes: physical health, mental health, individual development, social and community development and economic development. In order to measure its success in producing outputs which accord with these aims it has also adopted a series of 23 performance indicators under nine key headings, as follows:

- ◆ More people taking part in sport and physical activity.
- ◆ More people volunteering in sport.
- ◆ More people experiencing live sport.
- ◆ Maximising international sporting success.
- ◆ Maximising international and domestic sporting success and the impact of major events.

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- ◀ A more productive and sustainable sport sector.
- ◀ A more financially and organisationally sustainable sport sector.
- ◀ A more responsible sport sector.

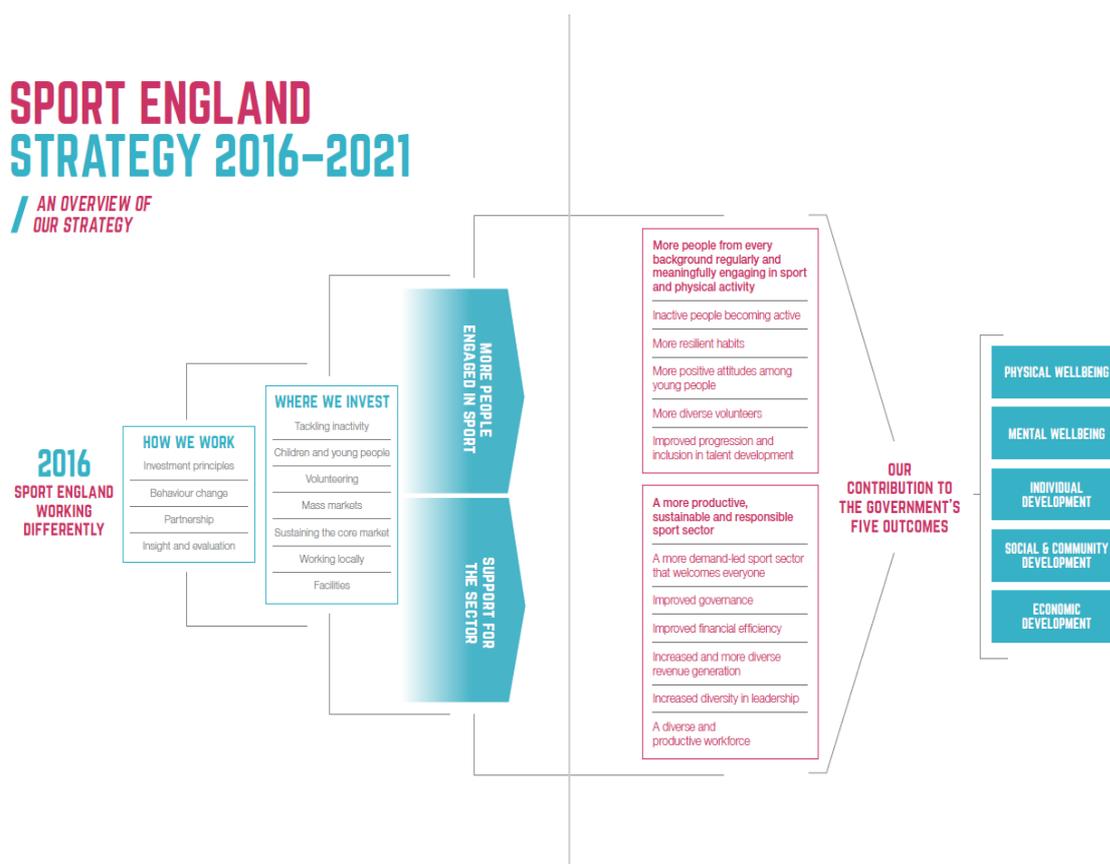
## Sport England: Towards an Active Nation

Sport England’s new strategy identifies that it will invest in:

- ◀ Tackling inactivity
- ◀ Children and young people
- ◀ Volunteering – a dual benefit
- ◀ Taking sport and activity into the mass market
- ◀ Supporting sport’s core market
- ◀ Local delivery
- ◀ Facilities

These seven investment programmes will be underpinned by a new workforce strategy and a new coaching plan.

Figure 2.2: Sport England Strategy 2016-2021



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## ***Economic value of sport to the nation***

Sport, leisure, recreation and culture are all important economic drivers. In 2010, sport and sport-related activity contributed £20.3 billion to the English economy – 1.9% of the England total. The contribution to employment is even greater – sport and sport-related activity is estimated to support 400,000+ full-time equivalent jobs, 2.3% of all jobs in England.

Volunteering in sport, and the health benefits derived, also have an impact on the economy. The estimated economic value of sport-related volunteering is £2.7 billion. The annual value of health benefits from people taking part in sport is estimated at £11.2 billion.

The benefits of sport include the well-being/happiness of individuals taking part, improved health and education, reduced youth crime, environmental benefits, regeneration and community development, and benefits to the individual and wider society through volunteering. Consumption of sport benefits includes the well-being/happiness of spectators, and the national pride/feel good factor derived from sporting success/ achievement. It contributes to reductions in crime and anti-social behaviour, particularly amongst young people and have a net impact on the environment; where, for example, more people are encouraged to walk and cycle, emissions and congestion can reduce.

## ***Public Health England: Everybody Active, Everyday***

In October 2014 Public Health England (PHE) produced its plan to tackle low activity levels across the country. Along with making the case for physical activity, this identifies four areas where measures need to be taken at a national and local level:

- ◀ Active society: creating a social movement, shifting social norms so that physical activity becomes a routine part of daily life.
- ◀ Moving professionals: activating networks of expertise. Making every contact with the health sector count to push the 'active' message and to deliver the message through other sectors including education, sports and leisure, transport and planning.
- ◀ Active environments: creating the right spaces. Making available and accessible appropriate environments that encourage people to be active every day.
- ◀ Moving at scale: scaling up interventions that make us active. Maximising existing assets that enable communities to be active.

## ***National Planning Policy Framework***

The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) sets out planning policies for England. It details how these changes are expected to be applied to the planning system. It also provides a framework for local people and their councils to produce distinct local and neighbourhood plans, reflecting the needs and priorities of local communities.

The NPPF states the purpose of the planning system is to contribute to the achievement of sustainable development. It identifies that the planning system needs to focus on three themes of sustainable development: economic, social and environmental. A presumption in favour of sustainable development is a key aspect for any plan-making and decision-taking processes. In relation to plan-making the NPPF sets out that Local Plans should meet objectively assessed needs.

# WYRE FOREST PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY ASSESSMENT REPORT

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The ‘promoting healthy communities’ theme identifies that planning policies should be based on robust and up-to-date assessments of the needs for open space, sports and recreation facilities and opportunities for new provision. Specific needs and quantitative or qualitative deficiencies or surpluses in local areas should also be identified. This information should be used to inform what provision is required in an area.

As a prerequisite the NPPF states existing open space, sports and recreation buildings and land, including playing fields, should not be built on unless:

- ◀ An assessment has been undertaken, which has clearly shown that the open space, buildings or land is surplus to requirements.
- ◀ The loss resulting from the proposed development would be replaced by equivalent or better provision in terms of quantity and quality in a suitable location.
- ◀ The development is for alternative sports and recreational provision, the needs for which clearly outweigh the loss.

In order for planning policies to be ‘sound’ local authorities are required to carry out a robust assessment of need for open space, sport and recreation facilities.

## ***The FA National Game Strategy (2015 – 2019)***

The Football Association’s (FA) National Game Strategy provides a strategic framework that sets out key priorities, expenditure proposals and targets for the national game (i.e., football) over a four year period. The main issues facing grassroots football are identified as:

- ◀ Sustain and increase participation.
- ◀ Ensure access to education sites to accommodate the game.
- ◀ Help players to be the best that they can be and provide opportunities for them to progress from grassroots to elite.
- ◀ Recruit, retain and develop a network of qualified referees.
- ◀ Support clubs, leagues and other competition providers to develop a safe, inclusive and positive football experience for everyone.
- ◀ Support Clubs and Leagues to become sustainable businesses, understanding and serving the needs of players and customers.
- ◀ Improve grass pitches through the pitch improvement programme to improve existing facilities and changing rooms.
- ◀ Deliver new and improved facilities including new Football Turf Pitches.
- ◀ Work with priority Local Authorities enabling 50% of mini-soccer and youth matched to be played on high quality artificial grass pitches.

## **England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) Cricket Unleashed 5 Year Plan**

The England and Wales Cricket Board unveiled a new strategic five-year plan in 2016 (available at <http://www.cricketunleashed.com>). Its success will be measured by the number of people who play, follow or support the whole game.

The plan sets out five important headline elements and each of their key focuses, these are:

- ◀ **More Play** – make the game more accessible and inspire the next generation of players, coaches, officials and volunteers. Focus on:
  - ◀ *Clubs and leagues*
  - ◀ *Kids*
  - ◀ *Communities*
  - ◀ *Casual*

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- ◀ **Great Teams** – deliver winning teams who inspire and excite through on-field performance and off-field behaviour. Focus on:
  - ◀ *Pathway*
  - ◀ *Support*
  - ◀ *Elite Teams*
  - ◀ *England Teams*
  
- ◀ **Inspired Fans** – put the fan at the heart of our game to improve and personalise the cricket experience for all. Focus on:
  - ◀ *Fan focus*
  - ◀ *New audiences*
  - ◀ *Global stage*
  - ◀ *Broadcast and digital*
  
- ◀ **Good Governance and Social Responsibility** – make decisions in the best interests of the game and use the power of cricket to make a positive difference. Focus on:
  - ◀ *Integrity*
  - ◀ *Community programmes*
  - ◀ *Our environments*
  - ◀ *One plan*
  
- ◀ **Strong Finance and Operations** – increase the game’s revenues, invest our resources wisely and administer responsibly to secure the growth of the game. Focus on:
  - ◀ *People*
  - ◀ *Revenue and reach*
  - ◀ *Insight*
  - ◀ *Operations*

## ***The Rugby Football Union National Facilities Strategy (2013-2017)***

The RFU National Facility Strategy 2013-2017 provides a framework for development of high-quality, well-managed facilities that will help to strengthen member clubs and grow the game in communities around them. In conjunction with partners, this strategy will assist and support clubs and other organisations, so that they can continue to provide quality opportunities for all sections of the community to enjoy the game. It sets out the broad facility needs of the sport and identifies investment priorities to the game and its key partners. It identifies that with 470 grass root clubs and 1500 players there is a continuing need to invest in community club facilities in order to:

- ◀ Create a platform for growth in club rugby participation and membership, especially with a view to exploiting the opportunities afforded by RWC 2015.
- ◀ Ensure the effectiveness and efficiency of rugby clubs, through supporting not only their playing activity but also their capacity to generate revenue through a diverse range of activities and partnerships.

In summary the priorities for investment which have met the needs of the game for the previous period remain valid:

- ◀ Increase the provision of changing rooms and clubhouses that can sustain concurrent adult and junior male and female activity at clubs.
- ◀ Improve the quality and quantity of natural turf pitches and floodlighting.
- ◀ Increase the provision of artificial grass pitches that deliver wider game development.

# WYRE FOREST PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY ASSESSMENT REPORT

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It is also a high priority for the RFU to target investment in the following:

- ◀ Upgrade and transform social, community and catering facilities, which can support the generation of additional revenues.
- ◀ Facility upgrades, which result in an increase in energy-efficiency, in order to reduce the running costs of clubs.
- ◀ Pitch furniture, including rugby posts and pads, pitch side spectator rails and grounds maintenance equipment.

## **England Hockey (EH) - A Nation Where Hockey Matters (2013-2017)**

EH have a clear vision, a powerful philosophy and five core objectives that all those who have a role in advancing Hockey can unite behind. With UK Sport and Sport England's investment, and growing commercial revenues, EH are ambitious about how they can take the sport forward in Olympic cycles and beyond.

*"The vision is for England to be a 'Nation Where Hockey Matters'. A nation where hockey is talked about at dinner tables, playgrounds and public houses, up and down the country. A nation where the sport is on the back pages of our newspapers, where children dream of scoring a goal for England's senior hockey team, and where the performance stirs up emotion amongst the many, not the few"*

England Hockey aspires to deepen the passion of those who play, deliver and follow sport by providing the best possible environments and the best possible experiences. Whilst reaching out to new audiences by making the sport more visible, available and relevant and through the many advocates of hockey.

Underpinning all this is the infrastructure which makes the sport function. EH understand the importance of volunteers, coaches, officials, clubs and facilities. The more inspirational people can be, the more progressive Hockey can be and the more befitting the facilities can be, the more EH will achieve. The core objectives are as follows:

- ◀ Grow our Participation
- ◀ Deliver International Success
- ◀ Increase our Visibility
- ◀ Enhance our Infrastructure
- ◀ Be a strong and respected Governing Body

England Hockey has a Capital Investment Programme (CIP) that is planned to lever £5.6 million investment into hockey facilities over the next four years, underpinned by £2m million from the National Governing Body. With over 500 pitches due for refurbishment in the next 4-8 years, there will be a large focus placed on these projects through this funding stream. The current level of pitches available for hockey is believed to be sufficient for the medium term needs, however in some areas, pitches may not be in the right places in order to maximize playing opportunities

## **England Hockey Strategy**

**Vision:** For every hockey club in England to have appropriate and sustainable facilities that provide excellent experiences for players.

**Mission:** More, Better, Happier Players with access to appropriate and sustainable facilities.

# WYRE FOREST PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY ASSESSMENT REPORT

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Our club market is well structured and clubs are required to affiliate to England Hockey to play in community leagues. As a result only relatively few occasional teams lie outside our affiliation structure. Schools and Universities are the other two areas where significant hockey is played.

The 3 main objectives of the facilities strategy are:

## **1. PROTECT: To conserve the existing hockey provision**

We currently have over 800 pitches that are used by hockey clubs (club, school, universities.) We need to retain the current provision where appropriate to ensure that hockey is maintained across the country.

## **2. IMPROVE: To improve the existing facilities stock (physically and administratively).**

The current facilities stock is ageing and there needs to be strategic investment into refurbishing the pitches and ancillary facilities. There needs to be more support for clubs to obtain better agreements with facilities providers & education around owning an asset.

## **3. DEVELOP: To strategically build new hockey facilities where there is an identified need and ability to deliver and maintain. This might include consolidating hockey provision in a local area where appropriate.**

The research has identified key areas across the country where there is a lack of suitable Hockey provision and there is a need for additional pitches. There is an identified demand for multi pitches in the right places to consolidate hockey and allow clubs to have all of their provision catered for at one site.

# WYRE FOREST PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY ASSESSMENT REPORT

## APPENDIX 3: NON TECHNICAL ASSESSMENT CRITERIA

### Football pitches

Non Technical Visual Quality Assessment - Football						
Please complete one form per pitch						
Site reference:			Site Name:			
6 figure grid reference			Pitch ID(s):			
Number of football pitches on site:			Pitch size:	(Adult 11v11, Youth 11v11, 9v9, 7v7 Mini, 5v5, 7v7)		
Availability			Are any other pitches marked out over this pitch?	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Weather at time of visit & date of visit			<i>If yes, please indicate what pitches are overmarked? (i.e. one youth pitch is overmarked on an adult pitch) in Pitch Issues</i>			
Pitch Issues:						
Assessment Criteria (please rank each of the following aspects for each pitch with an 'X' in the coloured box to the right of the chosen answer)						
Element (Gathered via a non technical site assessment)			Rating		Guidance notes	Comments
<b>Playing surface</b>						
Grass Cover	Good >80%		Adequate 60-80%		Poor <60%	Advice is to walk through the middle of the pitch
Does the pitch meet The FA minimum size?	Yes - as per the FA recommended size		Within FA recommended guidelines		No	See size chart below for recommended dimensions
Slope of pitch (gradient and cross fall)	Flat		Moderate		Severe	
Length of grass	Good		Too long		Too short	Good 30mm-50mm, Too long 51mm plus, Too short 29mm less
Evenness of pitch	Good		Adequate		Poor	
Problem Areas: Evidence of dog fouling/glass/litter/vehicle tracks	None		Yes - some		Yes - lots	
Problem Areas: Evidence of unofficial use/damage to the surface	None		Yes - some		Yes - lots	
Problem Areas: Evidence of poor drainage	No evidence of standing water or poor drainage		Some evidence of poor drainage		Yes, poor drainage	
<b>Maintenance programme (information from maintenance schedule/grounds team/club survey)</b>						
Grass cutting	Yes, as required		Yes, but not frequent enough		No	
Seeded	Yes, as required		Not known		No	
Aerated (per year)	Three or more times		Once/ twice		No	
Sand dressed	Within the last 12 months		Within the last 2 years		No	
Fertilised	Within the last 12 months		Within the last 2 years		No	
Weed killed	Within the last 12 months		Within the last 2 years		No	
<b>Section total</b>						
NB If none of this information is provided you should assume that only the grass is being cut and the rest of the maintenance items should be marked with the lowest score option.						
<b>PITCH SCORE</b>			<b>0.0%</b>		<b>RATING</b>	
			<b>Poor</b>			
<b>Built facilities Quality (the following information will provide a quality rating for the changing rooms and ancillary facilities)</b>						
<b>Comments</b>						
Is there a clubhouse on site?	Yes		No			
Is there a kitchen or bar within the clubhouse?	Yes		No			
Is there a set of changing rooms for the pitch?	Yes		No			
Quality of the changing accommodation (exterior)?	Good		Adequate		Poor	
Quality of changing accommodation (interior)?	Good		Adequate		Poor	
Is there shower provision	Yes, Self contained in changing rooms		Yes, communal player showers		No	
Are there dedicated toilets for players?	Yes, Self contained in changing rooms		Yes, communal player toilets		No	
Is there an officials changing room?	Yes, with dedicated toilet and shower facilities		Yes, but shared toilet and shower facilities		No	
Is there access to dedicated spectator toilets?	Yes		No			
Is there a dedicated medical room?	Yes		No			
Are accessible (DDA compliant) facilities provided?	Yes		No		DDA compliant	
Is appropriate car parking available?	Yes		No			
Is there a boundary fence preventing unauthorised access?	Yes		No			
<b>Section total</b>						
<b>BUILT FACILITIES QUALITY SCORE</b>			<b>0.0%</b>		<b>Poor</b>	

# WYRE FOREST PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY ASSESSMENT REPORT

## Cricket pitches

Element	Rating				Guidance notes	Site comments (use the guidance notes to help complete)
<b>About the cricket outfield</b>						
Grass coverage	Good	Acceptable	Poor		<80% falls below the ECB basic standard	
Length of grass	Good	Acceptable	Poor		Ideally 12mm - 25mm	
Evenness	Even		Uneven		Ball should run without deviation or ramp	
Evidence of Dog fouling/glass/stones/litter?	None	Yes	Immediate action required		May also wish to refer to user survey. If yes, refer to contractor/site manager	
Evidence of Unofficial use?	None	Yes	Immediate action required		e.g. informal, casual use, unbooked use, kids kickabout etc. May also wish to refer to user survey. If yes, refer to contractor/site	
Evidence of Damage to surface?	None	Yes	Immediate action required		e.g. from vermin/animals - rabbit, gulls and foxes etc may also wish to refer to user survey	
						<b>section total</b>
<b>Artificial Wickets</b>						
Is the wicket and surrounds married in	Yes		No		There should be no trip points	
Evenness of wicket	Even		Uneven		There should be no contours in surface levels	
Stump holes	Yes		No		Should be no wider than a standard cricket ball	
Moss or materials in the surface	Yes		No		There should be none	
Rips or surface lifting	Yes		No		If "yes" contact site manager	
Surface worn in high traffic areas - creases	Yes		No		If "yes" contact site manager	
Hardness - does the ball rebound when thrown straight down?	Yes		No			
						<b>section total</b>
<b>Grass Wickets</b>						
Presence of line markings	Yes		No			
Evidence of rolling	Yes		No		i.e. is wicket smooth and uniform	
Evidence of straight cut and height	Yes		No		3mm on match wicket/12mm rest of square	
Evidence of repair work on old wickets	Yes		No			
Grass coverage (square and wickets)	Yes		No		Scale: 80%+ = Yes, 80%> = No Please note that <80% falls below the ECB basic standard	
Hardness - does a cricket ball thrown straight down into the surface rebound/bounce?	Yes		No			
						<b>section total</b>
<b>Changing/ Pavilion</b>						
Umpires provision	Yes		No			
Toilets	Yes		No			
Hot/cold water	Yes		No			
Heating	Yes		No			
Condition of building	Good	Acceptable	Requires attention			
						<b>section total</b>
<b>Non Turf Cricket Practice Nets</b>						
Is the wicket and surrounds married in (no trip points)	Yes		No			
Evenness of wicket (no contours in surface levels)	Even		Uneven			
Stump holes (no wider than a standard cricket ball)	Yes		No			
Moss or materials in the surface (should be none)	Yes		No			
No rips or surface lifting	Yes		No			
Surface worn in high traffic areas - crease	Yes		No			
Hardness - does the ball rebound when thrown straight down	Yes		No			
Is the steel frame/ posts upright?	Yes		No		Ideally assessed with a spirit level but can be achieved by eye.	
Are steel cross members detached?	Yes		No			
Are all posts and net fixings in place?	Yes		No			
Can a ball pass through any part of the netting?	Yes		No			
Is appropriate safety/ supervisory signage present?	Yes		No			



# WYRE FOREST PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY ASSESSMENT REPORT

## Hockey AGPs

Non Technical Visual Quality Assessment - AGP Assessment									
Site reference				Site Name					
6 figure grid reference				Pitch ID					
Number of AGPs on site				Pitch size	Full (i.e., 100m x 60m)		Half (i.e., 60m x 40m)		
Availability				Community Use - used, Community Use - unused, No Community Use, Available but Unused					
Type of pitch	Long Pile 3G (65mm with shock pad) Sand Dressed		Medium Pile 3G (55-60mm) Sand Filled		Short Pile 3G (40mm) Water based				
<b>Assessment Criteria</b> (please rank each of the following aspects for each pitch with an 'X' in the coloured box to the right of the chosen answer)									
Element	Rating						Guidance notes	Site comments	
Age of Surface	less than 2 years		2-5 years		5-10 years		over 10 years		
Evidence of moss/lichen (all surfaces)	None		Yes - some		Yes - lots				
Loose gravel (macadam surface)	None		Yes - some		Yes - lots				
Holes or rips in surface (macadam, art. grass or polymeric surfaces)	None		Yes - some		Yes - lots				
Grip underfoot	Good		Adequate		Poor				
Line markings - quality	Good		Adequate		Poor				
Problem Areas: Evidence of Glass/ stones/ litter	None		Yes - some		Yes - lots				
Problem Areas: Evidence of inappropriate use	None		Yes - some		Yes - lots				
Problem Areas: Evidence of damage to surface	None		Yes - some		Yes - lots		If no evidence, assume none.		
Access for disabled players. i.e.: ramps onto courts, width of gates	Good		Adequate		Poor				
Condition of posts/ nets/ goals	Good		Adequate		Poor				
Surrounding fencing	Good		Adequate		Poor				
Adequate safety margins (w here appropriate)	Yes - fully		No- but adequate		No - not adequate				
Is the AGP floodlit?	Yes		No						
Is the AGP left open at all times?	Yes		No						
Are there dug outs?	Yes		No						
Are there youth shelters/spectator seating around AGP?	Yes		No						
Is there changing accommodation for the AGP?	Yes		No						