

# MALVERN HILLS DISTRICT COUNCIL OPEN SPACE, SPORT & RECREATION STUDY: ASSESSMENT REPORT

## PART 22: EDUCATION PROVISION

Table 22.1: Summary of pitches available at secondary/private schools sites and availability of community use by analysis area

Analysis area	No. of education pitches						No. of education pitches available for community use					
	SF	JF	MS	SR	C	STP	SF	JF	MS	SR	C	STP
Malvern Town area	8	2	-	5	4	3	2	0	-	1	0	1
Rural areas	2	-	-	1	-	-	2	-	-	1	-	-
Upton and Hanley areas	2	-	-	1	-	-	2	-	-	1	-	-
Tenbury Town area	1	-	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	1	-	-
<b>MALVERN HILLS DISTRICT</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>

Table 22.2: Summary of non-pitch facilities available at secondary/private school sites and availability of community use by analysis area

Analysis area	Total no. of education non-pitches		No. of education pitches available for community use	
	Tennis	Netball	Tennis	Netball
Malvern Town area	33	11*	8	11*
Rural areas	5	3*	5	3*
Upton and Hanley areas	5	4*	5	4*
Tenbury Town area	2	2*	2	2*
<b>MALVERN HILLS DISTRICT</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>

(\* Indicates courts over marked with tennis)

### Introduction

22.1 The provision of pitches at schools and colleges can make an important contribution to the overall stock of playing pitches within a particular catchment area. It is therefore important to have accurate information about the number, type, quality and availability of pitches within the education sector in Malvern Hills District.

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- 22.2 Legislation within the Schools Standards and Framework Act (SSFA) 1998 was introduced by the Government requiring all schools to seek approval from the Secretary of State for Education and Employment (Education and Skills since July 2001) for the sale of their playing fields. Section 77 of the SSFA seeks to protect school playing fields against disposal or change of use by requiring the prior consent of the Secretary of State before disposal or change of use may take place. The Department for Education and Skills produced guidance on section 77 of the SSFA within Circular 3/99 'The Protection of School Playing Fields' in June 1999.
- 22.3 Circular 3/99 has recently been replaced by guidance from the Department for Education and Skills entitled 'The Protection of School Playing Fields and Land for City Academies'. The guidance aims to strengthen the existing measures for protecting school playing fields. In particular, the guidance intends to support the development and improvement of sporting and play provision for the benefit of schools and their local communities, and to provide wider access to these facilities. Applications for disposal or change of use of playing fields will not only have to take account of existing community use but the potential use of the facilities for the local community.

### **School sports partnerships (SSP)**

- 22.4 The SSP programme is part of the national Physical Education, School Sport and Club Links (PESSCL) Strategy, led by the Department for Education and Skills (DfES) and the Department for Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) to widen participation, raise standards and improve the quality of PE and school sport.
- 22.5 The objective of the strategy - a joint DfES/DCMS public service agreement target - is to ensure that by 2006, 75% of 5-16 year olds in England are spending a minimum of two hours each week doing high-quality PE and school sport within and beyond the curriculum.
- 22.6 Malvern Hills District is part of the West Worcestershire Partnership cluster. It contains five families of schools split as follows.
- Dyson Perrins High School – eight primary schools.
  - The Chase High School – ten primary schools.
  - Hanley Castle High School – eight primary schools.
  - Chantry High School – ten primary schools.
  - Tenbury High School – two primary schools.
- 22.7 The Partnership was established in September 2005 and is in its second year of a three-year funding programme. The first year involved conducting an audit of facilities aligned to levels of activity, which initiated the development of a plan to co-ordinate the implementation of the audit.

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22.8 To achieve this, the Partnership has adopted six themed outcomes, to

- ❑ Increase participation in PE and school sports.
- ❑ Increase participation in extra-curricular sport participation.
- ❑ Increase participation in informal activity during recreation time (lunchtimes etc.)
- ❑ Increase levels of competition and performance in school sports.
- ❑ Improve pupil attitude and attendance in the school environment.
- ❑ Maximise the usage of facilities by the wider community, through external coaches and club-school links.

### ***Capital upgrade programme***

22.9 Malvern Hills District is not due to become part of the Building Schools for the Future (BSF) Programme until 2011. Worcestershire County Council has an asset management plan in place, which is completed by every school and indicates current suitability for usage and identifies priorities for improvement or upgrade. This Plan is regularly updated by the submission of quintessential condition surveys, which ensures WCC has a contemporary overview across the County and can prioritise on a County level.

22.10 At present, there are no plans to improve the sports facilities at schools in the Malvern Hills District. Tenbury High School was allocated around £950,000 of New Opportunities Fund (NOF) funding to build a new sports hall. Dyson Perrins High School is currently undergoing a £1.4m upgrade, which includes refurbishment of the sports hall, gymnasium and provision of a new fitness suite and ancillary facilities.

### **Secondary school summary**

22.11 All secondary schools and private colleges were visited and facilities assessed. KKP met with either the head of PE or in some cases with either the head and or deputy head of the school.

### **Key issues**

22.12 This section summarises the key issues emerging from consultation with the education sector.

### ***Usage of outdoor sports facilities at Tenbury High School***

22.13 The outdoor sports pitches at Tenbury High School are not currently used by community clubs. Significant investment is required to improve the standard of the pitches and bring them up to the standard required to make available for hire. This applies particularly to the football pitch, which is littered with potholes and has poor levels of grass coverage. This should be considered in the context of the

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current and future demand for them. Consultation did not indicate any demand from local clubs to use the pitches.

#### ***Usage of outdoor sports facilities at the Chase High School***

- 22.14 Consultation suggests that the poor level of usage of the grass pitches at The Chase High School is due to the lack of accessible changing provision. The changing provision is located towards the centre of the School and its security cannot be guaranteed if made available for community hire. There are no changing rooms as part of the sports hall and this makes the supervision of pupils during curriculum hours difficult, as well as reduces the quality of the outdoor provision available.
- 22.15 A new science block is to be constructed on one of the mini-rugby pitches. However, consultation reveals that this pitch is not regularly used for formal matches and its loss will be offset by the upgrade of the redgra area to a STP. It is unclear whether Sport England has been consulted on this proposed development. Whilst it is unclear whether the STP will be made available for community use, there are no plans to install floodlights, which will significantly limit its usage out of school hours.

#### ***Community use management***

- 22.16 Wychavon Leisure Community Association operates the Chantry High School sport facility on a dual-use agreement. The School has access to the facility until 6pm and then it becomes accessible to the community. There are plans to commission a private leisure operator to operate the upgraded facility at Dyson Perrins High School. This could extend to the proposed new STP planned on the site. ...
- 22.17 The design of the dual-use schools facilitates community usage of the facilities. Careful planning ensures that changing facilities are accessible without needing to access the other school buildings. An exception to this is the changing facilities at the Chase High School, which are located towards the centre of the school. The STP is located adjacent to the sports hall and other outdoor sports provision, yet any users do not have access to changing facilities.

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## Education summary and recommended actions

<p><b>Education (outdoor sports facilities) summary</b></p> <p><b>Current provision</b></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> There is significant outdoor provision available through schools in Malvern Hills District. However, community use of these is patchy.</p> <p><b>Future provision</b></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> There is a need to enhance community access to sports facilities on school sites.</p> <p><b>Other issues</b></p> <p>See below.</p>
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Table 22.3: Summary of key issues and recommendations

Key issue	Proposed outcome objective	Recommended action
Usage of outdoor sports facilities at Tenbury High School	Good quality, outdoor facilities available to be hired out to the community if demand is demonstrated.	Carry out remedial action of the outdoor sports pitches to ensure that they are sufficient quality to be used during curriculum time, and to be hired to external clubs.
Usage of outdoor sports facilities at the Chase High School	Ensure that changing accommodation for outdoor facilities are accessible for clubs and community groups hiring the outdoor sports facilities.	Assess the feasibility of providing new changing facilities to serve the outdoor facilities. This will include additional changing facilities for the sports hall.
Community use management	Outdoor provision of good quality sports pitches (to carry both curriculum and community weekly usage) efficiently managed by the external leisure provider (across sites where appropriate).	Provide a central contact to organise the community hire of sports pitches at secondary schools. This will allow MHDC to retain an overview of usage at different sites and allocate demand in a strategic manner to those sites with sufficient quality pitches to accommodate additional play. The quality of the sports pitches, and their associated carrying capacity on top of the curriculum demands, should be taken into account at all times,

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## **Primary school summary**

- 22.18 KKP distributed, via e-mail and post, questionnaires to all 37 primary schools in Malvern Hills District. It received 25 returns, which equates to return rate of 68%.
- 22.19 Of these, 21 schools have access to formal grass pitches either on their site or adjacent to it. Nine of these schools allow community use of their facilities.

## **Malvern Hills Outdoor Centre**

- 22.20 Malvern Hills Outdoor Centre is operated by Worcestershire County Council and offers residential courses to schools. It has a number of amenities, including ropes courses, high level challenge activities and climbing towers. There are, however, no formal sports pitches located at the site.