

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

PART 23: INDOOR SPORTS FACILITIES

Introduction

23.1 This part considers supply and demand issues for indoor sports facilities and their ancillary facilities in Malvern Hills District. This report centres on provision of 'sports facilities' and the demand created for these facilities by sports clubs' use and, where possible, general public use. In summary it evaluates the following types of facilities:

- Sports halls.
- Swimming pools.
- Fitness facilities.
- Squash courts.
- Indoor tennis.
- Indoor bowls.
- Village, Church halls and community halls.
- Schools.

23.2 NB All information/details contained in this report are correct at the time of survey/consultation.

Key aims

23.3 The key focus of this part of the assessment report is to present the key findings and issues relating to indoor facility provision in Malvern Hills District. It draws together the extensive community consultation and qualitative fieldwork undertaken and clearly highlights the key issues that must be addressed via clear strategic pathways for improvement, investment and protection of indoor recreational facilities. The key aims are to provide:

- Assessment of each type of facility (as listed above) including quality, quantity, distribution and accessibility.
- Evaluation of the distribution of facilities for sport and recreation facilities within sub-areas of the District.
- Analysis and identification of current unmet demand.
- Assessment of the impact of national/regional/local initiatives and development plans on the provision of indoor facilities.

Audit

23.4 Each facility is considered as 'like for like' facilities within its own facility type, in order that it can be assessed for adequacy. The report considers the distribution of, and interrelationship between, all built facilities in Malvern Hills District and evaluates demand. It gives a clear indication of areas of high demand, where there is

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potential to provide improved and/or additional facilities to meet this demand and to, where appropriate, protect the current stock.

- 23.5 The term 'sport facilities' includes large, purpose built sports centres with 'District wide' significance, local village facilities and facilities provided by both the education and private sectors. Within this framework, ownership and management are fundamentally important. They determine the effectiveness with which facilities serve the community and meet local need.
- 23.6 Each leisure centre and large community centre was visited in order to further identify demand for improved or additional facilities. An audit of the village halls and community centres in the District was also carried out. Further detail on the assessment report methodology can be found in Section One, including detail of the pro-formas used to collate the audit information from parish councils and primary schools. Section One also provides a more detailed context to the study.
- 23.7 Sports and clubs that are included within this report are considered in the context of both their developmental and facility requirements. Sports have been identified because it is understood that the development of opportunities to participate in them is being inhibited by facility related issues or have been identified as being significant sports in the District through consultation. All clubs identified by MHDC have been contacted either by telephone/face to face consultation or via questionnaires. The summaries included are from those clubs that responded.

Analysing the audit

Catchment areas

- 23.8 Catchment areas for different types of provision provide a tool for identifying areas currently not served by existing sport and recreation facilities. It is recognised that catchment areas vary from person to person, day to day, hour to hour. This problem has been overcome in PPG17 by accepting the concept of 'effective catchment', defined as the distance travelled by around 75-80% of users. Please refer to Section One of this report for further detail of analysis areas and the wards, which comprise each area.
- 23.9 Sport England surveys have found that 75-80% of the users of swimming pools and sports halls come from within a 15 minute drive time. Consultation with user groups and clubs included questions related to where users travel from or how far they would expect members to travel. This, coupled with KKP's experience of working with leisure facilities and having completed such assessments for similar local authorities, has enabled the identification of accurate catchment areas for each facility in Malvern Hills District in relation to the size and type of facilities it provides.

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Active Places Power Plus

23.10 The Active Places Power Plus tool can be used as a planning tool for the provision of sports facilities. It has been designed to assist in investment decisions across Government and to help local authorities carry out audits of their sports provision and develop local strategies. It also assists national governing bodies of sport to identify areas in need of an improvement in sports facility provision.

National governing body (NGB) facilities strategies

23.11 A number of NGBs have developed facilities strategies. Although the period of time covered by these strategies has expired, many of the aims and objectives remain valid. The main strategies relevant to this assessment are:

- Basketball Facilities Strategy (1999 – 2004).
- Badminton Development & Facilities Strategy (1999 – 2003).
- Netball Facilities Strategy (1999).
- National Swimming Facilities Strategy (2002 – 2005).
- Gymnastics Facilities Strategy (2003).
- Squash Racquets Association National Facilities Strategy (2000).

23.12 Analysis of the facilities strategies has been supplemented, where appropriate, by consultation with regional officers. This has been used to identify current supply and demand issues.