



## WANDSWORTH COUNCIL

# FINAL PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT REPORT MAY 2013

Integrity, Innovation, Inspiration

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## PART 1: INTRODUCTION AND METHODOLOGY

This is the Playing Pitch Assessment Report prepared by Knight Kavanagh & Page (KKP) for Wandsworth Council (WC). It presents a supply and demand assessment of playing pitch facilities in accordance with Sport England's Draft Guidance 'Developing a Playing Pitch Strategy'.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 key issues/findings will be used to inform the development of a Strategy document.

The guidance details a 13 step approach to developing a playing pitch strategy (PPS). These steps are separated into five distinct sections:

- ◀ Section A: Preparation.
- ◀ Section B: Information gathering.
- ◀ Section C: Assessment.
- ◀ Section D: Key findings and issues.
- ◀ Section E: Strategy development and implementation.

Sections A-D are covered in this report.

### 1.1 Section A: Preparation

To ensure that the PPS will be robust and successful and make the best use of available resources, the following steps were followed:

#### ***Step 1: Why the PPS is being developed***

The steering group sought to clarify the rationale for developing a PPS in Wandsworth. This resulted in the production of the following:

- ◀ Key drivers
- ◀ A vision
- ◀ Objectives

These have been used by the steering group to guide and ensure effective PPS delivery.

#### ***Key drivers***

From a Council perspective, the PPS is a key evidence base for the review of spatial planning policy. There are already a number of significant developments proposed which impact upon playing pitch provision. The PPS will provide a framework to help inform decision making with regard to planning applications both now and in the future. Current proposals include, for example:

- ◀ Vauxhall Nine Elms Battersea Opportunity Area to the north east of the Borough is the largest regeneration area in London outside of the Olympic Park and proposes to house up to 30,000 new residents in 16,000 new homes by 2025. A new school and playing pitches are also proposed in the Area.
- ◀ The redevelopment of Springfield Hospital site located in the centre of the borough proposes a mixed use development including an area retained for NHS purposes, but also proposes up to 800 homes and the creation of up to 13 hectares of public open space, including proposed sports pitches.

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- ◀ Barn Elms Sports Centre is a proposed combined sewer overflow site that would impact on pitch provision for a minimum of two years.
- ◀ The creation of a number of new schools which have limited outdoor space due to land restrictions could place undue pressure on existing playing pitches and open space.
- ◀ A number of smaller developments including the provision of sports pitches on the Trinity Playing Fields, and new management arrangements for Roehampton Playing Fields on Doverhouse Road (i.e., Roehampton University is to take on the management of the playing fields).

Furthermore, it is important to ensure the PPS is consistent with and helps to meet Active Wandsworth Strategy's three strategic objectives and overall vision (i.e., a place where everybody can enjoy an active and healthy lifestyle) as well as the National Planning Policy Framework Core Planning Principle 12.

The table below summarises key drivers for the Wandsworth PPS as identified via initial discussions with the relevant national governing bodies of sport (NGBs):

NGB	Key drivers
The Football Association (FA)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improve the quality of natural grass and artificial grass pitch provision.</li> <li>• Protect the right sites for current and future football participation.</li> <li>• Provide new pitches and facilities to FA standards where needed.</li> </ul>
English Cricket Board (ECB)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Establish long term maintenance of sites and review impact on pitches.</li> <li>• Ensure that activity and quality of provision are appropriate to respective facilities.</li> <li>• Ensure clubs are sustainable.</li> </ul>
England Hockey (EH)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Establish the 'Single System' in Wandsworth to support the development pathway for players, coaches and officials of all ages and abilities to reach their full potential.</li> <li>• Ensure that there is sufficient provision (including accessibility) for predicted growth to support priority clubs</li> <li>• Ensure that existing artificial grass pitches have capacity to accommodate development programmes such as RUSH hockey</li> <li>• Ensure that any new hockey provision in the study area supports localised hockey demand and any hockey development programmes.</li> </ul>
Rugby Football Union (RFU)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identify levels of latent demand and predicted future participation increases.</li> <li>• Identify levels of current and future increases in rugby union participation including latent demand</li> <li>• Ensure that there is sustainable access to pitches in Wandsworth to satisfy current, future and latent demand.</li> </ul>
Lawn Tennis Association (LTA)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improve the quality of tennis provision.</li> <li>• Ensure that there are sites that offer 'all year round' play.</li> </ul>

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### ***Vision***

Based on discussion with the Steering Group and subsequent consultation with NGBs, the draft vision for development of a PPS in Wandsworth is to:

*“Produce a robust and comprehensive Strategy for the Borough which includes the development of policy options along with sport, area, pricing and site specific recommendations and actions.”*

### ***Objectives***

In order to be clear about how the vision will be achieved, the following objectives are identified. They relate to the key steps for developing the PPS and will ensure that a representative cross section of user views and opinions are collected and taken into account. They are to:

- ◀ Produce a five year strategy which will include identifying current and future provision requirements.
- ◀ Ensure that the PPS includes the provision of current and future standards.
- ◀ Achieve a minimum 75% response rate for all surveys distributed to sports clubs, leagues and schools.
- ◀ Ascertain the quality of all sites accommodating playing pitches (for football, rugby, hockey, cricket) and other outdoor sports facilities (i.e., tennis, netball and bowls) regardless of ownership or management.
- ◀ Identify key issues via consultation with key clubs (identified by each NGB) during face to face meetings.
- ◀ Produce a site by site capacity analysis.
- ◀ Take into account informal and casual play on sites in the Study Area and its impact.
- ◀ Establish a sustainable working group or steering group to oversee and (when appropriate) facilitate PPS implementation and ‘refreshing’ to reduce the need to, and costs of, fully updating it in the future.
- ◀ Confer with all relevant stakeholders and council departments as part of the consultation.

### ***Step 2: Management arrangements***

The project team (KKP) is responsible for the day to day development of the PPS and ensuring tasks are completed in line with the project plan. In order to ensure effective and continued PPS management, it has been supported by the abovementioned Steering Group comprising representatives from the Council, NGBs and other key stakeholders. This is responsible for the vision and direction of the PPS from a strategic perspective and supporting, checking and challenging the work of the project team.

It will be important for the Steering Group to continue once the PPS has been developed for several reasons, including:

- ◀ To be a champion for playing pitch provision in the area and promote the value and importance of the PPS.
- ◀ To ensure implementation of the PPS’s recommendations and action plan.
- ◀ To monitor and evaluate the outcomes of the PPS.
- ◀ To ensure that the PPS is kept up to date and refreshed.

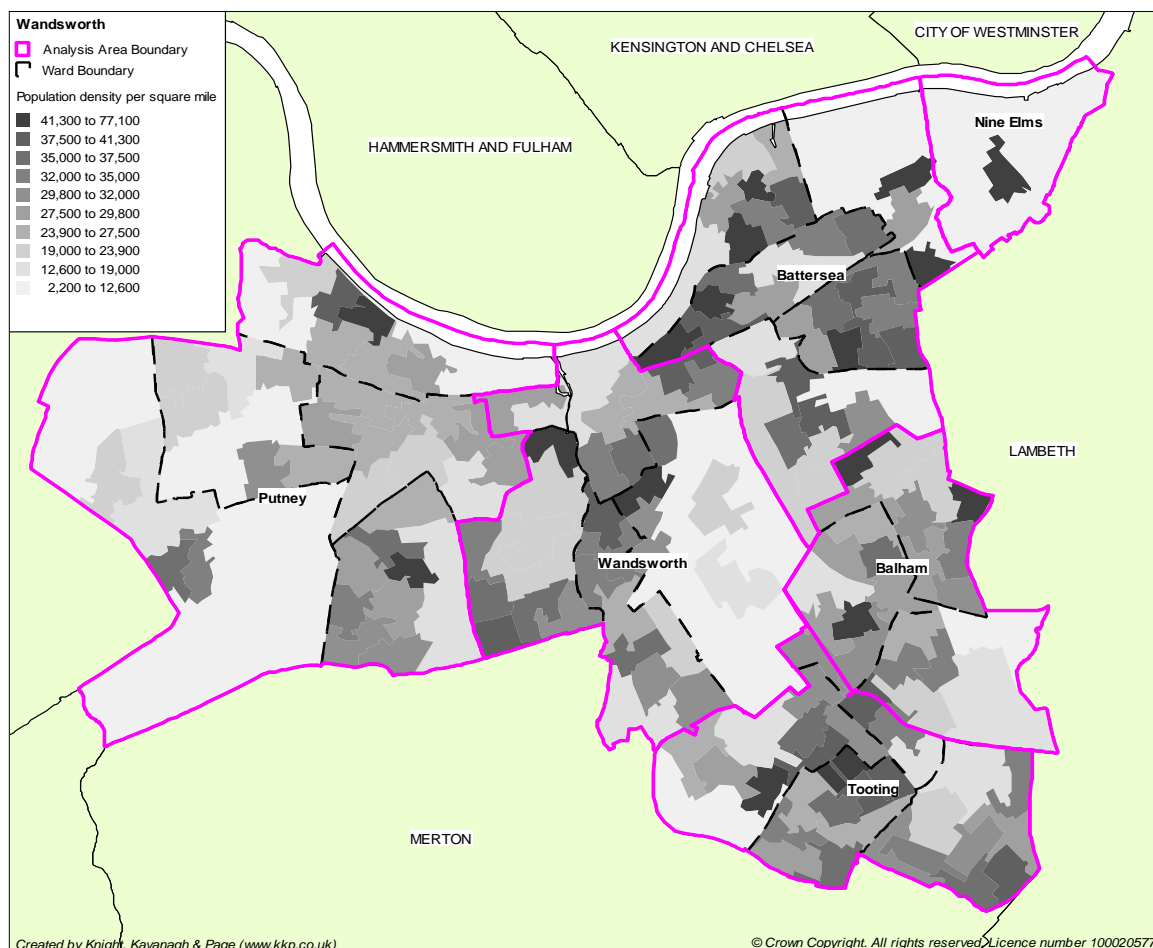
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Assessment data was identified and collated between June and October 2012. Although this was not considered ideal for all sports, particularly football (because part of the period was out of season), for financial and political reasons, the Council decided to run the project at this time as part of Sport England pilots for their new framework. As agreed with the steering group, the study area (i.e., Wandsworth borough) is sub divided into six analysis areas:

Analysis area	Population (MYE 2011)
Balham	36,672
Battersea	62,904
Nine Elms	6,467
Putney	75,291
Tooting	47,050
Wandsworth	61,190
<b>Total</b>	<b>289,574</b>

The analysis areas allow more localised assessment of provision and examination of facility surplus and deficiencies at a local level. Use of analysis areas also allows local circumstances and issues to be taken into account.

Figure 1.1 Map of agreed analysis areas





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The Wandsworth PPS is presented in two distinct documents:

- ◀ **An assessment report** - which provides the evidence base (supply and demand data) and culminates in summarising the key findings and issues; followed by
- ◀ **A strategy and action plan** - which will, succinctly, define what is recommended by the PPS and how it will be implemented.

### **Step 3: Tailoring the approach**

In tailoring the approach to the study area, KKP has sought to consider how the characteristics of the area impacts upon playing pitch provision, including:

#### *The type of pitch use, provision, operation and maintenance*

As a large urban area, the Borough has a wide range and mix of playing pitch site owners and managers. Although the Council own the majority of sites, it employs Fountains plc under contract to maintain its parks and open spaces (including the allocation and booking of outdoor sports pitches).

Other local providers include Wimbledon and Putney Commons (Richardson Evans Memorial Playing Fields) and three private multi sport clubs, Bank of England Sports Centre, The Spencer Club and Battersea Ironsides Sports Club. Clapham Common falls within Wandsworth (Balham) but is owned and managed by LB of Lambeth. Conversely, part of Barn Elms Sports, the Sports Centre is owned by Wandsworth Council but is located in LB Richmond. The mix of ownership highlights particular issues including community access, security of tenure and availability, which are all explored further on a sport by sport basis.

It is common for education sites to be significant providers of sports pitches which may be available for wider community use or have the potential to contribute further. However, given the urban nature of Wandsworth few schools provide playing pitches; the majority make use of parks and recreation grounds.

Roehampton University does not currently provide sports facilities. However, it is currently in discussion with the Council with regard to leasing Roehampton Playing Fields. The site is in need of enhancement but provides tennis courts, football and cricket pitches. The University would be keen to install an artificial grass pitch (AGP) at the site in partnership with Putney High School Girls School Day Trust (a large independent girls' school) which would use the pitch to deliver its lacrosse activities.

#### *Participation in sport and physical activity*

In order to help establish how active the local population is, what sports are played and how likely they are to participate in pitch sports, Sport England's participation analysis tool (i.e., the Local Sport Profile tool) is used. It provides a detailed understanding of key participation trends between different groups in the Borough's population.

The Active People Survey (APS) is the largest ever survey of sport and active recreation to be undertaken in Europe. The first year of the survey, APS1 was conducted between October 2005 and October 2006. A total of 363,724 adults living in England took part. APS2, the second year of the survey, was conducted between October 2007 and October 2008 this time a total of 191,325 adults took part. It has now become a continuous

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process, with APS3 completed in Oct 2009, APS4 in October 2010 and APS5 in October 2011. The results of APS6, which ran until October 2012, are presently being analysed. Each survey gathers data on the type, duration and intensity of people's participation in different types of sport and active recreation and cultural participation, as well as information about volunteering, club membership, tuition as an instructor or coach, participation in competitive sport and overall satisfaction with local sports provision.

### *Activity levels in the local population?*

Table 1.1 shows APS3, 4 and 5 results for Wandsworth in comparison to the national and the Sport England Regional figures. Data for the nearest neighbours are also presented.

*Table 1.1 Active People survey results for all adults – Wandsworth and nearest neighbours<sup>1</sup>*

KPI			National %	London %	Wandsworth %	Ealing %	Lambeth %	Merton %
KPI 3 - Club member (all adults)	APS3	%	24.1	24.9	<b>30.0</b>	25.8	24.1	28.0
	APS4		23.9	24.0	<b>31.0</b>	21.4	25.4	29.5
	APS5		23.3	22.6	<b>32.9</b>	17.7	24.4	22.8
KPI 4 - Received tuition from coach or instructor in last 12 months	APS3	%	17.5	19.1	<b>21.2</b>	16.2	19.6	22.1
	APS4		17.5	18.9	<b>24.8</b>	17.7	18.1	17.8
	APS5		16.2	16.9	<b>22.1</b>	15.8	20.1	16.0
KPI 5 - Taken part in organised competitive sport in last 12 months	APS3	%	14.4	13.0	<b>17.8</b>	11.7	13.9	15.2
	APS4		14.4	12.6	<b>21.8</b>	9.2	13.4	12.6
	APS5		14.3	12.3	<b>18.8</b>	9.7	14.8	17.0
At least 3 days per week x 30 minutes moderate participation	APS3	%	16.6	17.2	<b>19.9</b>	17.0	17.3	19.2
	APS4		16.5	16.6	<b>21.9</b>	15.3	14.6	20.5
	APS5		16.3	16.2	<b>19.4</b>	12.1	22.2	14.0
KPI 2 - At least 1 hour per week volunteering to support sport	APS3	%	4.7	3.3	<b>2.4</b>	3.9	2.8	4.3
	APS4		4.5	2.8	<b>1.7</b>	1.2	3.1	3.0
	APS5		7.3	5.3	<b>5.9</b>	4.4	3.0	4.7

Nearest neighbours are not geographic but those which are the closest to Wandsworth in terms of socio-demographics. This type of comparison has been developed to aid local authorities to compare and benchmark. The models apply a range of socio-economic indicators upon which the specific family group (nearest neighbours) is calculated.

The table indicates that the percentage of adults doing at least 3 x 30 minutes exercise was higher in Wandsworth (19.4%) than regionally in London (16.2%) and nationally (16.3%) in 2009 and continued to be through to October 2011. Wandsworth is also consistently above regional and national figures for the percentage of adults that are club members, have received tuition and that have taken part in organised competitive sport.

However, In 2009 and 2010 Wandsworth was lower than the national and regional figures for adults volunteering at least one hour a week to support sport. However, APS5 shows an increase to 5.9%, which is above the regional percentage of 5.3% for London; although still lower than the figure of 7.3% nationally.

<sup>1</sup> According to [www.cipfastats.net](http://www.cipfastats.net) Wandsworth's top three nearest neighbours are Ealing, Lambeth and Merton

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### Market segmentation

To help better understand attitudes, motivations and perceived barriers to participation Sport England has developed a segmentation model with 19 'sporting' segments. Each has a distinct sporting behaviour and attitude. An overview is provided below:

Table 1.2 Sport England market segmentation summaries

Name	Title	Description	Top three participating sports nationally
Ben	Competitive Male Urbanites	Male (aged 18-25), recent graduates, with a 'work-hard, play-hard' attitude. Most sporty of 19 segments.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◀ Football (33%)</li> <li>◀ Keep fit/gym (24%)</li> <li>◀ Cycling (18%)</li> </ul>
Jamie	Sports Team Drinkers	Young blokes (aged 18-25) enjoying football, pints and pool.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◀ Football (28%)</li> <li>◀ Keep fit/gym (22%)</li> <li>◀ Athletics (12%)</li> </ul>
Chloe	Fitness Class Friends	Young (aged 18-25) image-conscious females keeping fit and trim.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◀ Keep fit/gym (28%)</li> <li>◀ Swimming (24%)</li> <li>◀ Athletics (14%)</li> </ul>
Leanne	Supportive Singles	Young (aged 18-25) busy mums and their supportive college mates. Least active segment of her age group.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◀ Keep fit/gym (23%)</li> <li>◀ Swimming (18%)</li> <li>◀ Athletics (9%)</li> </ul>
Helena	Career Focused Females	Single professional women, enjoying life in the fast lane (aged 26-45).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◀ Keep fit/gym (26%)</li> <li>◀ Swimming (23%)</li> <li>◀ Cycling (11%)</li> </ul>
Tim	Settling Down Males	Sporty male professionals (aged 26-45), buying a house and settling down with partner.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◀ Cycling (21%)</li> <li>◀ Keep fit/gym (20%)</li> <li>◀ Swimming (15%)</li> </ul>
Alison	Stay at Home Mums	Mums with a comfortable, but busy, lifestyle (aged 36-45).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◀ Keep fit/gym (27%)</li> <li>◀ Swimming (25%)</li> <li>◀ Cycling (12%)</li> </ul>
Jackie	Middle England Mums	Mums (aged 36-45) juggling work, family and finance.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◀ Keep fit/gym (27%)</li> <li>◀ Swimming (20%)</li> <li>◀ Cycling (9%)</li> </ul>
Kev	Pub League Team Mates	Blokes (aged 36-45) who enjoy pub league games and watching live sport.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◀ Keep fit/gym (14%)</li> <li>◀ Football (12%)</li> <li>◀ Cycling (11%)</li> </ul>
Paula	Stretched Single Mums	Single mum (aged 26-45) with financial pressures, childcare issues and little time for pleasure.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◀ Keep fit/gym (18%)</li> <li>◀ Swimming (17%)</li> <li>◀ Cycling (5%)</li> </ul>
Philip	Comfortable Mid-Life Males	Mid-life professional (aged 46-55), sporty males with older children and more time for themselves.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◀ Cycling (16%)</li> <li>◀ Keep fit/gym (15%)</li> <li>◀ Swimming (12%)</li> </ul>
Elaine	Empty Nest Career Ladies	Mid-life professionals who have more time for themselves since their children left home (aged 46-55).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◀ Keep fit/gym (21%)</li> <li>◀ Swimming (18%)</li> <li>◀ Cycling (7%)</li> </ul>
Roger & Joy	Early Retirement Couples	Free-time couples nearing the end of their careers (aged 56-65).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◀ Keep fit/gym (13%)</li> <li>◀ Swimming (13%)</li> <li>◀ Cycling (8%)</li> </ul>

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Name	Title	Description	Top three participating sports nationally
Brenda	Older Working Women	Middle aged ladies (aged 46-65), working to make ends meet.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◀ Keep fit/gym (15%)</li> <li>◀ Swimming (13%)</li> <li>◀ Cycling (4%)</li> </ul>
Terry	Local 'Old Boys'	Generally inactive older men (aged 56-65), low income and little provision for retirement.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◀ Keep fit/gym (8%)</li> <li>◀ Swimming (6%)</li> <li>◀ Cycling (5%)</li> </ul>
Norma	Later Life Ladies	Older ladies (aged 56-65), recently retired, with a basic income to enjoy their lifestyles.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◀ Keep fit/gym (12%)</li> <li>◀ Swimming (10%)</li> <li>◀ Cycling (2%)</li> </ul>
Ralph & Phyllis	Comfortable Retired Couples	Retired couples (aged 66+), enjoying active and comfortable lifestyles.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◀ Keep fit/gym (10%)</li> <li>◀ Swimming (9%)</li> <li>◀ Golf (7%)</li> </ul>
Frank	Twilight Year Gents	Retired men (aged 66+) with some pension provision and limited sporting opportunities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◀ Golf (7%)</li> <li>◀ Keep fit/gym (6%)</li> <li>◀ Bowls (6%)</li> </ul>
Elsie & Arnold	Retirement Home Singles	Retired singles or widowers (aged 66+), predominantly female, living in sheltered accommodation.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◀ Keep fit/gym (10%)</li> <li>◀ Swimming (7%)</li> <li>◀ Bowls (3%)</li> </ul>

Knowing which segment is most dominant in the local population is important as it can help direct provision and programming. For example, whilst the needs of smaller segments should not be ignored, it is useful for Wandsworth Council to understand which sports are enjoyed by the largest proportion(s) of the population. Segmentation also enables partners to make tailored interventions, communicate effectively with target market(s) and better understand participation in the context of life stage and lifecycles.

### *Dominant market segmentation in Wandsworth by population*

Figure 1.2 overleaf illustrates that Tim (as depicted by the yellow areas) is the market segment with the greatest coverage in Wandsworth. The green areas for Kev cover a large area in west Wandsworth. However, actual percentages for Kev (as set out in table 1.3 – also overleaf) are relatively lower because they occur in parts of Wandsworth with smaller population densities. Despite having less visual coverage on the map; the segments of Chloe and Ben are in areas of high population density. Concentrations of Chloe are situated to the North West and East of the Borough.

The largest market segment is “Tim” (settling down males) which accounts for 14.3% of the Wandsworth population. This means that, of the 19, the greatest proportion would benefit from initiatives that appeal to “Tim”; sports such as cycling, keep fit/gym, swimming and football.

Chloe (fitness class friend) is the second largest market segment in Wandsworth with 10.5% of the population. Typically, “Chloe’s” participate in sports such as keep fit/gym, swimming, athletics and cycling.

The third largest market segment in Wandsworth is “Ben” (competitive male urbanites). There is 10.0% of the population in this segment. Sports that “Bens” like to take part in include football, keep fit/gym, cycling, athletics and swimming. They are also likely to be a very active and regularly take part in sport. It is the most ‘sporty’ of the 19 segments.



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Figure 1.2 Map of dominant market segments in Wandsworth

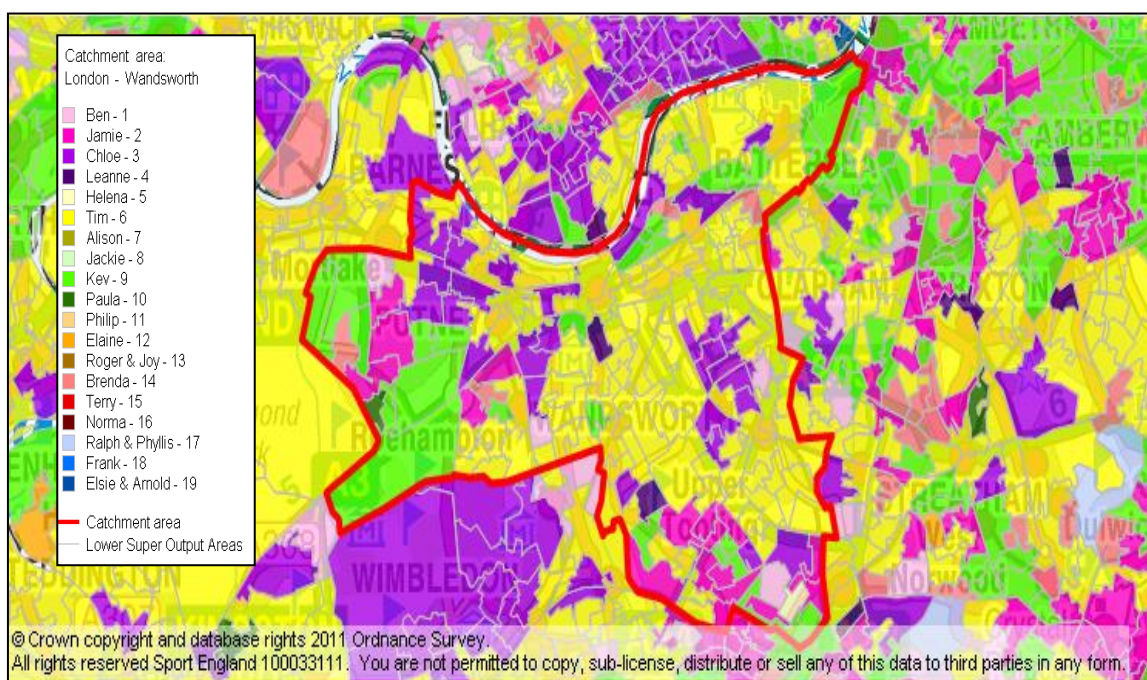


Table 1.3 Wandsworth: Sport England market segments

Code	Name	Description	Rate
A01	Ben	Competitive Male Urbanites	10%
A02	Jamie	Sports Team Drinkers	6.4%
A03	Chloe	Fitness Class Friends	10.5%
A04	Leanne	Supportive Singles	5.3%
B05	Helena	Career Focused Females	8.2%
B06	Tim	Settling Down Males	14.3%
B07	Alison	Stay at Home Mums	6.7%
B08	Jackie	Middle England Mums	2.2%
B09	Kev	Pub League Team Mates	5.9%
B10	Paula	Stretched Single Mums	3.5%
C11	Philip	Comfortable Mid-Life Males	4.6%
C12	Elaine	Empty Nest Career Ladies	4%
C13	Roger & Joy	Early Retirement Couples	3.2%
C14	Brenda	Older Working Women	4.1%
C15	Terry	Local 'Old Boys'	2%
C16	Norma	Later Life Ladies	2.9%
D17	Ralph & Phyllis	Comfortable Retired Couples	2.1%
D18	Frank	Twilight Year Gents	1%
D19	Elsie & Arnold	Retirement Home Singles	3.1%
<b>Total</b>			<b>100%</b>

Source: Sport England, 2012, Measure: Sport Market Segmentation

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*What does market segmentation mean for pitch sports?*

Of the three largest market segments, two (“Tim” and “Ben”) identify football as an activity they particularly enjoy playing. 33% of “Bens” and 15% of “Tims” are likely to play football. This is much higher than the national participation rate for football, which is 4%. No other pitch sports are identified as significant activities as a result of market segmentation for the Wandsworth area. There is a substantial coverage for football partly because “Tim” is the dominant market segment in Wandsworth. The concentration of “Kevs” (12% of whom are likely to play football) in the west of the Borough adds to this.

*Which are the most popular sports played by adults in the area?*

Analysis identifies that football is the most popular pitch sport being played in Wandsworth. Athletics is also popular in the Borough (although not a pitch sport).

### 1.2 Section B: Information gathering

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

#### **Step 4: An audit of playing pitches**

PPS guidance uses the following definitions of a playing pitch and playing field. These definitions are set out by the Government in the 2010 ‘Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (England) Order’.<sup>2</sup>

- ◀ **Playing pitch** – a delineated area which, together with any run off area is of 0.2 hectares or more, and 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.

This PPS counts individual grass pitches (as a delineated area) as the basic unit of supply. The definition of a playing pitch also includes AGPs.

#### *Quantity*

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 detail is recorded in the project database. (It is 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
- ◀ A description and the quality of the ancillary facilities

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

## WANDSWORTH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

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In total there are 132 sites containing playing pitches (including bowling greens and tennis courts) in Wandsworth.

### *Accessibility*

Not all pitches offer the same level of access to the community. The ownership and accessibility of sports 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 use 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.

### *Quality*

The capacity for 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.

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.

The quality of all pitches identified in the audit and the ancillary facilities supporting them is 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.

The ratings are used to help estimate the capacity of each pitch to accommodate competitive and other play within the supply and demand assessment.

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 with regard to quality and in some instances the quality rating adjusted to reflect this.

## WANDSWORTH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

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### ***Step 5: Developing a picture of demand***

Presenting an accurate picture of current demand for playing pitches (i.e. recording how and when pitches are used) is important in order to carry out the full supply and demand assessment. Demand for playing pitches in Wandsworth tends to fall within the categories:

- ◀ Organised competitive play
- ◀ Organised training
- ◀ Casual play

There is significant informal and/or unauthorised use of public open spaces which are marked in both the Summer and Winter for particular sports (which are also hired out to sports clubs and organisations). This is most substantial on the commons i.e. Tooting, Wandsworth, Clapham and also Wandsworth Park. Due to the size and nature of these sites they are difficult to police. In addition there is general recreational use out of the playing season which has an impact on the ongoing maintenance and the overall quality of the playing pitches. As a result, this impacts on the capacity of pitches to accommodate competitive matches. During the summer these areas become general open spaces and are booked out to fitness and activity classes.

In addition, latent and displaced demand for provision is also identified on a sport by sport basis. Latent 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.

Alongside current demand it is important for a PPS to assess whether the future demand for playing pitches can be met. Using population projections, an estimate can be made of the likely future demand for playing pitches in Wandsworth.

Population data in the study uses figures produced by the Greater London Authority (GLA). The figures utilise the standard projection of the Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment (SHLAA) which is based on 2009 housing capacity and delivery information. Despite being slightly out of date on a local level, use of the standard SHLAA figures allows for compatibility with other London boroughs.



## WANDSWORTH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

Using the GLA population figures for Wandsworth in 2012 there are a total of 312,864 people resident in the Borough. By 2020 the Borough's population is projected to rise to 337,410; an increase of 24,546 (or equivalent to a percentage increase of 7.85%). Applied to an analysis area basis using the latest population figures (ONS Mid Year Estimates) and applying a 7.85% increase, the following future population figures are determined:

Analysis area	Population (MYE 2011)	Future population (2020)
Balham	36,672	39,551
Battersea	62,904	67,842
Nine Elms	6,467	6,975
Putney	75,291	81,201
Tooting	47,050	50,743
Wandsworth	61,190	65,993
<b>Total</b>	<b>289,574</b>	<b>312,306</b>

Other information sources used to help identified 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).

Current and future demand for playing pitches is presented on a sport by sport basis within the relevant sections of this report. The table below provides a summary of the future development trends across football, rugby union, hockey and artificial grass pitches (AGPs).

*Table 1.4 Likely future sport-by-sport demand trends*

Sport	Future development trend
Football	<p>The needs of the game will change significantly from the 2013/14 season with the implementation of the FA Youth Development Review. As a result, pitch demands in the Borough will change. This could also see changes in the seasonal demand of pitches (youth football).</p> <p>Demand for senior football is also likely to be sustained by the high levels of junior participation onward flow of players and supported by the FA's National Strategy. FA targets for growth are 20,500 new teams by 2012.<sup>3</sup></p> <p>The most likely future increases in the number of teams are identified in the category of senior men for which there will be an anticipated further 210.3 teams by 2026.</p> <p>Get into Football is the FA's commitment to significantly increasing the number of adults playing the National Game. Recognising that male participation is already high in Wandsworth, emphasis is placed on increasing adult youth and female participation (14-25 year olds). This work involves supporting clubs and leagues, working with schools, colleges and universities, and devising flexible formats of football.</p>

<sup>3</sup> Football Association National Game Strategy 2008 – 2012.

## WANDSWORTH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

Sport	Future development trend
Cricket	Clubs have strong and active senior and junior sections which access a range of club facilities.
	Together with disability cricket, women's and girls' cricket is a national priority for ECB. There is a target to establish two girls' and one women's team in every local authority over the next five years. Furthermore, Surrey Cricket Board has a development officer with the responsibility to help increase the profile of women and girls' and disability cricket across the County.
	The ECB has developed more informal types of cricket (aimed at encouraging young people aged 16-25 into the sport) such as Last Man Stands (LMS). 24 teams currently play LMS across three sites; Wandsworth Common, Wandsworth Park and Battersea Park.
Rugby union	The Rugby World Cup (2015) is predicted to see a further increase in the demand for rugby provision in the Borough.
Hockey	Likely that hockey participation will increase across the Borough through the range of key programmes being delivered in the Borough.
AGPs	Demand for AGPs for football continues to increase. Provision of 3G pitches (IRB compliant) will help to reduce overplay of football and rugby pitches.

A variety of consultation methods is used to collate demand information. Face to face consultation was carried out with key league officials, clubs in each sport and secondary schools. This allowed for collection of detailed demand information and exploration of key issues to be interrogated and more accurately assessed.

For data analysis purposes an online survey (converted to postal if required) was utilised. This was sent to all clubs/schools not covered by face to face consultation.

### *Consultation response rates*

Sport	Response rate	Methods of consultation
Football clubs <sup>[1]</sup>	47%	Survey, face to face and telephone
Football teams	70%	
Cricket clubs	85%	Survey, face to face and telephone
Rugby union clubs	75%	Survey, face to face and telephone
Hockey clubs	100%	Survey
Tennis clubs	82%	Survey
Secondary schools (including independent, higher and further education sites)	93%	Survey and site visit
Primary schools	80%	Survey

Please see the appendices for a list of consultees.

<sup>[1]</sup> KKP contacted outstanding clubs on a minimum of three occasions to attempt to improve the response rate. Key leagues servicing the area were consulted and supported the study by hosting (on their league website) and distributing an online survey.

## WANDSWORTH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

### 1.3 Section C: Assessment

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

#### ***Step 6: Understand how a site is being used***

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.

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	

#### ***Step 7: Develop the current picture of provision***

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 at when it is needed or the site may be retained in a 'strategic reserve' to enable pitch rotation to reduce wear and tear.

Capacity ratings assist in the identification of sites for improvement/development, rationalisation, decommissioning and disposal.

#### ***Step 8: Scenario testing***

After the capacity analysis is agreed, the Steering Group will identify appropriate modelling scenarios to assess whether existing provision can cater for latent, displaced and future demand. This will include, for example, removing sites with unsecured community use to demonstrate the impact this would have were these sites to be decommissioned in the future. We also model the potential impact of local development proposals such as (for example) Vauxhall Nine Elms Battersea Opportunity Area and the redevelopment of Springfield Hospital and assess their potential impact on provision in the Area.

## WANDSWORTH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

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### 1.4 Section D: Key findings and issues

By completing Sections A, B and C it is possible to identify several findings and issues relating to the supply, demand and adequacy of playing pitch provision in Wandsworth. 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 E).

Section D is structured to provide a sport by sport analysis as follows:

- ◀ Part 2: Football
- ◀ Part 3: Cricket
- ◀ Part 4: Rugby
- ◀ Part 5: Hockey
- ◀ Part 6: Tennis
- ◀ Part 7: Bowls
- ◀ Part 8: Netball
- ◀ Part 9: Education provision

Please refer to the appendices for the national, regional and local sporting context appertaining to this study.

# WANDSWORTH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

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## PART 2: FOOTBALL

### 2.1: Introduction

The London Football Association (LFA) is the primary organisation responsible for development (and some elements of administration) of football in Wandsworth. It is also responsible for the administration, in terms of discipline, rules and regulations, cup competitions and representative matches, development of clubs and facilities, referees, coaching courses and delivering national football schemes. In addition, some clubs playing in Wandsworth affiliate to Surrey FA and the Amateur Football Alliance (AFA).

#### *FA Youth Development Review*

In 2011, The FA published its plans for the development of coaching and coach education – entitled ‘the Future Game’. This document describes how The FA intends to develop the game and promote better coaching standards and techniques to improve the technical ability of players at all levels. The FA also proposed how youth football should be reformed and delivered as part of the ‘youth development review’. This sets out some significant changes in the format and structure of youth football some of which will have a direct impact on football facilities.

The FA has produced recommended pitch sizes for mini soccer (5v5, 7v7), youth football (9v9, 11v11) and senior football (11v11). This provides children with a modified game that fits their age and stage of learning. This will see all age groups up to U12s playing a modified format. The entry point for U7s will be a 5v5 game, U9s and U10s will play 7v7, followed by a new 9v9 format for U11s and U12s.

All available research and observations show that children will have more fun and learn more playing a game with smaller teams and modified rules. Playing modified versions of the game has been proven to give children a more enjoyable experience enabling them to take a more active part in the game, develop their football skills and get better, be able to take part whatever their ability, provide a ‘real’ football experience, creates an environment that allows the development of ‘game understanding’. Modified goal sizes also provide goalkeepers a realistic chance of saving shots.

The introduction of 9v9 football, by the FA, is designed to help bridge the gap between mini soccer and eleven a side football and will introduce a new youth size pitch and goalpost suitable for 9v9 football.

The FA reports that, where there is limited space, it is acceptable to mark out in blue 9v9 pitches (box to box) on a full size pitch, where playing capacity allows. However specific portable 9v9 goals (recommended size 7x16 ft) would be required, therefore security and storage would need to be considered. Funding for the purchase of new 9v9 goalposts is available through the County FA via the Football Foundation. There are a number of options including, use of a central venue that teams travel to play their games, use of a 3G football turf pitch or access to school pitches that are underused.

The proposals will become mandatory from 2012/14 season and the Playing Pitch Strategy will outline how the changes plan to be met in Wandsworth. There has been some interest in Wandsworth this season but no pitches have been marked out on Council owned sites. London FA suggest Tooting Common has the most potential to accommodate 9v9 pitches by replacing redundant senior pitches. Lido Fields has also

## WANDSWORTH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

been identified by Wandsworth Council and Fountains Ltd as an option to accommodate them.

Through marking out two 9v9 pitches on one senior pitch this will thus help to meet the shortfall of junior pitches identified at peak times. However, specific 9v9 goals (recommended size 7 x 16 ft) would be required. Funding for the purchase of new 9v9 goalposts is available through the Football Foundation (<http://www.footballfoundation.org.uk>).

The table below provides a *predicated* forecast to indicate how many 5v5, 7v7, 9v9 are likely to be required by 2014 at peak time (Saturday AM) based on current participation levels (season 2011/12).<sup>4</sup>

Area	Requirement of pitches in 2014 (estimated)		
	5v5 (U7 & U8)	7v7 (U9 & U10)	9v9 (U11 & U12)
Putney	1	-	1
Wandsworth	1	1	2
Battersea	1.5	-	-
Nine Elms	-	-	-
Balham	1.5	-	4
Tooting	-	-	-
<b>WANDSWORTH</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>7</b>

\*Roundest to the nearest ten.

The table above identifies the number of pitches required in each analysis area. In order to ensure the Borough is ready to accommodate the new FA pitch sizes and dimensions the Council should seek to work towards introducing 9v9 pitches by 2013/2014 (based on the number of junior football teams in season 11/12) to ensure it can accommodate this new format of football. However, this **does not** take into account latent demand and increases in football participation. This could be achieved by either re-marking senior pitches as 9v9 pitches or additional 9v9 line markings (therefore providing dual use senior and 9v9 pitches) to accommodate this new format of football. Any new pitch development should take into consideration the 9v9 pitch requirements.

### Consultation

In addition to face to face consultation with key clubs, an electronic survey was sent to all football clubs playing in Wandsworth, contact details were originally provided by London FA and the invitation to complete the survey was distributed via email which was chased via telephone. A response rate of 47% (clubs) and 70% (teams) was achieved. Results are used to inform key issues within this section of the report.

### 2.2: Supply

The audit identifies 18 sites providing grass football pitches currently used for community use in Wandsworth, providing a total of 94 grass football pitches. In addition, Barn Elms

<sup>4</sup> This has been calculated based on the number of football teams playing in Wandsworth (season 2011/12). It is also assumed that each pitch will have the capacity for two matches per week.

## WANDSWORTH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

Sports Ground is managed by Wandsworth Council but falls just outside the Area in Richmond. It provides a total of 17 pitches (9 senior, 2 junior and 6 mini).

Table 2.1: Summary of pitches used for community use

Analysis area	Number of pitches					
	Adult football	Youth football			Mini soccer	
	(11v11)	7v7	9v9	11v11	5v5	7v7
Putney	22	-	-	1	-	6
Wandsworth	13	-	-	4	-	9
Battersea	2	-	-	2	-	5
Nine Elms	-	-	-	-	-	-
Balham	15	-	-	5	-	6
Tooting	2	-	-	-	-	2
<b>WANDSWORTH</b>	<b>54</b>	-	-	<b>12</b>	-	<b>28</b>

Please see Appendix for FA recommended pitch dimensions.

Please note that the audit only assesses dedicated, line marked pitches and it is likely that younger age groups will play across senior pitches or on informal pitches marked out with cones.

The following sites are identified as being available for community use but are currently unused i.e. have no regular competitive play recorded against them:

- ◀ Hillbrook School
- ◀ Ashcroft Technology Academy Sports Field

The main reason why these pitches are unused is due to a lack of demand.

Only two sites with grass football pitches are not available for community use; Graveney School (lower school site) and Ibstock Place School.

These sites do offer potential capacity/additional pitches if current supply does not meet expressed demand.

### **Accessibility**

The football club survey reveals that most players travel between two and five miles to access pitches in Wandsworth. Clubs travelling over five miles generally participate in leagues which are of a high standard (e.g. junior leagues) which means that players are willing to travel further to play a good standard of competitive football. Club consultation also suggests that in some areas clubs are willing to travel further in order to access better quality facilities.



# WANDSWORTH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

Figure 2.1: Location of all football pitches in Wandsworth mapped by availability

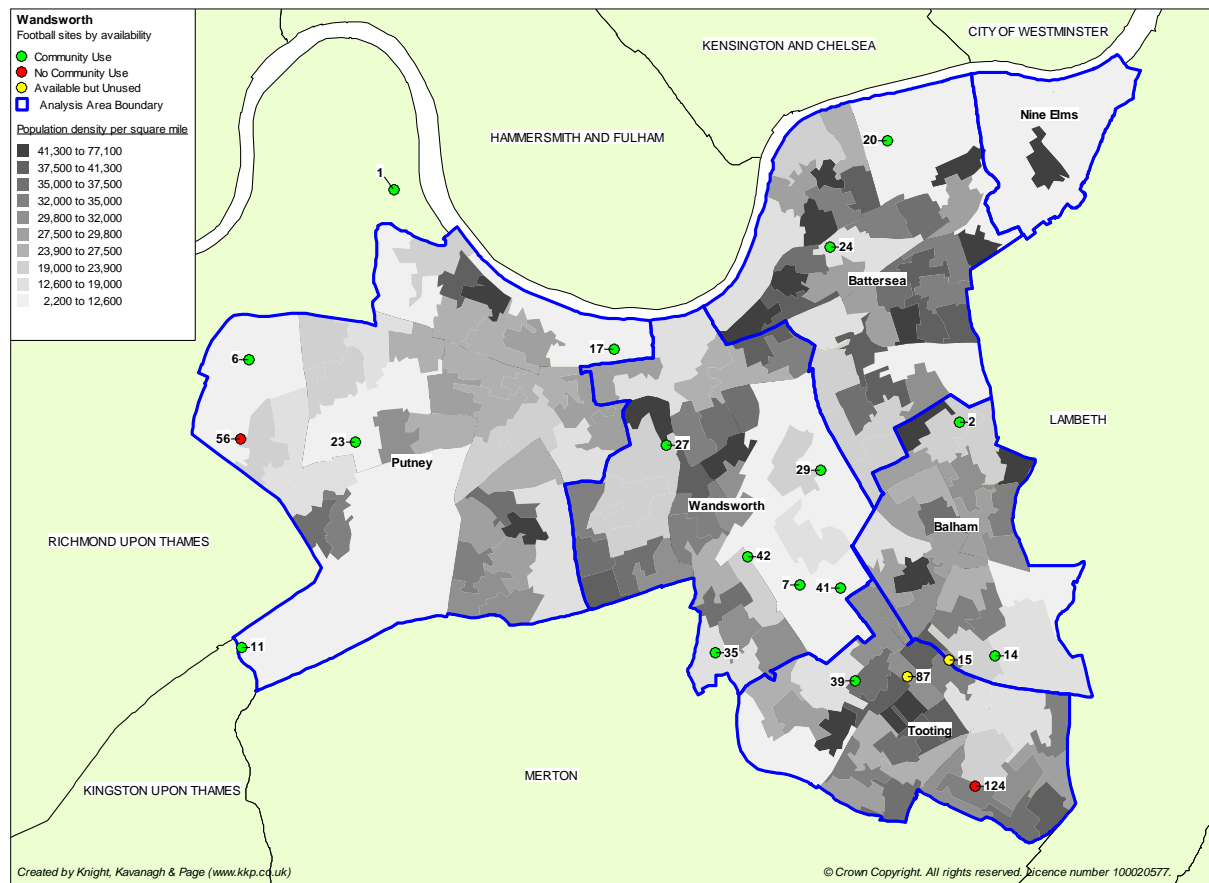


Table 2.2: Key to map of football pitches

Ref	Site name	Analysis area	Community use
2	Clapham Common	Balham	Yes
14	Tooting Common	Balham	Yes
15	Tooting Bec Athletics Track	Balham	Available but Unused
20	Battersea Park	Battersea	Yes
24	Falcon Park	Battersea	Yes
1	Barn Elms Sports Centre	OUTSIDE	Yes
6	Bank of England Sports Centre	Putney	Yes
11	Richardson Evans Memorial Playing Fields	Putney	Yes
17	Wandsworth Park	Putney	Yes
23	Roehampton Playing Fields	Putney	Yes
56	Ibstock Place School	Putney	No
39	Fishponds Playing Fields	Tooting	Yes
87	Hillbrook School	Tooting	Available but Unused
124	Graveney School (Lower school site)	Tooting	No
7	Battersea Ironsides Sports Club	Wandsworth Common	Yes
27	King Georges Park	Wandsworth Common	Yes
29	Wandsworth Common	Wandsworth Common	Yes
35	Garratt Park	Wandsworth Common	Yes
41	Trinity Sports Field	Wandsworth Common	Yes
42	Ashcroft Technology Academy Sports	Wandsworth Common	Yes



## WANDSWORTH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

Ref	Site name	Analysis area	Community use
	Field		

At present there are no professional football clubs playing on pitches in Wandsworth. Consultation reports there are also no suitable grounds/pitches to accommodate U18 football. For example, Balham Blazers (U18) competes in the Southern Youth League (floodlit mid week league) and travels outside of the assessment area to Merton to play at the AGP at Colliers Wood FC.

### ***Ownership/management***

A variety of providers in Wandsworth manage sites containing football pitches. Although the Council own the majority of sites, other providers include Wimbledon and Putney Commons (Richardson Evans Memorial Playing Fields) and two private clubs: the Bank of England Sports Centre and Battersea Ironsides Sports Club. Clapham Common falls within Wandsworth (Balham) but is owned and managed by LB of Lambeth. Conversely, part of Barn Elms is owned by Wandsworth Council but located in LB Richmond.

Fountains is responsible for the maintenance of Wandsworth Council parks and open spaces (excluding school sites) and the booking of sports pitches. Attendants are provided as and when required at the following sites:

- ◀ Fishponds Playing Fields.
- ◀ Roehampton Playing Fields.
- ◀ Battersea Park.
- ◀ Tooting Common.
- ◀ Wandsworth Common.
- ◀ Wandsworth Park.

The role of the attendants is to open/lock up changing facilities, hand out football nets, and have a general site presence.

Goal posts are erected at the end of August and stay up throughout the football season and are then removed at the end of the season. Line markings are carried out weekly but not consistently on the same day.

During the playing season all pitches are 'earth broken' (twice in winter). Pitches are spiked as required but not rolled as they are generally flat. Seeding is done in November and again in Feb/March, allowing for fast grass growth. Pitch restoration is carried out in May.

Pitches are allocated based on previous/historical bookings and then on a first come first served basis. However, use by Wandsworth teams is not prioritised. There has been a recent change to pitch bookings on large sites, whereby clubs now book pitches direct with Fountains as opposed to through the leagues. Fixtures are arranged and booked at the start of the season and are confirmed with clubs on a week-by-week basis. Clubs report that access to pitches at the end of the season or for competitions is now more difficult.

Cancellations are a joint decision between Parks Services and Fountains. On a Thursday pitches are inspected and then a blanket cancellation is applied if required. Some clubs

## WANDSWORTH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

report that cancellations are only put in place on severe occasions, which has resulted in pitches being deemed unfit, on the match day, by the referee.

Fountains reports that Fishponds (due to the locality) and Battersea Park are the most popular sites where it receives the highest demand for bookings.

### ***Pitch quality<sup>5</sup>***

The quality of football pitches in Wandsworth has been assessed via a combination of site visits (using non technical assessments as determined by The FA which take into account playing surface and maintenance) and user consultation to reach and apply an agreed rating as follows:

- ◀ Good
- ◀ Standard
- ◀ Poor

Just over half (54%) of football pitches in Wandsworth are rated as standard quality. However, only eight sites are rated as good quality and are predominately located on privately owned and/or managed sites, including the Bank of England Sports Centre and Battersea Ironsides Sports Club.

In addition, clubs responding to the survey, tend to rate pitches as being of an acceptable quality (58%). Issues most reported by clubs relate to uneven pitches, poor drainage and public access. Sites most reported to be of poor quality include Tooting Common and Wandsworth Common. This view is supported by league consultation which also suggests the quality of pitches, particularly local authority pitches has deteriorated over the previous three years due to a lack of specialist maintenance.

The two tables below summarise the quality of pitches. All sites were assessed regardless of management, ownership or availability.

*Table 2.3: Summary of grass pitch quality of sites available for community use*

Senior pitches			Youth pitches			Mini pitches		
Good	Standard	Poor	Good	Standard	Poor	Good	Standard	Poor
17	39	10	2	5	6	3	15	13

26% of pitches are deemed poor quality. The following sites contain poor quality pitches:

- ◀ King Georges Park
- ◀ Wandsworth Common
- ◀ Battersea Park
- ◀ Falcon Park
- ◀ Tooting Common

Fountains suggest that the best quality pitches are located at Barn Elms, Roehampton Playing Fields and King Georges Park. Wandsworth Common is regularly reported to have issues with waterlogged pitches.

<sup>5</sup> Site assessments were undertaken by KKP during the summer months and out of the regular football playing season. Also, some football posts may have been removed.

## WANDSWORTH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

### ***Ancillary facilities***

All local authority sites with football provision provide changing provision. Six clubs report not having access to changing rooms. Most clubs suggest that changing provision is of acceptable quality (56%). However, workable showers seem to be the most common issue, closely followed by a lack of individual rooms. Changing provision at Wandsworth Common is most often reported by clubs to be of poor quality.

The following of clubs identify that they could produce more teams if they had access to better quality ancillary facilities.

*Table 2.4: Summary of ancillary facility issues*

<b>Club</b>	<b>Site</b>	<b>Requirements</b>
Shaftesbury Town	Roehampton Playing Fields	Better quality changing facilities and in particular showers.
Partizan Wandsworth FC	Clapham Common	Better quality pitches and changing rooms.
Sinjuns Grammarians FC	Trinity Fields	Better quality facilities.
Wandle Wanderers FC	King Georges Park	Provision of toilets.
Wandsworth Borough	Richardson Evans Memorial Ground	Better quality changing facilities and post-match hospitality
AFC Cubo	Barn Elms	Better quality changing facilities.
Broomwood FC	Wandsworth Common	Better quality changing facilities.

### ***Facility development plans***

A small number of clubs report specific pitch/facility developments; summarised below:

*Table 2.5: Facility development plans*

<b>Club /Facility</b>	<b>Development</b>
Sinjuns Grammarians FC	Currently using the site at Trinity Fields. There is potential development at the site, subject to planning permission, which will create a 3G AGP plus a new pavilion and changing facilities.
Bedhead FC	It currently plays at Falcon Park and would like to develop an AGP and changing facilities at the site. Initial proposals have been discussed with the Council.

### **2.3: Demand**

Demand for football pitches in Wandsworth tends to fall within the categories of organised competitive play, organised training and informal play.

#### ***Competitive play***

The Wandsworth FA Participation Report identifies 153 clubs playing in the Borough. These produce a total of 313 teams playing on grass football pitches. Balham has the largest number of teams (122 in total).

## WANDSWORTH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

Table 2.6: Summary of competitive teams playing in Wandsworth

Analysis area	Senior Men	Senior Women	Youth	Mini
Putney	50	4	18	13
Wandsworth	51	3	15	
Battersea	9	-	5	16
Nine Elms	-	-	-	-
Balham	25	4	54	39
Tooting	6	-	-	1
<b>WANDSWORTH</b>	<b>141</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>92</b>	<b>69</b>

Temporal demand identifies times of peak demand and use of pitches (matches only) throughout the week. The peak time usage of all pitches in Wandsworth is Saturday pm.

Get into Football is the FA's commitment to significantly increasing the number of adults playing the National Game. The Wandsworth Get into Football Officer is working in specific areas to increase playing opportunities. Recognising that male participation is already high in Wandsworth, emphasis is placed on increasing adult youth and female participation (14-25 year olds). This work involves supporting clubs and leagues, working with schools, colleges and universities, and devising flexible formats of football.

Battersea Ironsides Ladies FC (Battersea Ironsides Sports Club) and FC Santacruzense Feminino (Tooting Common) are the largest women's clubs currently playing in Wandsworth. In addition, AFC Wimbledon Girls provides eight teams playing at Richardson Evans Memorial Playing Fields (although most of its players are not residents of Wandsworth).

Battersea Ironsides Ladies FC has aspirations to develop a youth section. However, there is no local youth league; making it difficult to sustain. In addition, its home ground, Battersea Ironsides Sports Club is currently played to capacity and it already accesses pitches outside of Wandsworth to accommodate all its teams.

There are also no suitable pitches/facilities to accommodate a Women's football team in Wandsworth. A full size senior football pitch would require post and rope, dug outs & technical areas and suitable changing accommodation. Access to pitches (ideally a central venue site) and having no local girls' league are the main inhibitors to growing participation. Smaller teams find it difficult to develop. Westside Ladies folded last season, for example, due to amongst other things lack of access to suitable facilities.

### **Leagues**

There are approximately 23 leagues providing opportunities to play competitive football covering Wandsworth.

The Surrey South Eastern Combination League believes that generally senior football is declining and its main objective is to maintain the current number of teams playing.

The Morden & District League also reports a decrease in the number of clubs competing over the last three years. Historically the League has operated a waiting list. The main cause is attributed to cost and players having different priorities to playing football. It also

## WANDSWORTH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

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reports that the quality of facilities has decreased due to poor maintenance and work being carried out by contractors. It suggests that is difficult to find good pitches at reasonable rates.

The Surrey Elite League reports that although the intermediate division membership has remained static, the reserve division fluctuates each season. The London Accountants Football League has seen a reduction in the number of teams in the previous three years. Both of these leagues suggest that the availability and quality of pitches at Barn Elms Sports Ground has contributed to the decline.

The Wandsworth & District League also reports a decline in the number of teams competing over the previous three years. It suggests that the quality of pitches is the biggest issue in Wandsworth with away teams often refusing to play on pitches because of poor quality.

The Tandridge Youth Football League reports that it is difficult for one team clubs to access/book pitches as they do not require a pitch every week and cannot therefore block book. It suggests that this can inhibit new clubs starting up. It also reports a decrease in senior men's football but that youth, girls and women's football is on the increase.

The London County Saturday Youth Football League is one of the main youth and mini leagues servicing the Borough. It reports that the number of teams has increased in the previous three years by at least 15%. It believes the increase of teams is due to a recent restructure and a strong management team.

The pitch booking system was highlighted as a general issue in Wandsworth. It was highlighted that the booking 'needs' of teams vary and that this is currently difficult to accommodate.

### ***Casual play***

There is significant informal use of the public open spaces which contain football pitches in Wandsworth. This impacts on the capacity of football pitches to accommodate matches. This is most substantial on the commons i.e. Tooting, Wandsworth, Clapham and also Wandsworth Park. Due to the size and nature of these sites they are difficult to police. Even though the majority of this use is out of season, matches have been known to have been cancelled due to there being too many people on the pitches.

In addition, when football pitches are not in use during the summer these areas become general open spaces and are booked out to fitness and activity classes, including rounders. There is also, reportedly, a significant issue with unofficial fitness classes taking place.

Fountain's has recently introduced random 'spot checks' on problematic sites in an attempt to cut down on unofficial use.

### ***Latent demand***

Latent demand is defined as the number of additional teams that could be fielded if there was access to a sufficient number of pitches. Consultation identifies that several clubs currently express latent demand, which they cannot meet due to lack of access to grass pitches. The table below summarises the latent demand identified during consultation.

## WANDSWORTH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

Table 2.8: Summary of latent demand expressed by clubs

Club	Level of latent demand expressed
Kew Antigua FC	1 x senior team
Shaftesbury Town	1 x senior team
Roehampton University FC	More intramural football teams
Tooting Town Elite FC	1 x mini team (U9)
Sinjuns Grammarians FC	More teams
Roehampton Rangers	1 x youth team
Battersea & Wandsworth Ladies FC	One senior, one youth
British Algerian Footballers United	2 x youth team (U18)
Providence House Youth Club	2 x mini teams (U8 and U9)
Wallington Wanderers Youth FC	3 x mini teams (U7, U8, U10) 1 x youth (U16)
AFC Wimbledon Girls & Ladies	More teams
Broomwood FC	More teams
Independent Youth FC	An additional team in each age group
Putney Town FC	1 x senior team

Utilising Active People data it is feasible to analyse the percentage of adults which would like to participate in football within Wandsworth. Across the whole borough, between 1-2% of the population would like to participate in football. The exception is the three areas (of which two are to the north) where the rate is slightly higher. In these areas, the percentage of population that would like to participate in football is between 2-5%.

The majority of the potential population that would like to participate in football are split between the three, abovementioned, market segments of Ben, Tim and Jamie. The same three segments are identified as those which already participate regularly in football. Combining the population in these three segments leads to a latent demand total of 3,097 people.

### **Displaced demand**

Displaced teams can be described as Wandsworth registered teams that use pitches outside of the Area for their home fixtures, either by choice or no other option. The table below summaries the displaced demand identified by consultation.

Table 2.9: Summary of displaced demand expressed by clubs

Club	Site	Displaced demand
Real Northern FC	Raynes Park, Merton	50% of members live in Wandsworth. Pitches in Wandsworth are more expensive and are not as good in quality as elsewhere. Training facilities are expensive and heavily booked

## WANDSWORTH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

### ***Future demand***

A significant number of clubs (31) report plans to increase the number of teams they provide. However, most are unsure where these teams will be accommodated and some are unable to fully quantify the number. Where it is quantified, clubs in total plan to provide an additional 20 youth teams and two senior teams.

### ***Football Team Generation Rates (TGRs)***

TGRs indicate how many people in a specified age group are required to generate one team. TGRs are derived by dividing the appropriate population age band in the area by the number of teams playing within that area in that age band. Calculating TGRs enables a comparison of participation to be made between different analysis areas and where similar studies have been undertaken. TGRs can help to quantify where and why to target sports development activities at a particular area, where participation may be low.

The following current TGRs have been calculated for each of the analysis areas based on the current supply and demand. Where no TGR is shown this indicates that no teams operate at that age group, for football, in that area.

*Table 2.10: Football TGRs*

Analysis area	Senior (16-45) Men	Senior (16-45) Women	Youth (10-15) Boys	Youth (10-15) Girls	Mini-soccer (6-9) Mixed
Putney	1:327	1:4710	1:206	1:200	1:209
Wandsworth	1:298	1:5392	1:82	-	1:108
Battersea	1:869	-	1:337	1:282	1:142
Nine Elms	-	-	-	-	-
Balham	1:401	1:2659	1:14	1:226	1:38
Tooting	<b>1:2088</b>	-	-	-	<b>1:1860</b>
<b>WANDSWORTH</b>	<b>1:370</b>	<b>1:6560</b>	<b>1:82</b>	<b>1:492</b>	<b>1:121</b>
<b>NATIONAL AVERAGE</b>	<b>1:452</b>	<b>1:19,647</b>	<b>1:195</b>	<b>1:4,038</b>	<b>1:431</b>

Relative to national averages, participation rates in Wandsworth are generally higher. For example, significantly higher levels of senior men, youth boys and mini soccer are recorded. There are no TGRs recorded the Nine Elms analysis area as there are currently no teams playing on pitches in this area. Youth participation for boys and girls is also greater than national averages across the assessment area. It is evident that the Balham Analysis Area has the highest participation rates for youth boys and mini soccer.

### ***Future TGRs (2026)***

By applying current TGRs to the estimated population for 2026, we can project the theoretical number of new teams that could be generated in the future, and therefore the expected demand on the facilities. Table 2.11 below provides details about potential increases in the number of teams by 2026. The greatest area of growth is likely to be in senior football. The need for additional pitches, based on TGRs and population growth will be discussed on an analysis area basis in the Strategy.



## WANDSWORTH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

Population growth in Wandsworth over the next thirteen years has been applied to the future TGR's below to give an indication as to how many additional football teams will be generated.

Table 2.11: Future football TGRs (Number of additional teams)

Analysis areas	Senior men (16-45)	Senior women (16-45)	Youth boys (10-15)	Youth girls (10-15)	Mini soccer (6-9) mixed
Putney	53.9	4.3	9.7	9.7	14.0
Wandsworth	55.0	3.2	16.2	-	20.5
Battersea	9.7	-	4.3	1.1	17.3
Nine Elms	-	-	-	-	-
Balham	27	4.3	55.0	3.2	41.0
Tooting	6.5	-	-	-	1.1
<b>WANDSWORTH</b>	<b>210.3</b>	<b>12.9</b>	<b>88.4</b>	<b>14.0</b>	<b>93.8</b>

The most likely future increases in the number of teams are identified in the category of senior men for which there will be an anticipated further 210.3 teams by 2026. These teams are most likely to occur in the Putney and Wandsworth analysis areas. It is also anticipated that there will be an increase of 93.9 mini soccer teams and 88.4 youth boys teams. Predicted growth in these two categories is expected to be most significant in the Balham analysis area.

It is also predicted there will a slight increase in youth girls' and senior womens football.

### 2.4: Capacity analysis

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.

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 was concluded in Wandsworth:

Senior 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
Average	2	Average	2	Average	4
Poor	1	Poor	1	Poor	2

In order to take account of the significant amount of informal and unofficial use the capacity of pitches on the following sites has been reduced to one match per week regardless of the pitch type or quality:



## WANDSWORTH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

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- ◀ Tooting Common
- ◀ Wandsworth Common
- ◀ Battersea Park
- ◀ Wandsworth Park
- ◀ Clapham Common

The table overleaf 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

## WANDSWORTH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

Table 2.10: Football quality and capacity summary

KKP ref	Site name	Community use	Analysis area	Pitch type	Quality rating	No pitches	Current play (matches per week)	Site capacity (matches per week)	Capacity rating
1	Barn Elms Sports Centre	Yes, secured	Outside	Youth	Standard	2	1	4	-3
1	Barn Elms Sports Centre	Yes, secured	Outside	Mini	Standard	6	0	24	-24
1	Barn Elms Sports Centre	Yes, secured	Outside	Senior	Standard	9	11.5	18	-6.5
2	Clapham Common	Yes, secured	Balham	Youth	Standard	3	3	3	
2	Clapham Common	Yes, secured	Balham	Senior	Standard	9	18.5	9	9.5
2	Clapham Common	Yes, secured	Balham	Mini	Standard	3	3	3	
14	Tooting Common	Yes, secured	Balham	Youth	Standard	2	23	2	21
14	Tooting Common	Yes, secured	Balham	Mini	Standard	3	17	3	14
14	Tooting Common	Yes, secured	Balham	Senior	Below suitable	6	18	6	12
6	Bank of England Sports Centre	Yes, secured	Putney	Senior	Good	3	7	9	-2
11	Richardson Evans Memorial Playing Fields	Yes, secured	Putney	Senior	Standard	14	13.5	28	-14.5
17	Wandsworth Park	Yes, secured	Putney	Senior	Standard	3	9.5	3	6.5
23	Roehampton Playing Fields	Yes, secured	Putney	Junior	Standard	1	1	2	-1
23	Roehampton Playing Fields	Yes, secured	Putney	Mini	Standard	4	4.5	16	-11.5
23	Roehampton Playing Fields	Yes, secured	Putney	Senior	Standard	2	6	4	2
7	Battersea Ironsides Sports Club	Yes, secured	Wandsworth	Senior	Good	1	3.5	2	1.5
27	King Georges Park	Yes, secured	Wandsworth	Junior	Below suitable	3	1.5	3	-1.5
27	King Georges Park	Yes, secured	Wandsworth	Mini	Below suitable	2	3.5	4	-0.5
27	King Georges Park	Yes, secured	Wandsworth	Senior	Below suitable	2	5.5	2	3.5
29	Wandsworth Common	Yes, secured	Wandsworth	Junior	Below suitable	1	2	1	1
29	Wandsworth Common	Yes, secured	Wandsworth	Mini	Below suitable	6	5	6	-1
29	Wandsworth Common	Yes, secured	Wandsworth	Senior	Standard	6	13	6	7
41	Trinity Sports Field	Yes, secured	Wandsworth	Senior	Standard	3	5.5	6	-0.5

## WANDSWORTH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

KKP ref	Site name	Community use	Analysis area	Pitch type	Quality rating	No pitches	Current play (matches per week)	Site capacity (matches per week)	Capacity rating
35	Garratt Park	Yes, secured	Wandsworth	Senior	Good	1	1	3	-2
20	Battersea Park	Yes, secured	Battersea	Youth	Below suitable	2	1.5	2	-0.5
20	Battersea Park	Yes, secured	Battersea	Mini	Below suitable	2	1.5	2	-0.5
20	Battersea Park	Yes, secured	Battersea	Senior	Below suitable	2	5.5	2	3.5
24	Falcon Park	Yes, secured	Battersea	Mini	Below suitable	3	6.5	6	0.5
39	Fishponds Playing Fields	Yes, secured	Tooting	Mini	Standard	2	0	8	-8
39	Fishponds Playing Fields	Yes, secured	Tooting	Senior	Standard	2	3	4	-1

## WANDSWORTH BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

### 2.5 Supply and demand analysis

#### *Spare capacity*

The next step is to ascertain whether or not any identified 'potential capacity' can be deemed '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.

18 sites express potential spare capacity in Wandsworth. The extent of whether this is within the stated peak time is quantified below.

*Table 2.11: Spare capacity summary*

KKP ref	Site name	Analysis area	Pitch type	No. of pitches	Capacity rating	Pitches not used in peak period	Comments
1	Barn Elms Sports Centre	Outside	Youth	2	-3	2	Spare capacity identified
1	Barn Elms Sports Centre	Outside	Mini	6	-24	6	No play recorded
1	Barn Elms Sports Centre	Outside	Senior	9	-6.5	1	Minimum spare capacity at peak time retained for pitch rotation
6	Bank of England Sports Centre	Putney	Senior	3	-2	2.5	Spare capacity identified
11	Richardson Evans Memorial Playing Fields	Putney	Senior	14	-14.5	10	Spare capacity identified
23	Roehampton Playing Fields	Putney	Youth	1	-1	1	Spare capacity identified
23	Roehampton Playing Fields	Putney	Mini	4	-11.5	3.5	Spare capacity identified
27	King Georges Park	Wandsworth	Youth	3	-1.5	1.5	Poor quality affects capacity
27	King Georges Park	Wandsworth	Mini	2	-0.5	0	No spare capacity; peak time
29	Wandsworth Common	Wandsworth	Mini	6	-1	1	Minimum spare capacity at peak time retained for pitch rotation

## WANDSWORTH BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

KKP ref	Site name	Analysis area	Pitch type	No. of pitches	Capacity rating	Pitches not used in peak period	Comments
41	Trinity Sports Field	Wandsworth	Senior	3	-0.5	0.5	Minimum spare capacity at peak time retained for pitch rotation
35	Garratt Park	Wandsworth	Senior	1	-2	0.5	Minimum spare capacity at peak time retained to sustain quality
20	Battersea Park	Battersea	Youth	2	-0.5	0.5	Poor quality affects capacity
20	Battersea Park	Battersea	Mini	2	-0.5	0.5	Poor quality affects capacity
39	Fishponds Playing Fields	Tooting	Mini	2	-8	2	No play recorded
39	Fishponds Playing Fields	Tooting	Senior	2	-1	0	No spare capacity at peak time

At peak time, most sites expressing potential capacity are actually unavailable and should, therefore not be counted as surplus provision. Actual spare capacity has therefore been aggregated up (highlighted as green in the comments column in the table above):

Analysis area	Spare capacity (matches per week)		
	Senior	Youth	Mini
Putney	16.5	1	11.5
Wandsworth	-	-	-
Battersea	-	-	-
Nine Elms	-	-	-
Balham	-	-	-
Tooting	-	-	8
<b>WANDSWORTH</b>	<b>16.5</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>19.5</b>

Spare capacity in Putney is expressed across three sites; Bank of England Sports Centre, Richardson Evans Memorial Playing Fields and Roehampton Playing Fields and in Tooting on one site; Fishponds Playing Fields.

Although spare capacity is often a result of a lack of demand for grass pitches, the sites in Putney (none of which are managed by the Council) are likely to retain spare capacity as a matter of practise to allow pitches to rest and rotate.

Given that there is not sufficient spare capacity expressed across Wandsworth, it is clear that not all latent and future demand for pitches can be met by current provision. In particular, there are also no suitable pitches/facilities for a ladies team to be based in the

## WANDSWORTH BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

Borough. A pitch would require post and rope, dug outs and technical areas and suitable changing accommodation, for example.

### Overplay

Overplay occurs when there is more play accommodated than the site is able to sustain (which is often dependent upon pitch quality). In summary, nine sites are overplayed. Of particular concern is the amount of overplay at Wandsworth Common (8 matches per week) and Tooting Common (47 matches per week) in both cases because of the large number of fixtures accommodated.

Table 2.12: Overplay summary

KKP ref	Site name	Analysis area	Pitch type	No pitches	Capacity rating
2	Clapham Common	Balham	Senior	9	9.5
14	Tooting Common	Balham	Youth	2	21
14	Tooting Common	Balham	Mini	3	14
14	Tooting Common	Balham	Senior	6	12
17	Wandsworth Park	Putney	Senior	3	6.5
23	Roehampton Playing Fields	Putney	Senior	2	2
7	Battersea Ironsides Sports Club	Wandsworth	Senior	1	1.5
27	King Georges Park	Wandsworth	Senior	2	3.5
29	Wandsworth Common	Wandsworth	Youth	1	1
29	Wandsworth Common	Wandsworth	Senior	6	7
20	Battersea Park	Battersea	Senior	2	3.5
24	Falcon Park	Battersea	Mini	3	0.5

Poor quality is also a significant factor in pitches being overplayed in Wandsworth. The ability for pitches to accommodate more matches in Wandsworth is affected by public and informal use of pitches. Although some sites with spare capacity could accommodate some play from overused sites, there is a particular need for access to more, better quality in Balham.

Analysis area	Overplay (matches per week)		
	Senior	Youth	Mini
Putney	8.5	-	-
Wandsworth	12	1	-
Battersea	3.5	-	0.5
Nine Elms	-	-	-
Balham	21.5	21	14
Tooting	-	-	-
<b>WANDSWORTH</b>	<b>45.5</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>14.5</b>

## WANDSWORTH BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

### 2.6 AGPs for football

According to Sport England Facilities Planning Model (FPM) in Wandsworth there is currently low satisfied demand for football and a high level of unmet demand. Furthermore AGP used capacity is at 100% for football and is a net importer.

The FA consider high quality third generation artificial grass pitches as an essential tool in promoting coach and player development. The FA can support intensive use and as such are great assets for both playing and training. Primarily such facilities have been installed for community use and training however are increasingly used for competition which The FA wholly support.

The FA's long term ambition is to provide every affiliated team in England the opportunity to train once per week on floodlit 3G surface, together with priority access for every Charter Standard Community Club through a partnership agreement. The FA Standard is calculated by using the latest Sport England research "AGP's State of the Nation March 2012" assuming that 51% of AGP usage is by sports clubs when factoring in the number of training slots available per pitch type per hour from 5pm-10pm Mon-Fri and 9am-5pm Saturday & Sundays. A full sized AGP therefore provides 56/111 training slots, 44 pay and play and 11 commercial. On the basis there are 384 teams playing competitive football in Wandsworth, there is a need for an additional 4 full size 3G pitches and a 60 x 40m 3G pitch.

*Table 2.13: Spare capacity summary*

KKP ref	Site name	Size	Pitch type
25	Furzedown Sports Centre	Half Size	Medium Pile 3G (55-60mm)
28	Wandle Recreation Centre	Half Size	Short Pile 3G (40mm)
36	Southfields Community College	Full Size	Long Pile 3G (65mm) with shock pad
123	Battersea Park School	Half Size	Medium Pile 3G (55-60mm)
125	Chestnut Grove School	Half Size	Medium Pile 3G (55-60mm)
134	Battersea Park Sports Centre	Half Size	Medium Pile 3G (55-60mm)

60% of clubs report demand for additional training facilities. The vast majority of clubs report demand for access to floodlit 3G pitches. Affordability is also a key consideration and some clubs report demand being specific to the Battersea Area.

It should be noted that whilst there is only one full size 3G AGP at Southfields Community College there are a number of half size sand based AGPs in the Borough which are regularly used for football and helps to off set some of the local demand identified.

## WANDSWORTH BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

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### Football summary

- ◀ The audit identifies 18 sites providing grass football pitches currently used for community use in Wandsworth, providing a total of 94 grass football pitches.
- ◀ Three sites are available for community use but are currently unused and two sites are not available for community use; Graveney School (lower school site) and Ibstock Place School.
- ◀ Over half (54%) of football pitches in Wandsworth are rated as standard quality. Pitches rated as good quality (8) are predominantly located on privately owned and/or managed sites, including the Bank of England Sports Centre and Battersea Ironsides Sports Club.
- ◀ Clubs generally rate pitches as overall acceptable quality (58%).
- ◀ In general there has been a decrease in senior men's football but an increase in youth, girls and women's football.
- ◀ Access to pitches and having no league are the main inhibitors to growing girls' participation.
- ◀ 31 clubs also report plans to increase the number of teams they could provide in the future and 14 clubs express latent demand for access to more pitches to accommodate current demand.
- ◀ There is significant informal use of public open spaces which contain football pitches in Wandsworth which impacts on the capacity of pitches to accommodate matches.
- ◀ 18 sites express potential spare capacity in Wandsworth. Most are actually unavailable at peak time and cannot therefore be counted as surplus provision.
- ◀ There is very little actual spare capacity (surplus provision) expressed in Wandsworth. Where spare capacity is expressed (Bank of England Sports Centre, Richardson Evans Memorial Playing Fields and Roehampton Playing Fields) spare capacity is likely to be retained as a matter of practise to allow pitches to rest and rotate.
- ◀ 11 sites are overplayed in Wandsworth. Poor quality and informal use of pitches is a significant factor in pitches being overplayed in Wandsworth.
- ◀ Sport England modelling suggests a need for more AGPs to service football in Wandsworth. This is further supported through consultation with clubs.



# WANDSWORTH BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

## PART 3: CRICKET

### 3.1: Introduction

The Surrey Cricket Board (SCB) is the governing and representative body for cricket within the County, including Wandsworth. Its aim is to promote the game at all levels through partnership with the professional and recreational cricketing clubs, and other appropriate agencies.

The Surrey Championship League is the main opportunity for competitive senior cricket in Wandsworth, providing 19 senior divisions and Twenty20 competitions. A number of other senior leagues also service Wandsworth including: Fullers County League (senior), Surrey Cricket League (senior) and the Sunday Trust League. The North, East, Central Surrey Colts League is the main competitive provider for U16s in Wandsworth.

#### **Consultation**

In addition to face to face consultation with key clubs, an electronic survey was sent to all cricket clubs playing in Wandsworth, contact details were provided by ECB/WBC and the invitation to complete the survey was distributed by email. A response rate (postal and face to face) of 85% was achieved. Results are used to inform key issues within this section of the report.

### 3.2: Supply

The audit identifies 14 sites providing a total of 19 cricket pitches currently available for community use in Wandsworth.

*Table 3.1: Summary of pitches available for community use*

Analysis area	No. of senior pitches
Putney	6
Wandsworth	9
Battersea	2
Nine Elms	-
Balham	1
Tooting	1
<b>WANDSWORTH</b>	<b>19</b>

In addition, there are three junior and three senior cricket pitches at Barn Elms Sports Ground; which is managed by Wandsworth Council but falls just outside the Area in Richmond. Barnes Cricket Club, also in Richmond, provides one cricket pitch but is used by residents living in Wandsworth.

Emanuel School in Wandsworth also contains two cricket pitches but they are not made available for community use.

Peak time demand for cricket pitches (competitive games) in Wandsworth is identified by leagues servicing the area as Saturday afternoon.

# WANDSWORTH BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

Figure 3.1: Location of cricket pitches in Wandsworth

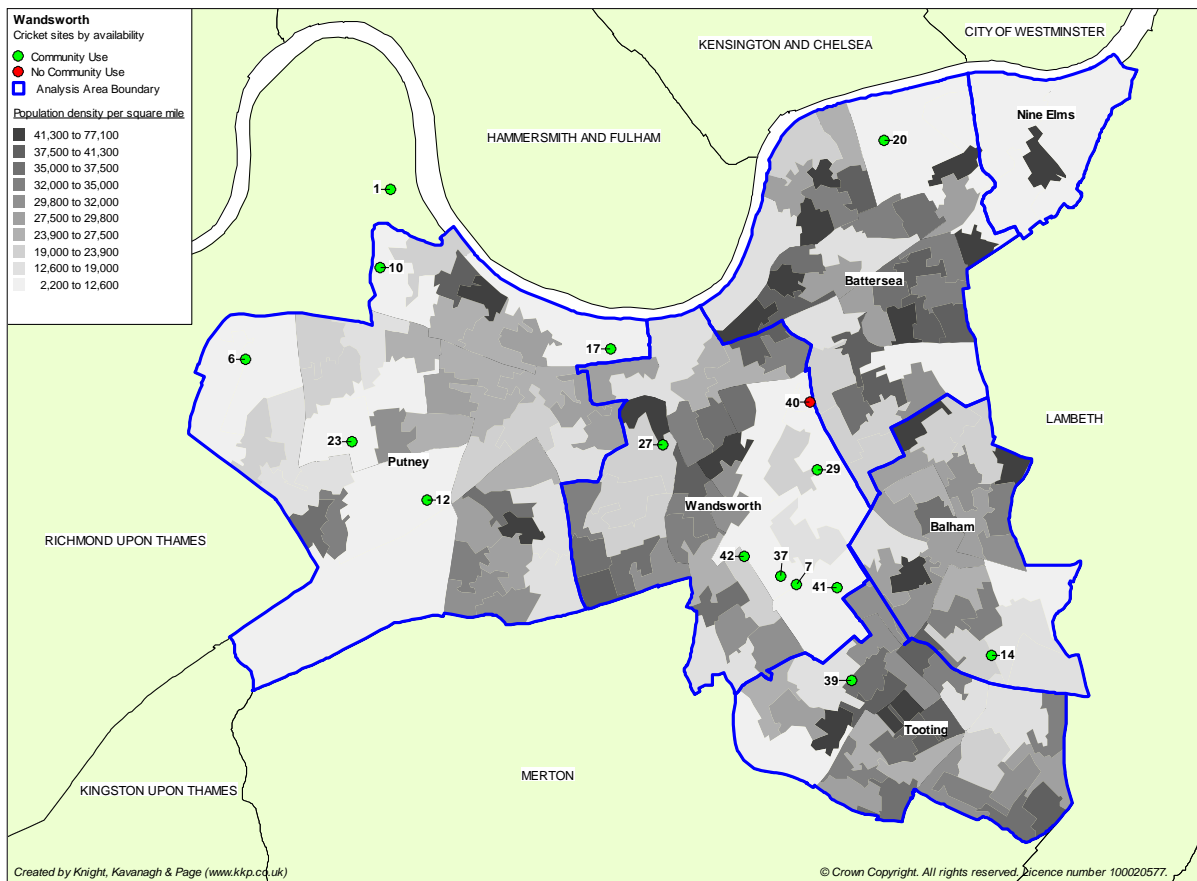


Table 3.2: Key to map

Site name	KKP ref	Analysis area	Community use	Cricket pitches
Tooting Common	14	Balham	Yes	1
Battersea Park	20	Battersea	Yes	2
Barn Elms Sports Centre	1	OUTSIDE	Yes	6
Bank of England Sports Centre	6	Putney	Yes	2
Putney Cricket Club	10	Putney	Yes	1
Roehampton Cricket Club	12	Putney	Yes	1
Wandsworth Park	17	Putney	Yes	1
Roehampton Playing Fields	23	Putney	Yes	1
Fishponds Playing Fields	39	Tooting	Yes	1
Battersea Ironsides Sports Club	7	Wandsworth Common	Yes	1
King Georges Park	27	Wandsworth Common	Yes	1
Wandsworth Common	29	Wandsworth Common	Yes	3
Spencer Sports Club	37	Wandsworth Common	Yes	1
Emanuel School	40	Wandsworth Common	No	2
Trinity Sports Field	41	Wandsworth Common	Yes	2

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Site name	KKP ref	Analysis area	Community use	Cricket pitches
Ashcroft Technology Academy Sports Field	42	Wandsworth Common	Yes	1

There is a limited supply of cricket pitches at schools across Wandsworth. Only two provide cricket pitches; Emanuel Independent School and Ashcroft Technology Academy. The former is not available to the community whilst the latter is used on a regular basis by Spencer Cricket Club. The cricket pitch at Ashcroft Academy is over-marked with two rugby pitches in the winter. This is not always ideal for club use, however, the Academy reports that it receives more interest to use its facilities than can be accommodated.

### **Security of tenure**

Pitch ownership and management across Wandsworth is varied. Provision comprises private sports/social clubs and council sites. A total of 64% of cricket pitches in Wandsworth are located on council owned/Common Land sites. In addition, 25% are found on private sports club sites and 11% are on school sites.

The large number of pitches located on council/Common Land sites could be considered (according to ECB guidance) as being 'at risk' in terms of security of tenure for clubs; as use of these sites is likely to be on a short term basis and not with long term leases (which restricts funding opportunities). Consultation identifies one site where use of such a site creates a problem for club usage; Putney CC, Putney Lower Common. The Club rents its pitch from Putney and Wimbledon Conservators. It highlights that its location on Common Land means that it is unable to restrict public usage. Social football and rugby is also played in winter damaging the surface for cricket use.

### **Pitch quality**

The quality of cricket pitches in Wandsworth has been assessed via a combination of site visits (using non technical assessments as determined by ECB, which take into account playing surface and maintenance) and user consultation to an agreed rating as follows:

- ◀ High
- ◀ Standard
- ◀ Basic
- ◀ Poor

Most cricket pitches (43%) are assessed as standard quality. A further 11 are rated as high quality. A total of four pitches are given a 'poor' quality rating; Battersea Park (two pitches), Roehampton Playing Fields and King Georges Park.

*Table 3.3: Pitch quality of all pitches (regardless of community use and including Barn Elms & Barnes Cricket Club)*

High	Standard	Basic	Poor
11	12	1	4

Most clubs are responsible for maintaining their own facilities and have designated groundsmen to carry out cutting and maintenance. A club survey was distributed to ascertain the quality of cricket pitch sites, results are summarised below:

## WANDSWORTH BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

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- ◀ Half of clubs consider grass coverage to be 'good' with the other half viewing coverage as average. No clubs commented that coverage was 'unacceptable.'
- ◀ One third perceive the length of grass to be 'good' and another third report grass length is poor.
- ◀ Two clubs report evidence of damage to the pitch surface.
- ◀ Where grass wickets are provided these are generally felt to be uneven.
- ◀ Half of clubs report the overall quality of cricket pitches to be average. A further third consider the overall quality of their home pitch to be good.
- ◀ Dog fouling on pitches/sites is a common issue. Clubs that use Battersea Park and Putney Common report dog fouling/glass/stones/litter most often.
- ◀ Three clubs report that unofficial use of their pitch occurs.

Maintaining high pitch quality is the most important aspect of cricket. If the wicket is poor, it affects the quality of the game and can, in some instances, become dangerous. To obtain a full technical assessment of wicket and pitches, the ECB recommends a performance quality standard assessment (PQSA). The PQS solely looks at the square of cricket pitches to ascertain whether it meets the performance quality standard (PQS) benchmarked by the Institute of Groundsmanship. The report sets out any surface issues in order to provide options for remediation together with likely costs to complete ground improvements.

Surrey Cricket Board recently carried out a player survey. This concluded that the quality of provision was below the expectations of players and that it is seen as a priority to address. Supporting this, the ECB considers the number of pitches in Wandsworth to be sufficient but quality of provision to be an issue.

The Surrey Cricket League believes that some small clubs (e.g. single team clubs) have trouble finding a good standard council pitch. This viewpoint is supported by clubs including Kings Road Cricket and Social Club and Battersea Badgers Cricket Club. It also comments that some clubs are prevented from progressing to top divisions because their grounds do not meet the required standards. Furthermore, the League does not allow matches to be played at Fishponds Playing Field and Tooting Common. It reports this is due to the level of maintenance, preparation and repair of the cricket pitches. It reports an under prepared pitch can be dangerous, resulting in a significant variance in the height of the bounce of the ball. It may, in future, consider not accepting games at Wandsworth Common due to the perceived poor quality of provision at these sites.

Playing conditions at Battersea Park are often referred to in consultation by Last Man Stands, Batters CC and Battersea Badgers CC as being particularly poor compared to other council run sites. In general, pitches at council sites are assessed as either standard or lower quality.

### ***Ancillary facilities***

There is generally a good standard of changing accommodation available at cricket clubs across Wandsworth. Most clubs have access to a cricket pavilion which provides access to hot water and facilities such as showers and toilets. Only Roehampton CC identifies that it does not have heating.

## WANDSWORTH BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

### ***Development priorities***

Strategically important clubs have been identified strategically by the ECB as those committed to long-term junior development. This includes the adoption of a development plan (to identify how it will help to develop the sport and its facilities) and achieving (or working towards) Clubmark accreditation. In return, clubs receive support (both technical and financial) from the ECB. There are three strategically important clubs in Wandsworth:

- ◀ Spencer CC
- ◀ Battersea Ironsides CC
- ◀ Roehampton CC

Battersea Ironsides report that, as of 2013, it will not be able to accommodate all of its activities on the Burntwood Lane site. This is due to the expansion in the number of junior members at the Club. Roehampton CC also identifies the potential need for further provision if its junior section continues to grow.

### ***Facility development***

Potential development at the Trinity Sport Field may have an impact on cricket provision. The Trust managing the site (Trinity Fields Trust) has applied for planning permission to build a floodlit AGP which would result in the loss of the lower cricket pitch. Currently there are two cricket pitches located on the site. One pitch is predominately used by Sinjungrammarians CC. The lower pitch is of a poorer quality and has a small boundary and as such is used less.

A number of clubs cite facility development plans/aspirations to enhance cricket pitches and/or associated clubhouse facilities. The table below presents a site by site summary of facility developments identified in Wandsworth.

*Table 3.4: Facility development plans*

<b>Site</b>	<b>Development</b>
Roehampton CC	<p>The Club has recently received permission from the Conservators to build nets on the site, which is located on common land (Putney Heath). It has also applied for a BIFA Grant to carry out work to flatten the pitch surface. It also has plans to establish a junior girls' section via the delivery of the Chance to Shine scheme in local primary schools.</p> <p>If its junior section continues to grow it would require access to another pitch. In addition, the site is not adequately serviced by changing accommodation.</p>

## WANDSWORTH BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

### *Training facilities*

Access to cricket nets is important, particularly for pre-season/winter training. Demand for additional cricket training facilities across Wandsworth is noted, with five clubs reporting such demand.

*Table 3.5: Expressed demand for cricket training facilities*

Club	Demand expressed
Roehampton CC	Desire to build practice nets on common ground
Barnes CC	Mobile cage and additional non-turf practice nets
Barnes Occasionals CC	Practice net facility
Putney CC	Replacement of current unsuitable run-up area
Batters CC	Additional non turf practice net facilities

The ECB is aware of the desire of clubs to have training nets on common sites. However, there is a recognised issue with managing such provision.

It should be noted there are public cricket nets which are accessible to all clubs at Barn Elms Sports Centre (10 bays), Battersea Park (3 bays) and Furzedown Recreation Centre (2 bays).

### **3.3: Demand**

Demand for cricket pitches in Wandsworth tends to fall within the categories of organised competitive play and organised training.

#### ***Competitive play***

A total of 90 teams play cricket in Wandsworth. Clubs range from smaller clubs offering just the one senior team to those with full senior sections of up to four senior teams and juniors at all groups (i.e. U10 to U17) as is the case at Bank of England Cricket Club.

*Table 3.6: Summary of competitive teams playing in Wandsworth*

Analysis area	No. of competitive teams		
	Senior men	Senior women	Junior
Putney	19	1	15
Wandsworth	24	1	12
Battersea	13	-	1
Nine Elms	-	-	-
Balham	-	-	-
Tooting	3	-	1
<b>WANDSWORTH</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>29</b>

A number of clubs field both senior and junior cricket teams. However, a few only run senior teams. The majority of clubs in Wandsworth report that senior membership levels have remained static over the previous three years. Only one: Roehampton CC, states that its senior membership level has decreased. No reason for this trend is given.

## WANDSWORTH BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

Junior membership levels have increased significantly for several clubs. The Bank of England CC reports an increase in juniors due to its colt section. Barnes CC also reports an increase in the number of colt teams; an increase of three over the last three years.

A slight decrease in the number of teams competing is reported by the Surrey Cricket League. This decrease is due to clubs progressing to the Surrey County League or joining the relatively new 4<sup>th</sup> XI Division in the Surrey Championship League.

### ***School cricket***

Chance to Shine is delivered via individual projects working with county cricket boards. Each project provides a structured coaching and competition programme for a group of primary and secondary schools. It also focuses upon informal and formal teacher training for sustainability. Schools are supported by professional, qualified coaches engaged by local cricket clubs. Chance to Shine in Wandsworth was previously only delivered by Spencer CC. However, now all cricket clubs can deliver the programme.

### ***Women's and girls' cricket***

There are no specific junior girls' teams in Wandsworth. Women and girls' participation is considered inconsistent by the ECB. It has been tried by several clubs but sustainability has been a struggle. Currently Spencer CC and Lord Taveners Women's CC are the only clubs to field a women's team. This 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. SCB has a development officer with the responsibility to help increase the profile of women and girls' cricket across the County. Spencer CC's junior girls' section played fixtures in 2012. Roehampton CC is in the process of establishing a junior girls' section and will be launched mid 2013.

### ***Last Man Stands***

In order to encourage more young people (aged 16–25) into the sport, the ECB has developed more informal types of cricket such as Last Man Stands (LMS). 24 teams play LMS across three sites; Wandsworth Common, Wandsworth Park and Battersea Park. It is also played at Barn Elms. There are two leagues operating at Battersea Park.

### ***Displaced demand***

Displaced teams can be described as Wandsworth registered teams that use pitches outside of the Area for their home fixtures, either by choice or no other option. The table below summarises the displaced demand identified by consultation.

*Table 3.7: Summary of displaced demand expressed by clubs*

<b>Club</b>	<b>Site</b>	<b>Displaced demand</b>
Battersea Ironsides CC	Battersea Ironsides Sports Club	The 4 <sup>th</sup> and 5 <sup>th</sup> teams play in Merton at Abbey Recreation Ground, whilst the 3 <sup>rd</sup> and 6 <sup>th</sup> teams play at Tolworth Court and Cottenham Park (Merton) respectively.
Spencer CC	Spencer Sports Club	A number of its junior teams play Merton because there is no capacity at its home ground.



## WANDSWORTH BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

Club	Site	Displaced demand
Battersea Badgers CC	Sites located in Merton	Does not have a regular home ground. Would like to play at Battersea Park but it reports the pitches are too small for competitive play. However, whilst the artificial wicket is not large enough for full games the senior squares can accommodate senior play. States 75% of players from Wandsworth.
Caribbean Mix Cricket Club	Wallington CC	Used to play in Wandsworth (and would again) but pitch and facilities not up to requirements of the League.
Balham & Tooting Sports & Social Club	Tolworth Court	Club used to play in Wandsworth and wanted to play at Fishponds but pitch was not of a high enough standard for the League.

### **Casual play**

As noted earlier, there is significant informal use of public open spaces which contain cricket pitches which impacts on the capacity of pitches to accommodate matches. This is most substantial on the commons i.e. Tooting, Wandsworth, Clapham and also Wandsworth Park. Due to the size and nature of these sites they are difficult to protect the cricket squares from damage and unofficial use. In addition, cricket outfielders are also used as open spaces and are often booked out to fitness and activity classes. There is also a significant issue with unofficial fitness classes taking place.

### **Latent demand**

Latent demand is defined as the number of teams that could be fielded were sufficient pitches available. Latent demand has been expressed by four clubs in Wandsworth.

*Table 3.8: Summary of latent demand*

Club	Latent demand
Battersea Ironsides CC	One junior team (U13)
Last Man Stands League	15 teams
Roehampton CC	Junior teams
Spencer CC	One senior and junior teams

It is evident that the low levels of latent demand recorded are in some instances a result of clubs already operating across the full range of ages. Both Roehampton CC and Battersea Ironsides CC signal that their junior sections have grown over the last few years. As a result both highlight that they will require additional pitches in the future. Battersea Ironsides CC in particular identifies urgent demand for the 2013 season specifically.

Consultation with Spencer CC identifies demand to create a 5<sup>th</sup> Men's team. It also reports that it has had to cap its junior section as it has reached capacity in terms of accommodating numbers.

LMS reports there has been a year on year increase of teams, which has resulted in an issue with finding pitches. Last season the League turned away 15 teams as a result of



## WANDSWORTH BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

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there not being enough pitch capacity. It also reports demand to operate a second league from Wandsworth Park.

Utilising Active People data the percentage of adults who would like to participate in cricket can be analysed. Across the whole of Wandsworth between 1-2% of the population would like to play cricket. The majority of the potential population that would like to participate are split between the three market segments of Ben, Tim and Jamie. The same three segments are identified as being those which already participate regularly in cricket. Combining the population of these three segments that would like to play cricket gives us a latent demand total of 993 people.

### 3.4: Capacity analysis

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 cricket. 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.

Capacity analysis for cricket is measured on a season rather than weekly basis. This is due to playability i.e. only one match is generally played per pitch per day at the weekend or evening during the week. 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 pitch to accommodate match sessions is driven by the number and quality of wickets. This section presents the current pitch stock available for cricket in Wandsworth. It illustrates,

- ◀ The number of grass and artificial cricket wickets per pitch.
- ◀ The number of competitive matches per season per pitch.

As a guide, the ECB suggests that a good quality wicket should be able to take:

- ◀ 5 matches per season per grass wicket.
- ◀ 60 matches per season per synthetic wicket.

Based on the information received for pitches containing both grass and artificial wickets, we have been unable to calculate which teams are playing on which type of wicket. Therefore we have assumed where there are a significant number of junior teams assigned to a pitch, that junior play takes place on this artificial wicket. Therefore the capacity of cricket pitches excludes synthetic wickets.

In order to take account of the significant amount of informal and unofficial use the capacity rating of pitches on the following sites has been reduced:

- ◀ Tooting Common
- ◀ Wandsworth Common
- ◀ Battersea Park
- ◀ Wandsworth Park
- ◀ Putney Lower Common (Putney CC)

This information is used to allocate capacity ratings as follows:

## WANDSWORTH BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

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<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

## WANDSWORTH BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

Table 3.9: Cricket pitch capacity

KKP ref	Site name	Analysis area	Total no. of pitches	Pitch quality/standard	Total no. of wickets <sup>6</sup>		Play (matches/season)	ECB capacity <sup>7</sup> (matches/season)	Capacity rating	Consultation comments
					Grass wickets	Artificial wickets <sup>8</sup>				
1	Barn Elms Sports Centre (junior pitches)	Outside	3	Standard	18	-	5	90		Actual capacity level is lower than ECB guidance due to the standard of pitches. The senior and junior pitches overlap and therefore they cannot be used at the same time. The pitches are used by local schools predominately Monday to Thursdays.
1	Barn Elms Sports Centre (senior pitches)	Outside	3	Standard	18	1	60	90		
6	Bank of England CC	Putney	2	Good	18	-	90	90		Site is played to capacity and as such additional play may affect pitch quality in the long term. The Club reports the pitch is good quality rather than high.
7	Battersea Ironsides Sports Club	Wandsworth	1	High	11	1	68	55	+13	Club reports that it operates to capacity and would require access to an additional pitch to accommodate more senior play. The artificial wicket is used for juniors/training.

<sup>6</sup> A cricket square is made up of individual wickets

<sup>7</sup> Based on a good quality pitch (does not include capacity of artificial wickets on site)

<sup>8</sup> The capacity of cricket pitches excludes synthetic wickets.

## WANDSWORTH BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

KKP ref	Site name	Analysis area	Total no. of pitches	Pitch quality/standard	Total no. of wickets <sup>6</sup>		Play (matches/season)	ECB capacity <sup>7</sup> (matches/season)	Capacity rating	Consultation comments
					Grass wickets	Artificial wickets <sup>8</sup>				
10	Putney CC, Putney Lower Common	Putney	1	Standard	9	-	40	40		Although the pitch is used to capacity in terms of matches, its actual capacity level is lower than ECB guidance due to the quality and amount of unofficial use of the site. Club reports damage to the surface from social sport played during the winter.
12	Roehampton Cricket Club	Putney	1	High	14	-	50	70		Club operates to capacity at peak time and as such requires access to an additional pitch to accommodate juniors.
14	Tooting Common	Balham	1	Basic	7	1	0	35		No recorded competitive current use. League consultation rates pitch as poor quality.
17	Wandsworth Park	Putney	1	Standard	8	1	30	40	+10	In addition to being overplayed, its actual capacity level is lower than ECB guidance due to the quality and amount of unofficial use of the site. Areas of outfield are reportedly uncut in places.

## WANDSWORTH BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

KKP ref	Site name	Analysis area	Total no. of pitches	Pitch quality/standard	Total no. of wickets <sup>9</sup>		Play (matches/season)	ECB capacity <sup>10</sup> (matches/season)	Capacity rating	Consultation comments
					Grass wickets	Artificial wickets <sup>11</sup>				
20	Battersea Park	Battersea	2	Poor	16	2	65	80	+15	In addition to being overplayed, its actual capacity level is lower than ECB guidance due to the quality and amount of unofficial use of the site. Small outfield for competitive matches. Artificial wickets on site used for unofficial training.
23	Roehampton Playing Fields	Putney	1	Poor	8	2	0	40		Poor quality has resulted in the pitch not being used.
27	King Georges Park	Wandsworth	1	Poor	-	1	0	60		Poor quality has resulted in the pitch not being used.
29	Wandsworth Common	Wandsworth	3	Standard	18	1	45	90		Although the pitch is underused in terms of matches, its actual capacity level is lower than ECB guidance due to the quality and amount of unofficial use of the site. Location of artificial wicket is considered impractical.

<sup>9</sup> A cricket square is made up of individual wickets

<sup>10</sup> Based on a good quality pitch (does not include capacity of artificial wickets on site)

<sup>11</sup> The capacity of cricket pitches excludes synthetic wickets.

## WANDSWORTH BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

KKP ref	Site name	Analysis area	Total no. of pitches	Pitch quality/standard	Total no. of wickets <sup>9</sup>		Play (matches/season)	ECB capacity <sup>10</sup> (matches/season)	Capacity rating	Consultation comments
					Grass wickets	Artificial wickets <sup>11</sup>				
37	Spencer Sports Club	Wandsworth	1	High	14	-	48 <sup>12</sup>	70		Club operates to capacity at peak time and as such requires access to an additional pitch to accommodate juniors. In addition, the pitch also accommodates District and county matches on behalf of Surrey Cricket.
39	Fishponds Playing Fields	Tooting	1	Standard	6	1	4	30		Users report lack of use due to poor quality.
41	Trinity Sports Field	Wandsworth	2	High	14	2	81	70	+9	In addition to regular use by Sinjungrammarians CC adult and junior teams at peak times, the pitches are also used by 5 local schools. Anecdotal evidence also suggests that the ground is sometimes hired out for corporate matches and travelling clubs. The lower pitch is of a lower standard and as such is used less.
42	Ashcroft Technology Academy Sports Field	Wandsworth	1	High	8	-	30	40		Pitch quality could be improved.

<sup>12</sup> \* In order to calculate pitch capacity at sites where clubs have not responded to consultation, the number of matches per season is given based on an average of 10 home matches per season for a senior team and 8 matches per season for a junior team.

## WANDSWORTH BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

KKP ref	Site name	Analysis area	Total no. of pitches	Pitch quality/standard	Total no. of wickets <sup>9</sup>		Play (matches/season)	ECB capacity <sup>10</sup> (matches/season)	Capacity rating	Consultation comments
					Grass wickets	Artificial wickets <sup>11</sup>				
131	Barnes CC	Outside	1	High	18	1	90	60	+30	Pitch is overplayed. Club states pitch quality has got slightly better due to pre-season preparation. Although dog foul issue is a reported problem.

## 3.5 Supply and demand analysis

### ***Spare capacity***

Although most cricket sites in Wandsworth appear to express spare capacity (and some at peak time), four sites are either not used or accommodate little play due to poor quality pitches; Roehampton Playing Fields, King Georges Park, Fishponds Playing Fields, Tooting Common and one pitch at Trinity Sports Field. Leagues (such as the Surrey Cricket League) do not allow clubs to play at Fishponds Playing Fields or Tooting Common.

Although Roehampton Cricket Club and Spencers Sports Club sites all show spare capacity, the clubs report that they do actually operate to capacity and would require access to an additional pitch to accommodate more play/ growth. Battersea Ironsides Sports Club also reports this. The site is identified as being played over its capacity.

Taking the above into account, there is no actual spare cricket pitch capacity expressed in Wandsworth. Therefore, latent and future demand can't be accommodated on the current level of provision.

### ***Overplay***

There are six cricket sites in Wandsworth which are played beyond their recommended carrying capacity (as recommended by the ECB); Battersea Ironsides Sports Club, Putney Lower Common, Wandsworth Park, Battersea Park, Wandsworth Common and Barnes CC. All these are overplayed either due to poor pitch quality, due to the number of teams playing on site and/or due the amount of public/ informal use.

It is clear that there are insufficient pitches of the correct standard to accommodate both current and future demand in Wandsworth. In addition, there is sufficient displaced and latent demand to suggest that there is a need for more or better quality cricket pitches.

Wimbledon and Putney Conservators identify that a cricket pitch can be marked out at Richard Evans Memorial Ground if demand requires. However, the cost of pitch hire may be a concern to some clubs.

#### **Cricket summary**

- ◀ There are 19 cricket pitches available for community use in Wandsworth, accommodating 90 teams (including senior men, women and juniors).
- ◀ Wandsworth's three strategically important clubs all support high levels of participation.
- ◀ There are high levels of both latent and displaced demand expressed by clubs, suggesting that more pitches are required to meet demand.
- ◀ Non technical site assessments generally score the quality of available cricket pitches as standard to high. However, club consultation indicates that the quality of Council pitches is worse.
- ◀ Despite spare capacity being identified at sites; the genuine ability for sites to accommodate additional play is reportedly lower due to the substantial level of informal and/or unauthorised use of pitches/outfields as well the quality of the pitches (largely due to a lack of maintenance) particularly on local authority pitches.
- ◀ There are insufficient pitches of the correct standard to accommodate both current and future demand in Wandsworth.



# WANDSWORTH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

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## PART 4: RUGBY UNION

### 4.1: Introduction

The Rugby Football Union (RFU) is the national governing body for grassroots and elite rugby in England. The Surrey Rugby Union (SRU) administers rugby union across the sub-region. The rugby union playing season operates from September to April.

#### **Consultation**

In addition to face to face consultation with key clubs, an electronic survey was sent to all rugby union clubs playing in Wandsworth, contact details were provided by RFU and the invitation to complete the survey was distributed by email. A response rate (postal and face to face) of 75% was achieved. Results are used to inform key issues within this section of the report.

### 4.2: Supply

In total, 21 grass rugby union pitches are available for community use in Wandsworth across 10 sites. There are no rugby pitches in the Balham or Nine Elms analysis areas.

*Table 4.1: Summary of pitches available for community use*

Analysis area	No. of available pitches		
	Senior	Junior	Mini
Putney	6	-	3
Wandsworth	9	-	1
Battersea	1	-	-
Nine Elms	-	-	-
Balham	-	-	-
Tooting	-	1	-
<b>WANDSWORTH</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>4</b>

Please note that the audit only identifies dedicated, line marked pitches.

In addition to the above there are also six pitches located at Barn Elms Sports Ground which is managed by Wandsworth Council but falls just outside the Area in Richmond.

Two senior and one mini pitch at Emanuel School are not available for community use.

Two pitches (April to August) are provided at Clapham Common to accommodate touch rugby with one pitch also being provided from September to April as a trial.

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Figure 4.1: Location of rugby pitches in Wandsworth<sup>13</sup>

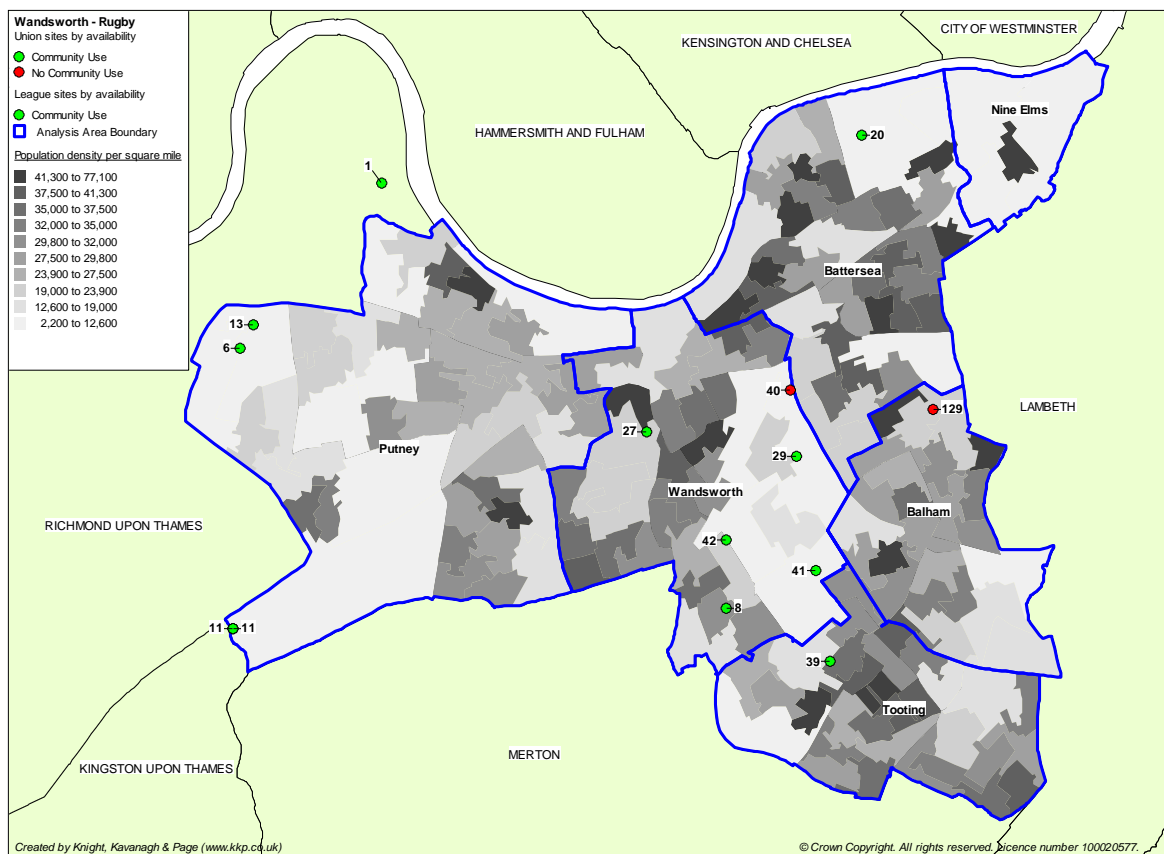


Table 4.2: Key to map

KKP ref	Site name	Analysis area	Community use	Senior rugby union	Junior rugby union	Mini rugby union
1	Barn Elms Sports Ground	Outside	Yes	6		-
6	Bank of England Sports Centre	Putney	Yes	2		3
8	Garratt Green	Wandsworth	Yes	2		-
11	Richardson Evans Memorial Playing Fields	Putney	Yes	3		-
13	Rosslyn Park RFC	Putney	Yes	1		-
20	Battersea Park	Battersea	Yes	1		-
27	King Georges Park	Wandsworth	Yes	4 <sup>14</sup>		-
29	Wandsworth Common	Wandsworth	Yes	-	1	-
39	Fishponds Playing Fields	Tooting	Yes	-	1	-
40	Emanuel School	Wandsworth	No	2		1
41	Trinity Sports Field	Wandsworth	Yes	-		1
42	Ashcroft Technology Academy Sports Field	Wandsworth	Yes	2		-
129	Clapham Common Touch Rugby	Balham	Yes	2		-

<sup>13</sup> Refer to Table overleaf for site names and reference numbers.

<sup>14</sup> It should be noted that the four senior rugby union pitches at King George Park are TAG rugby pitches and are therefore not full sized senior pitches with no goalposts.

# WANDSWORTH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

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## **Accessibility**

The football club survey reveals that most players travel between two and five miles to access pitches in Wandsworth. Clubs travelling over five miles generally participate in leagues which are of a high standard which means that players are willing to travel further to play a good standard of competitive football. Club consultation also suggests that in some areas clubs are willing to travel further in order to access better quality facilities.

## **Ownership/management**

Most clubs play on pitches provided at council owned venues through hire arrangements. Only two, Bank of England and Rosslyn Park, identify a different form of ownership. The home ground of the Bank of England Rugby Club is owned as part of the wider Bank of England Sports Club. Rugby club members have to be a member of the sports club but receive a reduction in the commercial club rate. Rosslyn Park RFC is the only club to have a long term lease of its home ground. It has 40 years remaining on their lease of its home ground from the Roehampton Tennis Club.

## **Pitch quality**

The methodology for assessing rugby pitch quality looks at two key elements; the maintenance programme and level of drainage. Each is scored and classified in one of three categories. These represent actions required to improve site quality. A breakdown for each of the two scoring elements and three respective categories is provided below.

*Table 4.3: Definition of maintenance categories*

<b>Category</b>	<b>Definition</b>
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 4.4: Definition of drainage categories*

<b>Category</b>	<b>Definition</b>
D0	Action is pipe drainage system is needed on pitch
D1	Action is slit drainage is needed on pitch
D2	No action is needed on pitch drainage

Site assessments suggest that the quality of pitches across Wandsworth is varied. 10 pitches are classified as M0/D0 category (i.e. requiring improvement to maintenance and drainage) and 11 are also classified as M2/D2 category (i.e. no action is required). However, it should be noted that site visits are 'non technical' with drainage and maintenance information being captured from consultation.

A total of five pitches do not receive a rating. These are the four TAG rugby pitches at King Georges Park, for which the maintenance and drainage information was not established due to the site visit occurring out of season, and the pitch at Clapham Common which was not formally marked out at the time of the site visits. The table overleaf summarises pitch quality following site visits to all pitches (including those not available for community use). However, pitch quality should not be considered in isolation as the level of play on a site can also affect the quality.

## WANDSWORTH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

Table 4.5: Pitch assessments following site visits (all sites regardless of availability)

Rugby pitches	D0	D1	D2
M0	10	-	-
M1	2	1	-
M2	3	-	11

Most clubs rate the quality of pitches as generally positive. The Bank of England RFC uses pitches at the Bank of England Sports Centre for its home ground matches. The quality of these pitches is viewed as excellent; they are noted as being well maintained.

Consultation with Barnes RFC also suggests the quality of its pitches is generally good. It reports having issues with the gates to the car park being locked as an example. Despite this the Club acknowledges that the quality of pitches makes it difficult to find a better site elsewhere.

Battersea Ironsides uses a number of different sites including Garratt Green, Ashcroft Tech Academy, Trinity Sports Field and Wandsworth Common. Garratt Green is highlighted by the Club as having good drainage. Wandsworth Common and Trinity Sports Field are identified as being poor for drainage with the latter being noted as boggy; leading to cancellation of matches.

London Exiles RFC rates the quality of the pitches it uses at Barn Elms as adequate; noting that grass growth is sometimes a problem.

### **Ancillary facilities**

All local authority sites (with the exception of Garratt Green and King Georges Park) provide changing room accommodation. The majority of clubs report that they do have access to changing room provision. Quality of changing room accommodation is generally viewed as acceptable to good by clubs. Barnes RFC leases a clubhouse on Queen Elizabeth Walk on a 25 year basis from Richmond Council. It notes that the facilities are good but at times there is not enough changing room space to accommodate players.

### **4.3: Demand**

Demand for rugby pitches in Wandsworth tends to fall within the categories of organised competitive play, organised training and informal play.

#### **Competitive play**

Eight rugby union clubs play in Wandsworth; Battersea Ironsides, Bec Old Boys RFC, London Media EFC, Barnes Rugby Club, Rosslyn Park, Bank of England, London Cornish and London Exiles. In total, there are 66 teams. There are no specific junior girls' teams although they can play competitively with boys until the age of 12 (mini rugby).

Two clubs in Wandsworth have senior women's teams; Barnes RFC which has one women's team and Rosslyn Park which has two teams. Rosslyn Park has a significant number of registered female players (90 in total).

## WANDSWORTH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

Whilst there are no dedicated junior girls' teams it should be noted that girls are able to play alongside boys up until the age of 12. This means that a number of girls may be playing rugby as part of a mixed team. Rosslyn Park, Battersea Ironsides and Bank of England all have registered female players in the U12 age group. Battersea Ironsides RFC highlights trying to start a girls' team. However, no active recruitment is taking place.

*Table 4.6: Summary of competitive teams playing in Wandsworth*

Analysis area	No. of competitive teams			
	Senior men	Senior women	Juniors	Mini rugby
Putney	10	2	3	12
Wandsworth	9	-	9	18
Battersea	3	-	-	-
Nine Elms	-	-	-	-
Balham	-	-	-	-
Tooting	-	-	-	-
<b>WANDSWORTH</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>30</b>

In addition, 37 teams play at Barn Elm Sports Ground.

Peak time demand for rugby pitches is Saturday, with most matches taking place in the afternoon (54%).

### **Training**

Rugby training is generally accommodated on existing competitive grass pitches. As a result this contributes to a number being overplayed beyond their capacity. For example, pitches at Barn Elms, Garratts Green, Rosslyn Park and Ashcroft Technology Academy are identified as being overused. A small number of clubs use the infield at Battersea Park Millennium Arena Athletics Track for floodlit Winter training.

Rugby union training can be accommodated on 3G AGPs. However, each pitch must be IRB compliant. Only one club, Bank of England RFC identifies using a 3G pitch for training purposes. This is located at its home ground, Bank of England Sports Centre. Training for senior teams occurs on the grass pitches at the site during two evenings of the week whilst juniors train on the on site AGP.

Barnes RFC states that its training takes place on grids allocated around the edge of the marked pitches at Barn Elms. For winter, training wheel-out floodlights are used. It expresses a desire to have permanent floodlighting but notes that this is not allowed for the ecological reasons given by the Council.

Accommodation for floodlit training facilities is highlighted as Battersea Ironsides and Rosslyn rugby clubs biggest issue. It reports struggling to find sufficient facilities and is looking to locate a ground upon which all its training can take place.

### **Casual play**

There is significant informal use of the public open spaces which contain rugby pitches. This impacts upon their capacity to accommodate matches. This is most substantial on the commons i.e. Tooting, Wandsworth, Clapham and Wandsworth Park.

## WANDSWORTH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

In addition, when rugby pitches are not in use during the summer these areas are returned to open spaces and are used for informal recreational Summer sporting activities and booked out to fitness and activity classes, including for example rounders. As noted above, Fountain's has recently introduced random 'spot checks' on problematic sites in an attempt to cut down on unofficial use.

There has been a significant growth in TAG and touch rugby in the previous five years which has been accommodated within the Borough at a number of sites including King George's Park (four TAG rugby pitches), Wandsworth Park (two TAG rugby pitches), Totting Common (four TAG rugby pitches), Wandsworth Common (four TAG rugby pitches and Barn Elms (four TAG rugby pitches).

### ***Latent demand***

Latent demand is defined as the number of additional teams that could be fielded if there was access to a sufficient number of pitches. Only one club currently expresses latent demand, which it cannot meet due to lack of access to pitches. The table below summarises the latent demand identified:

*Table 4.7: Summary of latent demand expressed by clubs*

Club	Latent demand	Analysis area	Pitch requirement	
			Number	Type
London Exiles RFC	1 senior team		1	Senior
<b>Total</b>			<b>1 senior pitch</b>	

London Exiles states that its senior membership levels have been growing and as a result it plans to have an additional senior men's team if possible. In addition to the above quantified demand for a senior team, two clubs highlight potential future demand at the junior level.

Battersea Ironsides reports being at capacity given the 20% rise in junior membership levels over the last three years. It is at saturation point in terms of being able to accommodate any future growth of membership levels.

The Bank of England RFC states its mini membership level is continually growing and that it could continue to expand if additional space were available. As the rugby club is part of the wider Bank of England Sports Club there is a constraint on the number of members for each sport; in order to allow all sports use of the facilities. In the last five years the Club reports it has grown from struggling to field three teams to expanding to its current number of teams.

Sport England's Active People data enables analysis of the percentage of adults who would like to participate in rugby union within Wandsworth. Across the whole of Wandsworth between 1-2% of the population would like to participate in rugby union.

The majority of the potential population that would like to participate in rugby union are split between the three market segments: Ben, Tim and Jamie. These are the ones identified as being those which already participate regularly in rugby union. Combining the population of these three segments that would like to play rugby union provides a latent demand total of 929 people.

# WANDSWORTH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

## ***Displaced demand***

Displaced teams can be described as Wandsworth registered teams that use pitches outside of the Area for their home fixtures, either by choice or no other option. The table below summarises the displaced demand identified by consultation.

*Table 4.8: Summary of displaced demand expressed by clubs*

Club	Site	Displaced demand
Rosslyn Park RUFC	Richmond Park	15 of the clubs 23 teams play outside the Borough at Richmond Park.

## **4.4: Capacity analysis**

The capacity for pitches to regularly provide for competitive play, training and other activity over a season is most often determined by quality. At 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. 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.
- ◀ All competitive play is on senior sized pitches (with the exception of where mini pitches are provided).
- ◀ From U13 upwards, teams play 15 a side rugby and use a full pitch.
- ◀ Mini teams (U7-12) play across half one adult team i.e. two teams per senior pitch.
- ◀ For senior and junior 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, 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 one adult team.
- ◀ All male adult club rugby takes place on a Saturday afternoon.
- ◀ All U13-18 rugby takes place on a Sunday morning.
- ◀ Training that takes place on club pitches is reflected by addition of team equivalents.
- ◀ Team 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.

As a guide, the RFU has set a standard number of matches that each pitch should be able to accommodate. Capacity is based upon a basic assessment of the drainage system and maintenance programme ascertained through a combination of the quality assessment and the club survey as follows:

		Maintenance		
		Poor (M0)	Adequate (M1)	Good (M2)
Drainage	Natural Inadequate (D0)	1	2	3
	Natural Adequate (D1)	2	3	4
	Pipe Drained (D1)	2.5	3.5	4.5
	Pipe and Slit Drained (D2)	3.0	4	5



## **WANDSWORTH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT**

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This guide should only be used as very general measure of potential pitch capacity and does not account for specific circumstances at time of use and assumes average rainfall and an appropriate end of season rest and renovation programme.

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 completed in the last 5 years.

## WANDSWORTH BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

Table 4.9: Rugby union quality and capacity summary

KKP ref	Site name	Analysis area	Pitch type	Quality rating	No. of pitches	Current play (matches/week)	Site capacity (matches per week)	Capacity rating	Comments
1	Barn Elms Sports Centre	Outside	Senior	M0/D1	6	17.5	6		Pitches are used over capacity. In addition to club usage by Barnes RFC they are also used by Fulham based London Oratory School.
6	Bank of England Sports Centre (senior pitches)	Putney	Senior	M2/D2	2	7	10		Although site is rated as having spare capacity, the availability of pitches is lower as they are over marked by football/cricket pitches.
6	Bank of England Sports Centre (mini pitches)	Putney	Mini	M2/D2	3	4	15		
8	Garratt Green	Wandsworth	Senior	M0/D1	2	4	2		Site is used over capacity by 2 matches each week. It has no changing facilities.
11	Richardson Evans Memorial Playing Fields	Putney	Senior	M2/D2	3	2	15		Site has spare capacity for additional matches each week outside of peak times (i.e. Saturday PM). User consultation rates pitch quality as very good.
13	Rossllyn Park RFC	Putney	Senior	M2/D2	1	7.6	5		Pitch is over used by equivalent of 2.6 matches each week. Quality of pitch is considered good.
20	Battersea Park	Battersea	Senior	M1/D1	1	1.5	3		Site has spare capacity to accommodate additional 1.5 matches each week outside peak times (i.e. Saturday PM). Pitch quality is classed as M1/D1.
27	King Georges Park	Wandsworth	Senior	-	4 <sup>15</sup>	0	0		Maintenance and drainage information not established

<sup>15</sup> Please note the four senior rugby pitches TAG rugby pitches as reference earlier in the report.

## WANDSWORTH BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

KKP ref	Site name	Analysis area	Pitch type	Quality rating	No. of pitches	Current play (matches/week)	Site capacity (matches per week)	Capacity rating	Comments
29	Wandsworth Common	Wandsworth	Senior	M1/D0	1	2.5	2		Pitch used over capacity by 0.5 matches a week. In addition to club use they are significantly used to accommodate unofficial training and informal play. Pitch over marks a cricket outfield. Drainage in need of improving based on site assessment (user consultation supports this with drainage viewed as poor).
39	Fishponds Playing Fields	Tooting	Senior	M1/D0	1	0	2		Whist the site shows a level of spare capacity (2 matches) it should be noted that it has no drainage. It is used extensively at weekends for football and during the week by Ernest Bevin College.
41	Trinity Sports Field	Wandsworth	Mini	M2/D2	1	3.5	5		Site has spare capacity to accommodate an additional 1.5 matches each week. However, wider site is used extensively for cricket and football at weekends. School use during week is noted.
42	Ashcroft Technology Academy Sports Field	Wandsworth	Senior	M0/D0	2	5	2		Pitches are used over capacity. In addition to club usage by Bec Old Boys RFC and Battersea Ironsides RFC they are also over marked with a cricket field.

## 4.5 Supply and demand analysis

### *Spare capacity*

A total of six sites in Wandsworth are, on initial view, rated as having spare capacity. However, most are identified through consultation as venues which also cater for other sports such as football and cricket. In addition, any spare capacity that exists is outside of the peak time for play (i.e. Saturday PM).

King Georges Park comprises having four senior TAG rugby pitches. However, the pitches are used to accommodate TAG rugby during the Summer months only.

### *Overplay*

Where sites are overplayed this is as a result of a large number of teams using the pitches for competitive matches and training (team equivalents).

Five sites (Barn Elms, Garrett Green, Rosslyn Park, Wandsworth Common and Ashcroft Technology Academy) are identified as being over-played. Barn Elms is over played by 11.5 matches each week. Quality of provision at the site (M0/D1) is rated in the site assessment as necessitating improvements to the maintenance programme. Ashcroft Technology Academy sites is also rated as M0/D0.

#### **Rugby summary**

- ◀ There are 21 rugby union grass pitches (17 senior and four minis) available for community use in Wandsworth.
- ◀ Six further pitches are located at Barn Elms Sports Ground; managed by Wandsworth Council but just outside the local authority Area in Richmond.
- ◀ Four pitches identified are not available for community use.
- ◀ In total, 34 senior, 26 junior and 43 mini teams play across the Borough. In addition, there are a large number of training teams (team equivalents) playing on competitive grass rugby pitches (due to a lack of designated training facilities) which further adds to the pressure on pitches.
- ◀ Rosslyn Park RFC and Barnes RFC are the only clubs in Wandsworth which field senior women's teams, two and one teams respectively. The former has c. 90 registered senior female players.
- ◀ There are no specific junior girls' teams although junior girls play competitively with boys until the age of 12 (mini rugby). Battersea Ironsides highlights currently trying to establish a girl's team.
- ◀ Rugby union pitches are predominantly located in the Wandsworth analysis area.
- ◀ With the exception of Richardson Evans Memorial Playing Fields and Battersea Park, sites in the Borough are overplayed due to the large number of competitive matches and training.
- ◀ Latent demand for an additional one senior team is expressed by London Exiles RFC. However, both the Bank of England and Battersea Ironsides highlight potential need to meet demand from growing junior membership levels. The latter already being at capacity.
- ◀ Rugby training in Wandsworth is generally accommodated on existing competitive grass rugby union pitches. As a result this contributed to a number of sites being overplayed beyond their carrying capacity. Accommodation for floodlit training facilities is highlighted as Battersea Ironsides and Rosslyn rugby clubs biggest issue.

## PART 5: HOCKEY

### 5.1: Introduction

Governance of the sport is devolved by England Hockey (EH) at a regional and local level to regional and county associations. The game is played predominantly on sand based/filled AGPs. Competitive play cannot take place on 3G pitches although 40mm pitches may be suitable, in some instances, for beginner training and are preferred to poor grass or tarmac surfaces.

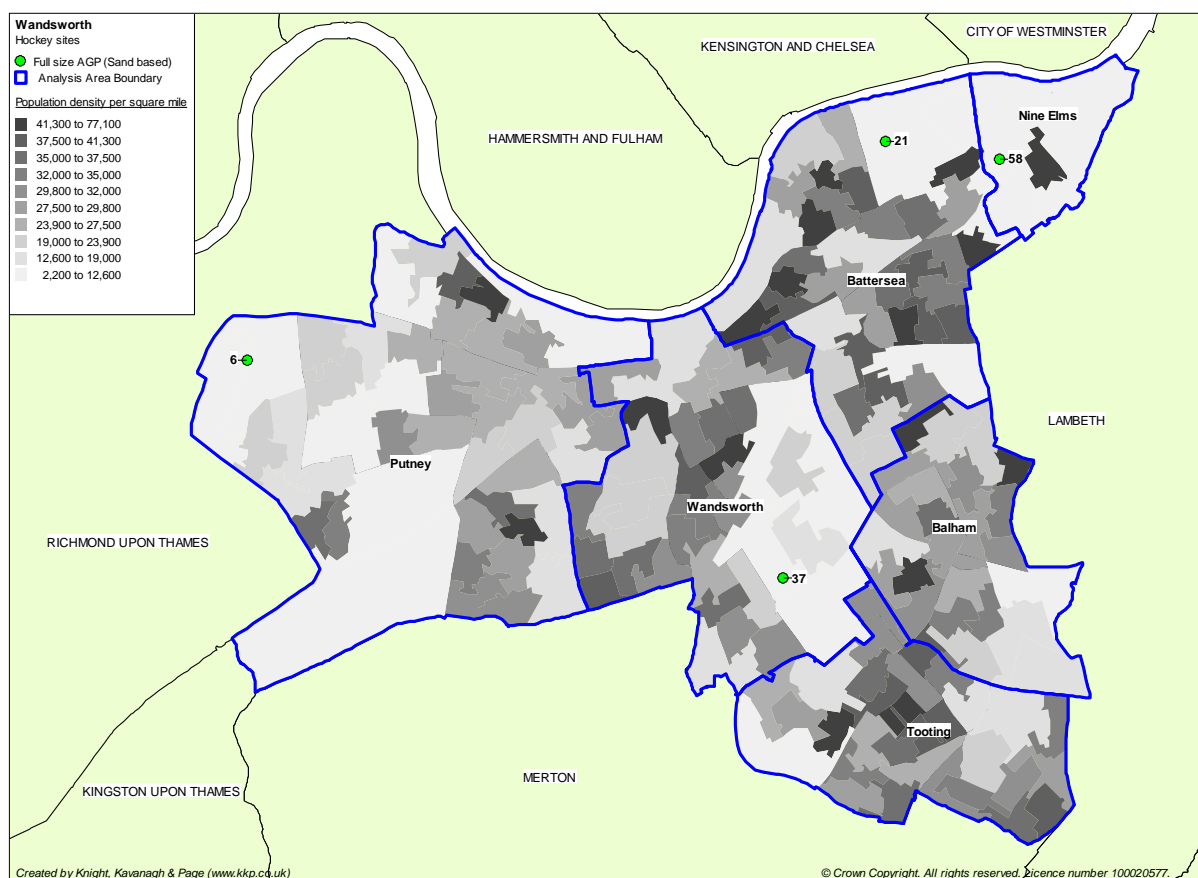
### Consultation

All five clubs playing in Wandsworth were consulted either face to face or via an electronic survey. Results were used to inform key issues within this section of the report.

### 5.2: Supply

There are five full size AGPs, suitable for competitive hockey in Wandsworth. The AGP at Newton Preparatory School, however, is of poor quality and not deemed suitable for competitive matches. There are a further 11 half size AGPs suitable for hockey training.

Figure 5.1: Location of full size AGPs in Wandsworth



# WANDSWORTH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

Table 5.1: Key to AGP location map

KKP reference	Site name	Analysis area	Pitch size	Number of AGPs
1	Barn Elms Sports Centre	OUTSIDE	Half Size	2
6	Bank of England Sports Centre	Putney	Full Size	1
21	Battersea Park All Weather Sports Ground	Battersea	Full Size	2
22	Battersea Park Millennium Arena	Battersea	Half Size	2
28	Wandle Recreation Centre	Wandsworth	Half Size	2
37	Spencer Sports Club	Wandsworth	Full Size	1
47	Saint John Bosco	Putney	Half Size	1
56	Ibstock Place School	Putney	Half Size	1
58	Newton Preparatory School	Nine Elms	Full Size	1
99	Sacred Heart Battersea School	Battersea	Half Size	1
104	Sir James Barrie School	Nine Elms	Half Size	1
125	Chestnut Grove School	Balham	Half Size	1

Not all analysis areas have access to AGP provision suitable for competitive hockey. There is no provision in the Tooting Analysis Area. Although Nine Elms has provision at Newton Preparatory School the pitch is poor quality and not suitable for competitive play. There are two full size AGPs in Battersea (both at Battersea Park Sports Ground) and one full size AGP in Putney (Bank of England Sports Centre). There is one full size pitch in Wandsworth at the Spencer Sports Club.

Roehampton University is currently in discussions with the Council with regard to a possible lease of Roehampton Playing Fields. Its proposals include provision of a sand based AGP in partnership with Putney High School Girls School Day Trust.

### **Ownership/management**

There are three private full size AGPs in Wandsworth. Bank of England Sports Centre and Spencer Sports Club (although it shares ownership with Ashcroft Technology College) accommodate Bank of England Hockey Club and Spencer Hockey Club respectively. Newton Preparatory School, although available for community use does not accommodate any competitive hockey due to its poor quality.

The three remaining Wandsworth clubs rely heavily on local authority provision at Battersea Park to accommodate teams.

### **Quality**

The majority of pitches (80%) in Wandsworth are assessed as 'good' quality with one assessed as 'poor'. Most AGPs in Wandsworth were built or refurbished from 2002 onwards. Two (Bank of England and Newton Preparatory) will need to be replaced within the near future (two years); the typical life span of an AGP is 10-12 years, but this depends heavily on the type of sub base used, quality of the carpet that has been installed, amount of usage and the quality of maintenance.

## WANDSWORTH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

Table 5.2: Summary of quality (of full size AGPs)

Site	Surface type	Flood-lighting	Quality rating	Comments
Bank of England Sports Centre	Sand filled	Yes	Good	Built in 2004 it has not been refurbished. Quality is good and users are able to access changing facilities and car parking.
Battersea Park All Weather Sports Ground	Sand dressed	Yes	Good	Both pitches were built in 1989 and resurfaced in 2011 to a good standard of surface suitable for hockey. Users describe them as the best in Wandsworth. All teams would like more access to these pitches.
Spencer Sports Club	Sand dressed	Yes	Good	The pitch was built in 2007 with floodlights. It was a joint venture with the Ashcroft Technology College however there is limited community use (five hours in peak period).
Newton Preparatory School	Sand filled	Yes	Poor	Built in 2002 this is in need of refurbishment. It is reportedly very poor with sections coming away and patches of severe wear. Lines are poorly marked and there are divots in the pitch. It cannot be used for competitive hockey matches due to the poor quality. The School may consider resurfacing it in the future but there are no immediate plans.

### 5.3: Demand

Demand for hockey pitches in Wandsworth tends to fall within the categories of organised competitive play and organised training.

#### **Competitive play**

Wandsworth is an area with high hockey demand. The table below provides a summary of competitive hockey teams playing in Wandsworth. In total, its five clubs field a total of 88 teams:

Name of club	No. of competitive teams playing on AGPs in Wandsworth			
	Senior men	Senior women	Mixed	Juniors
Spencer Hockey Club	11	6	2	16
Battersea Wanderers Hockey Club	6	6	3	-
London Wayfarers Hockey Club	8	8	-	7
London Edwardians Hockey Club	3	4	1	-
Bank of England Hockey Club	5	-	-	-
Roehampton University	1	-	1	-
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>23</b>

Roehampton University also fields one men's and one women's hockey team, playing at the Linford Christie Stadium; located outside Wandsworth.



## WANDSWORTH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

Hockey participation in the Borough is increasing according to England Hockey and all clubs report membership growth in the previous three years. Spencer HC report that its junior membership has been capped due to it being at capacity.

### **Usage**

Research conducted by Sport England into the use of AGPs suggests that provision has two principal roles: midweek training for football and weekend matches for hockey. Pitches are often sub-divided for training purposes. Football training tends to dominate use of hockey suitable AGPs in Wandsworth as there is only one full size 3G pitch, catering for football. Figures from Battersea Park identify 70% football and 30% hockey usage across the year.

*Table 5.3: Summary of usage*

Site name	KKP ref	Club	Teams	Usage
Bank of England Sports Centre (BoE)	6	Bank of England Hockey Club	5 senior teams	Pitch used for training (midweek) and also for matches (Saturdays). London Edwardians HC also rents it for training and matches (when not required by BoE Club).
Battersea Park All Weather Sports Ground (two pitches).	21	Wayfarers HC Edwardians HC Wanderers HC	Various teams	Various teams access the Battersea Park pitches. There is increased demand due to the good quality of the pitches and good accessibility.
Spencer Sports Club	37	Spencer Hockey Club	18 senior teams 16 junior teams	Club uses the pitch every evening for training, all day Saturdays for matches and Sundays for junior training/matches.
Newton Prep School	58	-	-	No hockey usage.

Temporal demand identifies times of peak demand and use of pitches (matches only) throughout the week. Peak time usage of hockey pitches in Wandsworth is Saturday pm.

According to Sport England Facilities Planning Model (FPM)<sup>16</sup> there is relatively low unmet demand for hockey. However, this is largely due to a significant amount of exported demand. The model estimates that 100% of AGP capacity in Wandsworth is being used at peak times.

Although the FPM suggests relatively low unmet hockey demand, club consultation suggests that during peak times there is insufficient capacity at existing AGPs to accommodate demand from all clubs. There is significant pressure on Battersea Park, for example, as it is the only publicly available site in Wandsworth and both pitches are of a good enough quality to accommodate a high level of competitive hockey. This is further reinforced through the amount of displaced demand expressed.

<sup>16</sup> The FPM presents data from Sport England's National Facilities Audit Dataset as of January 2012.

### ***Displaced demand***

There is a significant amount of displaced demand in Wandsworth. Most clubs use a number of sites to accommodate all teams. This results in teams travelling outside of the Borough to access pitches for both training and matches. The clubs with displaced demand are:

- ◀ London Wayfarers Hockey Club.
- ◀ London Edwardians Hockey Club.
- ◀ Battersea Wanderers Hockey Club.

London Wayfarers accesses one site (Battersea Park) within Wandsworth and five sites out of the Borough for matches and training. London Edwardians accesses two sites within Wandsworth (Battersea Park and Bank of England Sports Club) and two sites outside. Battersea Wanderers Hockey Club accesses one site (Battersea Park) within Wandsworth and two outside. All clubs would prefer to play in Wandsworth and/or at one home ground venue (where possible).

Battersea Wanderers report that Kennington Park (Lambeth) is not suitable for its higher men's teams as the higher level leagues will not allow play at the site.

As highlighted earlier in the FPM, AGPs are operating at capacity at peak times in Wandsworth and also in surrounding boroughs. In some instances, clubs are also unable to access sites outside of the Borough. For example, London Edwardians report that it cannot gain access to Kennington Park AGP (Lambeth) as Wayfarers and Battersea Wanderers are already using the pitch.

### ***Training***

Accessing training provision is an issue for hockey clubs in Wandsworth. All clubs report that they require access to additional training facilities. London Wayfarers HC reports that three ladies teams are required to train together due to restricted pitch availability. Battersea Wanderers HC also report that it would use an additional three hours of training slots if available. Spencer HC is at capacity in terms of training and match slots and will need to access other sites if it continues to grow.

## **5.4 Supply and demand analysis**

It would appear that current supply is unable to fully cater for current demand from Wandsworth based clubs. Although Sport England FPM analysis suggests that there is relatively low unmet hockey demand (based on population analysis), clubs express a significant amount of unmet demand which is not being met either within Wandsworth or in some instances in neighbouring authorities. In addition, there is no capacity to accommodate future growth and in fact a lack of access to provision may be inhibiting growth at some clubs.

## Hockey summary

- ◀ There is high demand in Wandsworth for hockey with five hockey clubs fielding 86 competitive senior teams, plus good junior sections.
- ◀ There are five full size AGPs in Wandsworth. However, Newton Preparatory School is not used for competitive hockey due to its poor quality. The remaining four are used to capacity for hockey at peak time (Saturday).
- ◀ All full size AGPs, except for Newton Preparatory School are assessed as good quality.
- ◀ There is significant pressure on Battersea Park, for example, as it is the only publicly available site in Wandsworth and both its pitches are of a good enough quality to accommodate a high level of competitive hockey.
- ◀ There is a significant amount of displaced demand in Wandsworth. Most clubs use a number of sites to accommodate all teams. All clubs would prefer to play in Wandsworth and/or at one home ground venue (where possible).
- ◀ Provision in Wandsworth is unable to accommodate both current and future demand for hockey.
- ◀ Some opportunities exist to increase access in Wandsworth to accommodate competitive hockey, including increasing the quality of Newton Preparatory School and new provision at Roehampton Playing Fields.

## PART 6: TENNIS

### 6.1 Introduction

The Lawn Tennis Association (LTA) is the organisation responsible for the governance of tennis. The Surrey LTA administers the sport locally in Wandsworth.

#### **Consultation**

Tennis clubs were contacted via telephone and an online survey. Nine clubs responded to the survey; an 82% response rate. Results were used to inform key issues throughout this section of the report.

### 6.2 Current provision

There are 173 tennis courts across 19 sites in Wandsworth available for community use. Of which, 55 courts are floodlit (32%).

By ownership type, 64% (111 courts) are located at membership clubs and 36% (62 courts) are located at parks/recreation grounds.

*Table 6.1: Summary of the number of courts available for community use by analysis area*

Analysis area	Tennis courts at park sites	Tennis courts at membership clubs	Tennis courts Total
Balham		12	12
Battersea	19		19
Nine Elms	-	-	-
Putney	22	81	103
Tooting	5	-	5
Wandsworth	16	18	34
<b>WANDSWORTH</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>111</b>	<b>173</b>

In addition there are 16 courts located at Barn Elms Sports Centre, which is managed by Wandsworth Council but falls just outside the Area in Richmond.

Sites which are unavailable for community use are all located at school sites. There may also be additional courts located at schools which did not respond to the online survey.

#### **Management/ownership**

There are a number of public sites in Wandsworth that are currently managed by private operators, for example, Tennis 4 London at Clapham Common and Allstar coaching at Wandsworth Common. The maintenance of park court sites is carried out by Fountains Ltd on behalf of Wandsworth Council. The Council is currently market testing the provision of several park/common tennis courts sites to organisations for up to 25 years, to improve the court provision.

There are a number of private tennis court sites including the National Tennis Centre operated by the LTA.

# WANDSWORTH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

Figure 6.1: Location of tennis courts in Wandsworth

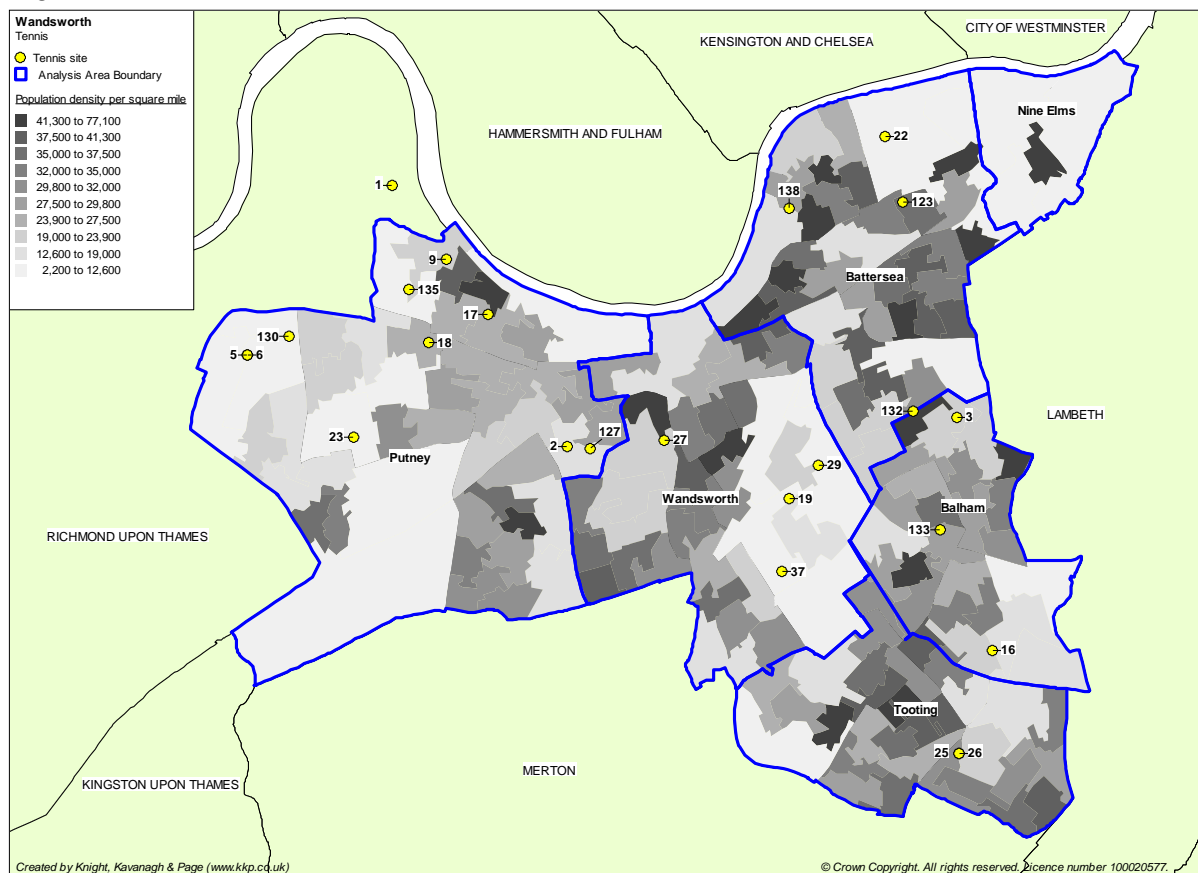


Table 6.2: Key to map

KKP ref	Site name	Analysis area	Ownership type	Community use	Courts	Floodlit
133	Chestnut Grove School	Balham	School	No	2	
3	Southfields LTC	Balham	Membership	Yes	6	3
16	Tooting Bec Tennis Club	Balham	Membership	Yes	6	
138	Fred Wells Gardens	Battersea	Park	Yes	1	
22	Battersea Park	Battersea	Park	Yes	19	19
123	Battersea Park School	Battersea	School	No	2	
132	Thomas Clapham School	Battersea	School	No	4	
1	Barn Elms Sports Centre	OUTSIDE	Park	Yes	16	
6	Bank of England Sports Club	Putney	Membership	Yes	22	
127	Cedars LTC	Putney	Membership	Yes	2	2
2	Clapham Common	Putney	Park	Yes	8	5
9	Leaders Garden	Putney	Park	Yes	3	
5	National Tennis Centre	Putney	Membership	Yes	22	
23	Roehampton Playing Fields	Putney	Park	Yes	5	
130	The Roehampton Club	Putney	Membership	Yes	25	4
17	Wandsworth Park	Putney	Park	Yes	1	
135	Lower Putney Common	Putney	Park	Yes	5	
18	Putney LTC	Putney	Membership	Yes	10	6
26	Furzedown Recreation Ground	Tooting	Park	Yes	2	
25	Furzedown Recreation Centre	Tooting	Park	Yes	3	3

## WANDSWORTH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

KKP ref	Site name	Analysis area	Ownership type	Community use	Courts	Floodlit
27	King Georges Park	Wandsworth	Park	Yes	10	
37	Spencer LTC	Wandsworth	Membership	Yes	10	5
29	Wandsworth Common	Wandsworth	Park	Yes	6	
19	Magdalen Park LTC	Wandsworth	Membership	Yes	8	8

The highest number of sites is located in the Putney area. All analysis areas, with the exception of nine elms, have tennis provision. Battersea Park is the largest council provider with 19 courts.

In addition to the above there are a further 16 tennis courts located at Barn Elms Sports Centre which is managed by Wandsworth Council but located just outside the Study Area in Richmond.

### **Quality**

Only 14% of tennis courts in Wandsworth are assessed as below average or poor quality. The majority (69%) are assessed as good quality with 17% as average. All membership club courts are assessed as good quality.

The majority of poor quality tennis courts are located in Battersea. Battersea Park's (13 macadam) courts are assessed as such due to poor surface quality. However, capital investment has been secured to upgrade them within the next 12 months.

### **Facility development plans**

Spencer Tennis Club has aspirations to convert two of its grass courts to hard surfaces due to the grass often being unplayable in bad weather.

### **6.3 Demand**

There are ten tennis clubs based in Wandsworth. None report a decrease in membership in the last three years. Four (Roehampton, Spencer, Cedars and Putney tennis clubs) state that membership has remained static over the previous three years.

Roehampton Tennis Club has capped membership (at 2,600 seniors and 1,400 juniors) as it has a waiting list of approximately three years. Spencer Tennis Club is also at capacity in terms of membership. Four (Southfields, Magdalene Park, Wandsworth Common and Tooting Bec) tennis clubs state that there has been an increase in membership over the previous three years.

Only two clubs report specific plans to increase membership with Southfields looking to add 30 seniors and Tooting Bec planning to increase by 10% each year. Other clubs would like to increase membership but suggest they are already operating at capacity.

All Clubmark accredited club not already at capacity will be encouraged to grow membership as part of their long-term business strategy. In addition, all LTA registered clubs are set targets with regard to growing their Regular Competing Junior's and British Tennis Members. It would appear there is a greater demand for clubs providing all year round play (floodlights, indoor provision).

## WANDSWORTH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

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The Surrey League is the largest provider of tennis competition in Wandsworth. Consultation suggests that it is steadily growing and that the number of clubs has remained static but the number of teams has increased. There has been a significant increase in the number of juniors competing in tennis, especially over the summer months, due to promotion from the county LTA. In the past, the League was restricted to only allow club teams to enter; however, it now encompasses a number of 'coach led' teams that are not members of private tennis clubs.

In addition to clubs competing, there are a number of leagues which cater for individuals playing matches without necessarily being a member of a club. Battersea Park League and Barnes Tennis League facilitate such matches on public courts.

All council owned courts offer pay and play tennis to the public. Following events such as Wimbledon demand has increased for pay and play. The LTA reports that it is difficult to measure casual use as some courts are available for free but highlights that courts are generally busy throughout the summer months. However, comprehensive research in the eight LTA pilot areas nationally has shown that 53% of people playing tennis once per week does so at public court facilities (pay and play). As shown in the Active People Survey, participation in tennis has a seasonal peak in the summer, which is particularly pronounced amongst non-club and occasional players. Again this would indicate that increased provision of floodlit and indoor facilities at park/recreation sites would better sustain all year round participation.

Further research carried out by the LTA suggests that many more people would play tennis if they knew where courts were located, particularly council courts, and its belief is that better promotion would increase demand.

Through working with Sport England and comprehensive consumer insight, it has been established that there is a high latent demand for tennis in Wandsworth. A strategic approach to serving latent demand will include: providing floodlights, suitable ancillary provision, improving the programming offer to meet market segmentation, ensuring the right people are engaged in delivery, together with better promotion, sign posting and monitoring and evaluation.

Nationally the LTA wants to get more people playing tennis more frequently. Through the Tennis Foundation the aim is to increase the number of new or refurbished courts in London's parks and work with all London boroughs to provide at least one, new or refurbished court facility in each local authority area. As part of the London Operational Strategy (2013–2017) the LTA established criteria in which to identify a number of priority London borough's to focus resource and investment. Wandsworth has been identified as a priority Borough. Facility investment is currently prioritised as follows into projects requiring: a. low cost, quality indoor structures, b. floodlighting outdoor courts and c. renovating park courts.

The Council adopted a five year Tennis Development Plan in 2012/11 with a vision to 'ensure that people of all ages and abilities have access to participate and improve their tennis in Wandsworth through good quality facilities, sustainable coaching and competition'.

Latent demand is defined as the number of additional teams that could be fielded if there was access to a sufficient number of courts. Spencer Tennis Club expresses latent demand for access to more courts. It reports that it would have more teams if more courts were available.

## 6.4 Supply and demand analysis

The current supply of tennis courts appears to adequately cater for current demand to participate in Wandsworth, both in terms of competitive and pay and play opportunity. Analysis of club membership also suggests that future growth is unlikely to result in the need for more tennis courts.

### **Tennis summary**

- ◀ There are 174 tennis courts across 23 sites in Wandsworth available for community use.
- ◀ The quality at private tennis clubs tends to be better than parks provision. Battersea Park courts are assessed as poor due to the surface quality, although the Council has committed to refurbish them in the next 12 months.
- ◀ Generally tennis club membership in Wandsworth has remained static over the last three years. However, clubs are generally operating at capacity, together with predicted increases of 34% year on year in London (from the Active People Survey).
- ◀ Increasing floodlighting and indoor provision would help to sustain participation.
- ◀ October to March at a number of clubs and parks
- ◀ Research also suggests that more people would participate in tennis (pay and play opportunities in particular) if there were better awareness and promotion of where and how to play.



# WANDSWORTH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

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## PART 7: BOWLS

### 7.1: Introduction

Bowls England is the governing body with overall responsibility for ensuring effective governance of flat green bowls. Locally, it is administered by the Surrey County Bowling Association (SCBA). The bowling season runs from May to September.

#### **Consultation**

A survey was sent to all 14 bowling clubs identified in Wandsworth. An invitation to complete the survey was distributed via email or post achieving a response rate of 71%. Results are used to inform key issues within this section of the report.

### 7.2: Supply

There are 14 flat bowling greens in Wandsworth located across 12 sites. Four of these sites are provided by Wandsworth Council; King George's Park, Wandsworth Common, Furzedown Recreation Ground and Battersea Park.

*Table 7.1: Summary of bowling greens*

<b>Analysis area</b>	<b>No. of flat bowling greens</b>
Putney	2
Wandsworth	8
Battersea	1
Nine Elms	-
Balham	-
Tooting	3
<b>WANDSWORTH</b>	<b>14</b>

There are ten sites in Wandsworth each of which provides one bowling green. The remaining three (Clapham Common and Magdalen Park) have provision of more than one green.

# WANDSWORTH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

Figure 7.1: Location of bowling greens in Wandsworth

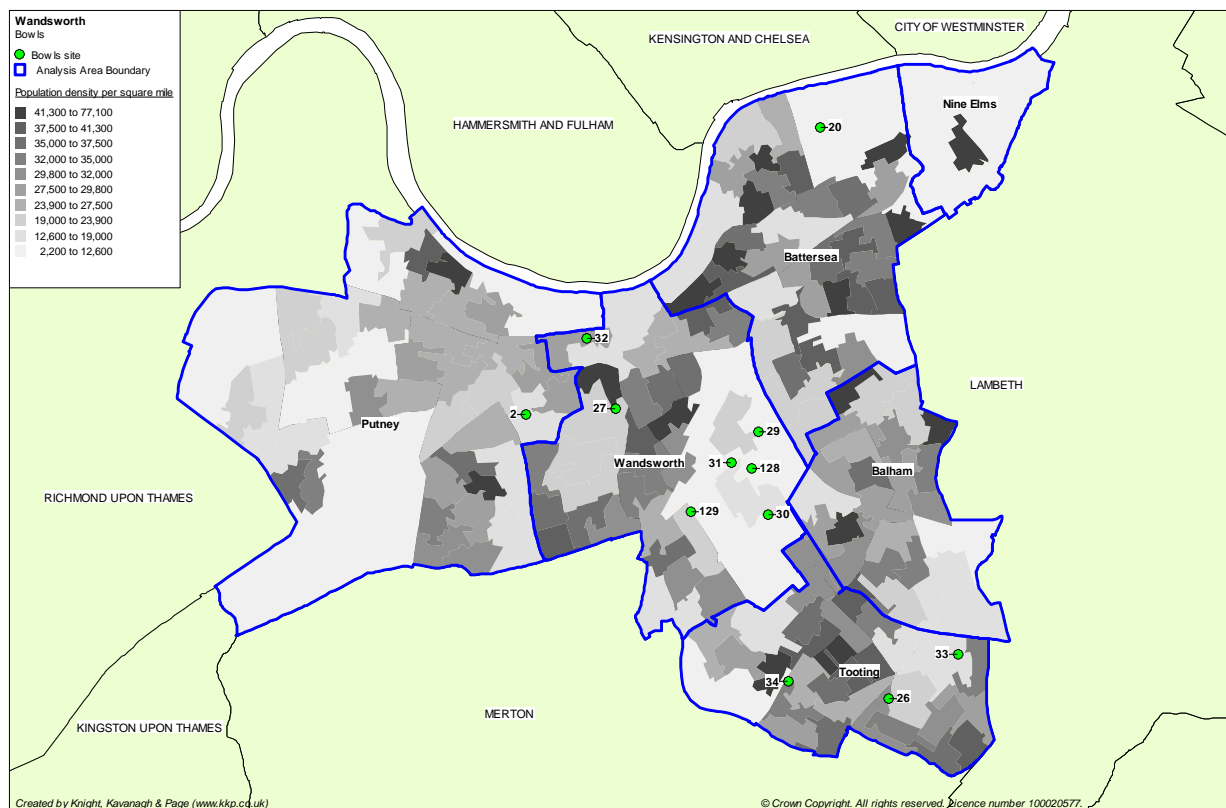


Table 7.2: Key to map of bowling greens

KKP reference	Site name	Analysis area	Number of greens
20	Battersea Park	Battersea	1
2	Clapham Common (Tennis 4 London)	Putney	2
26	Furzedown Recreation Ground	Tooting	1
33	Streatham Park Bowling Club	Tooting	1
34	Tooting Constitutional Bowls Club	Tooting	1
27	King George's Park	Wandsworth	1
31	Magdalen Park Bowling Club	Wandsworth	2
32	Putney Town Bowling & Social Club	Wandsworth	1
128	South London Bowling Club	Wandsworth	1
30	The Heathfield Club	Wandsworth	1
129	Wandliea Bowling Club	Wandsworth	1
29	Wandsworth Common	Wandsworth	1

## ***Accessibility***

Consultation identifies that the majority of members travel less than two miles to play. This suggests that the distribution of bowling greens across the Borough is adequate.

Pay and play usage of bowling greens is important as it can help to raise the profile of the sport, increase membership levels and revenue of sites. All Council greens are available for pay and play. Sites not offering pay and play are the private clubs.

## ***Ownership/management***

The four private clubs, Putney Town, Tooting Constitutional, South London Bowling Club and Magdalen Bowling Club own their own greens. Maintenance of these is, thus, their responsibility. Wandilea Bowls Club, which rents its green from Wandsworth Council, also maintains its own. Wandsworth Council is responsible for the maintenance of bowling greens through its grounds maintenance contract with Fountains across its four sites; King George's Park, Battersea Park, Furzedown Recreation Ground and Wandsworth Common. Maintenance of Clapham Common is the responsibility of Lambeth Council.

## ***Quality***

As with many sports, high levels of maintenance significantly increase quality. According to the Surrey League, the cost of bowling green maintenance is often difficult to sustain and there is a difference in quality between private and public facilities. Generally, the quality of private club greens is good. However, public greens are considered to be of a lower quality due to them reportedly not being maintained by individuals with specialist bowling green knowledge.

On the whole, vandalism of bowling greens is isolated. This is considered to be due, in part, to the fact that all greens in Wandsworth are fenced to some extent. Two clubs, Wandilea and St Michael's Furzedown, report having suffered minor incidents of vandalism, in the form of children playing football on the green, in the last 12 months.

Site visit assessments rate the majority of bowling greens in Wandsworth as being of either a good or excellent standard. Tooting Constitutional Bowling Green is the only site to score average. This is due to the lack of ditches/borders and the quality of fencing on site.

Two clubs, Wandilea and Tennyson, state that the quality of their bowling green has increased since last season. Tennyson attributes this to the recent work carried out to repair/prevent the issue of foxholes that occurred on site. Three clubs report no change in green quality from last year. Only two (Furzedown and Magdalen), report a slight decrease in quality. Magdalen suggests that this is the result of adverse weather conditions (e.g. heavy rainfall).

## ***Ancillary facilities***

It is usual for bowling clubs to have access to associated ancillary facilities, such as changing rooms, toilets and social areas. The majority of sites in Wandsworth offer ancillary facilities with access to running water, toilets and electricity. The following table summarises the key site specific issues raised by clubs during consultation:

# WANDSWORTH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

Table 7.3: Summary of site specific issues

Name of club	KKP reference	Comments
Magdalen Park Bowls Club	31	General decline in members due to players being too old or moving away. Heavy rain this season has impacted on quality of bowling green.
South London Bowls Club	128	Notes decline in the quality of bowling green's in Wandsworth park sites over the last 10 years due to a lack of maintenance.
Bolingbroke Bowls Club	29	Issue with children playing on the green unsupervised despite adequate notices.
Wandilea Bowls Club	28	Some clubs in trouble and may fold if Council does not continue maintenance of sites, as clubs cannot afford to themselves.

On the whole, clubs rate the quality of their ancillary facilities as acceptable or good.

## 7.3 Demand

Pay and play usage on local authority bowling greens is relatively low throughout the bowling season with a small number of season and casual tickets purchased over the previous three years.

### **Juniors**

Junior participation in Wandsworth is generally low. Only two clubs report having any junior members: Wandilea and South London. No clubs identify any specific plans to promote the sport to junior members.

### **Leagues**

It is common for clubs to enter teams in a number of leagues. For example, Wandilea Bowling Club competes in several different leagues. As a consequence, a large number of mens, ladies and vets bowling leagues service Wandsworth, including:

- ◀ London Parks Bowling League.
- ◀ New Surrey Bowling League.
- ◀ RTS Bowls League.
- ◀ Spitfire Bowls League.
- ◀ Wimbledon and District Bowling League.

### **Clubs**

Club consultation generally shows that participation in bowls in Wandsworth has either decreased or remained static over the past three years. Four report that the level of senior participation has generally decreased and three report membership levels remaining static. Only one club (South London) cites that it has experienced an increase in membership.

Due to a decline in membership, Trinity Bowling Club amalgamated with Bolingbroke Bowling Club. No loss of green was experienced as both clubs already shared the same home ground at Wandsworth Common.

## WANDSWORTH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

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All clubs are looking to increase the number of teams and membership levels. Clubs suggest that any growth through such recruitment of new members could be accommodated by existing provision.

League and club consultation reports a reduction in the number of clubs playing in Wandsworth in the previous five years. The Surrey Bowls League identifies that two to three clubs per season are lost. This is thought to be result of a general decline in participation and the perception that the sport is for older people; resulting in it being hard to attract new members. To counter this, the Surrey League now has an active campaign to encourage membership levels.

Below is a summary of additional demand related information gathered from postal surveys sent to bowls clubs playing in Wandsworth. A total of nine clubs responded:

- ◀ The average playing adult membership per club is 20.
- ◀ Membership levels vary from 4 to 40 members. South London Bowling Club is the largest, with 40 playing members. The smallest, with 4 playing members, is Wandsworth Blind Bowling Club.
- ◀ The majority of players travel up to two miles to play at their home green.
- ◀ Most clubs report they have agreements to rent or lease their home grounds. Two (South London and Magdalen) own their greens.
- ◀ Clubs, in general, report that the majority of their players do not travel from outside of the Borough (i.e. most are based locally).

### 7.4 Supply and demand analysis

The current supply of 16 bowling greens appears to adequately cater for current demand to participate in Wandsworth, both in terms of competitive and pay and play opportunity. Analysis of club membership also suggests that future growth is unlikely to result in the need for more bowling greens.

#### **Bowls summary**

- ◀ There are 14 bowling greens in Wandsworth, located across a range of sites including parks and private clubs.
- ◀ Site assessments rate most bowling greens as either good or excellent. Only one site, Tooting Constitutional, is scored as average.
- ◀ There has been a reduction in the number of clubs/teams participating in the previous five years. Participation has either decreased or remained static over the past three years.
- ◀ Only one club cites has experienced an increase in membership.
- ◀ All clubs are looking to increase membership levels and suggest that any growth through recruitment of new members could be accommodated at existing provision.
- ◀ It is not thought likely that current and future demand for bowls will result in the need for new provision.

## PART 8: NETBALL

### 8.1: Introduction

England Netball (EN) is the governing body with overall responsibility for ensuring the effective governance of the sport. League netball in the County is played using both indoor and outdoor courts.

London & South East Netball Association is one of EN's nine regions. Its membership comprises the four counties of Essex, Kent, Middlesex and Surrey. As the Regional Association, it is responsible for the management and development of the sport in the Region. Its core functions are:

'Club Development including the Club Action Planning Scheme (CAPS), School Club Links Programme (PESSCL), communication and marketing, education and training, talent development, competition, finance and increasing participation'.

### 8.2: Current provision

In total 30 outdoor netball courts are identified across 10 sites in Wandsworth. However, there are almost certainly additional courts located at schools which did not respond to the online survey.

*Table 8.1: Summary of netball courts*

Analysis area	No. of courts
Putney	11
Wandsworth	7
Battersea	9
Nine Elms	-
Balham	-
Tooting	2
<b>WANDSWORTH</b>	<b>29</b>

In addition to the above, seven courts are located at Barn Elms Sports Ground which is managed by Wandsworth Council but falls just outside the Area in Richmond.

### **Accessibility**

Clubs report that many of their players use public transport to access courts and so this has to be taken into consideration when selecting training and playing venues. This suggests that sites may be underused if there are poor transport links.

# WANDSWORTH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

Figure 8.1: Current provision of outdoor netball courts

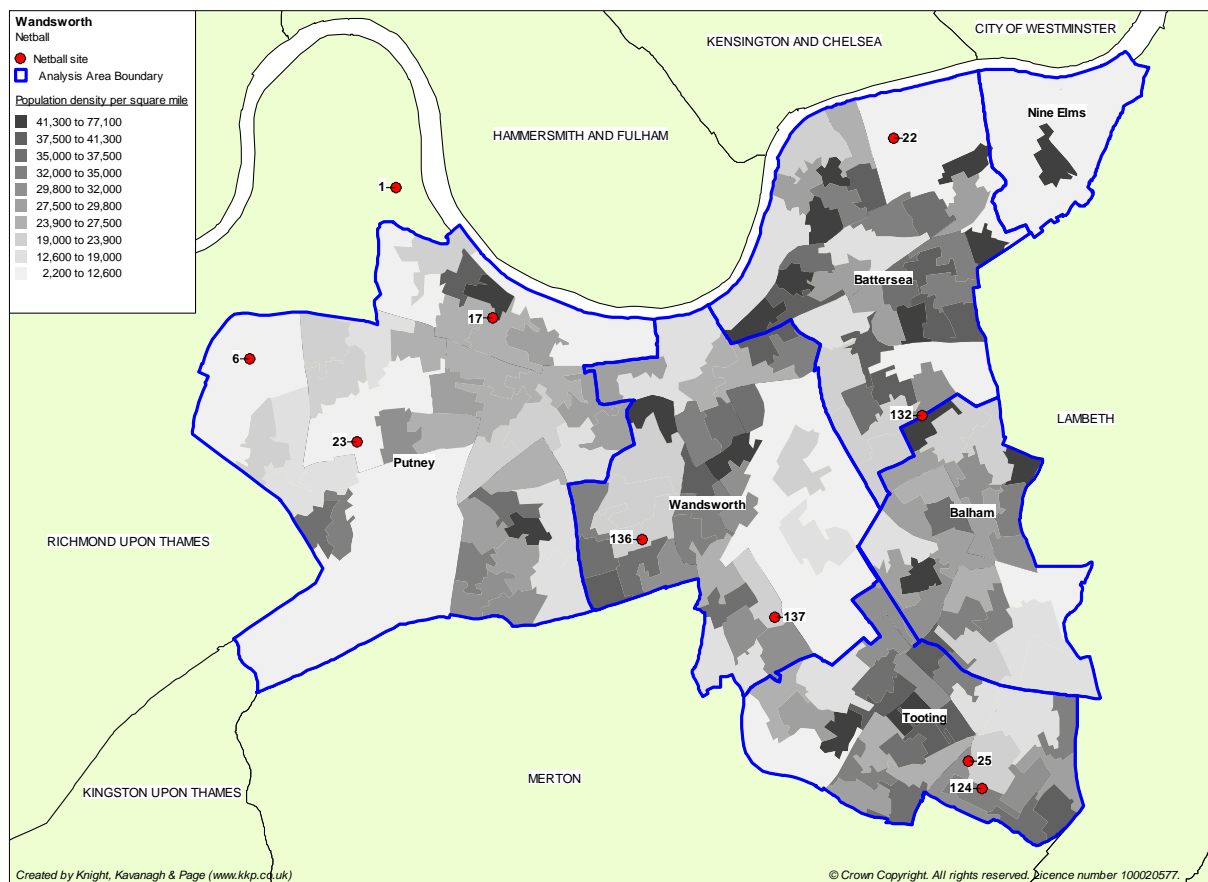


Table 8.2 Key to map of outdoor netball courts

KKP ref	Site name	Analysis area	Community use	No of courts
22	Battersea Park Millennium Arena	Battersea	Yes	5
132	Thomas Clapham School	Battersea	No	4
6	Bank of England Sports Centre	Putney	Yes	6
1	Barn Elms Sports Centre	Outside	Yes	7
23	Roehampton Playing Fields	Putney	Yes	4
17	Wandsworth Park	Putney	Yes	1
139	Roehampton University (main campus)	Putney	No	2
25	Furzedown Recreation Centre	Tooting	Yes	1
124	Graveney School Lower Site	Tooting	Yes	1
137	Burntwood School	Wandsworth	Yes	3
136	Southfield College	Wandsworth	Yes	4

## Quality

Site assessments rate the majority of netball courts as good or average quality. The courts at Barn Elms Sports Centre, Battersea Park and Graveney School are rated as below average.

## WANDSWORTH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

The netball courts at Battersea Park are floodlit but staff report them to be underused and that there is always spare capacity. Given the reported shortage of training venues it is assumed that they are underused due to poor quality or accessibility issues. It should be noted that the courts at Battersea Park are overmarked with tennis courts which are due to be refurbished in the next 12 months.

### **Training**

Clubs generally report a lack of access to courts for training, particularly indoor facilities. For example, Wandsworth Netball Club uses one indoor court at Emanuel School. It believes that it is restricted from growing and fielding additional teams because of the lack of courts available for training. It would ideally, require two indoor courts for this aspect of its operation.

### **8.3: Demand**

A number of leagues that operate in Wandsworth play outdoors and are summarised below.

*Table 8.3: Netball leagues servicing Wandsworth*

<b>Netball league</b>	<b>Comments</b>
Surrey League	This is one of the largest in the County and offers netball at every standard. Current membership is 58 clubs (88 teams). Matches are played from September to April on a home and away basis on the 1 <sup>st</sup> and 3 <sup>rd</sup> Saturdays.
Croydon League	It operates winter, midweek and summer leagues at all standards. There are currently over 55 teams involved. The majority of matches are played at Shirley High School (approximately ten miles south of Wandsworth) at a central venue from September to April.
The Metropolitan League	Matches are played on the 2 <sup>nd</sup> and 4 <sup>th</sup> Saturdays of every month from September to April. It has eight divisions made up of eight teams playing on a home and away basis. There is currently a waiting list for the League.
Kingston District League	It is split into ten divisions with more than 40 teams/clubs.
Nonsuch Junior League	It is run at a central venue the 1 <sup>st</sup> Sunday of every month. The competition is run as a tournament between the junior clubs.

The Surrey, Metropolitan and Kingston leagues are played on a home and away basis using outdoor netball courts. Clubs also travel out of the area to access central venue sites (in Surrey).

Consultation indicates that participation levels in Wandsworth have increased over the previous three years, at both senior and junior level. This is further supported by Sport England's Active People Survey which illustrates that netball participation (at least once a week) in London has increased from 0.21% in 2007/08 to 0.25% in 2011/12.

England Netball's 'Back 2 Netball' initiative provides an introduction for female players over the age of sixteen. It has contributed to the increase in senior participation levels in the County, which is being rolled out in local authority areas, including Wandsworth. Each session results in the creation of a netball team. Wandsworth Netball Club reports that it was able to create a third team to enter into the leagues made up of players from the back to netball scheme.



## WANDSWORTH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

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Two clubs use courts outside the Borough as their main home ground. Wandsworth Netball Club uses Ricards Lodge School in Wimbledon as does Karisma Netball Club.

High 5<sup>17</sup> netball is the recognised format for netball for players at primary schools. It is a version of netball with up to nine players (boys and girls) in each team with five on court at any one time in rotation. Those 'standing off' encompass the techniques of umpiring, scoring and coaching.

### **Netball summary**

- ◀ In total 29 outdoor netball courts are identified across 10 sites in Wandsworth.
- ◀ Although the majority of courts are assessed as good or adequate quality, courts at Barn Elms and Battersea Park are assessed as poor which impacts on usage.
- ◀ A number of clubs report displaced demand and are travelling outside the Borough to access courts.
- ◀ The Metropolitan League reports a waiting list to join.
- ◀ Participation levels in Wandsworth have increased over the previous three years, at both senior and junior level.
- ◀ There is demand in Wandsworth for more and/or better quality outdoor netball courts.

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<sup>17</sup> [http://www.englandnetball.co.uk/my-game/High\\_5](http://www.englandnetball.co.uk/my-game/High_5)

## PART 9: EDUCATION PROVISION

### 9.1: Introduction

The provision of pitches at education sites can make an important contribution to the overall stock of playing pitches. It is therefore important to have accurate information about the number, type, quality and availability of pitches within the education sector in the Borough.

The new Education and Inspection Act (2006) came into force in early 2009 and amends the existing legislation within the Schools Standards and Framework Act (SSFA) 1998. This was originally 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 now the Department for Children, Schools and Families) for the sale or change of use 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 School Playing Fields General Disposal and Change of Use Consent (No.3) 2004 order highlights some limited circumstances in which the requisite approval has been delegated to the relevant governing body (i.e. local authority), which can decide whether the disposal or change of use meets the circumstances and criteria set out in the Consent Order<sup>18</sup>.

The new School Games Organisers is a national partnership consisting of the Department for Culture, Media and Sport, the Department of Health, the Department for Education and Sport England. It exists to increase participation, competition and progression for young people in sport through the successful delivery of the School Games.

The partnership will be supported by teacher release posts, who are existing teachers within secondary schools released for one day a week to provide specialist PE and sport support to local primary schools and within their own school. Their priorities are to embed good practice, provide more competitive sport for all pupils, including The School Games and to ensure all sport is accessible to pupils who are not engaged or less active or do not have equal opportunity to compete.

### ***Consultation***

93% of secondary/higher and further education establishments were met with face to face to discuss community use and quality issues in more detail. An electronic survey was sent directly to the head teacher of each primary school via email in Wandsworth (55 in total) to ascertain the quality, quantity and accessibility of outdoor sports pitch facilities. A return rate of 80% was obtained.

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<sup>18</sup> Full and detailed guidance can be accessed at <http://www.teachernet.gov.uk/docbank/index.cfm?id=11600>

# WANDSWORTH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

## 9.2: Current provision

The following tables provide an outline of the outdoor sports facilities available at education sites in Wandsworth. The tables also outline the proportion of these facilities that are currently available for community use (i.e. for regular competitive fixtures).

There is limited provision of grass pitches at educational sites in Wandsworth. The majority of provision is in the form of AGPs; eight are identified.

*Table 9.1: Summary of pitches at school sites in Wandsworth*

Analysis area	Total no. of education pitches						
	Senior football	Junior football	Mini football	Senior rugby union	Mini rugby union	AGP	Cricket <sup>19</sup>
Putney	2	-	-	-	-	2	-
Wandsworth	1	1	-	3	1	1	3
Battersea	-	-	-	-	-	2	-
Nine Elms	-	-	-	-	-	2	-
Balham	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
Tooting	-	1	1	-	-	-	-
<b>WANDSWORTH</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>3</b>

The majority of pitches are provided on secondary school and college sites. Only 14% of pitch provision is on primary schools.

A handful of rugby union pitches are provided at education sites although these tend not to be made available for community use due to a lack of demand for their use. Secured use of the two pitches at Ashcroft Academy by Battersea Ironsides is noted. The cricket pitch at Ashcroft Academy is also the only facility of its kind to have community use (by Spencer Cricket Club).

It is important to note that most grass pitch provision located at school sites is not available for community use. However, of the eight AGPs, seven are available for such use.

There are five independent secondary schools within the boundary of Wandsworth; Emanuel, Ibstock Place, Putney High, Putney Park and Thames Christian College. The latter three schools have no playing pitch provision. Both Emanuel School and Ibstock Place provide a range of facilities. Emanuel is identified as having two cricket pitches, two senior rugby pitches and a mini rugby pitch. Ibstock Place has two senior football pitches and one, half size AGP. None of the facilities are available for community use.

<sup>19</sup> It is recognised that whilst cricket pitches have been identified at education sites this tends to be artificial wickets which are over marked on grass pitches which are generally used to accommodate other sports i.e. football/rugby.

## WANDSWORTH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

Table 9.2: Summary of availability at school sites in Wandsworth

Analysis area	No. of education pitches available for community use						
	Senior football	Junior football	Mini football	Senior rugby union	Mini rugby union	AGP	Cricket
Putney	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
Wandsworth	1	1	-	2	-	1	1
Battersea	-	-	-	-	-	2	-
Nine Elms	-	-	-	-	-	2	-
Balham	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
Tooting	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
<b>WANDSWORTH</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>1</b>

Eight schools are identified as being available for community use (at which such use takes place) with an additional one school stating that community use is available but is currently unused.

Table 9.3: Schools with community use in Wandsworth

KKP ref	Site	Community use	Analysis area
36	Southfields Community College	Yes	Wandsworth
42	Ashcroft Technology Academy Sports Field	Yes	Wandsworth
47	Saint John Bosco	Available but unused	Putney
58	Newton Preparatory School	Yes	Nine Elms
87	Hillbrook Primary School	Yes	Tooting
99	Sacred Heart Battersea Primary School	Yes	Battersea
104	Sir James Barrie Primary School	Yes	Nine Elms
123	Battersea Park School	Yes	Battersea
125	Chestnut Grove School	Yes	Balham

Most community use takes place at secondary schools; five schools/colleges are identified as having community use. As highlighted earlier the majority of provision is located at secondary school/college sites. Only three primary schools are identified as having outdoor sports facilities available for community use.

## WANDSWORTH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

### 9.3: Secondary schools

The table below provides a summary of the outdoor sports provision and issues arising from the consultation:

School name	Outdoor pitch sports provision	Consultation summary
Ashcroft Technology Academy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>One senior grass football pitch</li> <li>One junior grass football pitch</li> <li>Two senior grass rugby pitches</li> <li>One grass cricket pitch</li> <li>One floodlit AGP</li> </ul>	<p>Rugby and cricket pitches and AGP located off-site at Openview (adjacent to Spencer Sports Club). School has an agreement with the Club to use facilities which includes maintenance. Overall, facilities rated as being of a good quality.</p> <p>Both Spencer cricket and hockey clubs use pitches on a regular basis. Battersea Ironsides and Bec Old Boys also use the rugby pitches. The School reports that it receives more community interest than it can accommodate for its facilities.</p> <p>The School has sport specific changing accommodation but this is not available for community use. Changing facilities are rated as good.</p>
Battersea Park School	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>One floodlit AGP (half size)</li> <li>Two tennis courts</li> <li>One basketball court (not fenced)</li> </ul>	<p>The AGP (two 5-a-side pitches) has no underlay and is not fenced.</p> <p>Community use takes place most evening between 17.00-21.00. Used by Netbusters (coaching school), Mass FC and various community/social groups.</p>
Burntwood School	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>One generic grass field</li> <li>Three tennis courts (over marked with three netball courts)</li> </ul>	<p>Sports facilities newly provided. The School is looking at promoting community use. Car parking currently unavailable due to building work but will be available in the future.</p>
Chestnut Grove School	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>One floodlit AGP (half size)</li> <li>Two tennis courts (also marked netball)</li> </ul>	<p>The AGP (3G) is available for community use but School also uses Wandsworth Common for football sessions. Tennis courts have recently been resurfaced.</p>
Ernest Bevin College	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Two floodlit basketball courts</li> </ul>	<p>Use of the floodlit hard court area facility at evenings is limited due to complaints from local residents about the floodlights and noise. The School also uses Fishponds Playing Fields site (located 5 minute walk). Changing facilities deemed adequate quality are available. These only accommodate one class at a time.</p>
Emanuel School	<p>On site:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Two senior grass rugby pitches</li> <li>One junior grass rugby pitch</li> <li>Two grass cricket fields</li> <li>Three outdoor cricket nets</li> </ul> <p>Off site (Blagden):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Two senior grass rugby pitches</li> <li>One junior grass rugby pitch</li> </ul>	<p>All facilities are rated as being of an excellent quality. Next year one senior rugby pitch will be temporary unavailable due to scheduled building work. During this time the School will use Wandsworth Common.</p> <p>The School is currently looking at the potential of providing a 3G AGP on its Blagden site (outside of the study area). This is at a very early stage with no plans or funding in place.</p>

## WANDSWORTH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

School name	Outdoor pitch sports provision	Consultation summary
Graveney School	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>One 7v7 floodlit (3G) AGP</li> <li>One mini football pitch</li> <li>Two singles tennis and one doubles tennis courts</li> <li>One netball court</li> </ul>	<p>AGP is floodlit until 21.30 and is considered to be of good quality. It is managed by the Council after 5pm (known as Furzedown Recreation Centre) as are the tennis courts and netball court.</p> <p>Mini football pitch is noted to have poor drainage.</p> <p>Changing facility is considered inadequate and in need of improvement. School also uses Barn Elms Sports Ground 2/3 times a week.</p>
Saint Cecilia's School	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Two generic playground areas</li> </ul>	<p>School aspires to develop a floodlit AGP (60 x 35) on its upper playground site. Planning permission and external funding will be needed for this development.</p> <p>It uses off site provision at Barn Elms Sports Centre, for rugby and football, and Wimbledon Park, for athletics.</p>
Southfields College	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>One floodlit (3G) AGP</li> </ul>	<p>AGP constructed in 2010 with Football Foundation funding support. It extends onto King Georges Park. Teams accessing the AGP have an agreement with the College to access its changing accommodation. Overall quality is rated as good.</p> <p>The College is also constructing two MUGAs - to be completed in 2013/14.</p>
Thames Christian College	-	No outdoor sports provision on site.
Putney High School	-	No outdoor sports provision on site.
Saint John Bosco College	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>One sand dressed AGP (half size)</li> <li>Playground tarmac area with four tennis courts over marked with three netball courts.</li> </ul>	<p>The AGP has no markings or floodlights. Life expectancy is considered to be short. Tennis courts are poor quality with loose gravel and slippery surfaces and are not available for community use. Two changing room facilities (good condition and recently refurbished). (School would like more).</p> <p>A new school is currently being formed from amalgamation of two schools and will be ready in 2015. It will move to Old Salesian College site, Surrey Lane (new school being built which may include the provision of two half size AGPs).</p>
Ibstock Place School	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Two senior football pitches</li> <li>One sand dressed AGP (half size)</li> <li>One netball court</li> </ul>	<p>Pitch quality will improve following recent work that has included levelling, re-turfed and new drainage (ready for use in January).</p> <p>The AGP is a good quality. It is three years old and is fenced and locked.</p> <p>The facilities are not available for community use.</p> <p>There are four changing room facilities at the school.</p>
South Thames College	-	No outdoor sports provision on site.
St. Francis Xavier		No response from the School.

**WANDSWORTH COUNCIL  
PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY**

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School name	Outdoor pitch sports provision	Consultation summary
Elliot School		No response from the School.

# WANDSWORTH COUNCIL

## PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

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### 9:4: Primary schools

There is limited playing pitch provision across primary school sites in Wandsworth. Most responding primary schools (64%) do not have a grass playing field or artificial pitch. Nine schools have access to off-site playing fields:

- ◀ Alderbrook Primary - Clapham Common for sports day.
- ◀ Falconbrook Primary - Battersea Park for sports day and football teams use Wandle Recreation Centre.
- ◀ St Josephs Catholic Primary - Southfields College.
- ◀ Swaffield Primary - Wandsworth Common and King George's Park. Southfields College for sports day.
- ◀ Trinity St Mary's CE Primary - Wandsworth Common.
- ◀ West Hill Primary - Dover House Road for football.
- ◀ Wix Primary - Clapham Common for football coaching.
- ◀ Allfarthing Primary - Wandsworth Common for football.
- ◀ Gatton Primary - Ernest Bevin College.

Of the primary schools with outdoor sports provision, most tend to have a hard surface playground (44%), a netball court (31%) or a generic grass field (25%).

No primary schools provide rugby pitches. Only three primary schools provide an outdoor sports pitch. These are Hillbrook Primary School (junior grass football pitch), Sir James Barrie (half size AGP) and Sacred Heart Battersea (half size AGP). Newton Preparatory School is also identified as having a full size AGP facility. A total of three schools also have a generic grass field. This includes St Michaels, John Burns and Smallwood.

Five primary schools (which responded to the survey); John Burns, Penwortham, The Alton School, Sacred Heart Roehampton and Hillbrook, provide a MUGA. All five are caged areas with markings for football, netball and tennis. The facility at Penwortham Primary School is the only one noted as having floodlights.

### **Quality**

Only one primary school, Hillbrook, has a marked junior grass pitch. It rates the overall quality, evenness and drainage of the pitch as good. However, the length of grass on the pitch is rated as poor. Sacred Heart Battersea Primary School rates the quality of its AGP facility as good. It notes that grip under foot, line markings, fencing and access for disabled players are all viewed as being sufficient. It does highlight some evidence of inappropriate/unofficial use. The quality of the sand filled AGP at Newton Preparatory School is reportedly poor with patchy surfacing that needs replacing.

Sir James Barrie Primary School does not provide a quality rating for its AGP provision.

### **Ancillary facilities**

Sir James Barrie Primary School and Newton Preparatory School are the only schools with outdoor sports provision to also have changing accommodation available for community use. It indicates that changing provision on site is of a poor quality. No comments with regard to the quality of changing accommodation are received from Newton Preparatory.

Hillbrook Primary School is the only site to identify car parking available on site available for community use.



# WANDSWORTH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

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## **Usage**

All three primary schools with outdoor sports provision (Hillbrook, Sir James Barrie and Sacred Heart Battersea) and Newton Preparatory identify that provision is available for community use.

Both Sir James Barrie and Sacred Heart Battersea identify that their AGPs are used on a regular basis by users such as clubs and youth/community groups. The AGP at Sir James Barrie is identified as being used for 16 hours outside of school hours and the AGP at Sacred Heart Battersea is used for 24 hours.

Smallwood Primary which has a generic grass field states this is available for community use but that it is currently not used. It suggests this is due to the public not being aware that the space is available to hire. The lack of any marked pitches on the site may also contribute to a lack of community demand/use.

The most common reasons as to why facilities were not used during the holidays or for community use *per se* include lack of demand followed by issues with access.

Only one primary school, Sacred Heart Battersea, states that it receives more interest to use their facilities than can be accommodated. It currently has a floodlit AGP which is used by various groups/clubs throughout the week.

## **Plans to develop or expand existing provision**

The majority of primary schools do not plan to expand or develop their existing outdoor sports provision.

Only one primary school identifies any plans to physically develop its level of provision. Penwortham Primary School indicates plans to upgrade its caged area to an AGP - this will then be available for community use after the school has first use of the facility. The School states that its current caged area is of a poor quality, wearing, slippery and not usable when wet. Drainage is also viewed as very poor. It signals that its PTA has already started to raise funds towards the cost of replacing the facility.

### **Education summary**

- ◀ There is limited provision of grass pitches at educational sites in Wandsworth. In total there are 21 facilities (including AGPs), of which 13 are available for community use. The majority of provision is located at secondary/college sites.
- ◀ In total, eight secondary and primary schools state they offer regularly taken up community use whilst a further one school suggests that it is available but currently unused.
- ◀ Most community use is at secondary school/college sites.
- ◀ In the majority of instances, where pitches are available and in use, access to school changing accommodation is limited or non-existent.
- ◀ A few secondary schools/colleges identify existing and future plans to improve current levels of provision. Only one primary school, Penwortham, is planning to upgrade its provision.
- ◀ No significant issues with regard to quality are highlighted by schools. In general provision is deemed to be of a good quality. However, Graveney School does identify its mini football pitch as having poor drainage.

## **PART 10: KEY FINDINGS AND ISSUES SUMMARY**

### ***Strategy and action plan***

This Assessment Report considers the supply and demand issues for playing pitches in Wandsworth. It identifies local need from consultation highlighting the predominant issues. This will inform the development of the Strategy and Action Plan to address key issues. Strategic recommendations and provision standards will also be incorporated in this document.

## APPENDIX 1: FACILITIES PLANNING MODEL (FPM)<sup>20</sup>

### *Supply*

The FPM was undertaken by Sport England and only includes full size floodlit AGPs.

The model includes a total of six AGPs located across five sites in Wandsworth, which are available for community use for all or part of the peak period.

Five of the AGPs are public facilities. The Ashcroft Technology College Sports Field and Aspire Centre (Southfields Community College) AGPs are based on educational sites. The two AGPs at Battersea All Weather Sports Ground and the AGP at Wandle Recreation Centre are local authority facilities. The Bank of England Sports Centre AGP is a commercial facility.

In terms of AGP capacity, the six AGPs included within Wandsworth provide the equivalent of 5.2 pitches when taking account of hours available for community use. Appendix 1 shows that all the AGPs included within the model are available for 34 hours in the peak period except for the AGP at the Ashcroft Technology College Sports Field which is only available for 5 hours in the peak period.

Wandsworth has a total AGP provision of 0.19 pitches per 10,000 population which, to put it into context, is significantly lower than Richmond (0.37), although it is significantly higher than Lambeth (0.07) and Merton (0.4). It should be noted that this figure does not take into account spatial distribution, demand from Wandsworth residents, age and attractiveness of, facilities or the nature of imported and exported demand to and from other local authority areas.

### *Demand*

Demand for AGP provision from Wandsworth residents equates to 8,600 visits per week in the peak period and is the equivalent to 11.65 pitches taking into account the 'comfort factor' (see Appendix 2 for explanation).

The percentage of the population of Wandsworth without access to a car is 33.3% which is lower than Lambeth (43.1%), although it is higher than Merton (22.1%) and significantly higher than Richmond (16%).

### *Supply and demand balance*

This section only provides a 'global' view of provision and does not take account of the location, nature and quality of facilities in relation to demand; how accessible facilities are to the resident population (by car and on foot); nor does it take account of facilities in adjoining boroughs. These are covered in the more detailed modelling set out in the following sections (Satisfied Demand, Unmet Demand and Relative Share).

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<sup>20</sup> Local Assessment of Artificial Grass Pitch Provision Facility Planning Model December 2012: Sport England

## WANDSWORTH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

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When looking at a very simplistic picture of the overall supply and demand across Wandsworth, the resident population is estimated to generate a demand for a minimum for 11.7 AGPs. This compares to a current available supply of 5.2 pitches, giving a supply/demand balance of -6.45 pitches.

### *Satisfied demand*

With the spatial interaction between supply and demand built in, the modelling suggests that 48.7% of demand for AGPs in Wandsworth is currently being met by supply (this includes facilities both within the borough and those in adjoining areas which are accessible to Wandsworth residents). This percentage figure is significantly lower than Richmond (78%) and Merton (59.4%), although it is higher than Lambeth (35.7%).

Across Wandsworth the modelling suggests some 63% of the satisfied visits made to AGPs are by car which is lower than Richmond (82.7%) and Merton (72.6%), although it is slightly higher than Lambeth (56.1%). 35.9% of satisfied visits made to AGPs are by foot and 1.1% are by public transport.

53.8% of all satisfied demand from Wandsworth residents is met within the borough boundaries, with the remaining 46.2% being exported to facilities outside the borough boundaries. This export figure is similar to those recorded for the adjoining boroughs: Richmond (58.6%) and Merton (42.1%). However, Lambeth has a significantly higher figure of 85.9%.

### *Unmet demand*

51.3% of demand for AGP provision from Wandsworth residents is not being met by current supply (this includes facilities both within the borough and those in adjoining boroughs which are accessible to Wandsworth residents). This figure is higher than Merton (40.6%) and significantly higher than Richmond (22%), although it is lower than Lambeth (64.3%).

The level of unmet demand across the borough is equivalent to 5.98 full-size, floodlit AGPs.

97.7% of unmet demand in Wandsworth is due to a lack of AGP capacity. This figure is very similar to neighbouring boroughs which range from 96.6% to 98.1%. Of the 97.7% of unmet demand due to lack of capacity, 77.3% of these people have access to a car.

The remaining 2.3% of the unmet demand in Wandsworth is due to people living outside the catchment area of an AGP.

At an output area level, there are high levels of unmet demand within Wandsworth. Furthermore, of demand from residents which is not currently being met due to a lack of capacity (97.7%), 77.3% have access to a car. This figure highlights that even from residents that are particularly mobile, and can therefore access a range of sites, there is a significant level of unmet demand, therefore showing that this issue is across a wider area.

Map 1 (Unmet Demand) shows the unmet demand (UD) in each 1km square in Wandsworth. The areas of greatest unmet demand can be found in the south east and north east of the borough.

## WANDSWORTH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

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Map 2 (Aggregated Unmet Demand) shows the aggregated unmet demand (AUD) in each 1km square in Wandsworth. The highest AUD figure in the borough is 47.72 pitch equivalents within the north east of the borough. However, all 1km squares within Wandsworth show a high level of AUD and these figures would therefore justify additional AGP provision.

Neighbouring boroughs also show high levels of AUD. Therefore, it is expected that Wandsworth would also import a higher number of visitors should additional AGP provision be provided in the borough.

### *Used capacity*

The model estimates that 100% of AGP capacity in Wandsworth is being used at peak times. This is also the case for all neighbouring authorities.

50.4% of all visits made to Wandsworth's AGPs are made by road. Neighbouring boroughs range widely from 38.7% to 80.5%.

Out of the 3,850 visits made to Wandsworth's AGPs, it is estimated that 1,550 come from outside the borough which equates to about 41.4% of users of the AGPs. This figure is lower than Richmond (1,850, 54.5%) and significantly lower than Merton (2,400, 58.9%), although it is higher than Lambeth (550, 56%).

# WANDSWORTH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

## APPENDIX 2: CONSULTEE LIST

Organisation	Name	Designation
A.D.F. Machico F.C.	Terence Williams	Secretary
A.F.C. Wimbledon Girls (Youth)	John Ivers	Secretary
AFC Cubo	Mr Luke Haddon	Secretary
AFC Wandsworth	Amit Patel	Secretary
Alderbrook School	Mr Minti	Financial Administrator
All Saints CE School	Lisa Stone	Admin Assistant
Allfarthing School	Alex Bingham	Business Manager
Arantes F.C.	Stephen Rowe	Secretary
Ashcroft Technology Academy	Judith Piggins	Head of PE
Balham Blazers (Youth) F.C.	Greg Cruttwell	Secretary
Bank of England CC	Jeffrey Smeeton	Secretary
Bank of England F.C.	Stephen Pisano	Secretary
Bank of England Hockey Club	Paul Kelly	Secretary
Bank of England RFC	Jerry Wright	Secretary
Barn Elms United F.C.	Trevor Symons	Secretary
Barnes CC	Duncan Simpson	Colts Manager
Barnes Eagles FC	Symone Coleman	Secretary
Barnes Occasionals CC	Oliver Hogg	Hon Secretary
Barnes Rugby Club	David Doonan	Secretary
Bath Old Boys United FC	Adam Gorman	Secretary
Batters Cricket Club	Mrs Nicola Dicketts	Secretary
Battersea Badgers Cricket Club	Mr Peter Warman	Secretary
Battersea Dogs	Gary Wild	Secretary
Battersea Ironsides CC	Eric Ferebee	Secretary
Battersea Ironsides Ladies FC	Michael Smith	Secretary
Battersea Ironsides Sports Club	David Gardener Hill	Secretary
Battersea Lions (Youth) F.C.	Ricky Hammond	Secretary
Battersea Park School	Neil Watson	Head Teacher
Beatrix Potter School	Steph Neale	Head Teacher
BedHead (Youth) F.C.	Adam Hines	Secretary
Bolingbroke Bowls Club	Mr J Hort	Secretary
Brandlehow School	Sara Grove	Head Teacher
Brentside F.C.	David Jackson	Secretary
British Algerian Football United	Sami Moumeni	Manager
Broomwood (Youth) F.C.	Simon Hawkes	Secretary
Broomwood F.C.	Jeff Sayers	Chairman
Broomwood Hall School	Leon Koekemoer	Head Teacher
Burntwood School	Cathryn Potter	Head of PE
Cedars LTC	Keith Brogan	Secretary
Chelsea Community FC (pan-disability)	Rob Seale	Secretary
Chelsea Veterans FC.	John Waller	Secretary

## WANDSWORTH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

Organisation	Name	Designation
Chesterton School	Mark Siswick	Head Teacher
Chestnut Grove School	John Brooks	Business Manager
Christchurch School	Pearl Read	Head Teacher
City of London FC	Martin Frankum	Secretary
Clapham Rangers Juniors F.C.	Joanna Prest	Secretary
Comets (Ladies) F.C.	Mark Howden	Manager
Croydon Municipal League	Cheryl Heartfield	Secretary
Croydon Red Star F.C.	Peter Nicholson	Secretary
Cultural (Youth) F.C.	Rui Reis	Vice Chairman
Dolphin School	Mrs J. Glen	Head Teacher
Dover House Lions FC	Anita Russell	Secretary & Welfare Officer
Eardley School	Mark Kenrick	Head Teacher
Earlsfield School	Steve Trow	Head Teacher
ECB	Tim Nicholls	Funding & Facilities Manager
Emanuel School	Mark Hanley-Browne	Head Teacher
Emmanuel Wimbledon Allstars F.C.	Mark Shand	Manager & Secretary
English Lacrosse	Nick Roberts	
Ernest Bevin College	Mike Chivers & Rukhsana Sheikh	Head Teacher
Eveline Day School	Eveline Drut	Head Teacher
F.C. Porto of London Dragons	Tiago Lino-Da Costa	Secretary
F.C. Santacruzense (Youth)	Vitor Caetano	Secretary
F.C. Tilburg Regents	Greg Krmadjian	Secretary
FA	Dylan Evans	Funding & Facilities Manager
Falconbrook School	Debra Dasgupta	Head of PE
Finton House School	Adrian Floyd	Head Teacher
Fircroft School	Anne Wilson	Head Teacher
Fit 4 Kidz FC	Nick Jackson	Secretary
Fountains – Sports Bookings Administrator	Mandy Ware	LA Bookings Contact
Franciscan School	Ben March	Head Teacher
Fuller's Surrey County League	David Kingsmill	Secretary
Furzedown School	Mrs Rix	Administrator
Furzedown United	Mr Morris Nelson	Secretary
Furzedown United (Youth) F.C.	Joanne Wason	Secretary
Gatton School	Rifet Batool/ Hoosen Randeree	Head Teacher
Get into Football Officer, London FA	Katie Sykes	Football Officer
Granard School	Mrs Shelley Mouton	PE Coordinator
Graveney School	Graham Stapleton	Head Teacher
Greenhouse Bethwin SE F.C.	Rosemary Garnett	Secretary
Heathmere School	Margaret McKinlay	Head Teacher
Highview School	Mr Viven Naidoo	Head Teacher
Hillbrook School	Matthew Casey	PE Teacher

## WANDSWORTH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

Organisation	Name	Designation
Holy Ghost RC School	Sue Hanrahan	Head Teacher
Honeywell School	Jane Neal	Head Teacher
Hornsby House School	Jon Gray	Head Teacher
Hotham School	Miss Oddy	PE Coordinator
Hurlingham School	Jonathan Brough	Head Teacher
Ibstock Place School	Rob Cartwright	Bursar
Independent Youth F.C.	Barry Gorden	Secretary
Inter Old Boys F.C.	Robert Waters	Secretary
John Burns School	Rosemary Corrigan	Administrator
Kew Antigua F.C.	Adam Greenhalgh	Secretary
King's Road Cricket & Social Club	Giles Fagan	Chairman
Kingston Juniors F.C.	Paul White	Secretary
Kiwi F.C.	Stephen McGroggan	Secretary
L.M. United F.C.	Ben Cole	Secretary
Lambeth All Stars Youth F.C.	Crosley Foster	Secretary
Last Man Stands: Clapham Common League	Ross Cawood	Secretary
L'Ecole de Battersea	Mr Balerdi	Deputy Head
Leopards F.C.	Matthew Sadler	Secretary
Lifetime Tennis	James Webber	Secretary
Lokomotiv Wimbledon F.C.	Paul Bedford	Manager/Secretary
London Accountants Football League	Andrew Gould	Secretary
London Cornish Rugby Club	David Fletcher	Secretary
London County Saturday Youth Football League	Tony Pretty	Secretary
London Edwardians Hockey Club	James Nurse	Secretary
London Exiles RFC	Shelley Matthews	Secretary
London FA	Josie Clifford	Development Manager
London French RFC	Rob Ewing	Secretary
London Wayfarers Hockey Club	Angela Durnin	Secretary
London XI F.C.	Peter Walsh	Secretary
LTA	Lyndall Newton-Early	Tennis Development Manager
Magdalen Park Bowls Club	Mr Ray	Fixtures Secretary
Magdalen Park Lawn Tennis Club	John Parry	Secretary
MASS FC - junior section	Patricia Taylor	Secretary
Morden & District	Jeff Martin	Secretary
Newton Preparatory School	Nicholas Allen	Head Teacher
Northcote Falcons F.C.	Ollie Agius	Secretary
Northcote Lodge School	Jonathan Morris	Head of PE
Oggul CC	Naeem Khalifa	Secretary
Old Berkhamstedians F.C.	Matti Nash	Secretary
Old Cliftonians	Bryn Snelson	Secretary
Old Eastbournian F.C.	Andrew Appleyard	Secretary



## WANDSWORTH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

Organisation	Name	Designation
Old Epsomians F.C.	Fulton Shiundu	Secretary
Old Fulham Prims CC	David Blake	Secretary
Our Lady of Victories School	Mrs Wentzel	Head Teacher
Parthenope	Emiliano Polito	Manager
Partizan Wandsworth F.C.	Nigel Walker	Secretary
Penwortham School	Richard Siaw	Premises manager
Prospect House School	Dianne Barratt	Head Teacher
Providence House (Youth) F.C.	Michael Maloney	Secretary
Pure Football (Youth) F.C.	Yasin Chanawala	Secretary
Putney CC	Mark Wibberley	Secretary
Putney Lawn Tennis Club	David Halls	Secretary
Putney Park School	Miss S Mostyn	Head Teacher
Putney Town F.C.	John Bedford	Secretary
Ravenstone School	Emily Domaingue	Head Teacher
Real Northern F.C.	Simon Faal	Secretary
Relationship Manager London Region	Kirsty Brammer	England Hockey Board
RFL	Dan Steel	Regional Manager
RFU	Rick Bruin/Matt Kemp	Funding & Facilities Manager/ Surrey RDO
Rio Kaiserslautern F.C.	Oliver Salmon	Manager
Roehampton Cricket Club	Mr M Boag	Secretary
Roehampton Rangers F.C.	Polly Fraley	Secretary
Roehampton University F.C.	Jennifer Ilsley	Sport Roehampton Manager
Roehampton University Women F.C.	Jennifer Ilsley	Sport Roehampton Manager
Ronald Ross School	Julie Merideth	Head Teacher
Rosslyn Park RFC	Bob Evans	Secretary
Sacred Heart Battersea School	Jared Brading	Head Teacher
Sacred Heart Roehampton School	Jim Reynolds	Head Teacher
Saint Cecilia's School	Jeffrey Risbridger	Head Teacher
Saint John Bosco College	Andy Lane	Head Teacher
Sandmere F.C.	David Holtam	Secretary
Sellincourt School	Lindsey	Administrator
Shaftesbury CC	Glen Donegan	Secretary
Shaftesbury Town F.C.	Steven Davey	Secretary
Ship F.C.	Oliver Hurrey	Secretary
Sinjuns Grammarians F.C.	Martin Faircloth	Secretary
Sir James Barrie School	Amina Amrani	Head Teacher
Smallwood School	Karel Hutter	Head Teacher
South London Bowling Club	Mr Jim Burns	Club Captain
South Thames College	Sami Hedhli	Head Teacher
Southfields College	David Holt	Head Teacher
Southfields LTC	Janet Sibly	Secretary
Southmead School	Lauren Sims	Administrator

## WANDSWORTH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

Organisation	Name	Designation
Spencer CC	Bill Travers	Secretary
Spencer Hockey Club	Natalie Allen	Captain
Spencer Lawn Tennis Club	Nicola Milburn	Secretary
Sport England	Dale Greetham	Planner
Sporting Duet (Youth) F.C.	David Wilson	Secretary
St Anne's CE School	Gary Hatton	Head Teacher
St Anselm's RC School	Christine Macauley	Head Teacher
St Boniface RC School	Camilla Duncan	Head Teacher
St Georges's CE School	Helen Batchelor	Head Teacher
St Michael's Furzedown Bowls Club	Mr J Carter	Secretary
St Michael's CE School	Tom Dymond	Head Teacher
St. Marks Battersea F.C.	Ben Gilson	Secretary
St. Mark's Church Kennington (Youth) F.C.	Thomas Nixon	Secretary
Stockwell Community YFC	Obiozo Onwuta	Secretary
Streatham Stanley F.C.	Gavin Osborne	Secretary
Summerstown F.C.	Martin Handyside	Secretary
Surrey County Bowls Association	Mr Jim Burns	Competition Secretary
Surrey County FA - County Development Manager	Caroline Mcroyall	Secretary
Surrey Cricket League	Robin Ford	Secretary
Surrey Elite League	Mr Gordon Worsfold	Secretary
Swaffield School	Margaret	Administrator
Tandridge Youth Football League	Derek Harris	Secretary
Tennyson Bowls Club	Mr E Clayton	Secretary
The Roche School	Mr Balerdi	Deputy Head
The Roehampton Club	Paul Lindsay	Manager
Thomas Clapham	Mrs Carol Eveleigh	Head Teacher
Tooting Bec Tennis	Kenny Knight	Secretary
Tooting Town Elite F.C.	Judith Burnham	Secretary
Trinity Fields Trust	Terry Smith	
Trinity St Mary's CE School	Tricia Burke	Office Manager
UCC Diaspora F.C.	Niall Lehane	Secretary
Wallington Wanderers Youth FC		Secretary
Wanderers HC	Mr Jo Smart	Chairman
Wandgas CC	Chris Howgate	Secretary
Wandilea Bowls Club	Mr Jenkins	Club Captain
Wandilea Ladies Bowls Club	Mrs C Thompson	Secretary
Wandle A.F.C	Michelle Stone	Secretary
Wandle Wanderers	Mrs Janet Searle	Secretary
Wands (Youth) F.C.	Jay Mackmo	Secretary
Wandsworth & District Sunday Football League	Jim Davy	Secretary
Wandsworth & Putney Bowling Club	Mr John Earley	Secretary

## WANDSWORTH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

Organisation	Name	Designation
Wandsworth Blind Bowling Club	Mr Stancombe	Secretary
Wandsworth Borough F.C.	Richard Plumtree	Hon Secretary
Wandsworth Common All Star Coaching	Ben White & Ben Jackson	Secretary
Wandsworth Council	Christine Cook	Senior Planner - Planning Policy Manager
Wandsworth Council	Daniel Crawford	Planner - Policy and Information
Wandsworth Council	Claire Reeves	Chief Leisure and Sports Officer
Wandsworth Council	Tim Fleming	Assistant Chief Leisure and Sports Officer
Wandsworth Council	Simon Ingyon	Head of Parks and Leisure Services
Wandsworth Netball Club (Adults)	Bibiana Martial	Secretary
Wandsworth Netball Club (Juniors)	Shola Apena Rogers	Secretary
Wandsworth Wanderers CC	Nick Gray	Secretary
West Hill School	Mrs Burns	Administrative Assistant
Westbridge School	Abi Oyeleke	Head Teacher
Westminster Wanderers F.C.	Alex Aiken	Secretary
Westside Football Club	Jane Walters	Secretary
Wimbledon & District League	Martin Collis	Secretary
Wix School	Zena Knott	Administrator

### APPENDIX 3: 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

##### ***Sport England: A Sporting Habit for Life (2012-2017)***

In 2017, five years after the Olympic Games, Sport England aspires to transforming sport in England so that it is a habit for life for more people and a regular choice for the majority. The strategy will:

- ◀ See more people starting and keeping a sporting habit for life
- ◀ Create more opportunities for young people
- ◀ Nurture and develop talent
- ◀ Provide the right facilities in the right places
- ◀ Support local authorities and unlock local funding
- ◀ Ensure real opportunities for communities

##### ***Sport England Strategy (2011/12 – 2014/15)***

The vision is for England to be a world leading sporting nation where many more people choose to play sport. There are five strategic themes including:

- ◀ Maximise value from current NGB investment
- ◀ Places, People, Play
- ◀ Strategic direction and market intelligence
- ◀ Set criteria and support system for NGB 2013-17 investment
- ◀ Market development

##### ***Sport England Youth and Community Strategy 2012 – 2017***

Launched in January 2012 the strategy sets out how Sport England will invest over one billion pounds of National Lottery and Exchequer funding during the five year plan period. The investment will be used to create a lasting community sport legacy by growing sports participation at the grassroots level following the 2012 London Olympics.

The aim by 2017 is to ensure that playing sport is a lifelong habit for more people and a regular choice for the majority. A specific target is to increase the number of 14 to 25 year olds playing sport. To accomplish these aims the strategy sets out a number of outcomes:

- ◀ 4,000 secondary schools in England will be offered a community sport club on its site with a direct link to one or more NGBs, depending on the local clubs in a school's area.
- ◀ County sports partnerships will be given new resources to create effective links locally between schools and sport in the community.
- ◀ All secondary schools, who wish to do so, will be supported to open up, or keep open, their sports facilities for local community use and at least a third of these will receive additional funding to make this happen.
- ◀ At least 150 further educational colleagues will benefit from a full time sports professional who will act as a College Sport Maker.
- ◀ Three quarters of university students aged 18-24 will get the chance to take up a new sport or continue playing a sport they played at school or college.

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- ◀ A thousand of our most disadvantaged local communities will get a Door Step Club.
- ◀ Two thousand young people on the margins of society will be supported by the Dame Kelly Holmes Legacy Trust into sport and to gain new life skills.
- ◀ Building on the success of the Places People Play, a further £100 million will be invested in facilities for the most popular sports.
- ◀ A minimum of 30 sports will have enhanced England Talent Pathways to ensure young people and others fulfil their potential.

### ***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.

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 and qualitative deficiencies and 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 sites, including playing fields, should not be built on unless:

- ◀ An assessment has been undertaken, which has clearly shown that the site 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 still required to carry out a robust assessment of need for open space, sport and recreation facilities. We advocate that the methodology to undertake such assessments should still be informed by best practice including Sport England's 'Towards a Level Playing Field' (TALPF) and previous planning policy (i.e., Planning Policy Guidance 17 (PPG17)). Despite the latter being replaced by the NPPF it still offers relevant guidance about undertaking a needs assessment.

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## ***Towards A Level Playing Field***

The aims and objectives outlined in PPG17 and its companion guide are reiterated in the Sport England Playing Pitch Strategy Methodology, 'Towards a Level Playing Field' (February 2003). Sport England strongly recommends that each local authority has an up to date playing pitch strategy. The benefits of having a PPS are identified as follows:

<b>Corporate and strategic</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◀ It ensures a strategic approach to playing pitch provision.</li> <li>◀ It provides robust evidence for capital funding for sports pitch improvement (to support applications to agencies such as the Football Foundation, Heritage Lottery Fund and Sport England).</li> <li>◀ It helps deliver Government policies.</li> <li>◀ It helps demonstrate the value of leisure services.</li> <li>◀ It improves understanding of the quality and standard of sports pitches and associated changing (and other ancillary) facilities and the extent to which they encourage and enable more people to take part and enjoy pitch sports.</li> <li>◀ It can assist in bringing specific sites back into active use and as a framework to assess sports club requests for improved sites and facilities.</li> <li>◀ It can guide sports pitch provision and improvements through the secondary and primary school capital and regeneration schemes.</li> </ul>	
<b>Planning</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◀ It is one of the basic tools for identifying needs and priorities of local communities, particularly in relation to establishing a local standard for playing pitch provision.</li> <li>◀ It allows the presentation of a coherent, up to date assessment and strategy to Sport England in its role as statutory consultee – when the planning authority is faced with development proposals that affect sports pitches.</li> <li>◀ It provides a basis for establishing the requirement for new pitches or improvements to the quality of existing pitch sites that arise from new housing developments and the use of CIL/ Section 106 Agreements.</li> <li>◀ It is one of the best tools to justify protection of pitches in the face of rising development pressure on pitch sites for alternative uses, particularly with respect to new housing in order to meet regional targets.</li> <li>◀ It provides an important evidence base, which is part of a holistic approach to open space improvement and protection.</li> <li>◀ It establishes a policy framework against which to justify existing or new recreation allocations for playing pitches/other leisure activities.</li> </ul>	
<b>Operational</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◀ It can result in more efficient use of resources.</li> <li>◀ Quality of provision can be enhanced.</li> </ul>	
<b>Sports development</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◀ It helps identify where community use of school sports pitches is most needed.</li> <li>◀ It provides better information to residents and other users of sports pitches.</li> <li>◀ It promotes sports development and can help unlock latent demand.</li> </ul>	

The approach and guidance outlined in 'Towards a Level Playing Field' are fully endorsed by Sport England and the former Central Council for Physical Recreation (CCPR), now Sport & Recreation Alliance, as the most appropriate way of providing detailed local assessments of playing pitch requirements and, as such, have been used in this study. Detail of the methodology is outlined later in this document.

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NPPF requires local authorities to undertake detailed local assessments to provide evidence as a basis for developing a local standard, taking into account the quantity, quality, capacity and accessibility of outdoor sport and recreation facilities.

'Towards a Level Playing Field' does not give definitive instruction on how to calculate local standards for sports pitches but advises that the following are taken into consideration:

- ◀ Only pitches available for community use are to be included in the 'supply' equation
- ◀ Quality of pitches
- ◀ Provision of changing facilities
- ◀ Pitch capacity
- ◀ Future population estimates

### ***A Sporting Future for the Playing Fields of England***

It is Sport England's policy to object to any planning application, which will result in the loss of a playing field, unless it meets one of five exceptions as defined in 'A Sporting Future for the Playing Fields of England'. Protection of playing fields was enhanced in 1998 with Circular 9/98 (replaced in 2009 by Circular 02/09), which stipulates that where a local authority is minded to grant planning permission against Sport England's advice on land owned by a local authority or used for educational purposes, then the application should be referred to the relevant Government Office for possible 'call in'.

### ***The FA National Game Strategy (2007 – 2012)***

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 six year period. The main issues facing grassroots football are identified as:

- ◀ Growth and retention (young and adult players)
- ◀ Football for All
- ◀ Raising standards and behaviour
- ◀ Player development
- ◀ Running the game
- ◀ Football work force
- ◀ Facilities
- ◀ Partnerships and investment
- ◀ Promotion

'The National Game Strategy' reinforces the urgent need to provide affordable, new and improved facilities in schools, clubs and on local authority sites. Over 75% of football is played on public sector facilities. The leisure budgets of most local authorities have been reduced over recent years, resulting in decaying facilities that do not serve the community and act as a disincentive to play football. The loss of playing fields has also been well documented and adds to the pressure on the remaining facilities to cope with the demand, especially in inner city and urban areas.

The growth of the commercial sector in developing custom built five-a-side facilities has changed the overall environment. High quality, modern facilities provided by Powerleague, Goals, JJB (now DW) and playfootball.net for example, have added new opportunities to participate and prompted a significant growth in the number of five-a-side teams in recent years.



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FA recommended pitch dimensions:

Age	Format (maximum format but can play smaller numbers)	Pitch size (yards)	Maximum Goal Size (feet)
U7	5 v 5	30x20 to 40x30	12 x 6
U8	5 v 5	30x20 to 40x30	12 x 6
U9	7 v 7	50x30 to 60x40	12 x 6
U10	7 v 7	50x30 to 60x40	12 x 6
U11	9 v 9 (Primary Schools 7 v 7)	70x40 to 80x50 (50x30 to 60x40)	16 x 7 to 21 x 7 (12 x 6)
U12	9 v 9	70x40 to 80x50	16 x 7 to 21 x 7
U13	9 v 9 or 11 v 11	90x50 to 100x60	21 x 7 to 24 x 8
U14	9 v 9 or 11 v 11	90x50 to 100x60	21 x 7 to 24 x 8
U15	9 v 9 or 11 v 11	90x50 to 110x70	24 x 8
U16	9 v 9 or 11 v 11	90x50 to 110x70	24 x 8
U17	11 v 11	90x50 to 110x70	24 x 8
U18	11 v 11	90x50 to 110x70	24 x 8

### ***Grounds to Play – England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) Strategic Plan (2010 – 2013)***

‘Grounds to Play’ continues to focus on the four pillars, as identified in the ECB’s previous strategy: Building Partnerships. The pillars are:

- ◀ Energising people and partnerships to deliver national goals at local level:
  - ◀ Having streamlined the management of ECB and established County Cricket Boards, where feasible, services currently provided from the centre will be transferred to County Boards;
  - ◀ Enhance asset growth through continuing interest free loans to community clubs, expanding NatWest Cricket Force, seeking to support corporate or public sector cricket grounds under threat of closure through the England and Wales Cricket Trust, and seeking to expand partnerships for Indoor Cricket.
- ◀ Vibrant domestic game.
- ◀ Enhancing facilities, environments and participation:
  - ◀ The focus of this plan is on providing facilities to sustain participation levels rather than increasing participation;



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- ◀ The Cricket Foundation's 'Chance to Shine' programme has been an outstanding success in reintroducing cricket into state schools. ECB will prioritise investment in the programme;
- ◀ To further expand club/ school links and position a cricket club at the heart of a community, ECB will provide £1.5 million per annum capital improvement grants to local clubs that make their club facilities available to its local community and to local schools.
- ◀ Successful England teams.

The following actions executed during the duration of Building Partnerships provide a strong base for this plan. Actions include:

- ◀ Streamlining ECB governance
- ◀ Building participation by more than 20% per annum (as measured through ECB strategically important clubs and County Cricket Boards)
- ◀ Developing women's cricket
- ◀ Attracting volunteers
- ◀ Expanding cricket's spectator base
- ◀ Introducing grants and loans to clubs
- ◀ Developing disabilities cricket

This plan therefore influences 'Grounds to Play' in the areas of facilities and coaches, which is where ECB investment will be focussed. Partnership funding and support will play a key role in the delivery of actions and maintaining the strength of the pillars.

Partners particularly applicable to community cricket include:

- ◀ England and Wales Cricket Trust - to provide up to £5 million of interest free loans to member clubs for recreational projects and to work with grounds in inner city areas to provide greater community use by 2013.
- ◀ Sport England - to enhance the 'Whole Sport Plan' award of £38 million by obtaining a further £10 million of lottery aid support by 2013.

### ***Rugby Football Union Strategic Plan (2005/06 - 2012/13)***

The Rugby Football Union (RFU) Management Board has set out eight key themes incorporated in the strategic plan review process. These eight themes are as follows:

1. The appropriateness of the 'seamless game'
2. The development of English Qualified Players
3. The roles and responsibilities of county boards and clubs in the game
4. Development of unified structures and programmes for the game
5. Develop IT systems to measure performance
6. Maintain the ethos and culture of the game
7. Ensure a 'growth game'
8. Take a leading role in the development of the game worldwide

Community Rugby's role is to promote and develop the game within the community by encouraging and supporting all those who want to participate by playing, coaching, refereeing, administrating or spectating.

The RFU Strategic Plan seeks to ensure that priorities are focused upon what will enable the Community game to grow, generate lifelong participation and create sustainable rugby clubs.

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### ***The Rugby Football Union National Facilities Strategy***

The Strategy provides a framework for the sustainable development of rugby union facilities in England, at national, regional and local levels. The framework enables clubs, Constituent Bodies (CBs), the Rugby Football Union (RFU) and the Rugby Football Union for Women (RFUW) and other partners to:

- ◀ Identify priorities for facility developments to meet the various needs of the sport.
- ◀ Identify what facilities are required to meet the needs of the Government sports policy and the RFU's Strategic Plan.
- ◀ Support the prioritisation of investment and funding through a detailed set of developmental criteria, technical requirements, management/operational structures and potential financial viability, which will be critical to the provision of quality rugby facilities.
- ◀ Prioritise future investment to ensure that the right facilities are provided in the right locations and for the right reasons.
- ◀ Identify and deliver a minimum standard for all facility provision.

The Strategy shows clubs what facilities are needed to provide these different programmes, from grass roots through to the professional game.

### ***England Hockey (EH)***

*'The right pitches in the right places'<sup>21</sup>*

In 2012, EH released its facility guidance which is intended to assist organisations wishing to build or protect hockey pitches for hockey. It identifies that many existing hockey AGP's are nearing the end of their useful life as a result of the installation boom of the 90's.

Significant investment is needed to update the playing stock and protect the sport against inappropriate surfaces for hockey as a result of the rising popularity of AGP's for a number of sports. EH is seeking to invest in, and endorse clubs and hockey providers who have a sound understanding of the following:

- ◀ **Single System** – clubs and providers who have a good understanding of the Single System and its principles and are appropriately places to support the delivery.
- ◀ **ClubsFirst** accreditation – clubs with the accreditation are recognised as producing a safe effective and child friendly hockey environment
- ◀ **Sustainability** – hockey providers and clubs will have an approved development plan in place showing their commitment to developing hockey, retaining members and providing an insight into longer term goals. They will also need to have secured appropriate tenure.

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<http://englandhockey.co.uk/page.asp?section=1143&sectionTitle=The+Right+Pitches+in+the+Right+Places>

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England Hockey also has a range of hockey programmes to support recreational and club activity; summarised in the table below:

Programme name	Type
Quicksticks	Quicksticks is the introductory game designed specifically for Primary Schools and 7-11 year olds. It is a 4 a side introductory game of hockey, designed especially for 7-11 year olds to play. It can be played on any surface, and uses a larger, lighter and safer ball.
In2Hockey	In2Hockey follows on Quicksticks. It can be played as a 7-a-side game with goalkeepers, or introduced as a 6-a-side game without goalkeepers. It is played on an area the size of half a hockey pitch. It provides young players with opportunities for development, success and above all enjoyment.
Back to Hockey	Back to Hockey provides a gentle introduction or re-introduction to hockey. It's open to all females whether they have played before or not.
Rush Hockey	Aimed at increasing participation through a small sided game (5-a-side) and can be played on any indoor or outdoor surface. Rush Hockey was piloted with London Wayfarers HC at the end of 2011. EH would like to target this at other clubs in Wandsworth where there is latent demand.
Junior Development (JDC) and Junior Academy (JAC) centres	A JDC is a local training centre for the U13 to U17 age groups. Each centre is open to any player who has been nominated by their club, school or coach. After playing for a club or school, attending a centre is the next step on the Player Pathway. In order to become a JDC, the site must provide a full size (preferably floodlit) AGP. A JAC is the next step on the Player Pathway. JACs are located, in the majority of cases, at the same locations as JDCs. EH is keen to bring the single player pathway into Wandsworth and is currently looking at venues for a JDC and JAC and suggest there may be potential at Spencer Hockey Club.

In addition to the above, London Wayfarers Hockey Club has the ClubsFirst (Clubmark) accreditation and Spencer Hockey Club is currently 'working towards' accreditation.