



THREE RIVERS DISTRICT COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY ASSESSMENT REPORT

FEBRUARY 2019

QUALITY, INTEGRITY, PROFESSIONALISM

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GLOSSARY

3G	Third Generation (artificial turf)
AGP	Artificial Grass Pitch
ASC	All Stars Cricket
BC	Bowls Club
CC	Cricket Club
CSP	County Sports Partnership
ECB	England and Wales Cricket Board
EH	England Hockey
FA	Football Association
FC	Football Club
FIFA	Fédération Internationale de Football Association
FPM	Facilities Planning Model
GIS	Geographical Information Systems
HC	Hockey Club
HCC	Hertfordshire County Council
KKP	Knight, Kavanagh and Page
LTA	Lawn Tennis Association
LMS	Last Man Stands
MUGA	Multi use games area
NGB	National Governing Body
NHS	National Health Service
NPPF	National Planning Policy Framework
NTP	Non turf pitch
PGA	Professional Golfers Association
PPS	Playing Pitch Strategy
PQS	Performance Quality Standard
RFU	Rugby Football Union
RUFC	Rugby Union Football Club
S106	Section 106
TGR	Team Generation Rate
TC	Tennis Club
TRDC	Three Rivers District Council
U	Under

THREE RIVERS DISTRICT COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

PART 1: INTRODUCTION AND METHODOLOGY

1.1: Introduction

Knight, Kavanagh & Page Ltd (KKP) has been jointly commissioned by three of the South West Herts group of local authorities (Three Rivers District Council, Dacorum Borough Council and Hertsmere Borough Council) to produce an Open Space, Sport & Recreation Study which includes production of a Playing Pitch Strategy (PPS) for each of the local authority areas. The PPS forms one part of the inter-related project that also includes an Indoor Sports Facilities Strategy (ISFS) for each of the local authority areas.

The studies will provide the necessary robustness and direction to inform decisions on future strategic planning and any investment priorities for outdoor sports facilities across each of the areas. It will also inform the preparation of the individual Local Plans and inform the South West Herts Joint Strategic Plan.

This is the Playing Pitch Strategy (PPS) Assessment Report for Three Rivers. It presents a supply and demand assessment of playing pitch and other outdoor sports facilities in Three Rivers in accordance with Sport England's PPS Guidance: An approach to developing and delivering a PPS. The guidance details a stepped approach that is separated into five distinct stages:

- ◀ Stage A: Preparation
 - ◀ Step 1: Clarify why the PPS is being developed
 - ◀ Step 2: Set up the management arrangements
 - ◀ Step 3: Tailor the approach
- ◀ Stage B: Information Gathering
 - ◀ Step 4: Develop an audit of playing pitches
 - ◀ Step 5: Develop a picture of demand
- ◀ Stage C: Assessment
 - ◀ Step 6: Understand how each site is being used
 - ◀ Step 7: Develop the current picture of provision
 - ◀ Step 8: Carry out scenario testing
- ◀ Stage D: Key Findings & Issues
 - ◀ Step 9: Identify key findings & issues
 - ◀ Step 10: Check and challenge key findings & issues
- ◀ Stage E: Strategy Development & Implementation
 - ◀ Step 11: Develop conclusions & recommendations
 - ◀ Step 12: Develop an action & implementation plan
 - ◀ Step 13: Adopt, monitor and review the PPS

Stages A to C are covered in this report, with Stage D and Stage E covered in the subsequent strategy document. This Assessment and subsequent Strategy will run from 2019-2036, in line with the new Local Plan for Three Rivers.

Although each local authority is receiving its own Assessment and Strategy, cross border issues will be explored in each to determine the level of imported and exported demand. This applies to demand that migrates between the local authorities included and also to demand that migrates to and from neighbouring local authorities such as St Albans, Watford and Chiltern.

The report is one document in a wider inter-related strategy for sport and recreation which also includes an Indoor Sports Facilities Strategy. The inter-relationship between the strategies must be noted as some sports covered by the PPS also use indoor facilities for matches or training.

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1.2: Local context

Three Rivers District Council Strategic Plan (2018-2021)

The Council's overarching business plan takes account of the plans of Government, TRDC and many of its partners. It sets out what TRDC is looking to deliver over the coming years and deals with the services where it has a lead role or can play a key part in delivering or influencing the outcomes. TRDC's vision is that "*the district should be a better place for everyone, their neighbourhoods, health, employment and access to services*". In order to achieve this vision, it has two strategic aims, 'Better Neighbourhoods' and 'Healthier Communities'. Table 2.1 overleaf details the strategies priorities associated with the two aims.

Table 1.1: Three Rivers Strategic Plan: Aims and priorities

Strategic aim	Strategic priorities
Better Neighbourhoods	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◀ Maintain high quality neighbourhoods ◀ Reduce the eco-footprint of the district ◀ Create access to good quality jobs and employment ◀ Support business and the local economy.
Healthier Communities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◀ Develop and improve access to good quality housing ◀ Create prosperity for all and access to opportunities ◀ To support the most vulnerable people in the District ◀ Provide a healthy and safe environment ◀ Reduce health inequalities, promote healthy lifestyles, support learning and community organisation.

South West Hertfordshire Joint Strategic Plan (JSP)

TRDC is not working in isolation, rather it is part of a wider partnership approach with regard to house building. Increasingly TRDC has been working with other councils in South West Hertfordshire, in particular, Dacorum, St Albans, Watford and Hertsmere, on planning and infrastructure issues that affect all the authorities. This work will continue and will include preparation of a Joint Strategic Plan for South West Hertfordshire, which will help provide a long-term framework for plan-making and for securing infrastructure and investment across local authority boundaries. To help with this joint working the five councils in South West Hertfordshire have all agreed that each Local Plan will cover the period up to 2036.

Three Rivers Local Plan

TRDC is currently preparing a new Local Plan for Three Rivers which will provide the planning policies and proposals for future sustainable growth in the District up to 2036. The new Local Plan will address the needs and opportunities across a number of themes, including housing, the economy, infrastructure, transport and sustainability. A non-statutory consultation document was published in October 2018 which detailed potential development sites; this did not contain draft local plan policies or any decisions on potential site allocations in the new Local Plan. The Local Plan will align with national planning policy and will be underpinned by strategic and evidence-based documents as well as a sustainability appraisal.

The new Local Plan will set out the number of homes and jobs to be provided together with the infrastructure needed to support them, identifying sites for development as well as areas of land which should be protected. It will set out who needs to work together to deliver the plan and a timeline for its delivery.

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House building

Applying the Government's standard methodology means that TRDC has to look to plan for approximately 600 homes each year for the next fifteen years. With a growing population, an ageing population and changes in house-hold makeup, the need for housing within Three Rivers continues to be high and is increasing. Preventing future growth and development is not an option, as where possible, Three Rivers must plan for the full housing and employment needs.

In summary, the scale of development that TRDC needs to plan for between 2020 and 2036 is at least 9,600 homes and seven hectares of employment land. The table below outlines sites included in the Potential Sites consultation document with indicative dwelling capacities of 100 dwellings or more. These sites were put forward as part of the Local Plan; it is important to note at the time of publication of the consultation document, no decisions or indications of sites which may be taken forward in the new Local Plan had been made. The Potential Sites consultation document also included a significant number of smaller sites with fewer than 100 dwellings located across the District. The Potential Sites document can be found at: www.threerivers.gov.uk/eqcl-page/new-local-plan

Table 1.2: Sites included in the Potential Sites Consultation which were identified with indicative dwelling capacities of more than 100 dwellings

Area	Indicative dwelling capacity	Size (ha)	Phasing
Rickmansworth			
Land at Park Road	185-260	3.7	6-10 years
Griggs Field, Batchworth	225-340	11.3	6-10 years
South Oxhey			
Land at Sir James Altham Oxhey	140-185	4.6	11-15 years
Oxhey Golf Course and Driving Range (non-operational)	475-630	15.8	11-15 years
Carpenders Park Farm			
Carpenders Park	150-200	17.1	6-10 years
Land north of Oxhey Lane	105-140	3.5	1-5 years
Land at Carpenders Park Farm	495-745	24.8	6-10 years
East Carpenders Park	155-210	5.2	1-5 years
South of Little Oxhey Lane	580-775	19.4	6-10 years
Land north of Oxhey Hall Farm	275-415	13.8	6-10 years
Croxley Green			
Land at Croxley Station	140-185	2.3	6-10 years
Land at Rousebarn Lane, Little Green Lane	425-570	40.6	6-15 years
Cockaygne, Loudwater lane	380-570	19	1-5 years
Abbots Langley			
Land adjacent to Fortunes Farm	140-215	7.1	1-5 years
Land adjacent to Parmiters School	70-105	3.5	1-5 years
Notley Farm, Bedmonds Road	125-165	4.1	6-15 years
Notley Farm, Bedmond Road	160-215	5.4	6-15 years
The Kings Langley Estate	1,175-1,755	58.5	11-15 years
The Kings Langley Estate	1915-2870	95.6	11-15 years
Land at Gypsy Lane	230-310	7.7	6-10 years
Land north of Bucknalls Lane	175-230	5.8	6-10 years

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Area	Indicative dwelling capacity	Size (ha)	Phasing
Rear of 45 Harthall Lane	140-215	7.1	1-5 years
Garston Manor, Garston	95-130	3.2	1-5 years
Land at Furtherfield	370-500	12.4	1-5 years
Chorleywood			
Land at Chorleywood Station	115-185	2.3	6-10 years
Hill Farm, Stag Lane	130-215	8.7	1-5 years
East Green Street	680-900	22.6	1-5 years
Land at Heronsgate	1,120-1,680	56	6-10 years
Mill End			
Land at Long Lane, Mill End	450-600	15	6-10 years
Land rear of Colne Mead	170-225	5.6	6-10 years
Land at 319 and 321 Uxbridge road	170-225	5.6	1-5 years
Land at Berry Lane	80-105	2.5	1-5 years
Maple Cross			
Land at Lynsters Farm	140-280	13.9	6-10 years
Land at Maple Cross, Maple Lodge	820-1080	27.3	6-10 years
Land south of Hornhill Road and Woodland Road	90-135	4.5	1-5 years
Land at Hornhill Road and Woodland Road (larger site)	730-1,100	36.6	6-10 years
Land south of Chalfont Lane, West Hyde	170-250	8.4	6-15 years
Kings Langley			
Langleybury	120-180	6	6-10 years
Moor Park and Eastbury			
Land south of Tolpits Lane	70-140	6.9	6-10 years
The Roughs, Easbury	110-145	3.6	1-5 years
Bedmond			
Bedmond Fields, Bedmond	200-340	13.6	1-5 years
Bluebell Drive (larger site)	85-145	5.7	1-5 years
Twychells Darm, Bedmond	9.-155	6.2	1-5 years
Sarratt and Chipperfield			
Land at Holly Tree Farm, Sarratt	80-115	3.9	6-10 years

The current level of house building of 9,600 by 2036, will, undoubtedly, place additional pressure on the local sporting infrastructure at all levels. There are several areas with plans for over 1,000 houses on specific sites such as:

- ◀ Chorleywood – Land at Heronsgate
- ◀ Abbots Langley –The Kings Langley Estate (comprised of two sites)
- ◀ Maple Cross – Maple Lodge and Land at Hornhill Road & Woodland Road

Whilst the potential development of these larger sites would put pressure on local facilities, the cumulative effect of other house building on smaller plots also needs to be considered, when planning leisure facilities. The extent of additional or improved quality sport and leisure facilities will need to be predicated on the findings of this Assessment Report.

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Three Rivers Local Strategic Partnership Community Strategy 2018 – 2023

The Local Strategic Partnership Community Strategy 2018-2023 has been developed to provide the framework for organisations that form the Local Strategic Partnership, local groups and individuals to work together to improve local quality of life. It comprises five themes of housing, independence and resilience, ambition, health and wellbeing and safety.

For each theme, key priorities have been developed, along with the actions required to enable delivery. Those for the Health and Wellbeing theme are:

- ◀ Residents have opportunities to be physically and mentally healthy.
- ◀ Residents, especially the vulnerable, have access to health and social care.

Hertfordshire Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2016-2020

Watford and Three Rivers Health and Wellbeing Partnership was formed in 2008. It brings together partners from the public, voluntary and community sector to identify and respond to health and wellbeing priorities in both areas. It operates under the strategic umbrella of the Hertfordshire Health and Wellbeing Board which developed the Hertfordshire Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2016-2020. Its vision is that *'with all partners working together we aim to reduce health inequalities and improve the health and wellbeing of people in Hertfordshire.'*

The strategy will underpin the local contribution to tackling health inequalities and underlying causes and is, thus, built around the four significant stages of the life course. These are:

- ◀ Starting well
- ◀ Developing well
- ◀ Living and working well
- ◀ Ageing well

GET ACTIVE: Three Rivers District Council Physical Activity Strategy 2018-2021

Increasing the physical activity levels of District residents is a Council strategic priority. The strategy gives priority to increasing levels of physical activity and improving of the lives of local people. Reducing health inequalities will result from targeting work in parts of the community that are more inactive than others. The strategy aims to enhance the lives, individuals, families and communities through their success and achievement in sport and physical activity. Its stated vision is *'to reduce the levels of inactivity, increase regular participation and contribute to a healthier, more active Three Rivers.'* To achieve this, three strategic priorities are set.

Each has its own action plan. Future plans and strategies for physical activity should align with the priority areas identified within the Physical Activity Strategy

Table 1.3: Three Rivers District Council Physical Activity Strategy key priorities

Strategic priority	Vision
Active People	Encouraging residents in Three Rivers to be active and healthy by enabling sport and physical activities to become a habit of life.
Active Place	Promoting the design, development and use of environments that make it easier for people to participate in physical activity and encouraging residents to be more active in every aspect of their day to day lives.
Active Together	Working in partnership across all sectors to consolidate and expand Three Rivers' sport and physical activity opportunities, enabling sport and physical activity to become a habit of daily lives.

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Herts Sports & Physical Activity Partnership Strategic Plan 2017 – 2021

Herts Sports Partnership (HSP) is one of 44 county sports partnerships in England tasked with rolling out the local delivery of Sport England initiatives and, in some cases, the dissemination of Sport England funding. It works alongside numerous partners from the public, private and voluntary sectors and its stated mission is to '*work strategically to deliver an inclusive, insight led and sustainable sport and physical activity sector in Hertfordshire.*' It has identified the following strategic objectives and will work with partners to:

- ◀ Increase participation in sport and physical activity.
- ◀ Improve health and wellbeing by reducing inactivity
- ◀ Demonstrate the economic and social value of sport and physical activity
- ◀ Strengthen the local delivery infrastructure
- ◀ Make the Partnership fit for the future

1.3 Stage A: Prepare and tailor the approach

Management arrangements

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

Further to this, a Steering Group is and has been responsible for the direction of the PPS from a strategic perspective and for supporting, checking and challenging the work of the project team. The Steering Group is made up of representatives from Three Rivers District Council, Dacorum Borough Council and Hertsmere Borough Council, Herts Sports Partnership, Sport England and National Governing Bodies of Sport (NGBs).

It will be important for the Steering Group to continue once the PPS has been finalised for several reasons, including a continuing responsibility to:

- ◀ Be a champion for playing pitch provision in the area and promote the value and importance of the PPS.
- ◀ Ensure implementation of the PPS's recommendations and action plan.
- ◀ Monitor and evaluate the outcomes of the PPS.
- ◀ Ensure that the PPS is kept up to date and refreshed.

Why the PPS is being developed

The rationale for undertaking this study is to update current levels of provision within the three local authorities across the public, private, education, voluntary and commercial sectors and to compare this with current and likely future levels of demand.

Its primary purpose is to provide a strategic framework which ensures that the provision of indoor and outdoor sports facilities meet local and community needs of existing and future residents. The strategies will be produced in accordance with national planning guidance and provide robust and objective justification for future sporting provision throughout the three areas.

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One of the core planning principles of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) is to improve health, social and cultural wellbeing for all, and deliver sufficient community and cultural facilities and services to meet local needs. Paragraph 96 discusses the importance of access to high quality open spaces and opportunities for sport and recreation that can make an important contribution to the health and well-being of communities. Paragraphs 96 and 97 of the NPPF discuss assessments and the protection of “existing open space, sports and recreational buildings and land, including playing fields”. The strategies will provide the evidence required to help protect provision to ensure sufficient land is available to meet existing and projected future requirements.

National Planning Policy Framework (2018)

This strategy provides an evidence base for planning decisions and funding bids and background evidence to support Local Plan policies in relation to formal recreation. It will ensure that this evidence is sound, robust and capable of being scrutinised through examination and meets the requirements of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF, 2018).

One of the core planning principles of the NPPF is to improve health, social and cultural wellbeing for all and deliver sufficient community and cultural facilities and services to meet local needs.

Section 8 of the NPPF deals specifically with the topic of healthy communities; Paragraph 96 discusses the importance of access to high quality open spaces and opportunities for sport and recreation that can make an important contribution to the health and well-being of communities.

Paragraphs 97 and 98 discuss assessments and the protection of “existing open space, sports and recreational buildings and land, including playing fields”. A PPS will provide the evidence required to help protect playing fields to ensure sufficient land is available to meet existing and projected future pitch requirements.

Paragraphs 99 and 100 promote the identification of important green spaces by local communities and the protection of these facilities. Such spaces may include playing fields.

Scope

The following types of outdoor sports facilities have been identified by the councils for inclusion in the PPS:

- ◀ Football
- ◀ Rugby union
- ◀ Rugby league*
- ◀ Hockey
- ◀ Cricket
- ◀ Bowls
- ◀ Tennis
- ◀ Athletics (including road running)
- ◀ Netball
- ◀ Golf
- ◀ Others as appropriate i.e. water sports facilities, archery, cycling

*Following consultation with RFL, Three Rivers is not considered a priority area for establishing a new rugby league club. Hemel Stags RLFC is located in neighbouring Dacorum and as such this club adequately services Three Rivers.

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Pitch sports (i.e. football, rugby union, rugby league, hockey and cricket) will be assessed using the guidance set out in Sport England's PPS Guidance: An Approach to Developing and Delivering a PPS. In addition, any other grass sport pitches identified during the project will also be included. If applicable, this accounts for sports such as American football, Gaelic football and lacrosse.

Non-pitch sports (i.e. tennis, bowls, athletics) will be assessed using Sport England's Assessing Needs and Opportunities Guidance (ANOG) to ensure the process is compliant with the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF). This requires a different methodology to assess supply and demand to that used for pitch sports and is generally less prescriptive.

Study area

Three Rivers is located in South West Hertfordshire to the north west of Greater London, straddling the M25 motorway. The M1 runs from north to south through it, as does the West Coast Main Line and the London Underground (Metropolitan Line).

Three Rivers derives its name from the three main rivers which run through it: the River Chess in the west of the District, the River Gade in the north-east and the River Colne in the south-east. The three rivers meet in the town of Rickmansworth in the south of the District and then continue flowing south, as the River Colne, to join the River Thames.

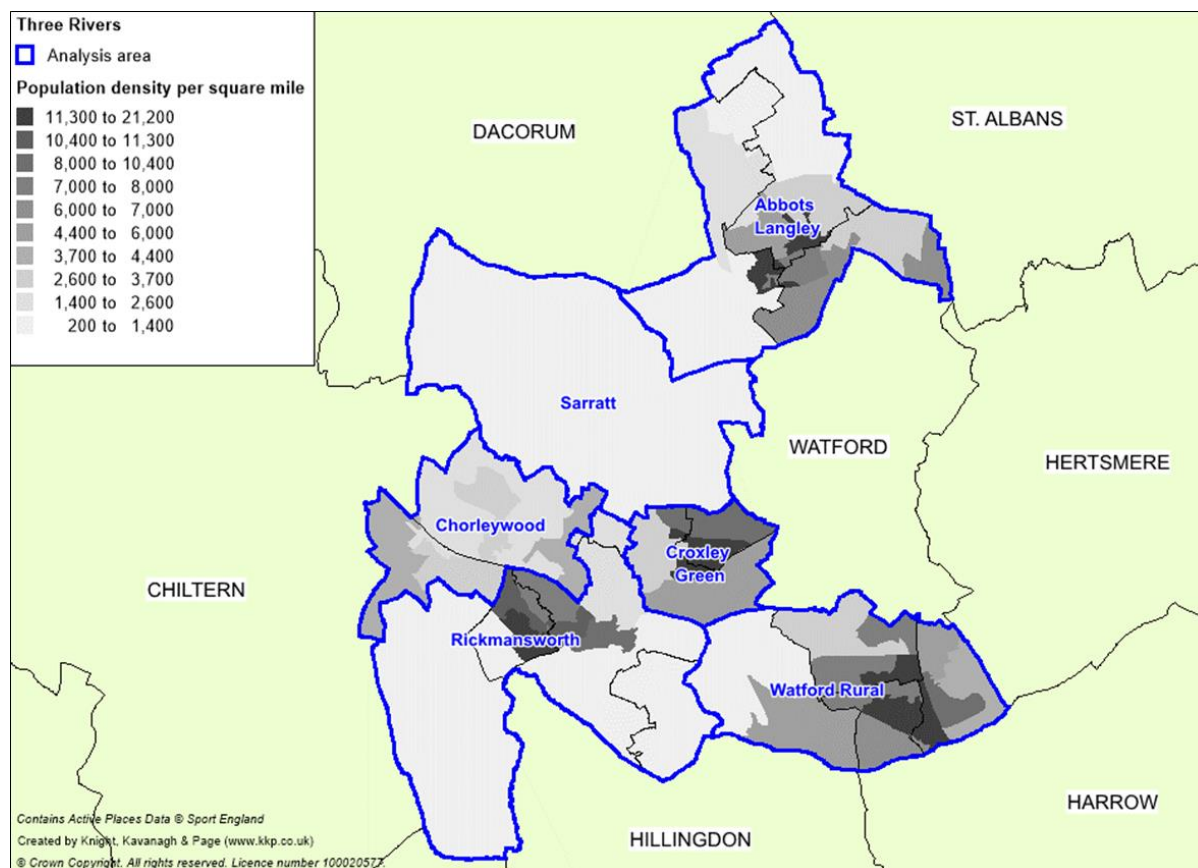
The study area will be the whole of the Three Rivers District Council boundary area. Further to this, analysis areas have been created to allow for a more localised assessment of provision and examination of playing pitch supply and demand at a local level. These areas are based upon ward boundaries within Three Rivers and have been agreed upon to further reflect how people play sport.

Furthermore, cross-boundary issues will be explored to determine the level of imported and exported demand. This applies to demand that migrates between the local authorities included and also demand that migrates to and from neighbouring local authorities such as Chiltern, Watford and St Albans.

- ◀ Abbots Langley
- ◀ Sarratt
- ◀ Chorleywood
- ◀ Croxley Green
- ◀ Rickmansworth
- ◀ Watford Rural

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Figure 1.1: Analysis area map



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

A clear picture of supply and demand for outdoor sports facilities in Three Rivers needs to be provided to include an accurate assessment of quantity and quality. This is achieved through consultation with key stakeholders to ensure that they inform the subsequent strategy. It informs current demand, adequacy, usage, future demand and strategies for maintenance and investment for outdoor sports facilities.

Gather supply information and views – 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 2015 'Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (England) Order'.¹

- ◀ ***Playing pitch*** – a delineated area 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 of at least 0.2ha or more which encompasses at least one playing pitch.

Although the statutory definition of a playing field which meets a minimum size, this PPS takes into account smaller sized site that contribute to the supply side, for example, a site containing a mini 5v5 football 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 artificial grass pitches (AGPs).

¹ www.sportengland.org>Facilities and Planning> Planning Applications

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As far as possible the assessment report aims to capture all of the outdoor sports facilities within Three Rivers; however, there may be instances, for example, on school sites, where access was not possible and has led to omissions within the report. Where pitches have not been recorded within the report they remain as pitches and for planning purposes continue to be so. Furthermore, exclusions of a pitch does not mean that it is not required from a supply and demand point of view.

Quantity

Where known, all outdoor sports facilities are included irrespective of ownership, management and use. Sites were initially identified using Sport England's Active Places web based database, with the Council and NGBs supporting the process by checking and updating this initial data. This was also verified against club information supplied by local leagues.

For each site, the following details were recorded in the project database (which will be supplied upon completion of the project as an electronic file):

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

Accessibility

Not all outdoor sports facilities offer the same level of access to the community. The ownership and accessibility of provision also influences actual availability for community use. Each site is assigned a level of community use as follows:

- ◀ **Community use** - facilities 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** - facilities 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** - facilities which as a matter of policy or practice are not available for hire or used by teams playing in community leagues. This should include professional club pitches along with some semi-professional club pitches, where play is restricted to the first or second team.
- ◀ **Disused** – provision that is not being used at all by any users and is not available for community hire either. Once these sites are disused for five or more years they will then be categorised as 'lapsed sites'.
- ◀ **Lapsed** - last known use was more than five years ago (these fall outside of Sport England's statutory remit but still have to be assessed using the criteria in paragraph 74 of the National Planning Policy Framework).

Quality

The capacity of provision 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 provision affects the playing experience and people's enjoyment of a sport. In extreme circumstances it can result in a facility being unable to cater for all or certain types of play during peak and off-peak times.

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It is not just the quality itself which has an effect on its capacity but also the quality, standard and range of ancillary facilities. The quality of both the outdoor sports facility and ancillary facilities will determine whether provision is able to contribute to meeting demand from various groups and for different levels and types of play.

The quality of all outdoor sports facilities identified in the audit and the ancillary facilities supporting them are assessed regardless of ownership, management or availability. Along with capturing any details specific to the individual facilities and sites, a quality rating is also recorded within the audit for each. These ratings are used to help estimate the capacity 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 on the quality and in some instances the quality rating was adjusted to reflect this.

Gather demand information and views

Presenting an accurate picture of current demand for outdoor sports facilities (i.e. recording how and when provision is used) is important when undertaking a supply and demand assessment.

Demand for outdoor sports facilities in Three Rivers tends to fall within the following categories:

- ◀ Organised competitive play
- ◀ Organised training
- ◀ Informal play

Current and future demand for outdoor sports facilities is presented on a sport by sport basis within the relevant sections of this report.

In addition, unmet, latent, imported and exported demand for provision is also identified within each section. Unmet and latent demand is defined as the number of additional teams that could be fielded if access to a sufficient number of outdoor sports facilities (and ancillary provision) was available, whereas exported and imported demand refers to those that are playing outside of their local authority of choice.

A variety of consultation methods were used to collate such demand information. Firstly, face to face consultation was carried out with key clubs from each sport, thus allowing for the collection of detailed demand information and an exploration of key issues to be interrogated and more accurately assessed. For all remaining clubs, an online survey (converted to postal if required) was utilised.

Local sports development officers, county associations and regional governing body officers advised which of the clubs to include in the face to face consultation and Sport England was also included within the consultation process prior to the project commencing. Issues identified by clubs returning questionnaires were followed up by telephone or face to face interviews.

As key providers and users of outdoor sports facilities, educational establishments were also consulted. This involved face to face meetings with secondary schools and colleges and an online survey being sent to primary schools, special schools and independent schools.

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Future demand

Alongside current demand, it is important for a PPS to assess whether the future demand for playing pitches can be met. Using ONS population projections, as well as likely participation growth informed through consultation, an estimate can be made of the likely future demand for playing pitches.

Team generation rates are used to provide an indication of how many people it may take to generate a team (by gender and age group) in order to help estimate the change in demand for pitch sports that may arise from any population change. Future demand for pitches is calculated by adding the percentage increases to the population increases in each analysis area. This figure is then applied to the team generation rates and is presented on a sport by sport basis.

Other information sources that were used to help identify future demand, especially for non-pitch sports (where team generation rates are not applicable) include:

- ◀ Recent trends in the participation.
- ◀ The nature of the current and likely future population and their propensity to participate.
- ◀ Feedback from clubs on their plans to develop additional teams / attract additional members.
- ◀ Any local and NGB specific sports development targets (e.g. increase in participation).

Population growth

The current resident population in Three Rivers is 92,641 (2017 MYE). By 2036 (the period to which this assessment projects population based future demand, in line with the Local Plan period) the District's population is projected to increase to 105,180² representing an increase of 12,539 (or equivalent to a percentage increase of 13.5%) according to ONS data.

As ONS figures are available by individual age brackets (to reflect team growth) this is considered the most accurate data set to apply to team generation rates (as identified above) to calculate likely future demand within the Assessment Report. However, there is potential that the ONS projections used may be under estimating future demand when compared to housing growth figures and as such, this should be subject to periodic review. To further account for this within the assessment, club aspirations have also been added to growth from ONS projections to provide a more representative view of future demand.

1.5 Stage C: Assess the supply and demand information and views

Supply and demand information gathered is used to assess the adequacy of playing pitch provision in Three Rivers. It focuses on how much use each site could potentially accommodate (on an area by area basis) compared to how much use is currently taking place.

Understand the situation at individual sites

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.

² Source: ONS 2016-based projections 2016-2041. Released: 24 May 2018

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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.	

As a guide, the FA, RFU and the ECB have set a standard number of matches that each grass pitch type should be able to accommodate without adversely affecting its quality.

Table 1.4: Capacity of playing pitches

Sport	Pitch type	No. of match equivalent sessions		
		Good	Standard	Poor
Football	Adult pitches	3 per week	2 per week	1 per week
	Youth pitches	4 per week	2 per week	1 per week
	Mini pitches	6 per week	4 per week	2 per week
Rugby union*	Natural Inadequate (D0)	2 per week	1.5 per week	0.5 per week
	Natural Adequate (D1)	3 per week	2 per week	1.5 per week
	Pipe Drained (D2)	3.25 per week	2.5 per week	1.75 per week
	Pipe and Slit Drained (D3)	3.5 per week	3 per week	2 per week
Cricket	One grass wicket	5 per season	4 per season	0 per season
	One synthetic wicket	60 per season	60 per season	0 per season

For hockey, the capacity of an AGP is dependent on various factors including availability, floodlighting and current usage levels. Generally, a floodlit sand AGP can accommodate up to four matches during one day. Similarly, for 3G pitches, due to the variation in accommodating different football formats, a set capacity rating is unavailable. However, a scenario for accommodating football matches on 3G pitches (with recommended programming) will be run in the Strategy.

For tennis, the capacity of courts is determined by membership levels rather than through matches. The LTA suggests that a floodlit hard court can accommodate a membership of up to 60 members, whereas a non-floodlit hard court can accommodate a membership of up to 40 members. This varies for other court types (e.g. grass).

For athletics, there is no maximum capacity set out by UK Athletics. Instead a minimum membership of 200 is required to ensure that tracks remain sustainable.

For all remaining non-pitch sports (i.e. bowls, netball, cycling and golf) there are no nationally recognised capacity recommendations set out by NGBs. Instead, potential capacity is evaluated on a site by site basis following consultation and site assessments.

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 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.

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Identify the key findings and issues

By completing Steps 1-5 it is possible to identify several findings and issues relating to the supply, demand and adequacy of outdoor sports provision in Three Rivers. This report seeks to identify and present the key findings and issues prior to development of the Strategy and Action Plan for Three Rivers.

Develop the future picture of provision (scenario testing)

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

The majority of the scenario testing generally occurs in the Strategy report that proceeds this document and therefore does not form part of the Assessment Report.

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PART 2: FOOTBALL

2.1: Introduction

The organisation primarily responsible for the development of football in Three Rivers is Hertfordshire County FA. It is also responsible for the administration, in terms of discipline, rules and regulations, cup competitions and representative matches, development of clubs and facilities, volunteers, referees, coaching courses and delivering national football schemes.

This section of the report focuses on the supply and demand for grass football pitches. Part 3 captures supply and demand for third generation pitches (3G pitches) which are the preferred AGP (artificial grass pitch) surface type for football. In future, it is anticipated that there will be a growing demand for the use of 3G pitches for competitive football fixtures, especially to accommodate mini and youth football.

Local Football Facility Plans (LFFPs)

To support in delivery of both the current and superseding FA National Games Strategy (NGS), the FA has commissioned a nationwide consultancy project. Over the course of the next two years to spring 2020, a Local Football Facility Plan (LFFP) will be produced for every local authority across England. Each plan will be unique to its area as well as being diverse in its representation.

The LFFP is strategically aligned to the National Football Facilities Strategy (NFFS); a 10-year plan to change the landscape of football facilities in England. The NFFS represents a major funding commitment from the national funding partners (The FA, Premier League, DCMS, Football Foundation) to inform and direct an estimated one billion pounds of investment into football facilities over the next ten years.

Each LFFP will build upon PPS findings (where present and current) regarding the formal and affiliated game, to also include strategic priorities for investment across small sided football (recreational and informal including indoors). The LFFP will also incorporate consultation with groups outside of formal football, as well as underrepresented communities. This could include those which may be key partners with regards to football for behavioural change and groups which may be key drivers of FA NGS priorities around participation in the likes of women and girls' football, disability football and futsal.

LFFPs will identify key projects to be delivered and act as an investment portfolio for projects that require funding. As such, around 90% of all national football investment through the funding partners will be identified via LFFPs.

It is important to recognise that a LFFP is an investment portfolio of priority projects for potential investment - it is not a detailed supply and demand analysis of all pitch provision in a local area. Consequently, it cannot be used in place of a PPS and is not an accepted evidence base for site change of use or disposal. A LFFP will however build on available/existing local evidence and strategic plans and may adopt relevant actions from a PPS and/or complement these with additional investment priorities.

The Three Rivers LFFP is planned for Autumn 2019 and it is important that this PPS is updated accordingly through the Stage E process to ensure that it can accurately inform the LFFP.

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Consultation

In addition to face-to-face consultation with key football clubs, an electronic survey was sent to all clubs playing within Three Rivers. Contact details were provided by Hertfordshire County FA and the invitation to complete the survey was distributed via email. Through both face to face meetings and survey responses, a total of 21 clubs responded to consultation requests, which equates to a 50% club response rate and 77% team response rate. Face to face consultation was carried out with the following clubs:

- ◀ Evergreen Youth FC
- ◀ Chorleywood Common Youth FC

In addition to the above, Oxhey Jets FC was consulted via telephone to inform this section of the report.

2.2: Supply

The audit identifies a total of 112 grass football pitches within Three Rivers across 38 sites. Of the pitches, 99 are available, at some level, for community use across 33 sites. All unavailable pitches are located within education sites.

As presented in the table below, the Abbots Langley Analysis Area contains the most football pitches across Three Rivers with 34 (equating to 34% of overall provision). In contrast, the Sarratt Analysis Area contains the least provision with four pitches identified (4% of overall provision).

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

Analysis area	Available for community use					Totals
	Adult	Youth 11v11	Youth 9v9	Mini 7v7	Mini 5v5	
Abbots Langley	8	4	10	8	4	34
Chorleywood	2	1	1	1	3	8
Croxley Green	5	1	1	2	3	12
Rickmansworth	8	1	5	2	4	20
Sarratt	1	1	1	1	-	4
Watford Rural	12	-	9	-	-	21
Total	36	8	27	14	14	99

Most available pitches in Three Rivers (36%) are adult sized which is, in part, due to youth 11v11 teams playing on adult pitches. This is not ideal for youth players at U13-U16 and is not in line with the recent FA Youth Review. Just eight available pitches are youth 11v11 sized representing 8% of the available supply in Three Rivers which is low in relation to the proportion of youth teams (34 teams – 18% of all teams) which should be playing matches on this sized pitch.

In accordance with the FA Youth Review, U17 and U18 teams can play on adult pitches. The FA's recommended pitch size for adult football is 100x64 metres. Please refer to the table overleaf for more detail:

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Table 2.2: FA recommended grass/3G pitch sizes

Age group	Playing format	Recommended pitch dimensions (metres excluding run offs)	Recommended pitch dimensions (metres including run offs)
Mini-Soccer U7/U8	5v5	37x27	43x33
Mini-Soccer U9/U10	7v7	55x37	61x43
Youth U11/U12	9v9	73x46	79x52
Youth U13/U14	11v11	82x50	88x56
Youth U15/U16	11v11	91x55	97x61
Youth U17/U18	11v11	100x64	106x70
Over 18/Adult	11v11	100x64	106x70

Figure 2.1 overleaf identifies all grass football pitches currently servicing the District of Three Rivers. For a key to the map, see Table 2.13.

Future provision

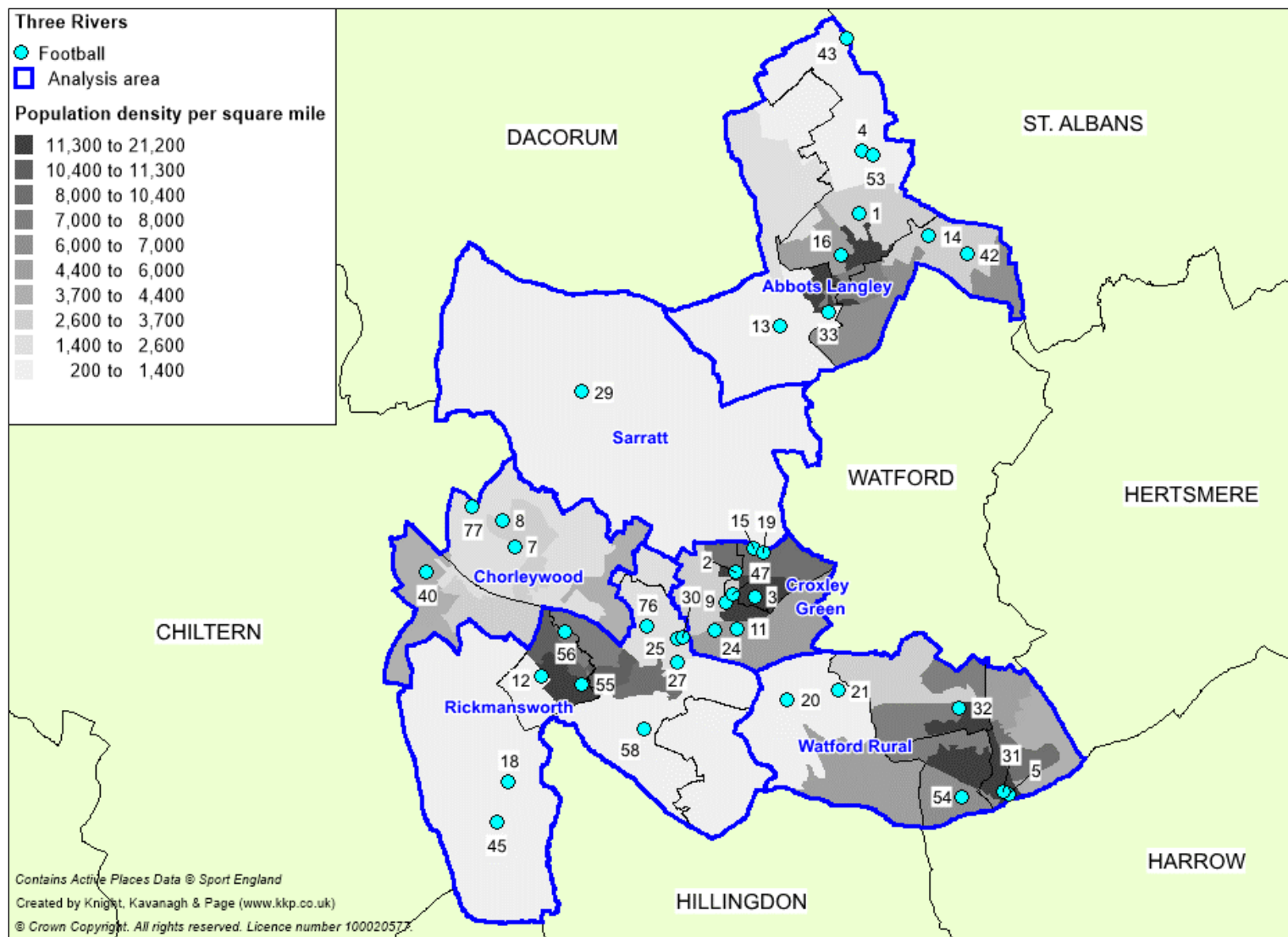
Croxley Danes School is a new co-educational state secondary school which opened in 2017. The School is currently developing a new site on Baldwins Lane which is expected to be ready for 2020. The new school site will contain two adult football pitches with four youth 9v9 pitches overmarked. This provision will be in the Croxley Green Analysis Area and is expected to be available for community use.

Potential site consultation

Oxhey Jets FC's home site, the Boundary Stadium, has been put forward to TRDC as part of the Call for Sites process, as indicated in the TRDC 'Potential Sites' consultation document. The non-statutory consultation invited comments on the sites put forward to TRDC to consider for development, as part of the Local Plan process. The Club has a lease agreement on the site (the former Sir James Altham School) until 2025 from Hertfordshire County Council and is reluctant to relocate to an alternative site.

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Figure 2.1: Location of all football pitches in Three Rivers



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Pitch quality

The quality of football pitches across the District have been assessed via a combination of site visits (using non-technical assessments as determined by the FA) and user consultation to reach and apply an agreed rating as follows:

- ◀ Good
- ◀ Standard
- ◀ Poor

Pitch quality primarily influences the carrying capacity of a site; often pitches lack the drainage and maintenance necessary to sustain levels of use. Pitches that receive little to no ongoing repair or post-season remedial work are likely to be assessed as poor, therefore limiting the number of games they are able to accommodate each week without it having a detrimental effect on quality.

Conversely, well maintained pitches that are tended to regularly are likely to be of a higher standard and capable of taking a number of matches without a significant reduction in surface quality.

The percentage parameters used for the non-technical assessments were as follows: Good (>80%), Standard (50-80%), Poor (<50%). The final quality ratings assigned to the sites also take into account the user quality ratings gathered from consultation.

The table below summarises the quality of pitches that are available for community use in Three Rivers. In total, 13 pitches are assessed as good quality, 70 as standard quality and 12 as poor quality. All good quality pitches are located at Merchant Taylors Sport Complex.

Table 2.3: Pitch quality assessments (community use pitches)

Analysis area	Adult pitches			Youth pitches			Mini pitches		
	Good	Standard	Poor	Good	Standard	Poor	Good	Standard	Poor
Abbots Langley	-	7	1	-	12	2	-	12	-
Chorleywood	-	2	-	-	2	-	-	3	1
Croxley Green	-	4	1	-	2	-	-	5	-
Rickmansworth	-	4	4	-	4	2	-	5	1
Sarratt	-	1	-	-	2	-	-	1	-
Watford Rural	5	7	-	8	1	-	-	-	-
Total	5	25	6	8	23	4	-	26	2

Poor quality pitches are located at the following sites:

- ◀ Barton Way Playing Field
- ◀ Bedmond Recreation Ground
- ◀ King George V Playing Field
- ◀ Leavesden Playing Field
- ◀ Maple Cross Playing Fields
- ◀ Saint Joan of Arc Catholic School
- ◀ The Russell School

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Table 2.4: Summary of poor quality pitch comments

Site ID	Site name	Club name/s	Club comments
3	Barton Way Playing Field	Old Fullarians AFC	Pitch surface is poor.
4	Bedmond Recreation Ground	Bedmond Youth FC	Site is overused attributing to poor pitch surface and problem areas.
12	King George V Playing Field	Chorleywood Club FC	The pitch is minimally maintained contributing to a poor playing surface.
14	Leavesden Playing Fields	Soul Survivor Watford FC	Pitches drain poorly.
18	Maple Cross Playing Fields	Chess United FC	Issues with moles. Grass length is unsafe.

Pitches maintained by local authorities and schools often undergo limited maintenance regimes due to restricted budgets. Additionally, this is usually exacerbated on recreation grounds, as well as some school sites, by the open access nature of such provision resulting in high levels of use for other purposes, such as unofficial football activity, dog walking and fitness groups.

Notwithstanding the above, the majority of Council maintained pitches in Three Rivers are assessed as standard quality, with the maintenance regime relatively sophisticated when compared to other local authorities nationally. The programme consists of regular grass cutting, line marking and aeration twice per season.

FA Pitch Improvement Programme (PIP)

With quality of grass pitches becoming one of the biggest influences on participation in football, the FA has made it a priority to work towards improving quality of grass pitches across the country. This has resulted in the creation of the FA Pitch Improvement Programme (PIP). As part of the PIP, grass pitches identified as having quality issues undergo a pitch inspection from a member of the Institute of Groundsmanship (IOG).

Over marked pitches

Over marking of pitches can cause notable damage to the surface quality and lead to overuse beyond recommended capacity. In some cases, mini pitches may be marked onto senior pitches or mini matches may be played widthways across adult or youth pitches. This can lead to targeted areas of surface damage due to a large amount of play focused on high traffic areas, particularly the middle third of the pitch.

Over marking of pitches not only influences available capacity, it also causes logistical issues regarding kick off times; for example, when two teams of differing age formats are playing at the same site. The following sites contain overmarked pitches:

- ◀ Bedmond Recreation Ground
- ◀ Rickmansworth Sports Club
- ◀ Sarratt King George Field
- ◀ Tornado Junior Sports Club

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Ancillary facilities

Similar to football pitches, the quality of ancillary facilities across Three Rivers has been assessed via a combination of site visits and user consultation to reach and apply an agreed rating as follows:

- ◀ Good
- ◀ Standard
- ◀ Poor

Ancillary facility rating is primarily influenced by the type of amenities which are available on a site accompanied by their quality, such as a clubhouse, changing rooms, showering provision, car parking, dedicated official and spectator facilities and boundary fencing.

The percentage parameters used for the non-technical assessments were as follows; Good (>67%), Standard (34-66%), Poor (<34%). The final quality ratings assigned to the sites also consider the user quality ratings gathered from consultation.

The table below identifies known ancillary facility quality for football sites across Three Rivers which are available for community use.

Table 2.5: Summary of community available ancillary facility quality³

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Management	Ancillary facility quality
2	Baldwins Lane Playing Fields	Croxley Green	Council	Standard
3	Barton Way Playing Fields	Croxley Green	Council	Good
4	Bedmond Recreation Ground	Abbots Langley	Parish Council	Poor
5	Boundary Stadium (Oxhey Jets FC)	Watford Rural	Sports Club	Standard
7	Chorleywood Cricket Club	Chorleywood	Sports Club	Poor
8	Chorleywood Football Club	Chorleywood	Sports Club	Poor
9	Croxley Guild of Sports and Social Club	Croxley Green	Sports Club	Poor
12	King George V Playing Field	Rickmansworth	Council	Standard
13	Langleybury Playing Fields	Abbots Langley	Parish Council	Good
14	Leavesden Playing Fields	Abbots Langley	Council	Standard
16	Manor House Grounds	Abbots Langley	Parish Council	Good
18	Maple Cross Playing Fields	Rickmansworth	Council	Poor
19	March Durrants Sports and Social Club	Croxley Green	Sports Club	Standard
21	Merchant Taylors School Sports Complex	Watford Rural	School	Good
24	Rickmansworth School	Croxley Green	School	Standard
25	Rickmansworth Sports Club	Rickmansworth	Sports Club	Standard
27	Saint Joan Of Arc Catholic School	Rickmansworth	School	Standard

³ Primary School sites containing community available football pitches have not been included as none are identified as having dedicated changing facilities.

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Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Management	Ancillary facility quality
29	Sarratt King George Field	Sarratt	Parish Council	Standard
31	Sir James Altham Swimming Pool	Watford Rural	Commercial	Good
32	South Oxhey Playing Fields	Watford Rural	Council	Standard
33	Southway Playing Fields (Evergreen FC)	Abbots Langley	Sports Club	Good
42	Thomas Parmiter Sports Centre	Abbots Langley	School	Standard
43	Tornado Junior Sports Club	Abbots Langley	Sports Club	Poor
45	West Hyde & Maple Cross Youth Centre	Rickmansworth	Community Organisation	Standard
64	Reach Free School	Rickmansworth	School	Good
76	Nuffield Health at RMS	Rickmansworth	Commercial	Good

Of the abovementioned sites, eight are good quality, 12 standard and six poor. All facilities at poor quality sites are identified as requiring modernisation, each having common issues such as outdated changing rooms and shower facilities.

Consultation with Three Rivers District Council highlights that all Council facilities have received some level of investment over the last ten years and so that, facilities are adequate. Chess United FC report issues with car parking at Maple Cross Playing Fields with the number of spaces inadequate relative to the number of pitches and demand at the site.

Chorleywood FC is one of the largest football clubs in Three Rivers and highlights both issues with car parking, changing facilities and social space at its home site. The current facility is poor and borderline fit for purpose. The Club aspires to develop the facility into a modern facility and improve car parking, so it can adequately accommodate all generated demand.

Security of tenure

Most teams in Three Rivers rent pitches from the District Council or Parish Councils. Tenure of these sites is secure, i.e. there is a guarantee that pitches will continue to be provided over the next three years (as is the case at District Council operated sites). An exception to this is found at schools and academies that state their own policies and are more likely to restrict levels of community use.

The following is a full list of schools that have grass football pitches but do not allow community use:

- ◀ Abbots Langley School
- ◀ St Peters VA Primary School
- ◀ St Clement Danes School
- ◀ Merchant Taylors Prep School
- ◀ Greenfields Primary School
- ◀ St Marys C of E VA Primary School

For school sites that are available to the community, it is recommended that clubs enter into community use agreements to ensure long-term access. In Three Rivers, Reach Free School and Croxley Danes School have CUA's in place (the CUA at Croxley Danes School becomes active in 2020) for grass football pitches.

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Two clubs are identified as having secure lease arrangements in Three Rivers. Evergreen Youth FC has 24 years remaining on its lease arrangement with Abbots Langley Parish Council and Chorleywood FC has five years lease on its lease agreement with Three Rivers District Council. The Club is actively looking to renew this lease to ensure the capabilities of securing potential funding opportunities in the future to refurbish/replace its current ancillary provision.

Football pyramid demand

The football pyramid is a series of interconnected leagues for adult men's football clubs in England. It begins below the football league (the National League) and comprises of seven steps, with various leagues at each level and more leagues lower down the pyramid than at the top. The system has a hierarchical format with promotion and relegation between the levels, allowing even the smallest club the theoretical possibility of rising to the top of the system.

Clubs within the step system must adhere to ground requirements set out by the FA. The higher the level of football being played the higher the requirements. Clubs cannot progress into the league above if the ground requirements do not meet the correct specifications. Ground grading assesses grounds from A to H, with 'A' being the requirement for Step 1 clubs and H being the requirement for Step 7 clubs.

There is one club playing in the football pyramid in the District. Oxhey Jets FC competes in the Spartan South Midlands Football League (Step 5).

A common issue for clubs entering the pyramid is changing facilities. For Step 7 football (ground grading H), changing rooms must be a minimum size of 18 square metres, exclusive of shower and toilet areas. The general principle for clubs in the football pyramid is that they have to achieve the appropriate grade by March 31st of their first season after promotion, which therefore allows a short grace period for facilities to be brought up to standard.

This, however, does not apply to clubs being promoted to Step 7 (as they must meet requirements immediately).

Women's National League System

Correspondingly there is a Women's National League System similar to the adult men's which provide structure to the women's game. As seen in the table below this ranges from Step 1 to Step 6 with each step requiring differing ground grading requirements.

Table 2.6: Summary of ground grading for women's football

Level	League	Grading category
Step 3 and 4	Women's Super League 1	Grade A
Step 3 and 4	Women's Super League 2	Grade B
Step 5	Northern and Southern Women's Premier League	Grade A
Step 6	Women's Combination Leagues	Grade B
Step 7	Women's Regional Leagues – Premier Divisions	Grade C

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Although women's clubs still require to meet ground requirements set out by the FA these differ from the men's National League System. Ratings range from grade A to C each with differing minimum requirements. Step 1 and 2 in the Women's National League System is akin to Step 3 and 4 of the men's National League System, however, not exactly the same. The system is also hierarchical format with promotion and relegation between the levels, allowing even the smallest club the theoretical possibility of rising to the top of the system.

In 2017, the FA announced plans to restructure the women's league for the highest performers in the football pyramid. The changes will be implemented from the start of the 2018-19 season and will see the top league, FA WSL 1, expand from ten clubs to 14 and the creation of a new national league established at tier two for a maximum of 12 teams.

There are currently no women's step clubs in Three Rivers.

2.3: Demand

Through the audit and assessment, 191 teams from within 44 clubs are identified as playing within Three Rivers. This consists of 41 adult men's, two adult women's, 75 youth boys', ten youth girls' and 63 mini mixed teams. The Abbots Langley Analysis Area provides for the highest number of teams, with 77. The analysis area with the fewest number of teams is Watford Rural.

Youth 11v11 football is the most prominent format of play, whilst mini 5v5 is the least common.

Table 2.7: Summary of competitive teams currently playing in the District of Three Rivers

Analysis area	No. of teams					Total
	Adult	Youth 11v11	Youth 9v9	Mini 7v7	Mini 5v5	
Abbots Langley	12	20	15	19	11	77
Chorleywood	1	12	-	7	7	27
Croxley Green	11	5	6	3	-	25
Rickmansworth	8	7	13	5	2	35
Sarratt	2	2	2	2	5	13
Watford Rural	9	1	2	2	-	14
Total	43	47	38	38	25	191

Women's and girls' demand

There are currently 12 dedicated female teams playing within Three Rivers, representing just over 6% of the total number of teams. The teams are predominately provided by:

- ✦ Chorleywood Common FC
- ✦ Evergreen FC
- ✦ Watford Ladies FC

The FA currently has a drive to increase women's and girls' participation by 50%. As such, it is imperative that sufficient facilities become suitable for female access, particularly in relation to toilets and appropriate changing facilities.

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Exported demand

Exported demand refers to teams that are currently accessing pitches for home fixtures outside of the study area, despite being registered to the District. This is normally because pitch requirements cannot be met. There are currently teams from four Three Rivers based clubs accessing pitches outside of the study area.

Table 2.8: exported demand summary

Club	Analysis area	Teams exported	LA exported to	Pitch size	Match equivalent sessions
Abbots Youth FC	Abbots Langley	U18, U13 x3	Watford	Adult	0.5
				Youth 11v11	1.5
Bedmond Youth FC	Abbots Langley	U10 x2, U8 x2	Watford	Mini 7v7	1
				Mini 5v5	1
Chorleywood Common FC	Chorleywood	U10, U9, U8	Watford	Mini 7v7	0.5
				Mini 5v5	1
Evergreen Youth FC	Abbots Langley	U13 x3	St Albans	Youth 11v11	1.5

Imported demand

Imported demand refers to any demand from neighbouring local authorities that accesses facilities within the Three Rivers study area due to a lack of available facilities in other local authorities where such team or club is based. Based on 2018/19 affiliation data there are 12 teams from three clubs which are currently importing demand into the Authority.

From Hertsmere, Belstone Youth FC import demand into Three Rivers to the Thomas Parmiter Sports Centre. Belstone Youth FC imports nine teams as they cannot be at its home site; the Melburn Ground. The Club aspires to develop new football pitches at the site to facilitate its demand back in Hertsmere.

In addition, it is identified that Hemel Hempstead Town Youth FC exports two junior teams into Three Rivers from neighbouring authority, Dacorum. The two teams play at Bedmond Recreation Ground which sits on the border between Three Rivers and Dacorum. Despite the proximity, it is noted that the Club would prefer to play its fixtures in Hemel Hempstead.

Latent demand

Latent demand refers to potential demand, individuals who would like to participate within the sport but do not do so. This can be for a variety of reasons including a lack pitches or appropriate facilities.

Five clubs in Three Rivers report latent demand with the main reason equating to a lack of pitch space within their local area. In addition to the five clubs, Watford Town FC highlights that it could develop additional teams if more pitches were available but was unable to quantify any specific potential growth.

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Table 2.9: Latent demand summary

Club	Analysis area	Latent demand	Pitch size	Match equivalent sessions
FC Unicorn	Croxley Green	1 x adult	Adult	0.5
RBL Croxley	Croxley Green	1 x adult	Adult	0.5
Batchworth FC	Croxley Green	1 x adult	Adult	0.5
Bedmond Youth FC	Abbots Langley	1 x youth 11v11	Youth 11v11	0.5
		1 x mini 5v5	Mini 5v5	0.5
Soul Survivor Watford FC	Abbots Langley	1 x adult	Adult	0.5

Unmet demand

Unmet demand is existing demand that is not getting access to pitches. It is usually expressed, for example, when a team is already training but is unable to access a match pitch, or when a league has a waiting list due to a lack of pitch provision, which in turn is hindering the growth of the league.

Consultation highlights that Evergreen Youth FC has a waiting list of circa 60 local children who cannot be facilitated into new teams because of a lack of pitch space, despite this, this level of unmet demand was not able to be quantified into specific age bands. Chorleywood Common FC reports a waiting list across the mini age ranges which equates to an unmet demand of two mini 5v5 teams and one match equivalent sessions per week.

Future demand

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

Participation increases

Eleven clubs' report aspirations to increase the number of teams they provide. Of the ten clubs that quantify their *potential* increase, there is a predicted growth of 21 teams, as seen in the table below.

Across the four clubs there is a desired increase of a total of 14 teams. This equates to an aspirational future growth of nine mini and five youth teams.

Table 2.10: Potential team increases identified by clubs

Club	Analysis area	Future demand	Pitch size	Match equivalent sessions ⁴
Evergreen Youth FC	Abbots Langley	2 x mini 5v5	Mini 5v5	1
		1 x mini 7v7	Mini 7v7	0.5
		1x youth 9v9	Youth 9v9	0.5
Chorleywood Common FC	Chorleywood	2 x mini 5v5	Mini 5v5	1
		2 x mini 7v7	Mini 7v7	1
		1 x youth 9v9	Youth 9v9	0.5

⁴ Two teams require one pitch to account for playing on a home and away basis; therefore, 0.5 pitches can therefore be seen in the table where there is latent demand for one team.

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Club	Analysis area	Future demand	Pitch size	Match equivalent sessions ⁴
		1 x youth 11v11	Youth 11v11	0.5
Watford Town FC	Rickmansworth	1 x mini 5v5	Mini 5v5	0.5
		1 x youth 9v9	Youth 9v9	0.5
		1 x youth 11 v 11	Youth 11v11	0.5
Bedmond Youth FC	Abbots Langley	1 x Mini 7v7	Mini 7v7	0.5

Chorleywood Common FC initially outlined potential growth plans for 23 mini and junior teams, this has been reduced to six as this is considered to be more realistic to achieve. Further to this, the Club has identified unmet demand which is accounted in the supply vs demand analysis.

Population increases

Team generation rates (TGRs) are used to provide an indication of how many people it may take to generate a team (by gender and age group), in order to help estimate the change in demand for pitch sports that may arise from any population change in the study area. ONS population growth is applied to the TGRs to identify a predicted number of teams that will be generated. As such, TGRs are used below as the basis for calculating the number of teams likely to be generated in the future based on population growth up to 2036⁵.

Application of TGRs forecast that there will be a possible increase of ten teams. This equates to the potential growth of one senior men's, seven youth 11v11 boys', one youth 11v11 girls' and one youth 9v9 boys' team.

Table 2.11: Team generation rates (2036)

Age group	Current population within age group	Current no. of teams ⁶	Team Generation Rate (TGR)	Future population within age group ⁷	Predicted future number of teams (2036)	Additional teams that may be generated from the increased population
Senior Men's (16-45)	16,376	54	1:303	16,883	55	1
Senior Women (16-45)	16,945	3	1:5648	16,777	3	0
Youth Boys (12-15)	2,295	34	1:68	2,815	41	7
Youth Girls (12-15)	2,213	6	1:369	2,708	7	1
Youth Boys (10-11)	1,275	27	1:47	1,344	28	1
Youth Girls (10-11)	1,176	3	1:392	1,281	3	0
Mini-Soccer Mixed (8-9)	2,489	38	1:66	2,529	38	0
Mini-Soccer Mixed (6-7)	2,575	24	1:107	2,408	22	0

ONS population increases are likely to result ten additional teams in Three Rivers; however, once TGRs are applied to individual analysis areas a more detailed representation of where exactly the predicated growth will occur emerges.

⁵ TGRs are based on population forecasts which are in line with the Three Rivers Local Plan timeframe.

⁶ Age group team numbers differ from Table 2.6 as forecasts are based on age rather than playing format. U17 and U18 teams affiliate to their respective County FA as juniors, however, are generally considered to play on and require adult pitches and are considered by age boundaries to be in the adult age group

⁷ There is potential that the ONS projections may be under estimating future demand when compared to housing growth figures and as such, this should be subject to periodic review.

THREE RIVERS DISTRICT COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

Table 2.12: Team generation rates by analysis area (2036)

Age group	Additional teams that may be generated from the increased population (by analysis area)						
	Abbots Langley	Chorleywood	Croxley Green	Rickmansworth	Sarratt	Watford Rural	Total
Senior Men's (16-45)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Senior Women (16-45)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Youth Boys (12-15)	2	1	-	1	-	-	4
Youth Girls (12-15)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Youth Boys (10-11)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Youth Girls (10-11)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Mini-Soccer Mixed (8-9)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Mini-Soccer Mixed (6-7)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

As can be seen in the table above, once TGRs are applied to individual analysis areas it is forecast that a total of four teams will be generated, with demand split between the Abbots Langley, Chorleywood and Rickmansworth analysis areas.

Notwithstanding the above, it must be noted that team generation rates are based exclusively on future population forecasts and do not account for societal factors or changes in the way people may wish to play sport. Similarly, they cannot account for specific targeted development work within certain areas or focused towards certain groups, such as NGB initiatives or coaching within schools. For example, there is a focus on developing female participation within Hertfordshire and nationally which, as mentioned previously, is likely to lead to more women's and girls' teams in the future and therefore increase demand for pitches.

Outside of women's and girls' increases, given the large amounts of future demand identified through team generation rates, it is considered unlikely that aspirations from clubs will happen exclusively of population growth. Instead, it is thought that the ambitions will be absorbed within the increases.

SSE Wildcats Centres

SSE Wildcats Centres work with County FA qualified coaches to deliver local weekly sessions, which provide opportunities for girls aged five to 11 to develop fundamental skills and experience football in a safe and fun environment. There are already 200 established centres which delivered the SSE Wildcats pilot in 2017, with a further 800 centres to be in place for 2018. As part of the expansion process, organisations extending beyond affiliated clubs to include other providers or community groups were invited to apply in late 2017 to become one of the new centres.

All organisations delivering Wildcats centres receive a £600 start-up grant and 30 branded footballs in their first year of running the programme to help develop and increase girl's participation, organisations receive a secondary grant of £300 in the secondary year of operation to help sessions run sustainably. In Three Rivers, there was one SSE Wildcat Centre located at YMCA Abbots Langley, however, this is no longer in operation.

In light of both FA aspirations to double female participation in football through its Game Changer strategy and the establishment and foreseen future effect of the SSE Wildcats programme, it is likely that the growth in affiliated women's and girl teams may exceed that shown through TGRs, however at present to what extent is not quantifiable.

THREE RIVERS DISTRICT COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

Future demand summary

On balance, it has been agreed that total future demand in Three Rivers should account for population and participation increases added together and as such, these are the figures applied in the supply and demand conclusions tables.

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. In extreme circumstances, it can result in the inability of a pitch to cater for all or certain types of play during peak and off peak times. As a guide, The FA has set a standard number of matches that each grass pitch type should be able to accommodate without it adversely affecting its quality.

The following ratings were used in Three Rivers:

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

Table 2.13 overleaf applies the above pitch ratings against the actual level of weekly play to determine a capacity rating as follows:

Potential capacity	Play is below the level the site could sustain
At capacity	Play matches the level the site can sustain
Overused	Play exceeds the level the site can sustain

Education sites

To account for curricular/extra-curricular use of education pitches it is likely that the carrying capacity at such sites will need to be adjusted. The only time this would not happen is when a school does not use its pitches at all and the sole use is community use. The adjustment is typically dependent on the amount of play carried out, the number of pitches on site and whether there is access to an on-site AGP.

In some cases, where there is no identified community use, there is little capacity to accommodate further play. Internal usage often exceeds recommended pitch capacity, which is further exacerbated by basic maintenance regimes that may not extend beyond grass cutting and line marking.

In Three Rivers, site capacity at education sites has been reduced by one match equivalent session per pitch to account for curricular and extra-curricular use. This is based on consultation and the discovery that all pitches are in use, as well as from experience of how school sites use pitches from other strategies in the locality and nationally.

THREE RIVERS DISTRICT COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

Informal use

Several football pitches in the area are located within open access sites. As such, these pitches are subject to informal use in the form of dog walkers, unorganised games of football and exercise groups. It must be noted, however, that informal use of these sites is not recorded and it is therefore difficult to quantify on a site-by-site basis. Instead, it is recommended that open access sites be protected through an improved maintenance regime.

Peak time

Spare capacity can only be considered as actual spare capacity if pitches are available at peak time. In Three Rivers, peak time is Sunday AM for all pitches, as most teams across all age groups play at this time. Please note that, on occasions, spare capacity in the peak period is identified despite the pitch being played to capacity, overplayed or having more spare capacity identified in the peak period than what exists overall. This is because most of the use on those particular pitches occurs outside of the peak period; therefore, the identified spare capacity at peak time should not be utilised over and above overall capacity unless quality improvements are made that increases overall capacity.

THREE RIVERS DISTRICT COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

Table 2.13: Football pitch capacity analysis

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Management	Tenure	Pitch type	Pitch size	No. of pitches	Community use availability	Agreed quality rating	Current play (MES)	Site capacity ⁸ (MES)	Capacity balance (MES)	Comments
2	Baldwins Lane Playing Fields	Croxley Green	Council	Secure	Adult		2	Yes	Standard	4.5	4	0.5	Site is overplayed.
3	Barton Way Playing Fields	Croxley Green	Council	Secure	Adult		1	Yes	Standard	1	1	-	Site played to capacity.
4	Bedmond Recreation Ground	Abbots Langley	Parish Council	Secure	Adult		1	Yes	Standard	2	2	-	Site played to capacity.
4	Bedmond Recreation Ground	Abbots Langley	Parish Council	Secure	Youth	(11v11)	1	Yes	Poor	1	1	-	Site played to capacity.
4	Bedmond Recreation Ground	Abbots Langley	Parish Council	Secure	Youth	(9v9)	1	Yes	Poor	1	1	-	Site played to capacity.
5	Boundary Stadium (Oxhey Jets FC)	Watford Rural	Council	Secure	Adult		1	Yes	Standard	3	2	1	Site is overplayed.
7	Chorleywood Cricket Club	Chorleywood	Sports Club	Secure	Adult		2	Yes - unused	Standard	-	4	4	Potential spare capacity on site
8	Chorleywood Football Club	Chorleywood	Sports Club	Secure	Mini	(5v5)	2	Yes	Standard	3.5	8	5.5	Potential spare capacity on site
8	Chorleywood Football Club	Chorleywood	Sports Club	Secure	Mini	(7v7)	1	Yes	Standard	3.5	4	0.5	Potential spare capacity on site
8	Chorleywood Football Club	Chorleywood	Sports Club	Secure	Youth	(11v11)	1	Yes	Standard	5.5	2	3.5	Site is overplayed.
8	Chorleywood Football Club	Chorleywood	Sports Club	Secure	Youth	(9v9)	1	Yes	Standard	3	2	1	Site is overplayed.
9	Croxley Guild of Sport And Social Club	Croxley Green	Sports Club	Secure	Adult		1	Yes	Standard	0.5	2	1.5	Potential spare capacity on site
11	Harvey Road School	Croxley Green	Education	Unsecure	Mini	(5v5)	1	Yes – unused	Standard	1	4	3	Potential spare capacity on site
12	King George V Playing Field	Rickmansworth	Council	Secure	Adult		2	Yes	Poor	5	2	3	Site is overplayed.
13	Langleybury Playing Fields	Abbots Langley	Parish Council	Secure	Adult		1	Yes	Standard	1.5	2	0.5	Potential spare capacity
14	Leavesden Playing Fields	Abbots Langley	Council	Secure	Adult		1	Yes	Poor	1	1	-	Site played to capacity.
14	Leavesden Playing Fields	Abbots Langley	Council	Secure	Mini	(7v7)	1	Yes - unused	Standard	-	4	4	Potential spare capacity on site
15	Little Green Junior School	Croxley Green	Education	Unsecure	Mini	(7v7)	2	Yes – unused	Standard	-	8	8	Potential spare capacity on site
16	Manor House Grounds	Abbots Langley	Parish Council	Secure	Mini	(5v5)	2	Yes	Standard	1.5	8	6.5	Potential spare capacity on site
16	Manor House Grounds	Abbots Langley	Parish Council	Secure	Mini	(7v7)	1	Yes	Standard	1.5	4	2.5	Potential spare capacity on site
16	Manor House Grounds	Abbots Langley	Parish Council	Secure	Youth	(9v9)	2	Yes	Standard	2	4	2	Potential spare capacity on site
18	Maple Cross Playing Fields	Rickmansworth	Council	Secure	Adult		2	Yes	Poor	1.5	2	0.5	Potential spare capacity on site
18	Maple Cross Playing Fields	Rickmansworth	Council	Secure	Mini	(7v7)	1	Yes	Poor	1.5	2	0.5	Potential spare capacity on site
18	Maple Cross Playing Fields	Rickmansworth	Council	Secure	Youth	(11v11)	1	Yes	Poor	1	1	-	Site played to capacity.
19	March Durrants Sports and Social Club	Croxley Green	Council	Secure	Mini	(5v5)	1	Yes	Standard	0.5	4	0.5	Potential spare capacity on site
21	Merchant Taylors School Sports Complex	Watford Rural	Education	Unsecure	Adult		5	Yes – unused	Good	5	15	10	Potential spare capacity on site
21	Merchant Taylors School Sports Complex	Watford Rural	Education	Unsecure	Youth	(9v9)	8	Yes – unused	Good	8	36	28	Potential spare capacity on site
24	Rickmansworth School	Croxley Green	Education	Unsecure	Adult		1	Yes	Standard	2	2	-	Pitch at capacity
24	Rickmansworth School	Croxley Green	Education	Unsecure	Youth	(11v11)	1	Yes	Standard	2	2	-	Site played to capacity.
24	Rickmansworth School	Croxley Green	Education	Unsecure	Youth	(9v9)	1	Yes	Standard	1	2	1	Potential spare capacity on site
25	Rickmansworth Sports Club	Rickmansworth	Sports Club	Secure	Mini	(5v5)	1	Yes	Standard	2.5	4	1.5	Potential spare capacity on site
25	Rickmansworth Sports Club	Rickmansworth	Sports Club	Secure	Mini	(7v7)	1	Yes	Standard	2	4	2	Potential spare capacity on site
27	Saint Joan Of Arc Catholic School	Rickmansworth	Education	Unsecure	Youth	(9v9)	1	Yes - unused	Poor	1	1	-	Pitch at capacity with curricular use
29	Sarratt King George Field	Sarratt	Parish Council	Secure	Adult		1	Yes	Standard	1	2	1	Potential spare capacity on site
29	Sarratt King George Field	Sarratt	Parish Council	Secure	Mini	(7v7)	1	Yes	Standard	1	4	3	Potential spare capacity on site
29	Sarratt King George Field	Sarratt	Parish Council	Secure	Youth	(11v11)	1	Yes	Standard	1	2	1	Potential spare capacity on site
29	Sarratt King George Field	Sarratt	Parish Council	Secure	Youth	(9v9)	1	Yes	Standard	1	2	1	Potential spare capacity on site
30	Scotsbridge Playing Fields	Rickmansworth	Council	Secure	Adult		1	Yes	Standard	0.5	2	1.5	Potential spare capacity on site
30	Scotsbridge Playing Fields	Rickmansworth	Council	Secure	Youth	(9v9)	1	Yes	Standard	4	2	2	Site is overplayed.
31	Sir James Altham Swimming Pool	Watford Rural	Council	Secure	Youth	(9v9)	1	Yes - unused	Standard	-	2	2	Potential spare capacity on site
32	South Oxhey Playing Fields	Watford Rural	Council	Secure	Adult		6	Yes	Standard	3.5	12	8.5	Potential spare capacity on site

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

**THREE RIVERS DISTRICT COUNCIL
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Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Management	Tenure	Pitch type	Pitch size	No. of pitches	Community use availability	Agreed quality rating	Current play (MES)	Site capacity ⁸ (MES)	Capacity balance (MES)	Comments
33	Southway Playing Fields (Evergreen FC)	Abbots Langley	Sports Club	Secure	Adult		2	Yes	Standard	5	4	1	Site is overplayed.
33	Southway Playing Fields (Evergreen FC)	Abbots Langley	Sports Club	Secure	Mini	(7v7)	1	Yes	Standard	3	4	1	Potential spare capacity on site
33	Southway Playing Fields (Evergreen FC)	Abbots Langley	Sports Club	Secure	Youth	(9v9)	1	Yes	Standard	2	2	-	Site played to capacity.
40	The Russell School	Chorleywood	Education	Unsecure	Mini	(5v5)	1	Yes - unused	Poor	1	2	1	Potential spare capacity on site
42	Thomas Parmiter Sports Centre	Abbots Langley	Education	Unsecure	Adult		2	Yes	Standard	3.5	4	0.5	Potential spare capacity on site
42	Thomas Parmiter Sports Centre	Abbots Langley	Education	Unsecure	Mini	(5v5)	2	Yes	Standard	4.5	8	3.5	Potential spare capacity on site
42	Thomas Parmiter Sports Centre	Abbots Langley	Education	Unsecure	Mini	(7v7)	4	Yes	Standard	4	16	12	Potential spare capacity on site
42	Thomas Parmiter Sports Centre	Abbots Langley	Education	Unsecure	Youth	(11v11)	3	Yes	Standard	10.5	6	4.5	Pitches overplayed.
42	Thomas Parmiter Sports Centre	Abbots Langley	Education	Unsecure	Youth	(9v9)	5	Yes	Standard	9	10	1	Potential spare capacity on site
43	Tornado Junior Sports Club	Abbots Langley	Sports Club	Secure	Adult		1	Yes	Standard	0.5	2	1.5	Potential spare capacity on site
43	Tornado Junior Sports Club	Abbots Langley	Sports Club	Secure	Youth	(9v9)	1	Yes	Standard	0.5	2	1.5	Potential spare capacity on site
45	West Hyde & Maple Cross Youth Centre	Rickmansworth	Council	Secure	Mini	(5v5)	1	Yes	Standard	1	4	3	Potential spare capacity on site
45	West Hyde & Maple Cross Youth Centre	Rickmansworth	Council	Secure	Youth	(9v9)	1	Yes	Standard	1.5	2	0.5	Potential spare capacity on site
47	Yorke Mead Primary School	Croxley Green	Education	Unsecure	Mini	(5v5)	1	Yes	Standard	2.5	4	1.5	Potential spare capacity on site
53	Bedmond Village Primary School	Abbots Langley	Education	Unsecure	Mini	(7v7)	1	Yes	Standard	2	4	1	Potential spare capacity on site
56	Arnett Hills JMI School	Rickmansworth	Education	Unsecure	Mini	(5v5)	2	Yes – unused	Standard	2	4	4	Potential spare capacity on site
64	Reach Free School	Rickmansworth	Education	Secure	Adult		1	Yes – unused	Standard	1	2	1	Potential spare capacity on site
64	Reach Free School	Rickmansworth	Education	Secure	Adult		2	Yes – unused	Standard	2	2	-	Overmarked with senior RU and two youth 9v9 pitches.
64	Reach Free School	Rickmansworth	Education	Secure	Youth	(9v9)	2	Yes – unused	Standard	2	2	-	Both pitches are overmarked on senior rugby union and adult football.
64	Reach Free School	Rickmansworth	Education	Secure	Youth	(9v9)	2	Yes – unused	Standard	2	2	-	
76	Nuffield Health at RMS	Rickmansworth	Education	Unsecure	Adult		1	Yes - unused	Standard	1	2	2	Potential spare capacity on site
1	Abbots Langley School	Abbots Langley	Education	Unsecure	Mini	(5v5)	3	No	Standard	1	12	-	No community use on site.
20	Merchant Taylors Prep School	Watford Rural	Education	Unsecure	Mini	(5v5)	2	No	Standard	1	8	-	No community use on site.
20	Merchant Taylors Prep School	Watford Rural	Education	Unsecure	Mini	(7v7)	2	No	Standard	1	8	-	No community use on site.
20	Merchant Taylors Prep School	Watford Rural	Education	Unsecure	Youth	(9v9)	2	No	Standard	1	6	-	No community use on site.
54	Greenfields Primary School	Watford Rural	Education	Unsecure	Mini	(5v5)	1	No	Standard	1	4	-	No community use on site.
55	St Peter's VA Primary	Rickmansworth	Education	Unsecure	Mini	(5v5)	1	No	Standard	1	4	-	No community use on site.
58	St Mary's C of E VA Primary School	Rickmansworth	Education	Unsecure	Mini	(5v5)	2	No	Standard	1	8	-	No community use on site.
76	Nuffield Health at RMS	Rickmansworth	Education	Unsecure	Youth	(9v9)	1	No	Standard	1	2	-	No community use on site.
77	St Clement Danes School	Chorleywood	Education	Secure	Adult		1	No	Standard	1	2	-	No community use on site.
77	St Clement Danes School	Chorleywood	Education	Secure	Youth	(11v11)	2	No	Standard	1	4	-	No community use on site.
77	St Clement Danes School	Chorleywood	Education	Secure	Youth	(9v9)	2	No	Standard	1	4	-	No community use on site.

THREE RIVERS DISTRICT COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

Spare capacity

The next step is to ascertain whether 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 several regular friendly matches and activities that take place but are difficult to quantify on a weekly basis.

Over marked pitches which are used and exhibit potential spare capacity have not been considered available to accommodate further play in order to protect pitch quality, given the nature of repeated and sustained use over a short period of time.

Where there is potential spare capacity exhibited at school sites beyond current community use, this has not been included due to the significant additional use during the week by schools for curricular, extracurricular and competitive sport.

Match equivalent sessions

Pitches have a limit of how much play they can accommodate over a certain period of time before their quality, and in turn their use, is adversely affected. As the main usage of pitches is likely to be for matches, it is appropriate for the comparable unit to be match equivalent sessions but may for example include training sessions and informal use.

At this stage, match equivalent sessions do not equate to a number of pitches. This is because an analysis area might show three match equivalent sessions of spare capacity, however, this is likely to be spread across a number of sites. Further to this, minimal spare capacity on one site may be required to accommodate strategic reserve and as such retained. If the spare capacity is on one pitch then it might indicate a need to create a different type of pitch to address a deficiency. This will be fully determined and recommendations will be made accordingly within the Strategy and Action Plan.

THREE RIVERS DISTRICT COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

Table 2.14: Potential spare capacity

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Management	Tenure	Pitch type	Pitch size	No. of pitches	Community use availability	Agreed quality rating	Current play (MES) ⁹	Site capacity ¹⁰ (MES)	Capacity balance (MES)	Match equivalent sessions available in peak period	Comments
7	Chorleywood Cricket Club	Chorleywood	Sports Club	Secure	Adult		2	Yes - unused	Standard	-	4	4	2	Actual spare capacity on site.
8	Chorleywood Football Club	Chorleywood	Sports Club	Secure	Mini	(5v5)	2	Yes	Standard	3.5	8	5.5	-	No peak time capacity on site.
8	Chorleywood Football Club	Chorleywood	Sports Club	Secure	Mini	(7v7)	1	Yes	Standard	3.5	4	0.5	-	No peak time capacity on site.
9	Croxley Guild Of Sport And Social Club	Croxley Green	Sports Club	Secure	Adult		1	Yes	Standard	0.5	2	1.5	0.5	Actual spare capacity on site.
11	Harvey Road School	Croxley Green	Education	Unsecure	Mini	(5v5)	1	Yes – unused	Standard	1	3	3	-	Spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure.
13	Langleybury Playing Fields	Abbots Langley	Parish Council	Secure	Adult		1	Yes	Standard	1.5	2	0.5	-	No peak time capacity on site.
14	Leavesden Playing Fields	Abbots Langley	Council	Secure	Mini	(7v7)	1	Yes - unused	Standard	-	4	4	1	Actual spare capacity on site.
15	Little Green Junior School	Croxley Green	Education	Unsecure	Mini	(7v7)	2	Yes – unused	Standard	-	8	8	-	Spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure.
16	Manor House Grounds	Abbots Langley	Parish Council	Secure	Mini	(5v5)	2	Yes	Standard	1.5	8	6.5	0.5	Actual spare capacity on site.
16	Manor House Grounds	Abbots Langley	Parish Council	Secure	Mini	(7v7)	1	Yes	Standard	1.5	4	2.5	-	No peak time capacity on site.
16	Manor House Grounds	Abbots Langley	Parish Council	Secure	Youth	(9v9)	2	Yes	Standard	2	4	2	0.5	Actual spare capacity on site.
18	Maple Cross Playing Fields	Rickmansworth	Council	Secure	Adult		2	Yes	Poor	1.5	2	0.5	-	Spare capacity discounted to poor quality.
18	Maple Cross Playing Fields	Rickmansworth	Council	Secure	Mini	(7v7)	1	Yes	Poor	1.5	2	0.5	-	Spare capacity discounted due to poor quality.
19	March Durrants Sports and Social Club	Croxley Green	Council	Secure	Mini	(5v5)	1	Yes	Standard	0.5	4	0.5	0.5	Actual spare capacity on site.
21	Merchant Taylors School Sports Complex	Watford Rural	Education	Unsecure	Adult		5	Yes – unused	Good	5	15	10	-	Spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure.
21	Merchant Taylors School Sports Complex	Watford Rural	Education	Unsecure	Youth	(9v9)	8	Yes – unused	Good	8	36	28	-	Spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure.
24	Rickmansworth School	Croxley Green	Education	Unsecure	Youth	(9v9)	1	Yes	Standard	1	2	1	-	Spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure.
25	Rickmansworth Sports Club	Rickmansworth	Education	Secure	Mini	(5v5)	1	Yes	Standard	1.5	4	2.5	-	No peak time capacity on site.
25	Rickmansworth Sports Club	Rickmansworth	Education	Secure	Mini	(7v7)	1	Yes	Standard	1	4	3	-	No peak time capacity on site.
29	Sarratt King George Field	Sarratt	Parish Council	Secure	Adult		1	Yes	Standard	1	2	1	1	Actual spare capacity on site.
29	Sarratt King George Field	Sarratt	Parish Council	Secure	Mini	(7v7)	1	Yes	Standard	1	4	3	-	No peak time capacity on site.
29	Sarratt King George Field	Sarratt	Parish Council	Secure	Youth	(11v11)	1	Yes	Standard	1	2	1	-	No peak time capacity on site.
29	Sarratt King George Field	Sarratt	Parish Council	Secure	Youth	(9v9)	1	Yes	Standard	1	2	1	-	No peak time capacity on site.
30	Scotsbridge Playing Fields	Rickmansworth	Council	Secure	Adult		1	Yes	Standard	0.5	2	1.5	0.5	Actual spare capacity on site.
31	Sir James Altham Swimming Pool	Watford Rural	Council	Secure	Youth	(9v9)	1	Yes - unused	Standard	-	2	2	1	Actual spare capacity on site.
32	South Oxhey Playing Fields	Watford Rural	Council	Secure	Adult		6	Yes	Standard	3.5	12	8.5	3	Actual spare capacity on site.
33	Southway Playing Fields (Evergreen FC)	Abbots Langley	Sports Club	Secure	Mini	(7v7)	1	Yes	Standard	3	4	1	-	No peak time capacity on site.
40	The Russell School	Chorleywood	Education	Unsecure	Mini	(5v5)	1	Yes - unused	Poor	1	2	1	-	Spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure.
42	Thomas Parmiter Sports Centre	Abbots Langley	Education	Unsecure	Adult		2	Yes	Standard	3.5	4	0.5	-	Spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure.

⁹ Includes identified imported demand

¹⁰ Based on pitch quality The FA recommends a maximum number of match equivalent sessions to be accommodate per pitch type. Please refer to Section 2.4 for the full breakdown.

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Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Management	Tenure	Pitch type	Pitch size	No. of pitches	Community use availability	Agreed quality rating	Current play (MES) ⁹	Site capacity ¹⁰ (MES)	Capacity balance (MES)	Match equivalent sessions available in peak period	Comments
42	Thomas Parmiter Sports Centre	Abbots Langley	Education	Unsecure	Mini	(5v5)	2	Yes	Standard	4.5	8	3.5	-	Spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure.
42	Thomas Parmiter Sports Centre	Abbots Langley	Education	Unsecure	Mini	(7v7)	4	Yes	Standard	4	16	12	-	Spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure.
42	Thomas Parmiter Sports Centre	Abbots Langley	Education	Unsecure	Youth	(9v9)	5	Yes	Standard	9	10	1	-	Spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure.
43	Tornado Junior Sports Club	Abbots Langley	Sports Club	Secure	Adult		1	Yes	Standard	0.5	2	1.5	1	Actual spare capacity on site.
43	Tornado Junior Sports Club	Abbots Langley	Sports Club	Secure	Youth	(9v9)	1	Yes	Standard	0.5	2	1.5	0.5	Actual spare capacity on site.
45	West Hyde & Maple Cross Youth Centre	Rickmansworth	Council	Secure	Mini	(5v5)	1	Yes	Standard	1	4	3	-	No peak time capacity on site.
45	West Hyde & Maple Cross Youth Centre	Rickmansworth	Council	Secure	Youth	(9v9)	1	Yes	Standard	1.5	2	0.5	-	No peak time capacity on site.
47	Yorke Mead Primary School	Croxley Green	Education	Unsecure	Mini	(5v5)	1	Yes	Standard	2.5	4	1.5	-	Spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure.
53	Bedmond Village Primary School	Abbots Langley	Education	Unsecure	Mini	(7v7)	1	Yes	Standard	2	4	2	-	Spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure.
56	Arnett Hills JMI School	Rickmansworth	Education	Unsecure	Mini	(5v5)	2	Yes – unused	Standard	2	4	2	-	Spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure.
64	Reach Free School	Rickmansworth	Education	Secure	Adult		1	Yes – unused	Standard	1	2	1	-	Actual spare capacity on site.
76	Nuffield Health at RMS	Rickmansworth	Education	Unsecure	Adult		1	Yes - unused	Standard	1	2	1	-	Spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure.

THREE RIVERS DISTRICT COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

Actual spare capacity has been aggregated up by area and by pitch type. Any actual spare capacity at unsecured sites has been discounted from any totals as the long-term existence of those pitches cannot be relied upon in the future.

Table 2.15: Actual spare capacity summary

Analysis area	Actual spare capacity (match equivalent sessions per week)				
	Adult	Youth (11v11)	Youth (9v9)	Mini (7v7)	Mini (5v5)
Abbots Langley	1	-	1	1	1
Chorleywood	2	-	-	-	-
Croxley Green	-	-	-	-	0.5
Rickmansworth	1.5	-	-	-	-
Sarratt	1	-	-	-	-
Watford Rural	3	-	1	-	-
Three Rivers	8.5	-	2	1	1.5

In total, 13 match equivalent sessions of actual spare capacity are identified across Three Rivers. Adult pitches are identified as having the most spare capacity with 8.5 match equivalent sessions per week and youth 11v11 having no actual spare capacity.

Overplay

Overplay occurs when there is more play accommodated on a site than it can sustain (which can often be due to the low carrying capacity of the pitches). Only sites which are overplayed and have current community use have been included in the overplay summary, therefore school sites which do not currently have any community use but may be overplayed due to curriculum use and school fixtures have not been included.

In total, 13 pitches across seven sites are overplayed by a combined total of 16.5 match equivalent sessions.

Table 2.16: Summary of overplay

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Pitch type	No. of pitches	Capacity rating (match sessions)
2	Baldwins Lane Playing Field	Croxley Green	Adult	2	0.5
5	Boundary Stadium (Oxhey Jets FC)	Watford Rural	Adult	1	1
7	Chorleywood Football Club	Chorleywood	Youth 11v11	1	3.5
			Youth 9v9	1	1
12	King George V Playing Field	Rickmansworth	Adult	2	3
30	Scotsbridge Playing Fields	Rickmansworth	Youth 9v9	1	2
33	Southway Playing Fields (Evergreen FC)	Abbots Langley	Adult	2	1
42	Thomas Parmiter Sports Centre	Abbots Langley	Youth 11v11	3	4.5

The majority of overplay is identified on adult, youth 11v11 and youth 9v9 pitches. There is no identified overplay on mini pitches across the three Rivers District.

THREE RIVERS DISTRICT COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

Table 2.17: Overplay summary

Analysis area	Overplay (match equivalent sessions per week)				
	Adult	Youth (11v11)	Youth (9v9)	Mini (7v7)	Mini (5v5)
Abbots Langley	1	4.5	-	-	-
Chorleywood	-	3.5	1	-	-
Croxley Green	0.5	-	-	-	-
Rickmansworth	3	-	2	-	-
Sarratt	-	-	-	-	-
Watford Rural	1	-	-	-	-
Three Rivers	5.5	8	3	-	-

2.5: Supply and demand analysis

Having considered supply and demand, the tables below identify current demand (i.e. spare capacity taking away overplay and any exported demand) in each of the analysis areas for each pitch type, based on match equivalent sessions.

Total future demand in Three Rivers accounts for population and participation increases added together and as such, these are the figures applied in the tables below.

Adult pitch analysis

Table 2.18: Supply and demand balance of adult pitches

Analysis area	Actual spare capacity ¹¹	Demand (match equivalent sessions)					
		Overplay	Exported demand	Unmet/latent demand	Current total	Future demand	Total
Abbots Langley	1	1	0.5	0.5	1	-	1
Chorleywood	2	-	-	-	2	-	2
Croxley Green	-	0.5	-	1.5	2	-	2
Rickmansworth	1.5	3	-	-	1.5	-	1.5
Sarratt	1	-	-	-	1	-	1
Watford Rural	3	1	-	-	2	-	2
Three Rivers	8.5	5.5	0.5	2	0.5	-	0.5

The table above highlights that there is an overall adequate supply of adult pitches across the Three Rivers District both now and in the future. Despite this, there are clear shortfalls identified in both Croxley Green and Rickmansworth analysis areas.

¹¹ In match equivalent sessions

THREE RIVERS DISTRICT COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

Youth 11v11 pitch analysis

Table 2.19: Supply and demand balance of youth 11v11 pitches

Analysis area	Actual spare capacity ¹²	Demand (match equivalent sessions)					
		Overplay	Exported demand	Unmet/latent demand	Current total	Future demand	Total
Abbots Langley	-	4.5	1.5	0.5	6.5	1	7.5
Chorleywood	-	3.5	-	-	3.5	1	4.5
Croxley Green	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Rickmansworth	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
Sarratt	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Watford Rural	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Three Rivers	-	8	1.5	0.5	10	3	13

There is a current shortfall of ten match equivalent sessions per week across youth 11v11 pitch formats which is attributed directly to the Abbots Langley and Chorleywood analysis areas. When accounting for future demand, a shortfall appears within the Rickmansworth Analysis Area and pre-identified shortfalls are exacerbated.

It must also be noted that a large number of youth 11v11 teams are playing on adult pitches, meaning shortfalls would greatly exacerbate should these transfer to the correct pitch type.

Youth 9v9 pitch analysis

Table 2.20: Supply and demand balance of youth 9v9 pitches

Analysis area	Actual spare capacity ¹³	Demand (match equivalent sessions)					
		Overplay	Exported demand	Unmet/latent demand	Current total	Future demand	Total
Abbots Langley	1	-	-	-	1	-	1
Chorleywood	-	1	-	-	1	0.5	1.5
Croxley Green	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Rickmansworth	-	2	-	-	2	0.5	2.5
Sarratt	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Watford Rural	1	-	-	-	1	-	1
Three Rivers	2	3	-	-	1	1	2

The table above shows that there is an overall current shortfall of one match equivalent session per week in Three Rivers. Both the Chorleywood and Rickmansworth analysis areas are identified as having current shortfalls which are exacerbated in the future when accounting for future demand. No shortfalls are apparent in the remaining analysis areas, both now and in the future.

¹² In match equivalent sessions

¹³ In match equivalent sessions

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Mini 7v7 pitch analysis

Table 2.21: Supply and demand balance of mini 7v7 pitches

Analysis area	Actual spare capacity ¹⁴	Demand (match equivalent sessions)					
		Overplay	Exported demand	Unmet/latent demand	Current total	Future demand	Total
Abbots Langley	1	-	1	-	-	1	1
Chorleywood	-	-	0.5	-	0.5	1	1.5
Croxley Green	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Rickmansworth	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Sarratt	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Watford Rural	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Three Rivers	1	-	1.5	-	0.5	2	2.5

The table above shows that there is currently a minor shortfall of mini 7v7 pitches in Three Rivers which is in large, due to exported demand of mini teams outside of the District to play competitive matches. When accounting for future demand both the Abbots Langley and Chorleywood analysis areas being identified as having shortfalls in the future.

Mini 5v5 pitch analysis

Table 2.22: Supply and demand balance of mini 5v5 pitches

Analysis area	Actual spare capacity ¹⁵	Demand (match equivalent sessions)					
		Overplay	Exported demand	Unmet/latent demand	Current total	Future demand	Total
Abbots Langley	1	-	1	0.5	0.5	1	1.5
Chorleywood	-	-	1	1	2	1	3
Croxley Green	0.5	-	-	-	0.5	-	0.5
Rickmansworth	-	-	-	-	-	0.5	0.5
Sarratt	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Watford Rural	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Three Rivers	1.5	-	2	1.5	2	2.5	4.5

There is currently a shortfall of two match equivalent sessions per week attributed to the Abbots Langley and Chorleywood analysis areas. Future demand exacerbates current shortfalls with a new minor shortfall apparent in the Rickmansworth analysis area.

¹⁴ In match equivalent sessions

¹⁵ In match equivalent sessions

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2.6: Conclusions

Using the supply and demand analysis tables, it is determined that there are both current and future shortfalls of youth 11v11, youth 9v9, mini 7v7 and mini 5v5 pitch formats.

Table 2.23: Summary of supply and demand

Analysis area	Actual spare capacity ¹⁶	Demand (match equivalent sessions)					
		Overplay	Exported demand	Unmet/latent demand	Current total	Future demand	Total
Adult	8.5	5.5	0.5	2	0.5	-	0.5
Youth 11v11	-	8	1.5	0.5	10	3	13
Youth 9v9	2	3	-	-	1	2	3
Mini 7v7	1	-	1.5	-	0.5	2	2.5
Mini 5v5	1.5	-	2	1.5	2	2.5	4.5

In the main, shortfalls are apparent due to high levels of overplay across specific club sites across the Three Rivers District. The proceeding Strategy & Action Plan will explore specific scenarios to alleviate identified shortfalls.

Football – grass pitch summary

- ◀ **Current supply of football pitch provision is insufficient with shortfalls evident on youth and mini pitches.**
- ◀ **When considering future demand, these substantial shortfalls will worsen on youth and mini pitch types.**
- ◀ The audit identifies a total of 112 grass football pitches within Three Rivers across 38 sites, of which 99 pitches are available for community use across 33 sites.
- ◀ Croxley Danes School is expected to open in 2020 and will provide two adult football pitches and four youth 9v9 football pitches.
- ◀ Of pitches which are available for community use, 13 are good quality, 70 are standard quality and 12 are poor quality.
- ◀ Seven changing pavilions are identified as being poor quality.
- ◀ Chorleywood Common Youth FC is aiming to increase the length of its lease arrangement which has five years remaining.
- ◀ There are 191 teams from within 44 clubs identified as playing within Three Rivers. This consists of 41 adult men's, two adult women's, 75 youth boys', ten youth girls' and 63 mini mixed teams.
- ◀ Four clubs are identified as exporting demand outside of the District to access pitch provision.
- ◀ Five clubs identify that they would develop additional teams if more pitch provision was available.
- ◀ Both Evergreen Youth FC and Chorleywood Common Youth FC are identified as having waiting lists.
- ◀ 13 pitches across six sites are overplayed by a combined total of 16.5 match equivalent sessions. The majority of overplay is identified on adult, youth 11v11 and youth 9v9 pitches. There is no identified overplay on mini pitches across the three Rivers District.
- ◀ In total, 13 match equivalent sessions of actual spare capacity are identified across Three Rivers. Adult pitches are identified as having the most spare capacity with 8.5 match equivalent sessions per week and youth 11v11 having no actual spare capacity.
- ◀ There are current and future shortfalls identified across youth 11v11, youth 9v9, mini 7v7 and mini 5v5 pitch formats.

¹⁶ In match equivalent sessions

THREE RIVERS DISTRICT COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

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

3.1: Introduction

Competitive football can take place on 3G surfaces that have been FIFA or International Matchball Standard (IMS) tested and approved by the FA for inclusion on the FA pitch register. As such, a growing number of 3G pitches are now used for competitive match play, providing that the performance standard meets FIFA quality (previously FIFA One Star), as well as for training purposes. Football training can take place on sand and water based surfaces but is not the preferred option.

World Rugby produced the 'Performance Specification for artificial grass pitches for rugby', more commonly known as 'Regulation 22' that provides the necessary technical detail to produce pitch systems that are appropriate for rugby union. The artificial surface standards identified in Regulation 22 allows matches to be played on surfaces that meet the standard, meaning full contact activity, including tackling, rucking, mauling and lineouts, can take place. For rugby league, the equivalent is known as RFL Community Standard.

England Hockey's (EH) Artificial Grass Playing Surface Policy (June 2016) advises that 3G pitches should not be used for hockey matches or training and that they can only be used for lower level hockey (introductory level) as a last resort when no sand-based or water-based AGPs are available.

Table 3.1: 3G type and sport suitability

Surface	Category	Comments
Rubber crumb	Long Pile 3G (60mm with shock pad)	Rugby surface – must comply with World Rugby regulation 22 and/or RFL Community Standard, requires a minimum of 60mm pile.
Rubber crumb	Medium Pile 3G (55-60mm)	Preferred football surface. Suitable for non-contact rugby union/league practice or play.
Rubber crumb	Short Pile 3G (40mm)	Acceptable surface for some competitive football, able to be used for low level curricular hockey.

It should be noted that the FA generally refers to 3G pitches as 3G football turf pitches, though this term is not adopted in this PPS as 3G pitches can be and are used for other sports including rugby union, rugby league, lacrosse and American football, amongst others.

3.2: Current provision

A full size 3G pitch is considered by the FA to measure at least 100 x 64 metres (106 x 64 metres including run offs); however, for the purposes of this report, all pitches measuring over 100 x 60 metres (inclusive of run offs) are considered to be full size due to the amount of demand they can accommodate. Nationally, many 3G pitches are slightly undersized due to being converted from sand-based provision (dimensions for hockey are smaller than for football).

There are two full size 3G pitches in Three Rivers that fully comply with the above specification, consisting of one pitch in the Rickmansworth Analysis Area and one in the Abbots Langley Analysis Area.

All of the pitches are available to the community and are floodlit.

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Table 3.2: Full size 3G pitches in Three Rivers

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Community use?	Floodlit?	Size (metres)
27	Saint Joan of Arc Catholic School	Rickmansworth	Yes	Yes	100 x 64
42	Thomas Parmiter Sports Centre	Abbots Langley	Yes	Yes	100 x 60

In addition, there are seven smaller sized 3G pitches servicing Three Rivers across five different sites. Such pitches are generally not suitable for adult match play but can be used to accommodate youth and mini matches provided they are FA approved, of an adequate size and with adequate run-off areas. More commonly, they are used to accommodate commercial football leagues and social play.

Table 3.3: Additional supply of 3G pitches

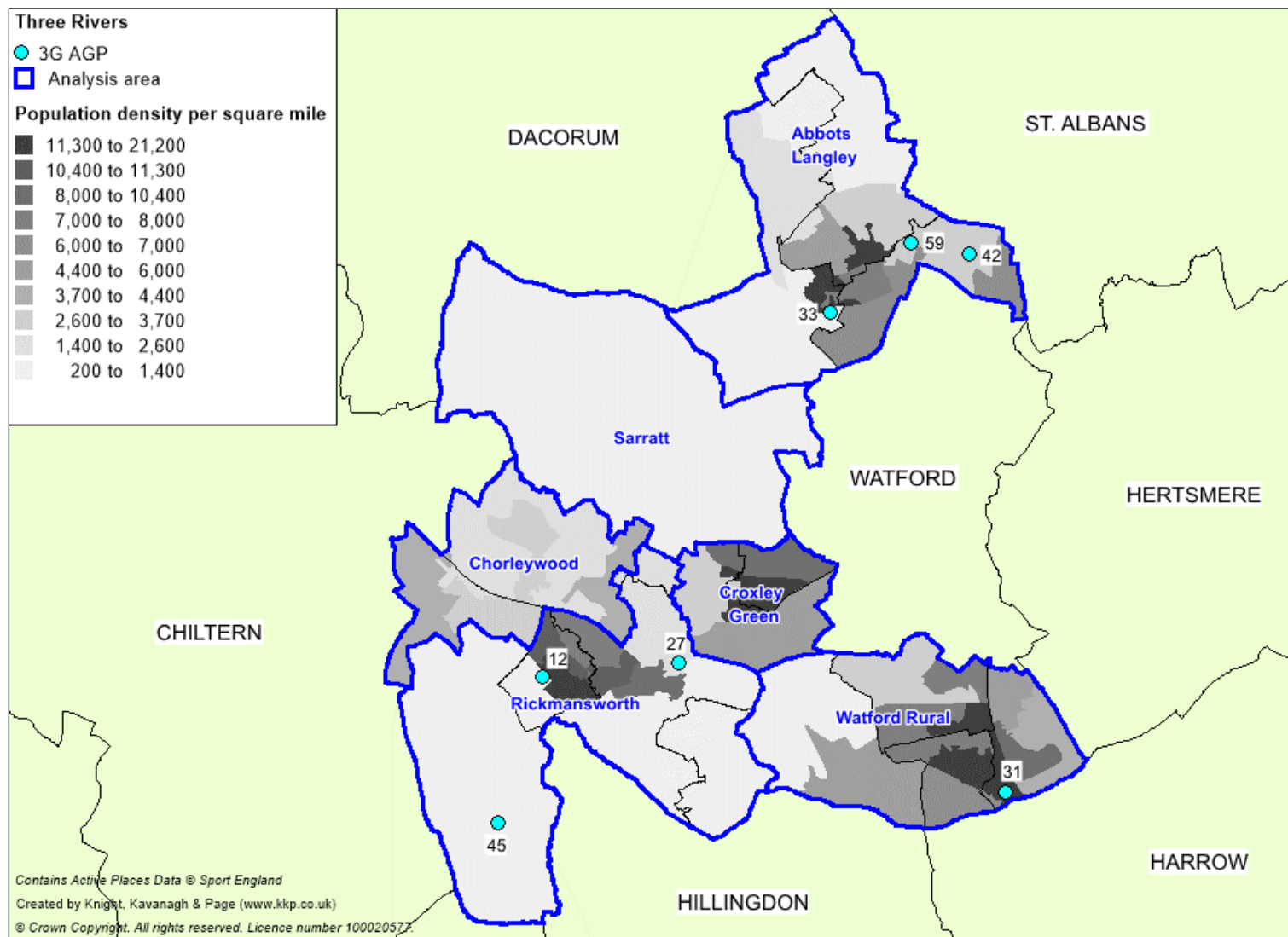
Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	No. of pitches	Community use?	Floodlit?	Size (metres)
12	King George V Playing Field (William Penn Leisure Centre)	Rickmansworth	2	Yes	Yes	35 x 18
31	Sir James Altham Swimming Pool	Watford Rural	1	Yes	Yes	50 x 40
33	Southway Playing Fields (Evergreen FC)	Abbots Langley	1	Yes	Yes	47 x 23
45	West Hyde & Maple Cross Youth Centre	Rickmansworth	1	Yes	Yes	35 x 21
59	YMCA Abbots Langley	Abbots Langley	2	Yes	Yes	35 x 15

All of the smaller sized 3G pitches are located in the Rickmansworth, Watford Rural and Abbots Langley analysis areas. There is no small sided 3G provision in the Chorleywood, Sarratt and Croxley Green analysis areas.

Figure 3.1 overleaf shows the location of all 3G pitches within Three Rivers, regardless of size.

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Figure 3.1: Location of 3G AGPs in Three Rivers



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Future provision

St Clement Danes School is advancing in the pre-application stage to deliver a full size floodlit 3G pitch on its home site. The School is involved with both Hertfordshire County FA and the Football Foundation to deliver this provision.

FA pitch register

In order for competitive matches to be played on 3G pitches, the pitch should be FIFA or IMS tested and approved and added to the FA pitch register, which can be found at: <http://3g.thefa.me.uk/>.

Pitches undergo testing to become a FIFA Quality pitch (previously FIFA One Star) or a FIFA Quality Pro pitch (previously FIFA Two Star), with pitches commonly constructed, installed and tested in situ to achieve either accreditation. This comes after FIFA announced changes to 3G performance in October 2015 following consultation with member associations and licenced laboratories. The changes are part of FIFA's continued ambition to drive up performance standard in the industry and the implications are that all 3G pitches built through the FA framework will be constructed to meet the new criteria.

The changes from FIFA One Star to FIFA Quality will have minimal impact on the current hours of use guidelines, which suggests that One Star pitches place more emphasis on the product's ability to sustain acceptable performance and can typically be used for 60-85 hours per week with a lifespan of 20,000 cycles. In contrast, pitches built to FIFA Quality Pro performance standards are unlikely to provide the hours of use that some FIFA Two Star products have guaranteed in the past (previously 30-40 hours per week with a lifespan of 5,000 cycles). Typically, a FIFA Quality Pro pitch will be able to accommodate only 20-30 hours per week with appropriate maintenance due to strict performance measurements.

All full size 3G pitches in Three Rivers are currently on the FA register and can therefore be used to host competitive matches. Re-testing is required every three years to ensure that this remains the case. In addition to this, the small sided 3G pitch located at Evergreen Youth FC is also on the FA pitch register.

World Rugby compliant pitches

To enable 3G pitches to host competitive rugby union matches, World Rugby has developed the Rugby Turf Performance Specification. This is to ensure that the surfaces replicate the playing qualities of good quality grass pitches, provide a playing environment that will not increase the risk of injury and are of an adequate durability.

The specification includes a rigorous test programme that assesses ball/surface interaction and player/surface interaction and has been modified to align the standard with that of FIFA. Any 3G pitch used for any form of competitive rugby must comply with this specification and must be tested every two years to retain compliance.

The RFU investment strategy into 3G pitches considers sites where grass rugby pitches are over capacity and where a pitch would support the growth of the game at the host site and for the local rugby partnership, including local clubs and education sites. There is currently one 3G pitch in Three Rivers which is World Rugby compliant, located at Saint Joan of Arc Catholic School and is well used by Chess Valley RFC for training and matches.

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Management

Both full size 3G pitches are managed in house through their respective education provider. Small sided provision is managed through a mixture of organisations ranging from Three Rivers District Council through to local community organisations. Both, YMCA Abbots Langley and West Hyde & Maple Cross Youth Centre are managed by local community organisations while provision at Sir James Altham Swimming Pool and King George V Playing Field is managed by the Council's leisure operator SLM (Everyone Active).

Evergreen Youth FC manages the remaining small sided 3G pitches in the District.

Availability

The availability of the pitches at Saint Joan of Arc Catholic School and Thomas Parmiter Sports Centre is relatively similar throughout the week, with both reserved for education use until 18:00 with community access available from 18:00 – 21:00 and 18:00 – 22:00 respectively. The pitch at Saint Joan of Arc Catholic School is available from 12:00 to 20:00 on Saturdays and 09:00 - 20:00 on Sundays. Likewise, the pitch at Thomas Parmiter Sports Centre is available from 09:00 to 18:00 on Saturdays and 09:00 - 20:00 on Sundays.

All small sided provision is generally available from 09:00 – 21:00 throughout the week and the weekends as each facility is generally managed on a commercial basis, this is with the exception of the pitch located at Evergreen Youth FC which is available dependent on Club demand.

Table 3.4: Summary of 3G pitch availability

Site ID	Site	Analysis area	Availability
27	Saint Joan of Arc Catholic School	Rickmansworth	Reserved for school use until 18:00 during the week. Available to the community from 18:00 until 21:00 Monday to Friday. Pitch is available from 12:00 to 20:00 on Saturdays and 09:00 - 20:00 on Sundays.
42	Thomas Parmiter Sports Centre	Abbots Langley	Reserved for school use until 18:00 during the week. Available to the community from 18:00 until 22:00 Monday to Friday. Pitch is available from 09:00 to 18:00 on Saturdays and 09:00 - 20:00 on Sundays.

Quality

Depending on use, it is considered that the carpet of an AGP usually lasts for approximately ten years and it is the age of the surface, combined with maintenance levels, which most commonly affects quality. It is therefore recommended that sinking funds be put into place by providers to enable long-term sustainability, ongoing repairs and future refurbishment beyond this period.

The pitch at Saint Joan of Arc Catholic School was provided in 2017 and is therefore of an overall good quality, with no issues identified through consultation or non-technical assessment. Likewise, the 3G pitch at Thomas Parmiter Sports Centre was built in 2003 and then resurfaced in 2017 and is consequently of a good quality.

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Table 3.5: Age and quality of full size 3G pitches

Site ID	Site	Analysis area	Year installed/resurfaced	Quality
27	Saint Joan of Arc Catholic School	Rickmansworth	2017	Good
42	Thomas Parmiter Sports Centre	Abbots Langley	2003/2017	Good

All small sided pitches are identified as either being good or standard quality with no issues identified through non-technical assessments.

Ancillary facilities

All full size 3G provision is accompanied by ancillary facilities that are considered adequate and no issues were raised during consultation or via site assessments.

3.3: Demand

Both full size 3G pitches currently servicing Three Rivers are well used, especially midweek during winter months due to training demand with both identified as operating close to capacity. Likewise, weekend usage is identified as being close to capacity especially at Saint Joan of Arc Catholic School which accommodates competitive rugby union matches on weekends from Chess Valley RFC.

Football

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

Training demand

Getting access to good quality, affordable training facilities is a problem for many clubs throughout the country. In the winter months, midweek training is only possible at floodlit facilities.

Of clubs responding to consultation, seven report that they require additional training facilities and specifically mention demand for 3G pitches. Some teams currently access sand-based pitches or indoor sports halls, whilst others do access 3G pitches but do so at undesirable times. The clubs that express a need for more 3G pitches or for greater access to the existing stock are as follows:

- ◀ Chess Utd FC
- ◀ Evergreen Youth FC
- ◀ Watford Town FC
- ◀ Bedmond Youth FC
- ◀ RBL Croxley FC
- ◀ Chorleywood Common Youth FC
- ◀ ACS Milan

The FA's long-term ambition is to provide every affiliated team in England the opportunity to train once per week on a floodlit 3G surface, together with priority access for every Charter Standard Community Club through a partnership agreement. In order to calculate the number of football teams a 3G pitch can service for training, peak time access is considered to be from 18:00 until 22:00 Tuesday-Thursday resulting in an overall peak period of 12 hours per week.

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Mondays and Fridays are not included within this calculation as it is considered that most teams do not want to train in such close proximity to a weekend match.

Full size 3G pitches are divided into thirds or quarters for training purposes meaning they can accommodate either three or four teams per hour and either 36 or 48 teams per week (during the peak training period). Based on an average of these numbers, it is estimated that 38 teams can be accommodated on one full size 3G pitch for training.

Given the above, with 191 teams currently affiliated to Three Rivers there is a need for five full size 3G pitches (rounded down from 5.2). As there are currently two full size 3G pitches provided, an additional three full size 3G pitches are required to meet current demand.

Alternatively, the table below considers the number of full size 3G pitches required if every team was to remain training within the analysis area in which they play. Note that demand identified in both the Sarratt and Watford Rural analysis areas is not considered to be substantial enough to warrant providing full size 3G pitch provision and demand would likely be better catered for through a small sided offering.

Table 3.6: Current demand for 3G pitches in Three Rivers (based on 38 teams per pitch)

Analysis area	Current number of teams	3G requirement ¹⁷	Current number of 3G pitches	Potential shortfall
Abbots Langley	77	2	1	1
Chorleywood	27	1	-	1
Croxley Green	25	1	-	1
Rickmansworth	35	1	1	-
Sarratt	13	-	-	-
Watford Rural	14	-	-	-
Total	191	5	2	3

When accounting for future demand through both club aspirations and TGRs (an overall forecasted growth of 19 teams) the overall shortfall remains the same and does not exacerbate the currently identified shortfalls.

Match play demand

Improving grass pitch quality is one way to increase the capacity at sites but given the cost of doing such work and the continued maintenance required (and associated costs), alternatives need to be considered that can offer a more sustainable model for the future of football. The substitute to grass pitches is the use of 3G pitches for competitive matches, providing that the pitch is FA approved, floodlit and available for community use during the peak period.

In Three Rivers, both full size 3G pitches have undergone testing and are therefore FA approved to host competitive matches. This is rare when compared to other local authorities and it should enable the stock of pitches to accommodate as much match play as possible. The caveat to this is that programming may need to be adjusted to allow more teams to utilise the facilities and pricing can often be a barrier as grass pitches remain generally cheaper to access.

¹⁷ Rounded to the nearest whole number

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In Three Rivers the only teams identified as playing competitive matches on 3G pitches play at Evergreen Youth FC. The small sided 3G pitch on site is recorded as accommodating high levels of demand from its mini football teams.

Rugby

As mentioned previously, there is currently one World Rugby compliant 3G pitch within Three Rivers; located at Saint Joan of Arc Catholic School. The pitch is used by Chess Valley RFC to accommodate both midweek training and demand for competitive matches. The RFU states that this provision currently meets the local need for 3G pitches for rugby union.

3.4: Supply and demand analysis

In conclusion, there is an insufficient supply of full size 3G pitches to meet current and anticipated future football training demand based on the FA training model in Three Rivers. As such, it is determined that an increase in provision is required, with future provision best placed in Abbots Langley, Chorleywood and Croxley Green analysis areas (to service most demand).

To ensure that current supply and any future supply is of a good enough standard to accommodate demand, providers are encouraged to put sinking funds in place to ensure long-term sustainability. This will allow for re-surfacing to take place when required and will ensure that FA certification remains in place.

For rugby union, the 3G pitch at Saint Joan of Arc Catholic School is sufficiently accommodating both training and match demand from Chess Valley RFC and is therefore considered to be adequate in meeting demand for rugby union in Three Rivers.

3G summary

- ◀ There are two full size 3G pitches in Three Rivers, both of which, are floodlit and available to the community.
- ◀ In addition, there are seven smaller sized 3G pitches located across five sites.
- ◀ All full size 3G pitches are currently FA approved and can therefore be used to host competitive matches.
- ◀ The pitch at Saint Joan of Arc Catholic School is World Rugby Compliant and can also host competitive matches and contact training.
- ◀ Both full size 3G pitches are good quality. No quality issues were identified with small sided provision throughout the District.
- ◀ All full size 3G provision is accompanied by ancillary facilities that are considered adequate.
- ◀ With 191 teams currently affiliated to Three Rivers there is a shortfall of three full size 3G pitches identified. When accounting for future demand through TGRs and club growth aspirations the shortfall does not increase.
- ◀ When studying demand by analysis area, shortfalls are apparent in Abbots Langley, Chorleywood and the Croxley Green.

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PART 4: CRICKET

4.1: Introduction

Hertfordshire Cricket serves as the governing and representative body for cricket across Three Rivers. Its aim is to promote the game at all levels through partnerships with professional and recreational cricketing clubs, and other appropriate agencies.

Hertfordshire Cricket is currently working with the ECB on delivering its new five-year plan, Cricket Unleashed. Its success will be measured by the number of people who support, play and follow the whole game and is based upon five key areas (more play, great teams, inspired fans, good governance and social responsibility and strong finance and operations).

Consultation

There are five clubs playing within Three Rivers. All clubs responded to consultation requests through completion of an online survey resulting in a 100% response rate.

4.2: Supply

There are 23 grass wicket squares in Three Rivers located across 11 sites. Of these nine squares are available, at some level, for community use across seven locations. All provision which is not available for community use is located at educational sites.

Table 4.1: Summary of grass wicket squares

Analysis area	No. of squares		Total
	Community available	Not available	
Abbots Langley	5	-	5
Chorleywood	1	-	1
Croxley Green	-	-	-
Rickmansworth	2	-	2
Sarratt	-	2	2
Watford Rural	1	12	13
Total	9	14	23

Most of the cricket provision within the District are located in the Watford Rural Analysis Area, however, the majority of this is located at Merchant Taylors Schools Sports Complex which is unavailable for community use.

In comparison the Abbots Langley, Chorleywood and Rickmansworth analysis areas only host community available provision.

There is no form of cricket provision, whether community available or not, within the Croxley Green Analysis Area.

In addition to the above, the two sites below have previously provided cricket pitch provision:

- ◆ Chiltern Sports and Social Club (Rickmansworth)
- ◆ Sarratt King George Fields (Sarratt)

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Chiltern Sports and Social Club is classified as disused as it was last used *circa* 2014 to host local recreational short format competitions for local businesses. Since this usage stopped the square has not received any dedicated levels of maintenance.

In regard to Sarratt King George Fields it is unknown when cricket provision was last formally accessed on the site, however, online research suggests a grass cricket square was last maintained and used in 2003. Therefore, cricket provision on the site is believed to be lapsed. It should be noted that the playing field land at Sarratt King George Fields is still be accessed for football provision and it is just the grass cricket square which is no longer formally utilised.

Non-turf pitches (NTPs)

The ECB highlights that NTPs which follow its TS6 guidance on performance standards are suitable for high level, senior play and are considered able to take 60 matches per season, although this may include training sessions via the use of mobile nets.

In Three Rivers, there are four NTPs that accompany grass wicket squares in addition to five standalone NTPs. The location of these can be seen in the table below.

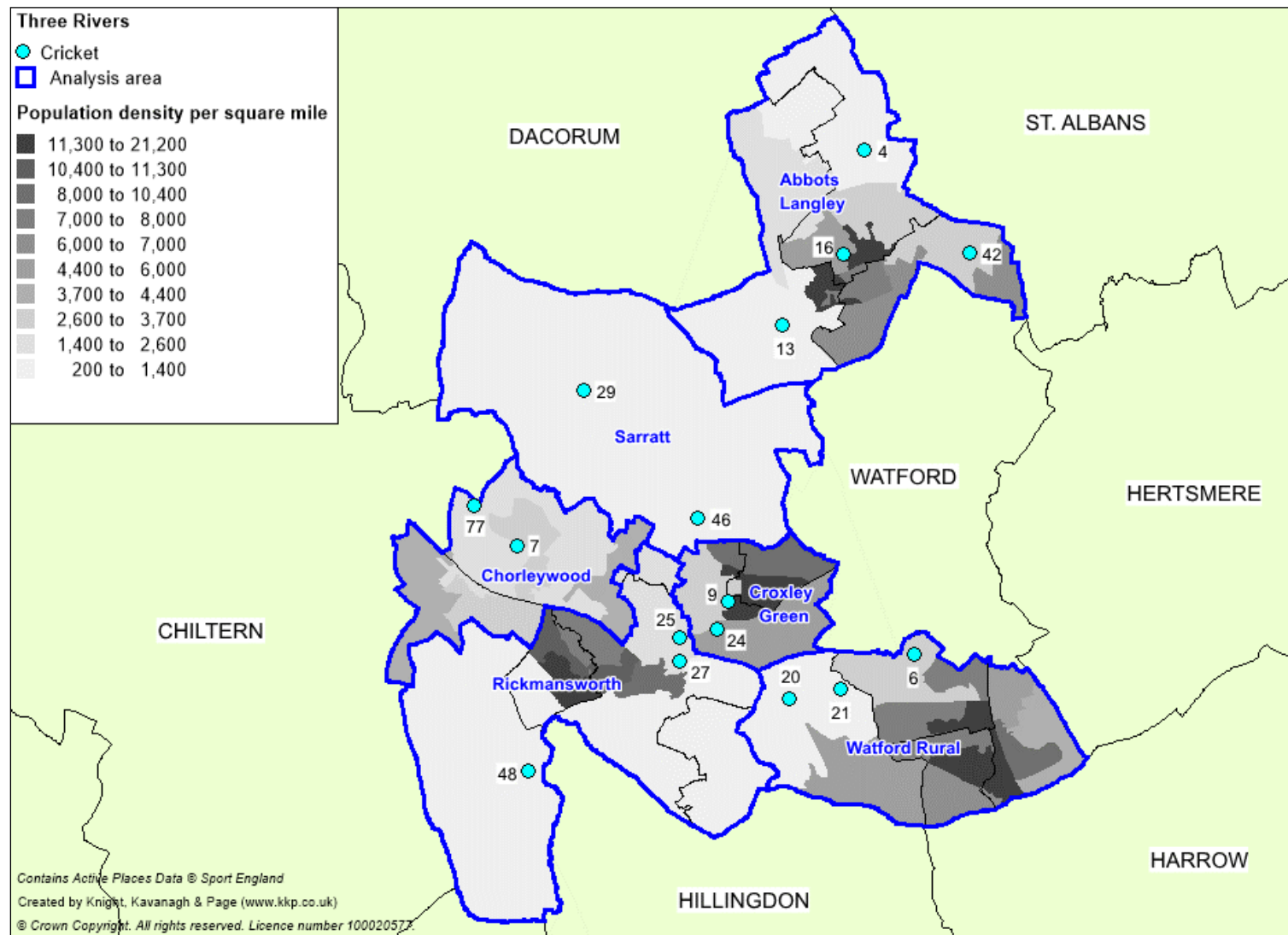
Table 4.2: Summary of NTPs in Three Rivers

Site ID	Site	Analysis area	Number of NTPs	Position
4	Bedmond Recreation Ground	Abbots Langley	1	Square
6	Bushey Cricket Club	Watford Rural	1	Square
9	Croxley Guild of Sport and Social Club	Croxley Green	1	Standalone
13	Langleybury Playing Fields	Abbots Langley	1	Square
20	Merchant Taylors Prep School	Watford Rural	1	Standalone
21	Merchant Taylors School Sports Complex	Watford Rural	1	Standalone
24	Rickmansworth School	Croxley Green	1	Standalone
25	Rickmansworth Sports Club	Rickmansworth	1	Square
27	Saint Joan of Arc Catholic School	Rickmansworth	1	Standalone

The map overleaf shows the location of all cricket squares (grass and non-turf) currently servicing Three Rivers.

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Figure 4.1: Location of cricket pitches in Three Rivers



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Table 4.3: Key to map of cricket pitches

Site ID	Site	Analysis area	Community use?	No. of squares	No. of wickets	
					grass	non-turf
4	Bedmond Recreation Ground	Abbots Langley	Yes	1	5	1
6	Bushey Cricket Club	Watford Rural	Yes	1	10	1
7	Chorleywood Cricket Club	Chorleywood	Yes	1	13	-
9	Croxley Guild of Sport and Social Club	Croxley Green	Yes	1	-	1
13	Langleybury Playing Fields	Abbots Langley	Yes	2	12	-
					8	1
16	Manor House Grounds	Abbots Langley	Yes	1	11	-
20	Merchant Taylors Prep School	Watford Rural	No	2	5	-
					-	1
21	Merchant Taylors School Sports Complex	Watford Rural	No	12	-	1
					6	-
					5	-
					10	-
					10	-
					6	-
					6	-
					6	-
					6	-
					6	-
					6	-
24	Rickmansworth School	Croxley Green	Yes	1	-	1
25	Rickmansworth Sports Club	Rickmansworth	Yes	2	16	-
					6	1
27	Saint Joan Of Arc Catholic School	Rickmansworth	Yes	1	-	1
42	Thomas Parmiter Sports Centre	Abbots Langley	Yes	1	10	-
46	York House School	Sarratt	No	2	5	-
					5	-

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Future provision

Consultation with clubs does not highlight aspirations to develop additional grass wicket cricket provision within the District. If this were to change clubs should acknowledge potential issues with ball strike.

ECB Ball Strike

Where there is either new cricket provision being put in place, or more commonly a development which may prejudice the use of the cricket facility, there is a requirement for a full ball strike risk assessment to be undertaken and appropriate mitigation put in place as part of the development. As such, the ECB recommends that the clubs and organisations seek to have a ball strike risk assessment undertaken; further information can be provided by the ECB.

Security of tenure

The majority of clubs in the District are considered to have secure tenure at their primary venue. Bushey, Langleybury and Abbots Langley cricket clubs report long term leases at Bushey Cricket Club, Langleybury Playing Fields and Manor House Grounds. Whereas, Chorleywood CC has a freehold for Chorleywood Cricket Club.

The only club which does not have secure tenure in Three Rivers is Rickmansworth CC. It reports renting the use of cricket provision at Rickmansworth Sports Club from the overarching sports association which owns the site. Although this is technically considered insecure, the Club indicates no issues with this arrangement and considers itself to be secure.

In addition to the above, Bushey, Langleybury, Abbots Langley and Chorleywood cricket clubs also rent the use of secondary venues to accommodate current levels of demand. Although this demand is considered as insecure tenure, no clubs through consultation report this to be an issue.

Pitch quality

As part of the PPS guidance, there are three levels to assessing the quality of cricket pitches: good, standard and poor. Maintaining high pitch quality is the most important aspect of cricket; if the wicket is poor, it can affect the quality of the game and can, in some instances, become dangerous.

The non-technical assessment of community available grass wicket squares in Three Rivers found three to be good quality, four to be standard quality and two to be poor quality.

Table 4.4: Quality ratings for community available grass wicket squares (site by site)

Site ID	Site	Analysis area	No. of squares	Square quality
4	Bedmond Recreation Ground	Abbots Langley	1	Poor
6	Bushey Cricket Club	Watford Rural	1	Poor
7	Chorleywood Cricket Club	Chorleywood	1	Standard
13	Langleybury Playing Fields	Abbots Langley	2	Good
16	Manor House Grounds	Abbots Langley	1	Good
25	Rickmansworth Sports Club	Rickmansworth	2	Standard
42	Thomas Parmiter Sports Centre	Abbots Langley	1	Standard

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The squares at Bushey Cricket Club and Bedmond Recreation Ground are considered to be poor quality due to a variety of issues. Bushey CC reports its provision is usually prone to flooding and has problems with the outfield draining slowly. However, it also indicates that due to the lack of rain during summer 2018, the surface has dried the square creating large cracks in the surface and uneven bounce. The Club reports that the cost of addressing these issues appears to be prohibitive.

In comparison, the square at Bedmond Recreation Ground is considered poor and the non-technical assessment found evidence of dog fouling, uneven surface and general poor grass coverage.

Following consultation, Langleybury CC and Rickmansworth CC report that their squares have improved in quality since last season. The former club reports this is due to the hiring of a new dedicated groundsman to spend more time on maintaining the square, whereas, the latter club indicates the improvement is due to employing an external maintenance contractor in addition to volunteer support.

Regarding artificial wickets, no clubs or educational sites report quality issues regarding NTPs located on their squares. However, non-technical assessments indicate that the surface at Rickmansworth Sports Club has elements of moss and is worn in high traffic areas.

To obtain a full technical assessment of wicket and pitches, the ECB recommends a Performance Quality Standard (PQS) assessment. The PQS looks at a cricket square to ascertain whether the pitch meets the Performance Quality Standards, which are benchmarked by the Institute of Groundsman.

Table 4.5: Performance Quality Standard Ratings

Quality Rating	Details
Premier (High)	Where the surface is intended for Premier League play, with those within the top quartile capable of holding minor county and 1st class one day matches. May include some of the better schools and university pitches
Club (Standard)	A Club pitch suitable for league, school and junior cricket
Basic	An acceptable level suitable for recreational cricket and where the surface is designed and maintained within tight financial limitations such as local authorities
Unsuitable	This is where the surface is deemed unfit or unsafe for play

Clubs can contact the ECB to arrange for a pitch advisor to complete three different reports (comprehensive/mini/verbal) that vary in cost. A fully comprehensive report includes soil testing and guidance on machinery and corrective procedures, a mini report includes guidance on machinery and corrective procedures and a verbal report is a spoken version of a mini report.

Ancillary facilities

The audit of ancillary facilities determines that all but one site currently accessed for affiliated cricket in Three Rivers is accompanied by either good or standard quality changing rooms. Chorleywood CC is the only club site to be serviced by poor quality changing provision as its facilities are dated and in need of modernisation. A planning application was approved in September 2018 for an extension to be provided on the current clubhouse at Chorleywood Cricket Club. Therefore, it is likely that these facilities will be upgraded in the near future.

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Table 4.6: Changing room quality (grass wicket squares, site by site)

Site ID	Site	Analysis area	No. of squares	Changing room quality
4	Bedmond Recreation Ground	Abbots Langley	1	Standard
6	Bushey Cricket Club	Watford Rural	1	Standard
7	Chorleywood Cricket Club	Chorleywood	1	Poor
13	Langleybury Playing Fields	Abbots Langley	2	Good
16	Manor House Grounds	Abbots Langley	1	Standard
25	Rickmansworth Sports Club	Rickmansworth	2	Standard
42	Thomas Parmiter Sports Centre	Abbots Langley	1	Good

Of the squares accompanied by standard quality changing facilities, no major issues were noted. However, Abbots Langley CC and Rickmansworth CC each report their sites have suffered from vandalism within the last year.

Abbots Langley CC indicates there has been damage to the sightscreens at Manor House Grounds, whereas, Rickmansworth Sports Club (Rickmansworth CC) suffers frequently from vandalism including the damage and theft of maintenance equipment and anti-social behaviour in and near its clubhouse.

No major problems were noted regarding the ancillary provision servicing standalone NTPs, although the accessibility of the changing rooms for some of the wickets at currently unused education sites is questionable should community demand exist in the future.

Training facilities

Access to cricket nets is important, particularly for pre-season/winter training. Only three community available sites in Three Rivers are not serviced by fixed bay practice nets, these being:

- ◀ Bedmond Recreation Ground
- ◀ Rickmansworth Sports Club
- ◀ Thomas Parmiter Sports Centre

Although most clubs are serviced by practice facilities, four indicate through aspirations for additional training facilities as shown below.

Table 4.7: Summary of demand for additional training facilities

Site ID	Site	Club	Comments
6	Bushey Cricket Club	Bushey CC	Improvement and extension of practice nets and the replacement of worn netting.
7	Chorleywood Cricket Club	Chorleywood CC	Mobile cage and improved nets.
16	Manor House Grounds	Abbots Langley CC	Refurbishment of current practice nets.
25	Rickmansworth Sports Club	Rickmansworth CC	The development of fixed bay non practice nets.

No clubs report a demand for additional indoor training facilities during the off-season in Three Rivers. It is likely that current provision in the Area therefore satisfies existing demand.

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Indoor cricket nets are provided at Merchant Taylors School, Rickmansworth School, St Clement Danes School and Thomas Parmiter Sports Centre.

For more information relating to indoor cricket, please see the Indoor Leisure Facilities Needs Assessment that is being produced in conjunction with this report.

4.3: Demand

There are six clubs competing in Three Rivers, generating 55 teams. As a breakdown, this equates to 20 senior men's, one senior women's and 34 junior boys' teams. The distribution of these teams across the clubs can be seen in the table below.

Table 4.8: Summary of teams

Club name	Analysis area	No. of competitive teams			
		Senior men's	Senior women's	Junior boys'	Junior girls'
Abbots Langley CC	Abbots Langley	4	1	8	-
Bushey CC	Watford Rural	2	-	9	-
Chorleywood CC	Chorleywood	2	-	6	-
Langleybury CC	Abbots Langley	5	-	5	-
Rickmansworth CC	Rickmansworth	5	-	6	-
Leverstock CC ¹⁸	Abbots Langley	2	-	-	-
Total		20	1	34	-

Most senior teams play in the Hertfordshire Cricket League and most junior teams play in the Hertfordshire Junior Cricket League, with junior teams also playing in friendly competitions when required.

A summary of teams by analysis area can be seen in the table below. The greatest number of teams play in the Abbots Langley Analysis Area (45%) with the least playing in Chorleywood Analysis Area (16%). The Croxley Green and Sarratt areas do not accommodate any form of formal cricket demand as there is no provision available for community use.

Table 4.9: Summary of teams by analysis area

Analysis area	Number of teams				Total
	Senior men's	Senior women's	Junior boys'	Junior girls'	
Abbots Langley	11	1	13	-	25
Chorleywood	2	-	6	-	8
Croxley Green	-	-	-	-	-
Rickmansworth	5	-	6	-	11
Sarratt	-	-	-	-	-
Watford Rural	2	-	9	-	11
Total	20	1	34	-	55

Participation levels for cricket clubs which are based within Three Rivers are strong with most clubs fielding at several senior and junior teams. In addition, two clubs, Bushey CC and Chorleywood CC, export a total of four senior teams outside the District.

¹⁸ Imported demand from neighbouring authority Dacorum Borough

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Exported demand

Displaced or exported demand refers to Three Rivers based teams that are currently accessing pitches outside of the local authority for their home fixtures, normally because their pitch requirements cannot be met, which is usually because of pitch supply, in some cases quality issues or stipulated league requirements for access to certain facilities. As previously mentioned both Bushey CC and Chorleywood CC export demand to neighbouring local authorities.

Bushey CC currently exports its third and fourth Saturday teams to play at the Metropolitan Police Sports Club which is in Hertsmere. Due to its proximity to Three Rivers (2.8 miles), this is not perceived to be an issue by the Club.

Chorleywood CC exports its third and fourth teams to play at Westwood Park which is in the Chiltern District. Again, due to its proximity to Three Rivers (4.2 miles) this is not perceived to be an issue by the Club.

Imported demand

Imported demand refers to any demand from neighbouring local authorities that accesses facilities within the Three Rivers study area due to a lack of available facilities in other local authorities where such team or club is based.

Leverstock Green CC currently imports its third and fourth Saturday teams into Three Rivers from neighbouring Dacorum, with the Club utilising the square at Thomas Parmiter Sports Centre for both team's fixtures. The Club aspires to return this demand into its home authority when it can access suitable provision.

Unmet demand

Unmet demand is existing demand that is not able to access sufficient pitches. It is usually expressed, for example, when a team is already training but is unable to access a match pitch, or when a league has a waiting list. There is no recorded unmet demand for cricket in Three Rivers.

Last Man Stands

Last Man Stands (LMS) was founded in 2005. The social outdoor eight-a-side T20 cricket game is played midweek, lasts approximately two hours and is generally played on non-turf wickets. All eight wickets are required to bowl a team out so when the seventh wicket falls, the 'Last Man Stands' on his own. This shorter format of the game has encouraged more people to participate in the sport and is increasing in popularity.

There is no LMS league currently in Three Rivers, with the closest league in operation located in Milton Keynes and Aylesbury.

Future demand

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

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The ECB unveiled a new strategic five-year plan in 2016 (available at <http://www.cricketunleashed.com>). Its success will be measured by the number of people who play, follow or support the game and the plan sets out five important headline elements: More play; great teams; inspired fans; good governance and social responsibility; strong finance and operations.

In addition, the ECB has also recently announced new five-year media rights deals, from 2020-2024. This include a continuation of the ECB relationship with Sky Sports, now extending beyond broadcasting as a genuine partnership to secure significant investment and commitment to increase participation and drive engagement. The new deals also include a return to free to air television for live cricket, with the BBC to show coverage of some international and domestic matches.

Together, significant investment in participation and increased free to air media coverage could see future demand increase to levels in excess of those anticipated through the PPS and the impact should therefore be reviewed over coming years.

Participation increases

The table below shows a summary of quantified club aspirations for future demand, as informed through consultation.

Table 4.10: Summary of future demand (club aspirations)

Club	Analysis area	Future demand			
		Senior men	Senior women	Junior	Total
Abbots Langley CC	Abbots Langley	-	-	1	1
Bushey CC	Watford Rural	-	-	1	1
Chorleywood CC	Chorleywood	-	-	-	-
Langleybury CC	Abbots Langley	-	-	-	-
Rickmansworth CC	Rickmansworth	-	-	-	-
Total		-	-	2	2

In total, clubs in Three Rivers have future growth ambitions for two junior teams. This is expressed by one team each from Abbots Langley CC and Bushey CC. All remaining clubs report no immediate growth aspirations.

Population forecasts

Team generation rates are used below as the basis for calculating the number of teams likely to be generated in the future (2036) based on population growth. When team generation rates are applied across Three Rivers there is considered enough demand to create five junior boys' teams.

When applied by analysis area, participation that is anticipated to increase is separated into two junior boys' teams in the Abbots Langley Analysis Area and one junior boys' team each in the Chorleywood, Rickmansworth and Watford Rural areas.

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Table 4.11: Team generation rates based on population growth (2036)

Age group	Current population within age group	Current no. of teams	Team Generation Rate ¹⁹	Future population within age group ²⁰	Predicted future number of teams	Additional teams that may be generated from the increased population
Senior Men's (18-55)	22,201	20	1:1,110	22,972	20	0
Senior Women's (18-55)	23,100	1	1:23,100	23,141	1	0
Junior Boys (7-18)	7,192	34	1:212	8,225	39	5
Junior Girls (7-18)	6,797	0	0	7,881	0.0	0

Please note that due to limited women's or girls' teams currently existing in Three Rivers, team generation rates automatically predict that none will be created in the future as it takes current participation as a baseline. In contrast, consultation with the ECB suggests that the development of female cricket in the Three Rivers is likely as it is currently a national priority with a target to establish two girls' and one women's team in every local authority over the next five years. Therefore, this has been added to the total future demand in the supply and demand analysis. Based on current demand an average of four match equivalent sessions per week has been identified for a junior team whereas an average of seven match equivalent sessions per week has been identified for women's team.

It is important to acknowledge that whilst team generation rates project team growth as a factor of population and existing teams, there are plans and strategies to increase the number of teams at some formats beyond what current trends suggest, due to a desire to change such trends. For example, female growth at women's and girls' age groups is relatively small, however there are planned increases in activity around female participation through both All Stars Cricket and a programme of softball cricket in 2018 which are likely to reflect in growth above levels shown through team generation rates.

All Stars Cricket

In partnership with the ECB and Chance to Shine cricket clubs in Three Rivers can register to become an ECB All Stars Cricket Centre. Once registered, a club can deliver the programme which aims to introduce cricket to children aged from five to eight. Subsequently, this may lead to increased interest and demand for junior cricket at clubs.

The programme seeks to achieve the following aims:

- ◀ Increase cricket activity for five to eight year olds in the school and club environment
- ◀ Develop consistency of message in both settings to aid transition
- ◀ Improve generic movement skills for children, using cricket as the vehicle
- ◀ Make it easier for new volunteers to support and deliver in the club environment
- ◀ Use fun small sided games to enthuse new children and volunteers to follow and play the game

In Three Rivers, Bushey, Langleybury and Abbots Langley cricket clubs all ran All Stars Cricket centres in 2018 and are subsequently likely to experience significant interest and growth in junior participation.

¹⁹ Please note TGR figures are rounded up to the nearest whole number.

²⁰ There is potential that the ONS projections may be under estimating future demand when compared to housing growth figures and as such, this should be subject to periodic review.

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Softball cricket

Softball cricket is an ECB initiative aimed at women and girls to increase participation in cricket as a sport. The aim of softball cricket sections are enjoyment and participation; without pads, a hardball, a heavy bat and limited rules. Sessions follow a festival format with each session running for a maximum of two and half hours, shorter than traditional formats. Playing equipment is supplied by festival organisers, with all participants provided with a t-shirt for taking part.

Each match consists of two teams of six to eight people, with everyone having an opportunity to bat and bowl. Each team bats once, with a pair of batters facing two or three overs. Batters are dismissed in traditional ways, but bowling can be either overarm or underarm, depending on the bowler's preference. Each batting team starts with a score of 200 runs, with runs added to this total by running between the wickets or by hitting the ball to a boundary. Two runs are added to the total for each wide ball; whilst five runs are removed when a batter is out.

No cricket clubs have women and girls' sections which participate in softball cricket events in Three Rivers, with the closest events taking place at Tring Park and Hemel Hempstead Town cricket clubs (Dacorum).

Peak time demand

An analysis of match play identifies peak time demand for senior cricket as Saturday, with the majority of teams playing at this time (17 teams). The remaining senior teams play on Sundays (4 teams).

For junior cricket, peak time demand is midweek, with all clubs youth sections playing between Monday and Friday. As a result, squares have greater capacity to carry junior demand as play can be spread across numerous days (providing the squares are not overlapped).

4.4: Capacity analysis

Capacity analysis for cricket is measured on a seasonal rather than a weekly basis. This is due to playability (as only one match is generally played per pitch per day at weekends or weekday evening) and because wickets are rotated throughout the season to reduce wear and tear and to allow for repair.

The capacity of a square to accommodate matches is driven by the number and quality of wickets. This section of the report presents the current pitch stock available for cricket and illustrates the number of competitive matches per season per square. For good quality squares, capacity is considered to be five matches per wicket per season, whilst for a standard quality square, capacity is four matches per wicket per season. For poor quality squares, no capacity is considered to exist as such provision is not safe for play.

The number of matches played by each team has been derived from consultation with the clubs. Where consultation was not possible, the assumption has been made that all senior teams play between ten and 12 home matches per year and all junior teams play between four and eight matches per year depending on their age and level of competition.

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The above is used to allocate capacity ratings as follows:

Potential capacity	Play is below the level the site could sustain
At capacity	Play matches the level the site can sustain
Overused	Play exceeds the level the site can sustain

Please note that non-turf wickets have been discounted from the table overleaf. No non-turf wicket squares are recorded as accommodating more than 60 matches per season, therefore, all non-turf wickets are considered to have spare capacity. This translates to actual spare capacity for junior cricket as peak time is midweek, whereby non-turf wickets are more commonly used and matches can be played on a variety of days.

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Table 4.12: Capacity of cricket squares

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Community use?	No. of squares	Pitch quality	No. of grass wickets	Capacity (sessions per season)	Actual play (sessions per season)	Capacity rating (sessions per season)
4	Bedmond Recreation Ground	Abbots Langley	Yes	1	Poor	5	0	10	-10
6	Bushey Cricket Club	Watford Rural	Yes	1	Poor	10	0	42	-42
7	Chorleywood Cricket Club	Chorleywood	Yes	1	Standard	13	52	40	12
13	Langleybury Playing Fields	Abbots Langley	Yes	2	Good	12	60	36	24
						8	40	21	19
16	Manor House Grounds	Abbots Langley	Yes	1	Good	11	55	56	-1
20	Merchant Taylors Prep School	Watford Rural	No	1	Standard	5	20	-	20
21	Merchant Taylors School Sports Complex	Watford Rural	No	11	Good	6	30	-	30
						5	25	-	25
						10	50	-	50
						10	50	-	50
						6	30	-	30
						6	30	-	30
						6	30	-	30
						6	30	-	30
						6	30	-	30
						6	30	-	30
						6	30	-	30
25	Rickmansworth Sports Club	Rickmansworth	Yes	2	Standard	16	64	38	26
						6	24	20	4
42	Thomas Parmiter Sports Centre	Abbots Langley	Yes	1	Standard	10	40	20	20
46	York House School	Sarratt	No	2	Standard	5	20	-	20
						5	20	-	20

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Spare capacity

The next step is to ascertain whether or not any identified 'potential capacity' can be deemed 'actual spare capacity' by which it is available at peak time. There may be situations where, although a site is highlighted as potentially able to accommodate some additional play, this should not be recorded as spare capacity against the site. For example, a site may be managed to regularly operate slightly below full capacity to ensure that it can cater for regular training sessions, or to protect the quality of the site.

Those sites which have squares that display potential capacity of less than 10 matches per season (Rickmansworth Sports Club) have been excluded from the capacity analysis on the basis that they do not exhibit enough spare capacity to accommodate another senior team, based on an average of 10 home matches per team each season.

Of the remaining squares, there are 19 which show potential spare capacity on senior grass cricket squares, totalling 526 match equivalent sessions per season. Of these, 425 match equivalent sessions across three sites (Merchant Taylors Prep School, Merchant Taylors School Sports Complex and York House School) are discounted as they are not available for community use. All three sites are protected to ensure quality for curricular and extracurricular demand. Therefore, there is a total potential spare capacity on senior square of 101 match equivalent sessions per season across five squares.

Table 4.13: Summary of actual spare capacity for senior cricket (Saturday)

Site ID	Site name	Amount of spare capacity (match equivalent sessions)	Squares available in the peak period (Saturday)	Comments
7	Chorleywood Cricket Club	12	-	The square is currently used to capacity at peak time.
13	Langleybury Playing Fields	24	-	The square is currently used to capacity at peak time.
13	Langleybury Playing Fields	19	-	The square is currently used to capacity at peak time.
25	Rickmansworth Sports Club	26	-	The square is currently used to capacity at peak time.
42	Thomas Parmiter Sports Centre	20	-	The square is currently used to capacity at peak time.

Of the five squares which show potential spare capacity at peak time none have actual capacity to accommodate additional teams at senior peak time as they are all fully utilised on a Saturday. This being said there is spare capacity to accommodate additional senior demand on Sundays as currently there are only four senior men's teams which play on a Sunday. The only square which does not have capacity to accommodate any additional weekend demand whether on a Saturday or Sunday is Manor House Ground as it hosts two teams on each day.

For junior cricket, all squares with actual spare capacity for senior cricket and with secure tenure are also considered to be able to accommodate an increase in junior demand. This is because junior matches can be spread across numerous days, Tuesdays and Wednesday currently the most common. It should be noted that the amount of spare capacity on a given square can only be utilised up to its available capacity by future junior or senior demand or a mixture of both.

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Overplay

There are three sites in Three Rivers considered to be overplayed by a total of 53 match equivalent sessions per season. Although it is possible to sustain certain, minimal levels of overplay providing that a regular, sufficient maintenance regime is in place, a resolution is recommended to ensure that there is no detrimental effect on quality over time.

Table 4.14: Summary of overplay

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Number of squares	Overplay (matches per season)
4	Bedmond Recreation Ground	Abbots Langley	1	-10
6	Bushey Cricket Club	Watford Rural	1	-42
16	Manor House Grounds	Abbots Langley	1	-1
Total			3	-53

Most overplay is located at Bushey Cricket Club in Watford Rural Analysis Area (42 match sessions per season). However, both Bedmond Recreation Ground and Bushey Cricket Club are overplayed predominately due to poor quality and if quality was improved to good, both squares would not be overplayed.

4.5: Supply and demand analysis

Consideration must be given to the extent to which current provision can accommodate current and future demand for both senior and junior cricket. The tables below look at actual spare capacity on grass wicket squares considered against overplay and future demand highlighted during consultation. Match equivalent sessions for future demand are calculated using the average number of matches played per season (10 matches for senior men's teams, seven matches for senior women's teams and four matches for junior teams) accompanied with any anticipated growth from team generation rates.

Table 4.15: Supply and demand analysis of cricket squares for senior cricket

Analysis area	Actual spare capacity (sessions per season)	Demand (match sessions)			
		Overplay	Current total	Future demand	Total
Abbots Langley	-	10	-10	-	-10
Chorleywood	-	-	-	-	-
Croxley Green	-	-	-	-	-
Rickmansworth	-	-	-	-	-
Sarratt	-	-	-	-	-
Watford Rural	-	42	-42	-	-42
Total	-	52	-52	7²¹	-59

As seen in the above table, there is an overall shortfall for senior cricket on grass wicket squares in Three Rivers amounting to 52 match equivalent sessions, meaning supply is considered insufficient to meet current demand. When accounting for future demand aspirations for the ECB, the overall identified shortfall increases to 59 match equivalent sessions.

²¹ NGB future demand of one women's team (seven match equivalent sessions) has been added to the total identified future demand.

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It should be noted that overplay of one match equivalent session located at Manor House Ground (Abbots Langley) has not been carried through to the overall supply and demand analysis as this minimal level is sustainable as long as the square is maintained to a good quality.

The picture is somewhat improved when analysing overall spare capacity for junior cricket, with 105 match equivalent sessions of capacity existing currently; however, the Watford Rural Analysis Area is overplayed. Overplay is also identified in the Abbots Langley Analysis Area although spare capacity across the remaining sites in the area negates this. After factoring in future demand overall spare capacity remains although the overplay in Watford Rural Analysis Area worsens to 50 match equivalent sessions per season.

Table 4.16: Supply and demand analysis of cricket squares for junior cricket

Analysis area	Actual spare capacity (sessions per season)	Demand (match sessions)			
		Overplay	Current total	Future demand	Total
Abbots Langley	63	-10	53	16	37
Chorleywood	12	-	12	4	8
Croxley Green	-	-	-	-	-
Rickmansworth	30	-	30	4	26
Sarratt	-	-	-	-	-
Watford Rural	-	-42	-42	8	-50
Total	105	-53	53	40²²	13

In summary, there is an insufficient supply of cricket provision to cater for current senior demand across Three Rivers, whereas there is overall spare capacity for junior demand. When accounting for future demand this remains the same.

Given the shortfalls identified, there is a clear need to alleviate identified overplay as well as a need to improve the situation at other sites, where necessary, whether that be quality issues or security of tenure issues. Scenarios relating to these will be explored in the strategy document that proceeds this report.

²² NGB future demand of two girl's team (four match equivalent sessions each) has been added to the total identified future demand.

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Cricket summary

- ◀ **In summary, there is insufficient supply of cricket provision to cater for current senior demand across Three Rivers whereas there is an overall spare capacity for junior demand. When factoring in future demand, this remains the same.**
- ◀ There are 23 grass wicket squares in Three Rivers located across 11 sites. Of these nine squares are available, at some level, for community use across seven locations. All provision which is not available for community use is located at educational sites.
- ◀ In Three Rivers, there are four NTPs that accompany grass wicket squares in addition to five standalone NTPs.
- ◀ There is lapsed/disused provision Chiltern Sports and Social Club (Rickmansworth) and Sarratt King George Fields (Sarratt).
- ◀ The majority of clubs in the District are considered to have secure tenure at their primary home venue.
- ◀ The non-technical assessment of community available grass wicket squares in Three Rivers found three to be good quality, four to be standard quality and two to be poor quality.
- ◀ The poor quality squares are located at Bedmond Recreation Ground and Bushey Cricket Club.
- ◀ The audit of ancillary facilities determines that all but one site currently accessed for affiliated cricket in Three Rivers is accompanied by either good or standard quality changing rooms. Chorleywood CC is the only club site to be serviced by poor quality changing provision as its facilities are dated and in need of modernisation.
- ◀ Although the majority of clubs are serviced by practice facilities, four clubs indicate through aspirations for additional training facilities through consultation.
- ◀ There are six clubs competing in Three Rivers generating 55 teams. As a breakdown, this equates to 20 senior men's, one senior women's and 34 junior boys' teams.
- ◀ Bushey CC and Chorleywood CC export two senior men's teams each to neighbouring local authorities.
- ◀ Leverstock Green CC currently imports its third and fourth Saturday teams into Three Rivers from neighbouring local authority Dacorum, with the Club utilising the square at Thomas Parmiter Sports Centre for both team's fixtures.
- ◀ In total in Three Rivers there is total future growth, through team generation rates and club ambitions, of seven junior teams.
- ◀ There is no actual spare capacity in Three Rivers to accommodate additional senior demand at peak time (Saturday) however there is capacity to accommodate additional senior demand on a Sunday.
- ◀ There are three sites in Three Rivers considered to be overplayed by a total of 53 match equivalent sessions per season.

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PART 5: RUGBY UNION

5.1: Introduction

The Rugby Football Union (RFU) is the national governing body for rugby union. It is split into six areas across the Country with a workforce team that covers development, coaching, governance and competitions, Three Rivers falls in to Area 2. A full-time development officer is responsible for Three Rivers (as part of the wider region) and works closely with all clubs to maximise their potential. This work involves developing club structures, working towards the RFU accreditation (Clubmark) and the development of school-club structures.

The rugby union playing season operates from September to May.

Consultation

There are two rugby union clubs currently playing within Three Rivers. Chess Valley RFC was met with face-to-face; whilst Old Merchant Taylors' RFC was provided with the opportunity to respond via either an online survey or telephone but was unresponsive to requests. This resulted in a 50% response rate being obtained.

In addition, the Rugby Development Officer (RDO) covering the three authorities was consulted with to provide an overview of rugby activity across the Area.

5.2: Supply

Within Three Rivers there are eight senior and eight junior rugby union pitches provided across six sites. Of these, only the senior pitches are available for community use; although two of these pitches are located at Merchant Taylors School Sports Complex and are only available to Old Merchant Taylors' RFC.

None of the junior pitches in Three Rivers are available for community use. All are located at Merchant Taylors School Sports Complex.

Table 5.1: Supply of rugby union pitches available for community use

Analysis area	No. of senior pitches
Abbots Langley	1
Chorleywood	1
Croxley Green	2
Rickmansworth	2
Sarratt	-
Watford Rural	2
Three Rivers	8

Traditionally, mini and junior rugby takes place on over marked senior pitches and this is the case across Three Rivers, with mini teams from Chess Valley RFC accommodated on the senior pitches at Croxley Guild of Sport and Social Club.

The audit only identifies dedicated, line marked pitches. For rugby union pitch dimension sizes please see the table below.

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Table 5.2: Pitch dimensions

Age	Pitch type	Maximum pitch dimensions (metres) ²³
U7	Mini	20 x 12
U8	Mini	45 x 22
U9	Mini	60 x 30
U10	Mini	60 x 35
U11	Mini	60 x 43
U12	Mini	60 x 43
U13	Junior	90 x 60 (60 x 43 for girls)
U14 +	Senior	100 x 70 ²⁴

Future supply

Croxley Danes School is a new co-educational state secondary school which opened in 2017. The School is currently developing a new site on Baldwins Lane which is expected to be ready for use in 2020. The new school site will contain a senior rugby union pitch (overmarked with football pitches) and will be available for community use. This provision will be located in the Croxley Green Analysis Area.

Seasonal Supply

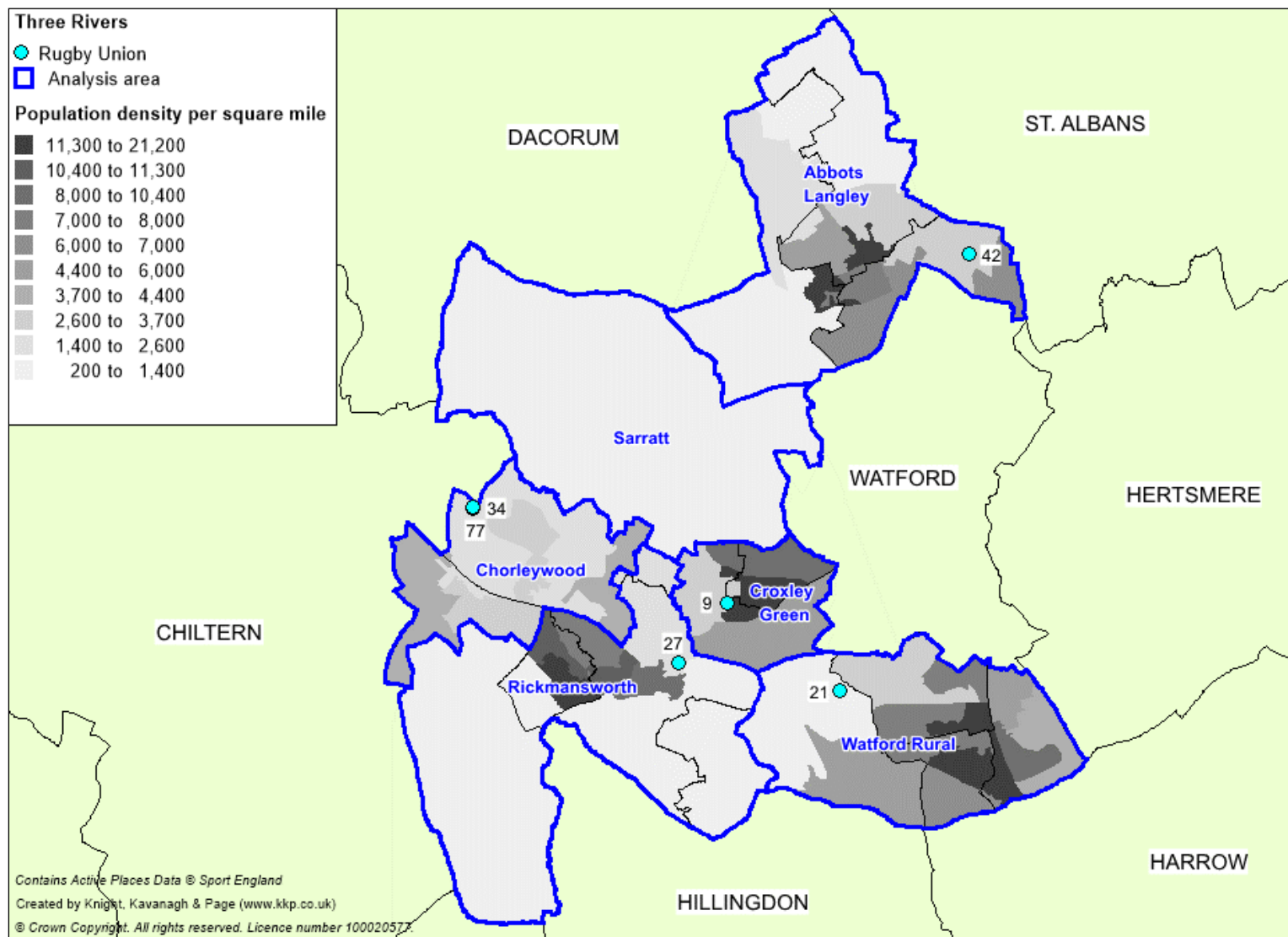
Rickmansworth School is identified as having as having a senior rugby union pitch throughout certain periods of the academic year to account for curricular demand. At the time of the KKP playing pitch audit, no rugby union provision at the school was identified and it has therefore not been accounted for within the forthcoming analysis.

²³ Recommended run off area for all pitch types requires five-metres each way and a minimum in-goal length of six metres.

²⁴ Minimum dimensions of 94 x 68 metres are accepted.

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Figure 5.1: Map of senior rugby union pitches within Three Rivers



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Security of tenure

Chess Valley RFC rents the two senior pitches at Croxley Guild of Sport and Social Club from the Social Club, on an annual basis. The Social Club, in turn, leases the site from the District Council; the agreement for which has 26 years remaining. Chess Valley RFC aspires to obtain a long term sublease agreement from the Social Club which would then enable the Club specifically to apply for grant and loan funding for site improvements.

The Club also has an annual rental agreement with Saint Joan of Arc Catholic School for use of the World Rugby (WR) compliant 3G pitch and the grass pitch. The site is used as a secondary venue when required on a Sunday morning, to accommodate some mini and junior demand. However, given the use of this is inconsistent; the Club is satisfied with the current agreement.

Chess Valley RFC's also uses Rickmansworth School which the Club rents on an ad-hoc basis, when required. There are no formal rugby union pitches on the site; with mini's accommodated on site when required; with pitches marked out with cones.

Old Merchant Taylor's RFC has a licence, for use of the two senior pitches at Merchant Taylors School Sports Complex. The agreement satisfies the Club's requirements; with a lease agreement considered unlikely, given the high level of school demand accommodated on site.

Pitch quality

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

Table 5.3: Definition of maintenance categories

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

Table 5.4: Definition of drainage categories

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

Table 5.5: Quality ratings based on maintenance and drainage scores

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

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The figures are based upon a pipe drained system at 5m centres that has been installed in the last eight years and a slit drained system at 1m centres that has been installed in the last five years.

Of the community available pitches in Three Rivers, two are assessed as good quality, three as standard and two as poor quality. The eight pitches that are unavailable for community use are good quality.

Table 5.6: Quality of rugby union pitches by local authority (community use only)

Analysis area	Pitch quality		
	Good	Standard	Poor
Abbots Langley	-	1	-
Chorleywood	-	-	1
Croxley Green	-	2	-
Rickmansworth	-	1	1
Sarratt	-	-	-
Watford Rural	2	-	-
Three Rivers	2	4	2

Both of the good quality pitches available for community use are located at Merchant Taylors School Sports Complex (Watford Rural Analysis Area); and are subject to both school and club demand.

The pitch at Reach Free School (Rickmansworth Analysis Area) is considered to standard quality as maintenance is relatively basic but the pitch is newly constructed, with pipe drainage installed underneath.

The two other education sites with rugby union provision, Saint Joan of Arc Catholic School (Rickmansworth Analysis Area) and St Clement Danes School (Chorleywood Analysis Area) provide poor quality pitches. Maintenance at both school sites is considered to be undertaken to a basic standard.

The other two standard quality pitches, available for community use, in Croxley Green Analysis Area are at Croxley Guild of Sport and Social Club, the home venue of Chess Valley RFC. The remaining, standard quality pitch available for community use is located at Thomas Parmer Sports Centre (Abbots Langley Analysis Area), which is primarily an education site, but operates as a sports centre outside of school hours and term-time.

There are no rugby union pitches in the Sarratt Analysis Area.

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Table 5.7: Site quality ratings

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Community use?	Number of pitches	Floodlit?	Pitch type	Non-technical assessment score	Quality rating	Comments
9	Croxley Guild of Sport And Social Club	Croxley Green	Yes	2	No	Senior	M1/D1	Standard	A standard quality senior pitch which has natural, adequate drainage and a basic maintenance regime.
21	Merchant Taylors School Sports Complex	Watford Rural	Yes	2	No	Senior	M2/D1	Good	Two good quality senior pitches which have natural drainage; and are subject to a thorough maintenance programme.
21	Merchant Taylors School Sports Complex	Watford Rural	No	8	No	Junior	M2/D1	Good	Eight good quality junior pitches which have natural drainage; and are subject to a thorough maintenance programme.
27	Saint Joan Of Arc Catholic School	Rickmansworth	Yes	1	No	Senior	M0/D1	Poor	A poor quality senior pitch which has natural, adequate drainage but a minimal maintenance regime.
34	St Clement Danes School	Chorleywood	Yes-unused	1	No	Senior	M0/D1	Poor	A poor quality senior pitch which has natural, adequate drainage but a minimal maintenance regime.
42	Thomas Parmiter Sports Centre	Abbots Langley	Yes-unused	1	No	Senior	M1/D1	Standard	A standard quality senior pitch which has natural, adequate drainage and a basic maintenance regime.
64	Reach Free School	Rickmansworth	Yes-unused	1	No	Senior	M0/D2	Standard	A standard quality senior pitch which has pipe drainage and receives basic maintenance.

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Ancillary facilities

Ancillary facilities at Merchant Taylors School Sports Complex are considered to be good quality; with changing rooms of good quality and size to service demand and ample car parking available on site. The social space available for post-match, social activities is also of good quality, able to accommodate teams from multiple sports simultaneously.

Chess Valley RFC reports that the quality of ancillary facilities at Croxley Guild of Sport and Social Club is poor. There are four team changing rooms, plus an officials' room servicing the rugby union pitches on site; each of which has its own shower facilities. Despite this, the quality of the changing facilities is poor, requiring significant refurbishment and modernisation; a lack of heating in the building and low water pressure means that there are issues with using the rooms in the winter months and the showers throughout the season.

Although there are no fixed floodlights on the site, the Club does utilise portable floodlights for training demand; whilst also acknowledging that there is little demand for fixed floodlighting given the Club's use of the WR compliant 3G pitch at Saint Joan of Arc Catholic School for some training demand.

Ancillary facilities at Saint Joan of Arc Catholic School, St Clement Danes School, Reach Free School and Thomas Parmiter Sports Centre are all considered to be standard quality; meeting the requirements for ad-hoc community use.

5.3: Demand

Demand for rugby pitches in Three Rivers tends to fall within the categories of organised competitive play and organised training.

Competitive play

There are two community rugby union clubs based in Three Rivers; Chess Valley RFC and Old Merchant Taylor's RFC. The clubs provide a total of 16 teams. There are three senior teams; seven junior teams, two of which are Colts teams (senior and junior); and six mini squads, which usually field multiple teams. There are no dedicated girls' women's teams representing either club, with female participation generally played within mixed teams at mini age groups.

Chess Valley RFC provides the majority of rugby union teams in Three Rivers (15 teams), with Old Merchant Taylor's RFC providing one senior men's team. The latter did previously have a second senior men's team but this has not played a fixture since 2016 and is thought to have folded.

Participation levels at Chess Valley RFC have generally increased over recent seasons, with the Club now having two U13 teams; along with a full complement of mini and junior boys' squads.

Competitive play for mini and junior teams mainly consists of friendly matches against other local clubs; with training weekends often built in to the season, allowing players to develop core skills and tactical awareness. Junior teams will also compete in County level cup competitions as an introduction to competition rugby. Colts teams, U17 (Junior) and U19 (Senior) often compete in organised league structures; providing frequent competitive fixtures; with the leagues acting as a bridge to senior rugby.

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Table 5.8: Summary of club demand

Club	Local authority	No. of rugby union teams			
		Senior (19+)	Colts (17-19)	Junior (13-16)	Mini (6-12)
Chess Valley RFC	Croxley Green	2	2	5	6
Old Merchant Taylor's RFC	Watford Rural	1	-	-	-
Total		3	2	5	6

Table 5.9: Summary of overall demand

Team play	No. of rugby union teams		
	Senior	Junior	Mini
Club leagues	3	2	-
Club friendlies/infrequent	-	5	6
University leagues	-	-	-
Total	3	7	6

Training demand

Throughout the Country, many rugby teams train at their home ground on match pitches. As a result, usage is concentrated which reduces the capacity for match play on these pitches and means they are more likely to be overplayed. A key factor in determining the extent of training on match pitches is the presence of floodlighting.

An alternative to training on floodlit grass pitches is via a World Rugby compliant 3G pitch, with one currently provided within Three Rivers, at Joan of Arc Catholic School. For an AGP to be suitable for contact rugby, it must have a 3G surface and must be approved by World Rugby (WR). A WR compliant pitch also enables the transfer of match demand from grass pitches onto 3G pitches, which alleviates overplay of grass pitches and as a result protects quality. The RFU investment strategy into AGPs considers sites where grass rugby pitches are over capacity and where an AGP would support the growth of the game at the host site and for the local rugby partnership, including local clubs and education sites.

As mentioned in Part 3, the RFU investment strategy into 3G pitches considers sites where grass rugby pitches are over capacity and where a pitch would support the growth of the game at the host site and for the local rugby partnership, including local clubs and education sites.

Chess Valley RFC uses the WR compliant 3G pitch at Joan of Arc Catholic School for most of its training need in addition to some ad hoc match activity (Tuesday 6pm–9pm/Thursday 8pm–9pm and Sunday 10am–12noon). This has helped to reduce the use of the grass pitches at Croxley Guild of Sport albeit the grass pitches are still in need of improvement. When the grass pitches are used for training, as neither is floodlit, it utilises portable floodlights, allowing demand to be evenly distributed across both pitches.

Chess Valley RFC mini teams (U10, U11 and U12) train for an hour on Tuesday evenings on the match pitches, the equivalent of one match equivalent session per week. Colts (U17 & U18) teams and senior squads train on the match pitches on Thursday evenings for the equivalent of two match equivalent sessions per week. Overall, midweek training demand equates to three match equivalent session of demand taking place on match pitches.

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Old Merchant Taylor's RFC does not currently train midweek on a consistent basis or at a consistent venue; with ad-hoc sessions taking place at various venues locally, including in sports halls, 3G pitches, AGPs and parks.

Infrequent play

The RFU has plans to encourage participants which have previously played rugby union to re-engage through participation as part of a more casual sporting offer. The league will provide opportunities for teams and players which are unable to play weekly or frequently for various reasons and will operate on an occasional basis. The league will also act as an entry point for newly created clubs and provide competitive opportunities. Matches will take place outside of peak time for senior rugby (Saturday PM), with Friday evenings or midweek being the most likely times for matches to take place.

Touch rugby

To actively encourage participation in rugby union clubs may provide alternative offers to traditional club competition. Touch rugby is one possible format which clubs can use; touch rugby is non-contact rugby sessions, during which participants compete in teams to score tries, following similar laws to traditional rugby union formats. Clubs, schools or community organisation can establish their own touch rugby sessions or can become hosts of O2 touch rugby sessions.

O2 touch rugby are 90 minutes long and combine music, fitness and rugby skills. Sessions are mixed in terms of gender, ability and age and is based on touch rugby being a social activity. There are no O2 touch rugby sessions currently in Three Rivers, with the closest located at Hemel Hempstead (Camelot) RUFC (Dacorum) on Mondays at 7pm.

Walking rugby

Walking rugby is a slower game of touch rugby that is accessible for disability groups and older participants, generally aged 55 years and above. The game is less physical than traditional rugby, but the general aim remains the same, with passing and scoring laws applying; and tackling involves a two-handed touch to the waist or below. Sessions for over 55's are an opportunity for participants to become physically active and for others to re-engage with rugby at a less strenuous pace. At present there are no formal walking rugby sessions taking place in Three Rivers.

Use of artificial pitches

Nationally, clubs identify the use of 3G pitches for training as a method of protecting the match pitches and providing a high quality surface for full contact practice. Competitive play continues to take place on grass pitches for the most part, with ad hoc use of 3G pitches for fixtures in the case of unsuitable pitches due to waterlogging or frost. Further detail on use of 3G pitches can be found in Part 3: Third Generation Artificial Pitches.

In December 2015, the RFU announced plans to increase the supply of available World Rugby (WR) certified pitches across the country as part of its Investment Strategy. This is to be made up of 60 pitches on rugby club sites, with a further 40 pitches on other community based sites with usage agreements securing capacity for use by local rugby clubs and groups. The RFU believes increased investment into 3G pitches will allow it to sustain and grow participation in the game given increasing pressure on grass pitches, changing player expectations, competition from other sports investing in artificial pitches and changing weather conditions.

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Exported/imported demand

Exported demand refers to existing demand which is transferred outside of the study area; whilst imported demand refers to any demand from neighbouring local authorities that accesses facilities within the Three Rivers study area due to a lack of available facilities in other local authorities where such team or club is based. At present, only Old Merchant Taylor's RFC exports some training demand out of the District; however, as mentioned this is ad-hoc with some demand accommodated at venues within the District.

There is no demand imported to the District to access natural turf rugby union provision in Three Rivers.

Unmet/latent demand

Unmet demand is existing demand at clubs which is not able to access sufficient supply of pitches for match play or training. It is usually expressed, for example, where a team is already training but is unable to access a match pitch or where a league or club operates a waiting list.

Latent demand is demand that evidence suggests may be generated from the current population should they have access to more or better provision. Neither of the rugby union clubs in Three Rivers note any unmet or latent demand.

Future demand

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

Participation increases

Chess Valley RFC reports aspirations to establish a third senior men's team which will allow Colts players to progress in to senior rugby. The Club also hopes to establish an U13 girls' team through partnerships with local schools and female members progressing through its mini section. It is considered that all new teams will be nominally based at Croxley Guild of Sport and Social Club for both matches and training demand.

Although the Club did not respond, Old Merchant Taylor's RFC is actively trying to establish mini and junior sections of the Club; whilst also continually advertising for senior men's members to hopefully re-establish the second senior men's team. Therefore, a mini team and an additional senior men's team is considered to be realistic additional future demand for the Club.

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Population increases

Team generation rates are used below as the basis for calculating the number of teams likely to be generated in the future based on population growth (2036).

Table 5.10: Team generation rates (2036) (Three Rivers wide)

Age group	Current population within age group	Current no. of teams	Team Generation Rate	Future population within age group ²⁵	Predicted future number of teams (2036)	Additional teams that may be generated from the increased population
Senior Men's (19-45)	14,775	3	1:4925	14,898	3.0	0
Senior Women's (19-45)	15,447	0	0	14,821	0.0	0
Junior Boys (13-18)	3,468	7	1:495	4,233	8.5	1
Junior Girls (13-18)	3,305	0	0	4,075	0.0	0
Mini rugby mixed (7-12)	7,216	6	1:1203	7,800	6.5	0

When TGRs are applied to Three Rivers as a whole, the forecasted growth in demand is considered sufficient to lead to the creation of one additional junior boys' team. When TGRs are applied to individual analysis areas it is shown that this junior boys' team will be established in the Croxley Green Analysis Area. Although TGRs do not forecast demand for other age groups or in other analysis areas, increasing enough to create new teams; it is considered that any increase in demand will merge with pre-existing playing squads.

It is important to note that TGRs are based exclusively on population figures and do not account for specific targeted development work within certain areas or focused towards certain groups, such as CRC coaching activity within schools linking to local clubs or NGB aims as part of the Whole Sport Plan.

The RFU is focused on actively exploring opportunities to assist with the transition between late junior years and senior rugby with a specific focus on growing the senior game with the addition of adult teams (both men's and women's). This area has a strategic focus from the RFU and is being facilitated by encouraging casual play and midweek senior matches, along with O2 touch and cross pitch 7s. The RFU recognises the traditional reduction in participation numbers at this time and it is hoped that by addressing the decrease and offering alternative match times then clubs may be able to retain a larger number of players.

This is not the sole focus of the RFU, which is developing junior participation within Three Rivers, based on a model of coaching sessions delivered in schools and local communities. Intentions are to form junior teams from these training groups which are linked to local schools and will use pitches at school sites, in some cases also linking to existing clubs to provide a performance pathway.

Please note that due to no girls' or women's teams currently existing in Three Rivers, team generation rates automatically predict that no further demand will be created in the future as it takes current participation as a baseline. An increase in population could potentially result in the creation of dedicated female teams, particularly with female rugby being a focus for the RFU.

²⁵ There is potential that the ONS projections may be under estimating future demand when compared to housing growth figures and as such, this should be subject to periodic review.

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Education

Rugby union is traditionally a popular sport within independent schools; however, the RFU is also active in developing rugby union in local state schools through the All Schools programme launched in September 2012. This aims to increase the number of secondary state schools playing rugby union, with such schools linking to a local team of RFU rugby development officers (RDOs) which deliver coaching sessions and offer support to establish rugby union as part of the curricular and extracurricular programme. Rugby union activity is known to take place at the following secondary school:

- ◀ Merchant Taylors School (Watford Rural)
- ◀ Parmiter's School (Abbots Langley)
- ◀ Rickmansworth School (Rickmansworth)
- ◀ St Clement Danes School (Chorleywood)
- ◀ St Joan of Arc Catholic School (Rickmansworth)

It should be noted that Merchant Taylors School is also considered to have a strong rugby union programme, being a partnership school with Saracens Rugby and having multiple teams at each school year.

It should be noted that although all the schools listed above are delivering both curriculum and post curriculum rugby activity, the schools listed as having community access (i.e. St Clement Danes School and Thomas Parmiter Sports Centre) are not in the correct location for use by Chess Valley RFC (notwithstanding St Joan of Arc Catholic School).

The peak period

In order to fully establish actual spare capacity, the peak period needs to be established for all types of rugby. For senior teams, it is considered to be Saturday PM as all senior men's teams play at this time, with senior women's teams generally playing on Sundays.

Peak time for mini and junior rugby is Sunday AM.

5.6: Capacity analysis

The capacity for pitches to regularly accommodate competitive play, training and other activity over a season is most often determined by quality. As a minimum, the quality and therefore the capacity of a pitch affects the playing experience and people's enjoyment of playing rugby. In extreme circumstances, it can result in the inability of a pitch to cater for all or certain types of play during peak and off-peak times.

To enable an accurate supply and demand assessment of rugby pitches, the following assumptions are applied to site by site analysis:

- ◀ All sites that are used for competitive rugby matches (regardless of whether this is secured community use) are included on the supply side.
- ◀ Use of school pitches by schools increases demand by one match equivalent session, unless school activity levels are known.
- ◀ All competitive play is on senior sized pitches (except for where mini pitches are provided).
- ◀ From U13 upwards, teams play 15 v15 and use a full pitch.
- ◀ Mini teams (U6-U12) play on half of a senior pitch i.e. two teams per senior pitch or a dedicated mini pitch.

THREE RIVERS DISTRICT COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

- ✦ For senior and youth teams the current level of play per week is set at 0.5 for each match played based on all teams operating on a traditional home and away basis (assumes half of matches will be played away).
- ✦ For mini teams playing on a senior pitch, play per week is set at 0.25 for each match played based on all teams operating on a traditional home and away basis and playing across half of one senior pitch.
- ✦ Senior men's rugby generally takes place on Saturday afternoons.
- ✦ Senior women's rugby generally takes place on Sunday afternoons.
- ✦ Junior rugby generally takes place on Sunday mornings.
- ✦ Mini rugby generally takes place on Sunday mornings.
- ✦ Training that takes place on club pitches is reflected by the addition of match equivalent sessions to current usage levels.

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

Table 5.11: Pitch capacity (matches per week) based on quality assessments

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

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

The peak period

In order to fully establish actual spare capacity, the peak period needs to be established. Peak time for senior rugby union matches is Saturday afternoons and is considered such within Three Rivers, although junior and mini teams play on senior pitches on Sunday mornings. Peak time for mini and junior pitches is considered to be Sunday mornings.

**THREE RIVERS DISTRICT COUNCIL
PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT**

Table 5.12: Capacity table for rugby pitches in Three Rivers

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Community use?	Security of tenure	Number of pitches	Pitch type	Non-tech score	Quality rating	Floodlit?	Match equivalent sessions (per week)	Pitch Capacity (sessions per week)	Capacity rating	Comments
9	Croxley Guild of Sport and Social Club	Croxley Green	Yes	Secure	1	Senior	M1/D1	Standard	No	4.5	2	2.5	A senior pitch that is overplayed by 2.5 MES. The pitch is subject to both match and training demand from Chess Valley RFC.
9	Croxley Guild of Sport and Social Club	Croxley Green	Yes	Secure	1	Senior	M1/D1	Standard	No	4	2	2	A senior pitch that is overplayed by two MES. The pitch is subject to both match and training demand from Chess Valley RFC.
21	Merchant Taylors School Sports Complex	Watford Rural	Yes	Secure	2	Senior	M2/D1	Good	No	4	5	1	Limited spare capacity on site, however, this is a peak time. The pitches are subject to use by Old Merchant Taylor's RFC and school use.
21	Merchant Taylors School Sports Complex	Watford Rural	No	Unsecure	8	Junior	M2/D1	Good	No	20	20	-	Subject to extensive curricular demand, the eight junior pitches are all at capacity.
27	Saint Joan of Arc Catholic School	Rickmansworth	Yes	Unsecure	1	Senior	M0/D1	Poor	No	1.5	1.5	-	Subject to both community and school demand; the senior pitch is currently at capacity.
34	St Clement Danes School	Chorleywood	Yes-unused	Unsecure	1	Senior	M0/D1	Poor	No	1	1.5	0.5	A senior pitch with 0.5 MES of potential capacity. The pitch is subject to curricular demand.
42	Thomas Parmiter Sports Centre	Abbots Langley	Yes-unused	Unsecure	1	Senior	M1/D1	Standard	No	1	2	1	A senior pitch with one MES of potential capacity. The pitch is subject to curricular demand.
64	Reach Free Academy	Rickmansworth	Yes-unused	Secure	1	Senior	M0/D2	Standard	No	1	1.75	0.75	A senior pitch with 0.75 MES of potential capacity. The pitch is subject to curricular demand.

THREE RIVERS DISTRICT COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

Actual spare capacity

The next step is to ascertain whether or not any identified 'potential capacity' can be deemed 'actual capacity'. There may be situations where, although a site is highlighted as potentially able to accommodate some additional play, this should not be recorded as spare capacity against the site. For example, a site may be managed to regularly operate slightly below full capacity to ensure that it can cater for a number of regular friendly matches and activities that take place but are difficult to quantify on a weekly basis.

Generally, pitches located at education and/or unsecure sites which are available for community use but are currently unused, are not considered to have actual spare capacity as security of use cannot be formally evidenced as guaranteed. Therefore, spare capacity at St Clement Danes School and Thomas Parmiter Sports Centre is discounted due to unsecure tenure and further to this St Clement Danes School is also poor quality and further play is not recommended until quality is improved.

Spare capacity at Merchant Taylors Sports Complex, of one match session per week, is actual spare capacity (i.e. available at peak time). However, it should be noted that it is highly likely that Old Merchant Taylors RFC is the only community club that could utilise this, as wider community use is not accepted by the School.

Overplay

Two pitches in Three Rivers are considered to be overplayed. Both of these are located at Croxley Guild of Sport and Social Club. The pitches are utilised by Chess Valley RFC for both match and training demand; and are overplayed by an accumulative 4.5 match equivalent sessions per week.

5.4: Supply and demand analysis

Having considered supply and demand, the table below identifies the overall spare capacity in each of the analysis areas for senior rugby union pitches based on match equivalent sessions per week.

Total future demand in Three Rivers is based on adding population and participation increases (reported club development plans).

Table 5.13: Summary of supply and demand balance on senior rugby union pitches

Local authority	Actual spare capacity ²⁶	Demand (match equivalent sessions)			
		Overplay	Current total	Future demand	Future total
Abbots Langley	-	-	-	-	-
Chorleywood	-	-	-	-	-
Croxley Green	-	4.5	4.5	1	5.5
Rickmansworth	-	-	0.75	-	0.75
Sarratt	-	-	-	-	-
Watford Rural	1	-	1	0.75	0.25
Three Rivers	-	4.5	2.75	1.75	4.5

²⁶ In match equivalent sessions

THREE RIVERS DISTRICT COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

There is a currently an overall shortfall of senior rugby union pitches in Three Rivers totalling 2.75 match equivalent sessions. This is solely attributed to overplay at Chess Valley RFC; located in the Croxley Green Analysis Area (the shortfall is slightly mitigated by identified spare capacity available at Merchant Taylors Sports Complex.

When future demand is considered the current shortfall is exacerbated to 4.5 match equivalent sessions; with it increasing by one match equivalent session in Croxley Green Analysis Area and 0.75 match equivalent sessions in the Watford Rural Analysis Area.

5.5: Conclusions

In summary, the current supply of rugby union provision is insufficient to accommodate current demand. Furthermore, future increases in demand exacerbate this shortfall meaning that current supply cannot sufficiently service anticipated future demand.

The requirement for additional match equivalent sessions per week and accumulated overplay on senior pitches across rugby union pitches can be attributed to Chess Valley RFC and its home site of Croxley Guild of Sport and Social Club. The Club operates a significant sporting programme and is limited in available pitch space.

Further to the above, the 3G pitch at Saint Joan Of Arc Catholic School meets the local need for 3G in the area currently.

Rugby union summary

- ◀ **An overall shortfall is evident to service senior demand in Three Rivers.**
- ◀ There is a total of 16 rugby union pitches across six sites in Three Rivers; as a breakdown this equates to eight senior and eight dedicated junior pitches.
- ◀ All dedicated junior pitches are located at Merchant Taylors Sports Complex. None of these are available for community use.
- ◀ All eight senior rugby union pitches in Three Rivers offer community use.
- ◀ Of the eight senior pitches in Three Rivers, two are identified as good quality, four standard quality and two poor quality. Poor quality pitches are located at Saint Joan of Arc Catholic School and St Clement Danes School.
- ◀ There are two clubs operating within Three Rivers; Chess Valley RFC and Old Merchant Taylors RFC.
- ◀ Chess Valley RFC has an annual agreement with Croxley Guild of Sport and Social Club for use of its pitches but is exploring opportunities to gain a long term sub lease to allow it to access grant and loan funding. Old Merchant Taylors RFC has a licensing agreement for access to its pitches at Merchant Taylors Sport Complex.
- ◀ Ancillary provision at Croxley Guild of Sport and Social Club is poor quality and in need of refurbishment.
- ◀ Spare capacity at Merchant Taylors Sports Complex, of one match session per week, is actual spare capacity (i.e. available at peak time). However, it should be noted that it is highly likely that Old Merchant Taylors RFC is the only community club that could utilise this, as wider community use is not accepted by the School.
- ◀ Total overplay across Three Rivers equates to 2.75 match equivalent sessions per week which is expected to grow to 4.5 match equivalent sessions in the future when accounting for future growth.
- ◀ There is a total shortfall of 4.5 match equivalent sessions per week identified at Croxley Guild of Sport and Social Club as a result of demand generated by Chess Valley RFC.
- ◀ The 3G pitch at Saint Joan Of Arc Catholic School meets the local need for 3G in the area currently.

THREE RIVERS DISTRICT COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

PART 6: HOCKEY

6.1: Introduction

Hockey in England is governed by England Hockey (EH) and is administered locally by the Hertfordshire Hockey Association.

Competitive league hockey matches and training can only be played on sand filled, sand dressed or water based artificial grass pitches (AGPs). Although competitive, adult and junior club training cannot take place on third generation turf pitches (3G), 40mm pitches may be suitable for introductory level hockey, such as school curriculum low level hockey. EH's Artificial Grass Playing Surface Policy details suitability of surface type for varying levels of hockey, as shown below.

Table 6.1: England Hockey guidelines on artificial surface types suitable for hockey

Category	Surface	Playing Level	Playing Level
England Hockey Category 1	Water surface approved within the FIH Global/National Parameters	Essential International Hockey - Training and matches	Desirable Domestic National Premier competition Higher levels of EH Player Pathway Performance Centres and upwards England
England Hockey Category 2	Sand dressed surfaces within the FIH National Parameter	Essential Domestic National Premier competition Higher levels of player pathway: Academy Centres and Upwards	Desirable All adult and junior League Hockey Intermediate or advanced School Hockey
England Hockey Category 3	Sand based surfaces within the FIH National Parameter	Essential All adult and junior club training and league Hockey EH competitions for clubs and schools Intermediate or advanced schools hockey	EH competitions for clubs and schools (excluding domestic national league)
England Hockey Category 4	All 3G surfaces	Essential None	Desirable Lower level hockey (Introductory level) when no category 1-3 surface is available.

For senior hockey teams, a full sized pitch for competitive matches must measure at least 91.4 x 55 metres excluding surrounding run off areas which must be a minimum of two metres at the sides & three metres at the ends. England Hockey preference is for four metre side and five metre end run offs, with a preferred overall area of 101.4 x 63 metres though a minimum overall area of 97.4 x 59 metres is accepted.

THREE RIVERS DISTRICT COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

It is considered that a hockey pitch can accommodate a maximum of four matches on one day (peak time) provided that the pitch has floodlighting. Training is generally midweek and requires access to a pitch and floodlights.

Club consultation

There are two hockey clubs based in Three Rivers; Rickmansworth HC and Old Merchant Taylors HC. Rickmansworth HC was responsive to an online survey and no response was received from Old Merchant Taylors HC.

In addition to the above, consultation was undertaken with England Hockey to gather a strategic insight into facilities in Three Rivers.

6.2: Supply

There are five full size AGPs across Three Rivers spread across four sites, all of which, have floodlighting and are available for community use. There is no full size hockey provision in either of Croxley Green or Sarratt analysis areas.

Table 6.2: Summary of full sized AGPs

Site ID	Site name	Community use?	Analysis area	Floodlit?	No. of AGPs
21	Merchant Taylors School Sport Complex	Yes	Watford Rural	Yes	2
28	Saint Michaels Catholic High School	Yes	Abbots Langley	Yes	1
34	St Clement Danes School	Yes	Chorleywood	Yes	1
76	Nuffield Health at RMS	Yes	Rickmansworth	Yes	1

In addition to full size provision, there are four small sided AGP in Three Rivers highlighted in the table below. Of these, three offer community use. Two of these AGPs are located in the Watford Rural Analysis Area and there is one in the Croxley Green and Rickmansworth analysis areas.

Table 6.3: Summary of small sided AGPs

Site ID	Site name	Community use?	Analysis area	Floodlit?	No. of AGPs
20	Merchant Taylors Prep School	No	Watford Rural	No	1
24	Rickmansworth School	Yes	Croxley Green	Yes	1
32	South Oxhey Playing Fields	Yes	Watford Rural	Yes	1
64	Reach Free School	No*	Rickmansworth	No	1

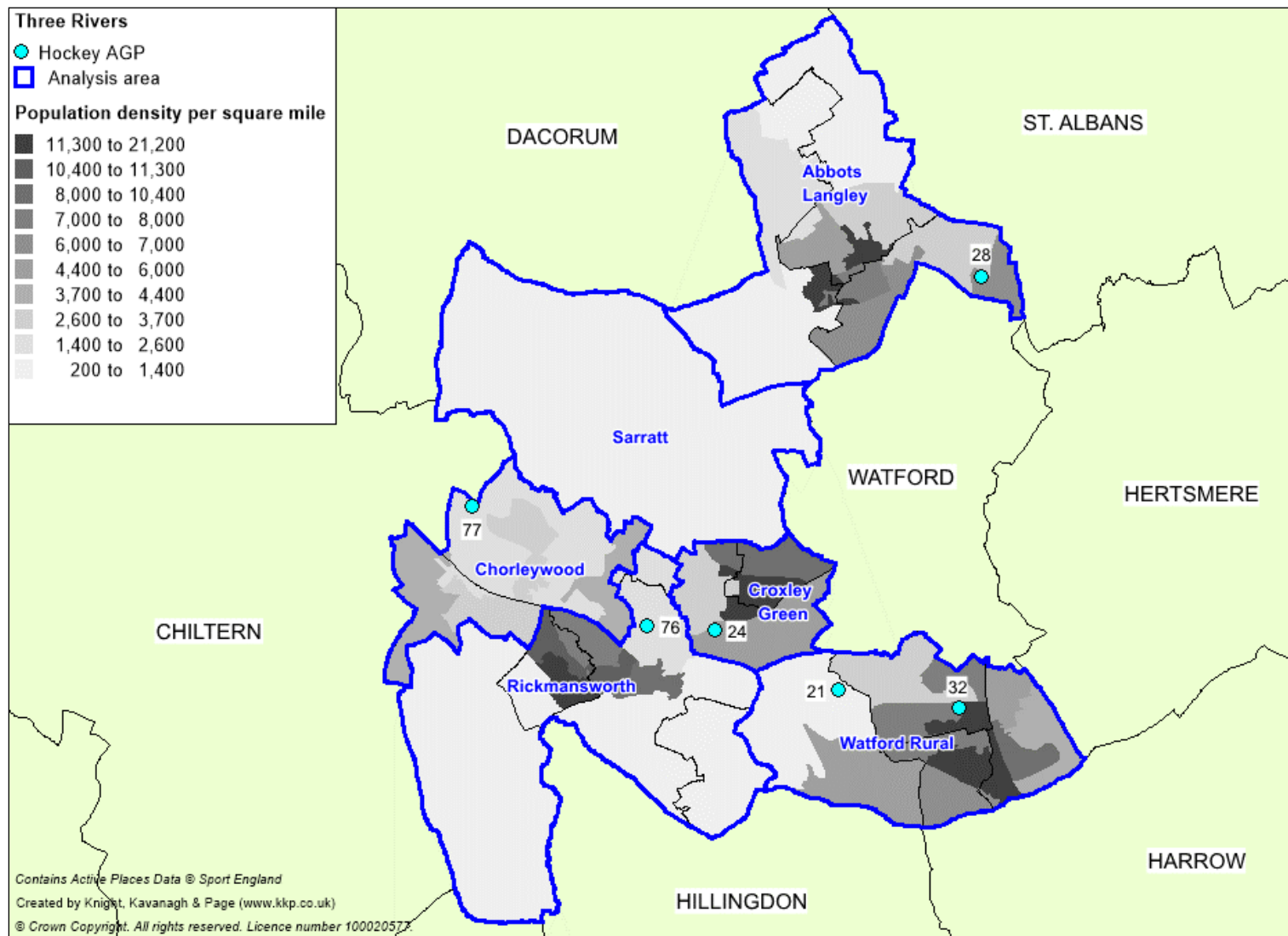
* Please note that although there is a community use agreement with the school for use of the facilities, as there are no floodlights on the AGP, it limits community use to summer and weekend community use only and is therefore judged to be no community use.

Future supply

Croxley Danes School (Croxley Green Analysis Area) is a new co-educational state secondary school which opened in 2017. The School is currently developing a new site on Baldwins Lane which is expected to be ready for 2020. The new school site will contain a full size hockey suitable AGP with floodlighting and will be available for community use.

THREE RIVERS DISTRICT COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

Figure 6.1: Map of full sized hockey suitable AGPs within Three Rivers



THREE RIVERS DISTRICT COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

Ownership/management

Of the five full sized hockey suitable AGPs in Three Rivers, four are managed in-house through internal school lettings procedures. The AGP at Nuffield Health at RMS is managed commercially by the Nuffield Health. All small sided pitches are managed inhouse by schools with the exception of South Oxhey Playing Fields which is managed by the Council.

Security of tenure

No community clubs are identified as having secure tenure on AGPs accessed for hockey. Each club rents pitches on an annual basis to accommodate for both training and fixtures.

This has not been identified as a key issue in Three Rivers. That being said, it is recognised nationally that hockey clubs without secure tenure may be forced to relocate to alternate venues if pitch providers no longer allow access to pitches utilised for hockey use.

Availability

Sport England's Facilities Planning Model (FPM) applies an overall peak period for AGPs of 34 hours per week (Monday to Thursday 17:00-21:00; Friday 17:00-19:00; Saturday and Sunday 09:00-17:00).

AGPs located at Merchant Taylors Sport Complex and St Michaels Catholic High School are all reserved for school use until 18:00 during weekdays and then available to the community until 22:00 whereas during weekends, they are available from 09:00 until 21:00 on Saturdays and from 09.00 until 21.00 on Sundays. This means each pitch is available for 29 hours of the peak period.

St Clement Dames pitch is available for public use from 19:00 – 21:00 Monday – Friday and 09:00 – 21:00 both Saturday and Sunday and has a total peak time availability of 26 hours.

Nuffield Health at RMS is fully available during the peak period (34 hours per week).

Quality

Depending on use, it is considered that the carpet of an AGP usually lasts for approximately ten years and it is the age of the surface, combined with maintenance levels, which most commonly affects quality. It is therefore recommended that sinking funds be put into place by providers to enable long-term sustainability, on-going repairs and future refurbishment beyond this period.

Of the five community available full size hockey AGPs in Three Rivers, one is good quality, two are standard and two are poor quality. The AGP located at Nuffield Health at RMS is identified as being good quality. Both AGPs at Merchant Taylors Sport Complex are standard quality and AGPs located at Saint Michaels Catholic High School and St Clement Danes are identified as being poor quality.

Table 6.4: Summary of quality for full size community available hockey AGPs

Site ID	Site name	Surface type	Analysis area	Club using the site	Quality rating	Built/resurfaced
21	Merchant Taylors School Sport Complex	Sand Dressed	Watford Rural	Old Merchant Taylors HC	Standard	2012

THREE RIVERS DISTRICT COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

Site ID	Site name	Surface type	Analysis area	Club using the site	Quality rating	Built/resurfaced
21	Merchant Taylors School Sport Complex	Water Based	Watford Rural	Old Merchant Taylors HC	Standard	2009
28	Saint Michaels Catholic High School	Sand Filled	Abbots Langley	-	Poor	2006
34	St Clement Danes	Sand Filled	Chorleywood	-	Poor	1996
76	Nuffield Health at RMS	Sand Filled	Rickmansworth	Rickmansworth HC	Good	2015

As can be seen in the table above, both pitches identified as being poor quality have exceeded a ten year life expectancy. The pitch at Saint Michaels Catholic High School was built in 2006 and as such suffered from high levels of general wear and tear, resulting in issues in surface quality. Likewise, the pitch at St Clement Danes was built in 1996 and although it was resurfaced in May 2009, it has not been fully resurfaced making it 22 years old.

Ancillary facilities

Access to ancillary facilities at school sites can often be restricted or limited for security reasons where changing rooms may be located in the main school building or where there is a lack of staffing to open and manage access. Schools also often have limited budget amongst other competing requirements for investment to make any qualitative improvements to changing provision, consequently they are often tired, dated and in need of modernisation.

Consultation with Rickmansworth HC highlights that the ancillary offering at Nuffield Health at RMS is of an overall good quality and did not raise any issues. Although Old Merchant Taylors HC was unresponsive to consultation, an audit of Merchant Taylors Sports Complex identifies ancillary provision at the site to be of an overall good quality.

6.3: Demand

Competitive play

In total, two community clubs play competitive fixtures in Three Rivers. This level of demand translates to a total of 435 affiliated hockey players in the area. It should be noted that these figures do not account for levels of informal or recreational hockey in Three Rivers.

Community club hockey is generally played on Saturdays throughout the day in competitive England Hockey leagues.

Table 6.5: Competitive hockey teams playing in Three Rivers

Clubs	No. of competitive teams playing on AGPs in Three Rivers			Affiliation figures 17/18	Membership trends over previous three years
	Senior men	Senior women	Juniors		
Rickmansworth HC	3	2	2	196	Folded men's 4 th team due to reduction on demand.

THREE RIVERS DISTRICT COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

Clubs	No. of competitive teams playing on AGPs in Three Rivers			Affiliation figures 17/18	Membership trends over previous three years
	Senior men	Senior women	Juniors		
Old Merchant Taylors HC	4	3	5	239	Membership has remained static.
Total number of teams	7	5	7	435	

EH Player Pathway

The Player Pathway (PP) is the junior talent development pathway. It encompasses the whole of the hockey landscape which includes club and school activity as well as the PP Development Centres (DCs). The purpose of the PP is to provide development opportunities for young people, which is fair, equitable and consistent. It is to ensure that a suitable level of coaching and competition is offered for people at the appropriate stage of their development and to maximise the chance they have of fulfilling their potential whether that potential is as a club or International player, coach or official. The PP can be accessed by playing at school, a local club or attending one of the local centres. There is one entry point into the PP centres which is at DC level. The first time a player accesses the player pathway they must enter at DC level.

Development Centres (DCs) and Academy Centres (ACs)

DCs and ACs are local training centres for the U13 to U17 age groups. DCs are open to any hockey player who has been nominated by their club, school or coach, with ACs open to any player who has been nominated by a DC coach. After attending a DC, an AC is the next step on the player pathway. Included in the DCs/ACs are Goalkeeper (GK) Academies, which provide specific coaching sessions for goalkeepers. There is a DC, AC located at Merchant Taylors Sport Complex.

Performance Centre (PC)

A PC is a training centre for the U15 and U17 age groups. Merchant Taylors Sport Complex is utilised as a Performance Centre for the Hertfordshire region.

Displaced demand

Displaced or exported demand refers to Three Rivers registered teams that are currently accessing pitches outside of the local authority for home fixtures, normally because their pitch requirements cannot be met. This is usually because of pitch supply, in some cases quality issues or stipulated league requirements for access to certain facilities. Neither Rickmansworth HC and Old Merchant Taylor HC are identified as exporting demand outside of Three Rivers.

Training demand

Access to AGPs for midweek training is important to sustain and grow all formats of hockey. Currently, all clubs are identified as accessing suitable provision to train midweek. There is no identified unmet or latent demand for access to pitches midweek. In total, between both community hockey clubs in Three Rivers, there is a total of 10.5 hours of midweek use identified.

THREE RIVERS DISTRICT COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

Table 6.6: Training demand

Club	Training venue	Total midweek training use
Old Merchant Taylors HC	Merchant Taylors School Sport Complex	7.5 hrs
Rickmansworth HC	Nuffield Health at RMS	3 hrs
Total		10.5 hours

Future demand

Growing participation is the number one aim within EH's strategic plan and key drivers include working with clubs, universities and schools, regional and local leagues, developing opportunities for over 40s and delivering a quality programme of competition. Growth in participation will not only come from the traditional 11 aside game but from the informal, recreational ways to play hockey such as small sided hockey, which can be played at any time during the week or at weekends.

Nationally, since 2012, hockey has seen a 65% increase in juniors taking up the sport within the club environment. This increase is expected to continue across all age groups in the future, especially given the success of Great Britain's women's team in the 2016 Rio and the anticipated legacy impact.

Though there remains a desire from EH to increase participation within the club/league based game, not all future demand may be realised entirely as new formalised teams playing at peak time. Some clubs may decide to offer pay and play opportunities to participants or offer small sided formats such in a bid to increase participation and club memberships by providing a different hockey offer.

Increased demand from new participants will lead to a requirement for increased capacity on available AGPs at peak time, but also midweek and on Sundays to deliver other formats of hockey activity. At present, it is not necessarily clear as to what format this may take or when it is likely to take place, however, it is clear that there will be a requirement for access to increased capacity on AGPs across the area. This should be considered when assessing demand for AGPs in the future, as not only will they be needed for peak match play times and midweek training to accommodate increased participation within the formalised hockey environment, but also throughout the week and at non-peak times to offer wider opportunities for play.

No growth aspirations have been identified from Rickmansworth HC and are unknown for Old Merchant Taylors HC.

Peak time demand

Most men's and women's hockey teams currently play matches on a Saturday therefore this is considered to be the peak time for use of AGPs for competitive play.

6.4: Supply and demand analysis

The PPS guidance considers a floodlit pitch as able to accommodate a maximum of four match equivalent sessions (MES) on a Saturday with teams playing in a home and away format, as such this equates to one AGP being able to cater for eight "home" teams. Team play matches on home v away formats and therefore one team requires 0.5 match sessions per week on its "home" AGP.

THREE RIVERS DISTRICT COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

Table 6.7: Supply and demand analysis of used AGPs for Saturday match play

Site ID	Site	Club users	Analysis area	Match equivalent sessions available at peak time	Current play (MES)	Overall capacity
21	Merchant Taylors School Sport Complex	Old Merchant Taylors HC	Watford Rural	4	2	2
21	Merchant Taylors School Sport Complex	Old Merchant Taylors HC	Watford Rural	4	1.5	2.5
28	Saint Michaels Catholic High School	-	Abbots Langley	-	-	-
34	St Clement Danes	-	Chorleywood	-	-	-
76	Nuffield Health at RMS	Rickmansworth HC	Rickmansworth	4	2.5	1.5

Spare capacity is identified on both AGPs at Merchant Taylors Sport Complex and at Nuffield Health at RMS. There is no formal hockey activity identified at either Saint Michaels Catholic High School or St Clement Danes and this is likely to be reflective of the poor quality surfaces. As such, despite both pitches being currently unused for competitive hockey at these sites, potential spare capacity has been discounted due to perceived issues with pitch quality.

Converting sand-based AGPs to 3G

Since the introduction of 3G pitches and given their popularity for football, providers have seen this as a way of replacing their tired sand-based carpet and generating money from hiring out a 3G pitch to football clubs and commercial football providers. This has come at the expense of hockey, with players now travelling further distances to gain access to a suitable pitch and many teams being displaced from their preferred geographical area.

Due to its impact on hockey, it is appropriate to ensure that sufficient sand-based AGPs are retained for the playing development of hockey. To that end, a change of surface will require a planning application and, as part of that, the applicants will have to show that there is sufficient provision available for hockey in the locality. Advice from Sport England and EH should therefore be sought prior to any planning application being submitted.

It should also be noted that, if a surface is changed, it could require the existing floodlighting and drainage to be changed and, in some instances, noise attenuation measures may need to be put in place.

THREE RIVERS DISTRICT COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

Conclusions

The current supply of hockey suitable AGPs is considered sufficient to accommodate the current levels of hockey demand both at peak time for match demand and training requirements, inclusive of targeted participation increases. Although no future demand for competitive hockey teams has been identified, any increase of demand at either Rickmansworth HC or Old Merchant Taylors HC can be accommodated at each clubs' home site.

The priority for hockey in Three Rivers is to sustain and improve the quality of both Merchant Taylors Sports Complex and Nuffield at RMS to ensure hockey can be continued to be played both now and in the future.

Hockey summary

- ◀ **There is sufficient availability of pitches within Three Rivers to accommodate current and future demand for both training and fixtures on the basis that improvements to pitch quality are undertaken.**
- ◀ There are five full sized sand based AGPs in Three Rivers and in addition there four small sided AGPs.
- ◀ All full size provision is available for community use. All small sided provision is available for community use with the exception of the AGP at Merchant Taylors Prep School.
- ◀ Of the five full size AGPs, one is good quality, two are standard and two are poor. Poor quality pitches are located at St Clement Danes and Saint Michaels Catholic High School.
- ◀ In total, two community clubs play competitive fixtures in Three Rivers generating a total of 21 competitive teams.
- ◀ Affiliated demand for hockey totals 435 players. This does not account for people playing in informal formats of hockey.
- ◀ Tenure for each community club is unsecure with no community user agreements identified.
- ◀ There is sufficient availability of pitches within Three Rivers to accommodate current and future demand for both training and fixtures on the basis that pitch quality is sustained and improved when needed.

THREE RIVERS DISTRICT COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

PART 7: GOLF

7.1: Introduction

Golf is the fifth largest participation sport in England, with around 650,000 members belonging to one of 1900 affiliated clubs and a further two million people playing independently outside of club membership. Nationally, it is governed by England Golf. The role of the NGB includes providing competitions for all ages and abilities, identifying and developing the most talented golfers, maintaining a uniform system of handicapping, administering and applying the rules and introducing new golfers via its initiative 'get into golf'.

As of March 2017, England Golf solely oversees the Whole Sport Plan and receive golf's National Lottery grant under Sport England's strategy. England Golf's Whole Sport Plan identifies how England will achieve its vision of becoming 'the leading golf nation in the world by 2020' from grass roots through to elite level.

Since 2004, participation in golf and club membership has been in decline, with only recent signs showing that the reduction may be levelling off.

7.2: Supply

There are nine golf courses situated within Three Rivers, however, two courses are now closed, Oxhey Park Golf Club and Penfold Park Golf Club.

Oxhey Park golf course offered a nine-hole golf course and was voted the 7th and 10th 'Best nine-hole public golf course in the UK' by the Lady Golfer and National Club Golfer magazines respectively. However, the course was closed earlier in 2018. Further to this, Penfold Park golf course, which was last used for footgolf, closed in 2016.

Table 7.1: Existing provision and key to map

KKP ID	Site	Analysis area
78	Batchworth Park	Rickmansworth
79	Chorleywood	Chorleywood
52	Moor Park	Watford Rural
80	Nine of Herts	Rickmansworth
81	Oxhey Park (closed)	Watford Rural
85	Penfold Park (closed)	Abbots Langley
82	Rickmansworth	Rickmansworth
83	Sandy Lodge	Watford Rural
84	The Grove	Sarratt

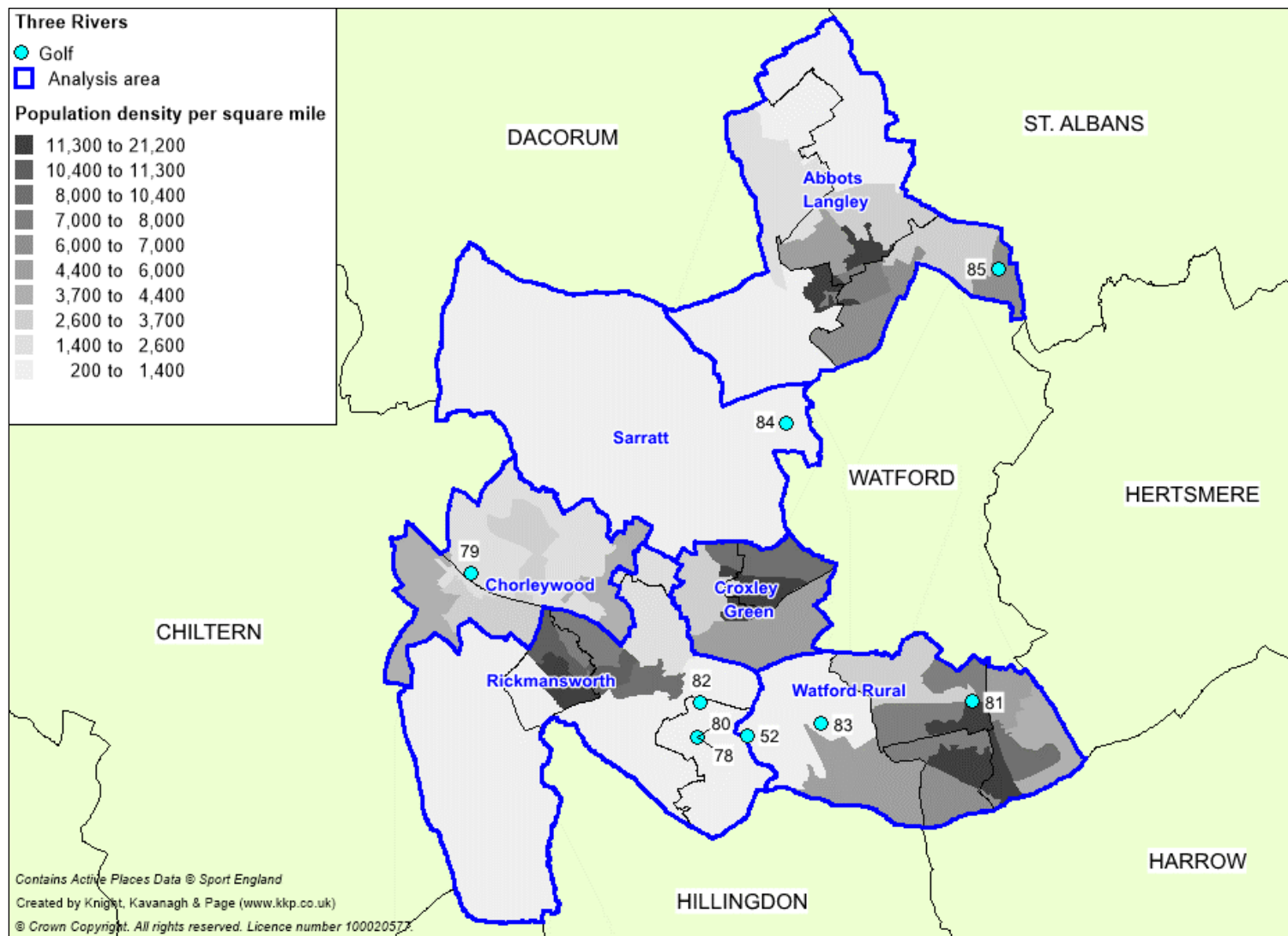
For the location of the courses currently servicing the District, please see Figure 7.1 overleaf.

The operational Nine of Herts golf course and the closed Oxhey Park and Penfold Park golf courses have been promoted as potential development sites through the Three Rivers Local Plan.

Based on Figure 7.2, which applies a 20 minute drive time catchment to all existing golf courses in Three Rivers, it shows that even without the inclusion of the two closed sites, supply more than adequately covers the existing population of Three Rivers.

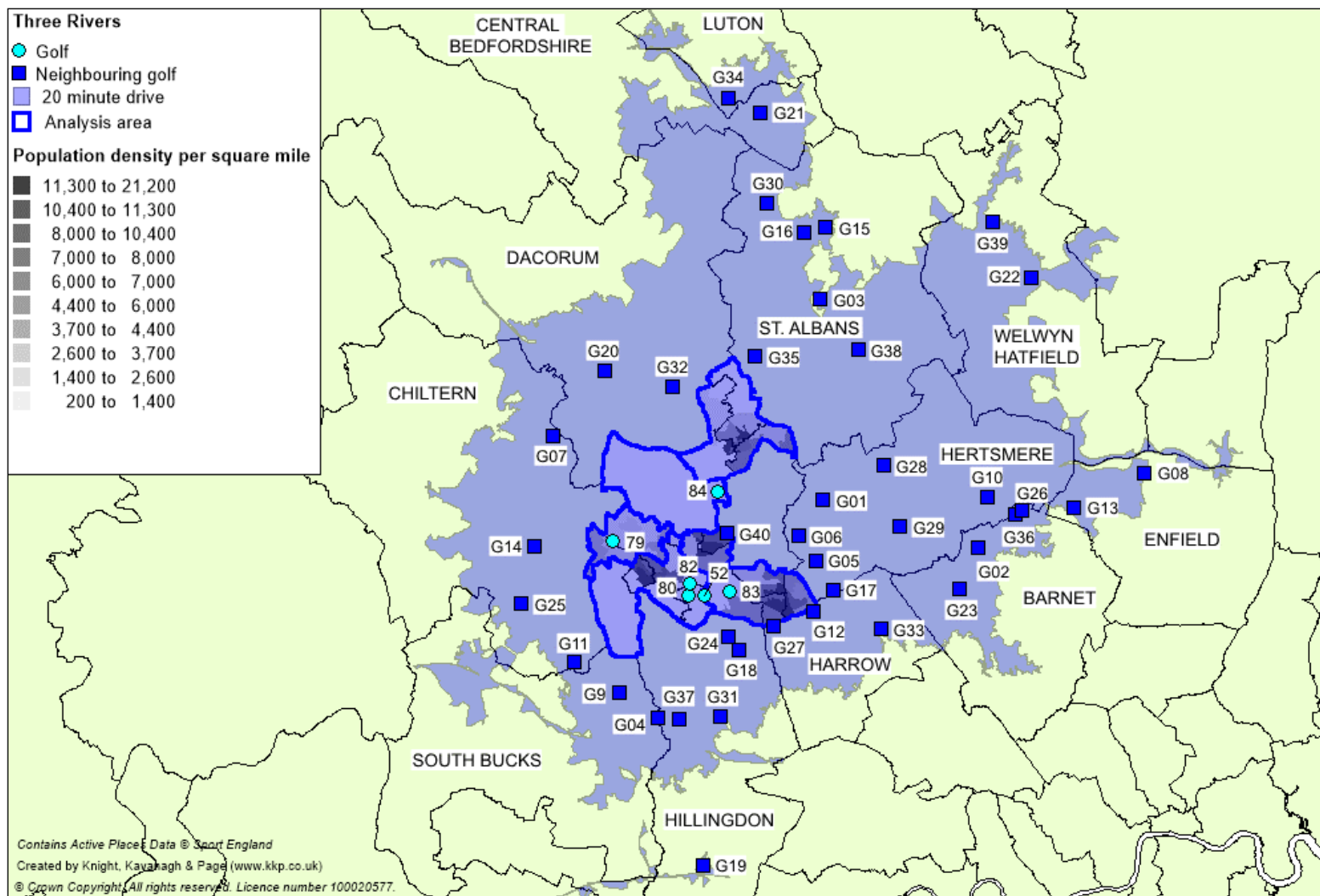
THREE RIVERS DISTRICT COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

Figure 7.1: Location of all golf courses in Three Rivers



THREE RIVERS DISTRICT COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

Figure 7.2: Location of golf courses in Three Rivers with 20 minute drive time excluding the closed Oxhey Park and Penfold Park sites



THREE RIVERS DISTRICT COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

Management

Of the seven golf courses still in operation, they are all privately owned except Rickmansworth Golf Club, which is a municipal golf club.

Course facilities

Batchworth Park Golf Club is a proprietary owned club, by Crown. It has an 18-hole golf course and an 11-bay driving range with some covered area. Through the PGA professional team there are a range of coaching offers in place, from Get in to Golf to one to one coaching and junior academy or school holiday camps.

Chorleywood Golf Club is a nine-hole course set in the heart of Chorleywood Common and presents a fair, but demanding, challenge for golfers of all levels and experience.

Moor Park Golf Club is part of the Moor Park estate, and golf is just one of the sporting activities on offer. There are two 18-hole golf courses, a dual driving range and practice area (3 covered bays) and indoor swing room. The PGA Professionals are from First Degree Golf Academy and offer a wide range of bespoke coaching opportunities. Moor Park Artisans Golf Club is the artisans club within Moor Park Golf Club.

Rickmansworth Golf Club is a municipal golf club run by Everyone Active and has an 18-hole golf course as well as a short course and footgolf. It is located on the Moor Park estate.

Nine of Herts Golf Club offers a nine-hole course with panoramic views across Hertfordshire and the rolling Chiltern Hills. The club also operates an 11-bay driving range and a FootGolf facility.

Sandy Lodge Golf Club is a member's golf club, situated in the Moor Park estate. It has an 18-hole golf course that is part of The Open qualifying series and an 12 bay driving range. There are three PGA Professionals offering a range of coaching opportunities. The club offer a four stage get in to golf programme that starts with beginner coaching and ends with full membership and access to the course.

The Grove Golf Club is a championship standard golf course which hosted the British Masters in 2016. The club also provides a short game area, putting green and driving range in addition to a dedicated team of instructors for beginners to elite players.

Table 7.2: Summary of golf courses in Three Rivers

Site ID	Course name	Holes	Par	Yardage ²⁷		
52	Moor Park Golf Club	18	72	6,717	6,427	5,709
		18	69	5,833	5,547	5,102
78	Batchworth Park Golf Club	18	72	6,399	6,061	5,556
79	Chorleywood Golf Club	9	34	2,842		2,570
80	Nine of Herts Golf Club	9	32	1,882		
82	Rickmansworth Golf Club	18	65	4,656	4,446	4,149
83	Sandy Lodge Golf Club	18	71	6,297	6,113	5,639
84	The Grove Golf Club	18	72	6,766	6,332	5,507

²⁷ White denotes Championship tees, yellow denotes men's tees and red denotes ladies' tees.

THREE RIVERS DISTRICT COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

Quality

All of these courses are considered to be good quality, with a dedicated maintenance regime carried out at each facility.

Ancillary facilities

Golf clubs need multiple revenue sources to operate effectively and the provision of a clubhouse can often be key for golf clubs as it can provide an income stream, not only from members but also through hiring the venue out for occasions (e.g. wedding receptions).

Batchworth Park Golf Club's clubhouse has a bar and restaurant area as well as a private function room, the Batchworth Suite, which is available for private hire. Chorleywood Golf Club has a lounge and dining area within its clubhouse with bar and catering facilities.

Moor Park Golf Club owns and uses Moor Park Mansion as its clubhouse. The mansion is a Grade 1 listed building that contains various function rooms to cater for a range of events, from meetings to weddings.

The Nine of Herts Golf Centre includes a pro shop, driving range and footgolf course to complement the nine-hole course on site. Similarly, Oxhey Park Golf Club consisted of a 20-bay floodlit driving range, a pro shop and a clubhouse.

Rickmansworth Golf Club is also home to The Fairway Inn restaurant and bar which has been recently refurbished, as well as a meeting room which is available for hire.

Sandy Lodge Golf Club has a 12-bay driving range, chipping area, bunker area and putting green on site to complement the clubhouse's lounge and bar. Professional coaching is also offered by the club.

The Grove Golf Club also functions as a hotel with a variety of rooms and suites, a spa, meeting rooms and two restaurants. It caters for a range of events from corporate golf days to weddings and Christmas parties.

Membership and costs

Nationally, many clubs have begun to alter their pricing structure to allow for discounted rates following a decline in golf participation, with England Golf determining that clubs are more likely to experience growth with flexible membership packages. For instance, some now offer a five day membership (whereby members can access the course on specific days but not during a weekend), whilst others provide discounts that are no longer limited to junior players (e.g. discounts for those aged 18-21). Previously, many clubs throughout the country had a waiting list for membership but that is rarely the case in the present day.

In Three Rivers, most courses offer memberships and pay and play green fees. That being said, most clubs in the area are primarily membership clubs. Only the Nine of Herts Golf Club and The Grove Golf Club focus on pay and play to generate revenue. The Grove Golf Club focuses on pay and play due to the exclusivity of its membership, whereas Nine of Herts is a more casual golf venue and therefore attracts a more casual golfer.

THREE RIVERS DISTRICT COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

Table 7.3: Summary of costs in Three Rivers

Club name	Cost summary
Batchworth Park Golf Club	<p>A five-day membership at Batchworth Park Golf Club is £1,111 and subject to a £250 joining fee. This increases to £1,551 for a seven-day membership and the joining fee also increases to £475. Junior memberships are available for £176 but a joining fee of £75 applies.</p> <p>Pay & play is not mentioned on the club's website so no prices are available to view but it is likely to be available at the club.</p>
Chorleywood Golf Club	<p>At Chorleywood Golf Club, membership prices range from £299 to £855 depending on the age of the member. Junior (Under 18) memberships are available for £50.</p> <p>For pay and play at the site, an 18-hole round is £25.00, or £15.00 if accompanied by a member. A nine-hole round is £15.00 or £10.00 if accompanied by a member. For juniors, pay and play is £5 for nine-holes or £10 for 18 holes.</p>
Moor Park Golf Club	<p>A full membership at Moor Park Golf Club is available for £2,140 and is subject to a joining fee of £2,140 or £2,500. For an off-peak membership, the annual fee is £1,925 and is subject to a joining fee of £1,925 or £2,500. For junior members, an annual membership is offered for £220 subject to a joining fee of £220.</p> <p>For 18-24 year olds, a discounted membership rate of £1,080 is available which also has a discounted joining fee of £1,080.</p> <p>For pay and play, a summer round is £95pp or weekday rounds after 2:30pm are £65pp. A winter round is £50pp.</p>
Moor Park Golf Club (Artisans)	<p>No membership prices or green fees are listed for the Artisan club based at Moor Park.</p>
Nine of Herts Golf Club	<p>No membership options are available at Nine of Herts Golf Club. For a weekday round, adults are charged at £10pp, seniors at £7.50pp, juniors at £6.00pp or a family for £25.00. On weekends or bank holidays, these prices increase to £12.50pp for adults and seniors, £7.00pp for juniors or £30.00 for a family. Crown Golf Members can play at anytime for £5.00pp.</p>
Rickmansworth Golf Club	<p>Membership at Rickmansworth Golf Club is available for £70.25 for adults, £45.25 for seniors and £18.25 for juniors. Green fees are not displayed online.</p>
Sandy Lodge Golf Club	<p>Sandy Lodge offer a wide variety of membership options to cater for all golfers. Junior memberships are available for £225 and student memberships for £452. Adult memberships begin at £599 and increase up to £1,745 depending on the age of the member. 5-day memberships are also available for £1,420.</p> <p>For pay & play, members guest prices start at £25.00 for a mid-week round, £27.50 for a weekend (Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays), £17.50 for a mid-week twilight round and £19.50 for a weekend twilight round. For visitors, a midweek round is £40 which increases to £65 at weekends. Midweek twilight rounds are £25 and midweek rounds are available for £35 to County Card holders.</p>
The Grove Golf Club	<p>No membership options are available at The Grove Golf Club.</p> <p>For pay and play, a peak-time winter round is £129pp or £45 for a junior. In the summer, a peak-time round increases to £189pp or £60 for a junior.</p>

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Hertfordshire Golf National Passport

The Hertfordshire Golf Union currently run a County Card scheme which was renamed the Hertfordshire Golf National Passport in 2014. This passport is provided free of charge to all Hertfordshire Golf affiliated members over the age of 18, as part of their annual county affiliation fee. In return for this card, players will gain access to approximately 1,300 courses in many English counties at reduced rates. Rates are generally reduced by 25-50%.

In Three Rivers, Chorleywood, Moor Park, Rickmansworth and Sandy Lodge golf clubs are members of the County Card scheme and therefore can be accessed at a reduced rate by holders.

7.3: Demand

England Golf's Club Membership Questionnaire (2018) highlights that the average number of members per golf course nationally is 484. As a breakdown, this consists of 381 adult males, 70 adult females, 27 junior boys and six junior girls.

In Three Rivers, only Moor Park and Sandy Lodge golf clubs have a larger than average membership base. Batchworth Park Golf Club has membership figures comparable to the national average. All of the other golf clubs in the area are significantly below the national average.

Table 7.4: Summary of demand

Club name	Current membership
Batchworth Park Golf Club	475
Chorleywood Golf Club	201
Moor Park Golf Club	888
Moor Park Golf Club (Artisans)	47
Nine of Herts Golf Club	-
Rickmansworth Golf Club	131
Sandy Lodge Golf Club	637
The Grove Golf Club	25

Despite the varying levels of membership, it must be noted that each club will have a different financial model in terms of income generation from membership versus green fees. This means that further exploration is required before determining that clubs with a low membership base are unsustainable.

Participation trends

Nationally, the average number of members per golf club has increased slightly from 460 in 2016 compared to 484 in 2018. A total of 38% of clubs saw an increase in membership over this time period. Clubs showing growth are increasingly offering more tailored packages, which provide flexibility and cater for less traditional golfers. These include flexible, points-based memberships for those who are time poor, corporate packages which provide opportunities to network, academy/trial memberships for those getting into the game and student/intermediate offers to enable younger people to manage the cost of a significant outlay.

In Three Rivers, membership at Chorleywood, Sandy Lodge and The Grove golf clubs have increased since 2015, whilst the remaining clubs have experienced a decline or remained relatively static.

THREE RIVERS DISTRICT COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

Table 7.5: Summary of participation trends

Course name	2015 membership	2016 membership	2017 membership
Batchworth Park Golf Club	704	679	475
Chorleywood Golf Club	175	202	201
Moor Park Golf Club	934	947	888
Moor Park Golf Club (Artisans)	46	48	47
Rickmansworth Golf Club	105	108	131
Sandy Lodge Golf Club	585	603	637
The Grove Golf Club	15	25	25

Declining membership at Moor Park Golf Club is not currently a cause for concern as it is still operating above the national average; however, support should be offered to ensure the downward trend does not continue.

The decline at Batchworth Park Golf Club is more concerning as the Club is now operating below the national average after losing almost a third of its members in the past year.

Future demand

England Golf published the 'Raising Our Game' strategy in 2014, which defines its strategic direction up to 2017. The document highlights the need for a strategy to enhance market understanding of current Golf facilities, which is identified as one of the key considerations to increasing participation. To enable this, market segmentation has been created that is specific to Golf, identifying that 24% of adults in England are potential players. This is made up of 9% current players, 8% lapsed players and 7% latent players and amounts to around 9.6 million people in total. The research also provides nine defined profiles and clearly identified behaviours, motivations and barriers within each one. The nine segments are:

- ◀ Relaxed members
- ◀ Older traditionalists
- ◀ Younger traditionalists
- ◀ Younger fanatics
- ◀ Late enthusiasts
- ◀ Occasional/time-pressed
- ◀ Social couples
- ◀ Casual fun

To align with this, a facility mapping tool has been created to provide a statistical data engine that identifies Golfing demand within a 20-minute drive time of each facility within England using the segments above. The tool highlights the dominant profiles within each catchment area and also within access to each course. This can then be used to predict likely demand for each type of facility and can support informed marketing, development and investment decisions whilst allowing providers to adapt their offer to cater for a range of different needs.

The demand for golf within Three Rivers by segment type is seen in the table overleaf. The figures represent the number of people within each profile that are within a 20-minute drive time of each course. It is then averaged across the available courses to ensure no double counting.

THREE RIVERS DISTRICT COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

Table 7.6: Summary of demand in Three Rivers by segment

Segment no.	Segment name	Average number of people per affiliated facility (20-minute drive time)
1	Relaxed members	9,506
2	Older traditionalists	9,117
3	Younger Traditionalists	8,794
4	Younger fanatics	10,160
5	Younger actives	9,291
6	Late enthusiasts	9,631
7	Occasional time pressed	9,157
8	Social couples	9,083
9	Casual fun	10,976

In total, an average of 85,710 people are identified as current or potential users of golf courses within Three Rivers. This demand is relatively evenly spread across the profiles, with “casual fun” generating the most demand and “younger traditionalists” generating the least. Each profile is applied on a facility by facility basis in the table below.

Table 7.7: Summary of demand per course by profile type

Course name	Segment no.								
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Batchworth Park Golf Club	8,760	8,492	7,983	9,499	8,571	8,995	8,395	8,435	10,365
Chorleywood Golf Club	7,784	7,558	7,205	8,441	7,637	7,978	7,522	7,465	9,142
Moor Park Golf Club	8,511	8,251	7,827	9,240	8,339	8,729	8,197	8,164	10,044
Moor Park Golf Club (Artisans)	8,511	8,251	7,827	9,240	8,339	8,729	8,197	8,164	10,044
Nine of Herts Golf Club	8,760	8,492	7,983	9,499	8,571	8,995	8,395	8,435	10,365
Rickmansworth Golf Club	9,993	9,732	9,142	10,913	9,797	10,304	9,609	9,614	11,907
Sandy Lodge Golf Club	10,380	9,923	9,603	11,068	10,136	10,490	9,994	9,900	11,946
The Grove Golf Club	12,879	12,194	12,272	13,472	12,593	12,793	12,557	12,165	14,248

The table above summarises that demand is likely to be highest for The Grove Golf Club, with 115,173 potential users. Demand is lowest for Chorleywood Golf Club, which has 70,732 potential users.

Given that it is difficult for one facility to cater for the needs of all potential members, there is clear scope for some clubs to work more collaboratively in terms of creating pathways where appropriate. This way, all golfing profiles can be collectively catered for. In order to increase membership and to target the golfing profiles detailed above, England Golf sets out the following key themes:

- ◀ Creating a welcoming environment
- ◀ Catering for a range of different needs
- ◀ Communicating regularly with members and visitors
- ◀ Developing facilities to broaden income streams
- ◀ Becoming part of the local community

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FootGolf

FootGolf is a relatively new activity that is played on a golf course using a football. The object of the game is to get the ball into the hole using only your feet in the fewest number of shots possible. It is governed by the UK FootGolf Association.

Nationally, there are currently 160 recognised Golf courses that incorporate FootGolf, with many clubs recognising it as a chance to provide an income stream that can provide sustainability at a time when participation in the traditional game has decreased. The sport is generally played on a smaller than average courses, with Par 3 courses being ideal.

In Three Rivers, FootGolf is currently available at Nine of Herts Golf Club and Rickmansworth Golf Club.

Rickmansworth FootGolf is a nine-hole, par 35 course covering 752 yards. Ball hire is £2 and a nine-hole round is £6 for adults or £4 for under 16s. This increases to £10 for adults and £7 for under 16s for an 18-hole round.

Nine of Herts FootGolf is an 18-hole, par 64 course covering 1,476 yards. Ball hire is free but a deposit is required. An 18-hole round is £7.50 for adults or £5 for under 16s.

Further to this, Penfold Park golf course was last used for footgolf but closed in 2016.

7.4: Supply and demand analysis

There is significant demand for golf within Three Rivers and the demand cuts across all nine golfing profiles as set out by England Golf. This is met with a good range of facilities that includes traditional 18-hole courses, shorter 9-hole courses and driving ranges that can be accessed on a casual basis.

Given the above, it is considered that the current supply of facilities can meet current and future demand. However, only two of the seven golf clubs in Three Rivers have higher than the national average membership bases. Therefore, emphasis should be placed on capitalising on latent demand in Three Rivers.

Currently, most of the provision would appear to cater for segments such as “older traditionalists” which is one of the smallest demand segments in Three Rivers. Whilst non-traditional facilities also exist such as driving ranges, a par 3 golf course and two FootGolf courses, these facilities may be insufficient to fully engage the ‘Casual fun’ segment which is the most prominent segment within the District.

Further analysis at club or facility level, along with some additional England Golf tools, can be used to better understand the existing members and visitors of each venue. This may help to establish a clearer picture of the overall facility landscape and how well it caters for the local demographic.

THREE RIVERS DISTRICT COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

Golf summary

- ◀ There are nine golf courses situated within Three Rivers, however, two courses are now closed, Oxhey Park Golf Club and Penfold Park Golf Club.
- ◀ In addition, there are non-traditional golf facilities with two footgolf courses located at Nine of Herts Golf Club and Rickmansworth Golf Club and five driving ranges located at Batchworth Park Golf Club, Moor Park Golf Club, Nine of Herts Golf Club, Sandy Lodge Golf Club and The Grove Golf Club.
- ◀ Five of the clubs provide 18-hole courses, with Moor Park Golf Club having two 18-hole courses on site. Whilst the remaining two provide 9-hole courses.
- ◀ Quality is considered to be good at all courses in the District.
- ◀ All of the clubs within the District provide clubhouse provision with an array of facilities from meeting rooms to wedding venues.
- ◀ Application of a 20 minute drive time catchment to all existing golf courses in Three Rivers, shows that even without the inclusion of the two closed sites, supply more than adequately covers the existing population of Three Rivers.
- ◀ In Three Rivers, only Moor Park and Sandy Lodge golf clubs have a larger than average membership base. It should also be noted that Batchworth Park Golf Club is now operating just below the national average after losing almost a third of its members in the past year.
- ◀ In total, an average of 85,710 people are identified as current or potential users of golf courses within Three Rivers.
- ◀ Demand is likely to be highest for The Grove Golf Club, with 115,173 potential users and lowest for Chorleywood Golf Club, which has 70,732 potential users.
- ◀ It is considered that the current supply of facilities in Three Rivers can meet current and future demand, with emphasis placed on ensuring sites are able to retain current members and users as well as assisting them in capitalising on any untapped demand and future demand.
- ◀ Support should be provided to clubs to attract new members to ensure golf provision across the District can be retained.

THREE RIVERS DISTRICT COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

PART 8: BOWLS

8.1: Introduction

All bowling greens in Three Rivers are flat green. Bowls England is the NGB for flat green bowls with overall responsibility for ensuring effective governance. Regionally, it is administered by the Hertfordshire Bowls.

The flat green bowling season runs from May to September.

Consultation

There are six bowling clubs identified in Three Rivers, all of which, completed an online survey resulting in a 100% response rate.

8.2: Supply

There are five bowling greens in Three Rivers located across five sites, all of which are considered to be available for community use. Two clubs, Rickmansworth BC and Royal British Legion BC, share a green.

Table 8.1: Summary of the number of greens by analysis area

Analysis area	Number of greens
Abbots Langley	1
Chorleywood	0
Croxley Green	1
Rickmansworth	2
Sarratt	0
Watford Rural	1
Three Rivers	5

As seen in the table above, two of the greens are located in the Rickmansworth Analysis Area with one green each in the Abbots Langley, Croxley Green and Watford Rural analysis areas. There is no bowls provision located in the Chorleywood and Sarratt analysis areas.

Indoor bowls

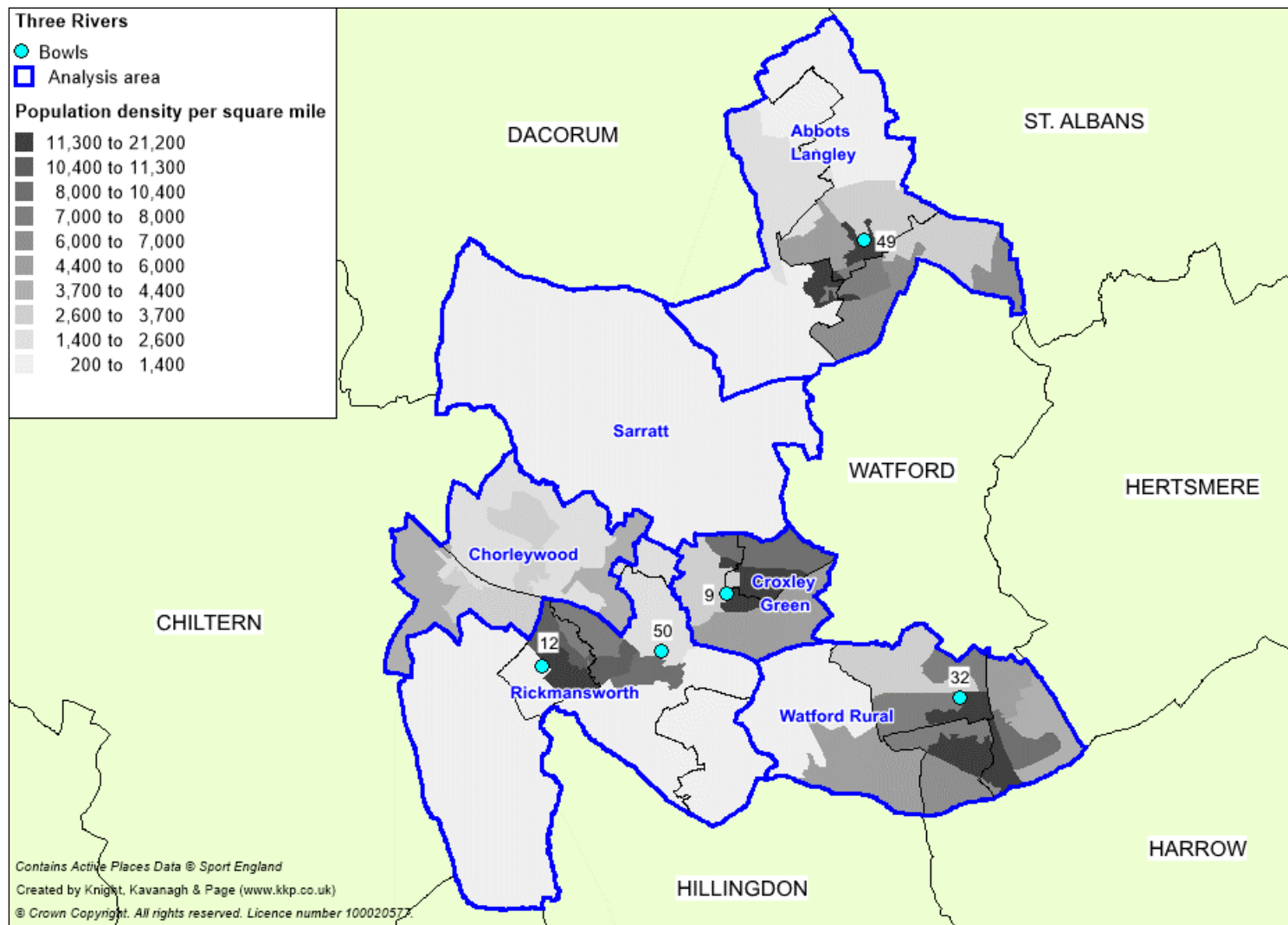
There are no indoor bowls facilities in Three Rivers. There are seven indoor bowls facilities within 30 minutes' drive of Three Rivers; they offer a total of 33 rinks varying from three to six at different sites.

Consultation did not highlight any additional demand for indoor bowls in Three Rivers and English Indoor Bowling Association's view is that the existing clubs in neighbouring authorities can accommodate current and future demand.

Indoor bowls is further examined in the Indoor Leisure Facilities Needs Assessment that is being produced in conjunction with this report.

THREE RIVERS DISTRICT COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

Figure 8.1: Flat greens in Three Rivers



THREE RIVERS DISTRICT COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

Table 8.2: Key to map

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Number of greens
9	Croxley Guild of Sports and Social Club	Croxley Green	1
12	King George V Playing Field	Rickmansworth	1
32	South Oxhey Playing Fields	Watford Rural	1
49	Abbots Langley Bowls Club	Abbots Langley	1
50	Rickmansworth Bowls Club	Rickmansworth	1

Ownership/management

Of the six bowling clubs in Three Rivers, five either rent or lease their green from the District Council. Abbots Langley BC has a long-term lease agreement with Abbots Langley Parish Council for its green. Further detail of the six bowling clubs is in Table 8.4.

Quality

Following a non-technical assessment of greens in Three Rivers and consultation with clubs, three greens are assessed as good quality and two as standard quality; none are assessed as poor quality. The table below summarises the quality on a site-by-site basis.

Table 8.3: Summary of bowling green quality

Site ID	Site name	Number of greens	Quality of green
9	Croxley Guild of Sports and Social Club	1	Standard
12	King George V Playing Field	1	Good
32	South Oxhey Playing Fields	1	Good
49	Abbots Langley Bowls Club	1	Good
50	Rickmansworth Bowls Club	1	Standard

The issues affecting the green at Rickmansworth Bowls Club include signs of wear and tear and a slightly uneven surface, although this is not significant. Croxley Guild BC notes that the green quality at Croxley Guild of Sports and Social Club deteriorated slightly due to adverse weather conditions over the last season.

Four clubs; Royal British Legion BC, Mill End BC, Pavilion BC and Abbots Langley BC, report that there has been an improvement in green quality since last season. Three of the clubs indicate that the improvement in quality is due to an improved maintenance regime. The remaining club, Pavilion BC, notes that the recent hot summer benefitted the green.

Ancillary facilities

All clubs in Three Rivers have access to a clubhouse/pavilion on site with Pavilion BC, Abbots Langley BC, Rickmansworth BC and Royal British Legion BC describing ancillary facilities as adequate. Changing, toilet and clubhouse facilities at their respective sites are good or standard quality although there are no shower facilities at any of these sites.

Croxley Guild BC describe its ancillary provision as good quality with no specific issues identified. However, there are also no shower facilities available at the site.

THREE RIVERS DISTRICT COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

Mill End BC notes that it is serviced by poor changing, shower and toilet facilities. Only the clubhouse itself is of adequate condition.

Bowls England grants²⁸

Provided a club is affiliated to the Bowls England it is eligible to apply for a club loan. These loans can relate to a variety of ancillary issues, include the following:

- ◀ Fencing
- ◀ Car Parking
- ◀ New Pavilion
- ◀ Changing rooms

Clubs can repay these loans interest free over an eight year period. The highest amount available is £20,000.

Floodlighting

No greens in Three Rivers are serviced by floodlighting. This means that opportunities for training and matches during evenings outside of the summer months is limited. However, floodlit bowling greens are relatively rare across the country and this should not necessarily be considered an issue.

8.3: Demand

Current demand

There are six bowls clubs playing in Three Rivers, all of which, responded to consultation requests. Across the District, there is a current demand of 154 senior males, 62 senior females and four juniors.

Table 8.4: Current club membership for bowls clubs in Three Rivers

Club name	Site	Current			
		Senior male	Senior female	Junior	Total
Croxley Guild BC	Croxley Guild of Sports and Social Club	53	22	-	75
Pavilion BC	South Oxhey Playing Fields	12	12	1	25
Abbots Langley BC	Abbots Langley Bowls Club	27	7	-	34
Rickmansworth BC	Rickmansworth Bowls Club	27	16	-	43
Royal British Legion BC	Rickmansworth Bowls Club	11	5	-	16
Mill End BC	King George V Playing Field	24	-	3	27
Total		154	62	4	220

Despite there being a decline in senior membership for bowls nationally, all bowls clubs in Three Rivers report that membership levels have been relatively consistent over the last three years. Croxley Guild BC is the largest club in the area with 75 members in total. In contrast, Royal British Legion BC, which shares a green with Rickmansworth BC, is the smallest club with 16 members in total.

²⁸ <https://www.bowlsengland.com/for-clubs/club-loans>

THREE RIVERS DISTRICT COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

Future demand

Using ONS projections (2018-2036)²⁹, the number of persons aged 65 and over living in Three Rivers is likely to increase continuously from 17,173 in 2018 to 24,578 in 2036, representing an increase of 43.1%. Due to this age band being the most likely to play bowls, demand for bowling greens is likely to increase slightly in the future or at least remain static.

Only Abbots Langley BC reports that it has no plans to increase membership. The remaining five clubs all report ambitions of increasing their current membership base. Of responding clubs, none report having a waiting list.

Table 8.5: Summary of club future demand aspirations

Club name	Future growth
Croxley Guild BC	Six senior and six junior members
Pavilion BC	12 senior and six junior members
Abbots Langley BC	None
Rickmansworth BC	30 senior members
Royal British Legion BC	10 senior members and five junior members
Mill End BC	Eight senior members and five junior members

Latent demand

Sport England's Segmentation Tool enables analysis of 'the percentage of adults that would like to participate in bowls but are not currently doing so'. The tool identifies latent demand of 137 people who would like to participate in the sport within Three Rivers. The most dominant segment is 'Ralph & Phyllis' – Comfortable Retired Couples (24.8%).

This latent demand is comparable to the neighbouring authority of Hertsmere, where 154 people were identified as wanting to participate in bowls but not current doing so. However, this is considerably lower than the figure in Dacorum, where latent demand of 225 people was revealed.

Notwithstanding the above, none of bowling clubs in Three Rivers are reported as being at capacity, with all clubs willing to accept new members. As such, it is considered that anyone within the District that would like to start participating could do so at the clubs and greens already in existence.

8.4: Supply and demand analysis

Bowls England indicates that one green can accommodate approximately 60 members before capacity becomes an issue, whereas at least 20 members are reportedly required for a green to be sustainable.

Table 8.6: Supply & demand balance

Site ID	Site name	Clubs	Playing membership	Recommended capacity	Current capacity	Future demand	Future capacity
9	Croxley Guild of Sports and Social Club	Croxley Guild BC	75	60	15	12	27

²⁹ There is potential that the ONS projections may be under estimating future demand when compared to housing growth figures and as such, this should be subject to periodic review.

THREE RIVERS DISTRICT COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

Site ID	Site name	Clubs	Playing membership	Recommended capacity	Current capacity	Future demand	Future capacity
12	King George V Playing Field	Mill End BC	27	60	33	13	20
32	South Oxhey Playing Fields	Pavilion BC	25	60	35	18	17
49	Abbots Langley Bowls Club	Abbots Langley BC	34	60	26	-	26
50	Rickmansworth Bowls Club	Royal British Legion BC, Rickmansworth BC	59	60	1	45	44

8.5: Conclusions

Croxley Guild of Sports and Social Club is currently operating above the recommended capacity according to Bowls England guidance. Rickmansworth Bowls Club is currently operating close to capacity, due to accommodating two clubs on the one green. Both clubs playing at the site also aspire to grow, with combined future demand of 45 members. If achieved, the green is likely to be overplayed. Given national and local trends, it is unlikely that this level of growth will be fully realised, however, this should be monitored.

In addition to above, both overplayed greens are also assessed as standard quality. If overplay continues at Croxley Guild of Sports Social Club, it is likely that green quality will deteriorate unless improved maintenance work is undertaken on the green. If overplay is realised at Rickmansworth Bowls Club, increased maintenance may need to take place in order to prevent the quality of green deteriorating further.

Based on the guidance, there is a clear requirement to work with clubs identified as currently overplayed or expressing high levels of future demand to ensure quality of each bowling green does not further deteriorate in quality due to overplay and that clubs are supported to ensure green quality can be sustained and improved. It is important to note that no clubs report a need to access additional greens at their home venues to accommodate demand.

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Bowls summary

- ◀ There are five flat outdoor bowling greens located across five sites in Three Rivers, none of which, are floodlit.
- ◀ There are two greens located in Rickmansworth Analysis Area and one green each located in the Abbots Langley, Croxley Green and Watford Rural analysis areas.
- ◀ Three greens are assessed as good quality and two as standard quality; none are assessed as poor quality.
- ◀ Mill End BC cites that the green at King George V Playing Field is serviced by poor quality ancillary provision.
- ◀ There are six bowls clubs playing in Three Rivers. Croxley Guild BC is the largest club with 75 members in total. In contrast, Royal British Legion BC is the smallest club with 16 members in total.
- ◀ Except for Abbots Langley BC, all clubs aspire to increase membership by a total of 66 senior members and 22 junior members. Given national and local trends, it is unlikely that this level of growth will be fully realised.
- ◀ Croxley Guild Sports and Social Club is currently operating above capacity according Bowls England guidance by 15 members. Further to this, Rickmansworth Bowls Club is almost operating at capacity. Both greens are assessed as standard quality and therefore improvements to quality are likely to ensure overplay is accommodated with quality further deteriorating.
- ◀ In addition, the clubs that use Rickmansworth Bowls Club both aspire to grow, with combined future demand of 45 members. If achieved, the green is likely to be overplayed. Given national and local trends, it is unlikely that this level of growth will be fully realised, however, this should be monitored.
- ◀ Taking the above into account, there is no requirement for additional flat green bowls provision to be provided in Three Rivers to service current or future demand.

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PART 9: TENNIS

9.1: Introduction

The Lawn Tennis Association (LTA) is the organisation responsible for the governance of tennis and administers the sport locally across Three Rivers. The LTA has recently restructured its strategic approach to targeting a number of national focus areas, with a priority on developing tennis at park sites.

Consultation

There are seven tennis clubs identified in Three Rivers. Of these, five responded to consultation requests resulting in a 71% response rate, as seen in the table below.

Table 9.1: Summary of consultation

Club name	Responded?
Chorleywood LTC	Yes
Croxley TC	Yes
Moor Park LTC	Yes
Oxhey Hall LTC	Yes
Rickmansworth LTC	Yes
Sarratt TC	No
Abbots Langley TC	No

9.2: Supply

There are 104 tennis courts identified in Three Rivers across 23 sites, with 91 of the courts being available for community use. All courts unavailable for community use are in the Rickmansworth Analysis Area.

For the purposes of this report, availability for community use refers to courts in public, voluntary, private or commercial ownership or management recorded as being available for hire by individuals, teams or clubs. This also includes availability for social use or pay and play.

Table 9.2: Summary of the number of courts by analysis area

Analysis area	Courts available for community use	Courts unavailable for community use
Abbots Langley	13	-
Chorleywood	9	-
Croxley Green	11	-
Rickmansworth	35	13
Sarratt	2	-
Watford Rural	21	-
Three Rivers	91	13

Rickmansworth Analysis Area contains the largest number of tennis courts with 44, however, only 35 of these are available for community use. Sarratt Analysis Area has the lowest amount of tennis provision, with just two courts in the area.

THREE RIVERS DISTRICT COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

Indoor courts

There are no indoor tennis courts provided in Three Rivers. There are, however, 23 indoor tennis facilities providing a total of 141 courts within 30 minutes' drive of Three Rivers. The most significant of these are David Lloyd sites at Northwood (11 courts), Bushy (11 courts) and Finchley (10 courts).

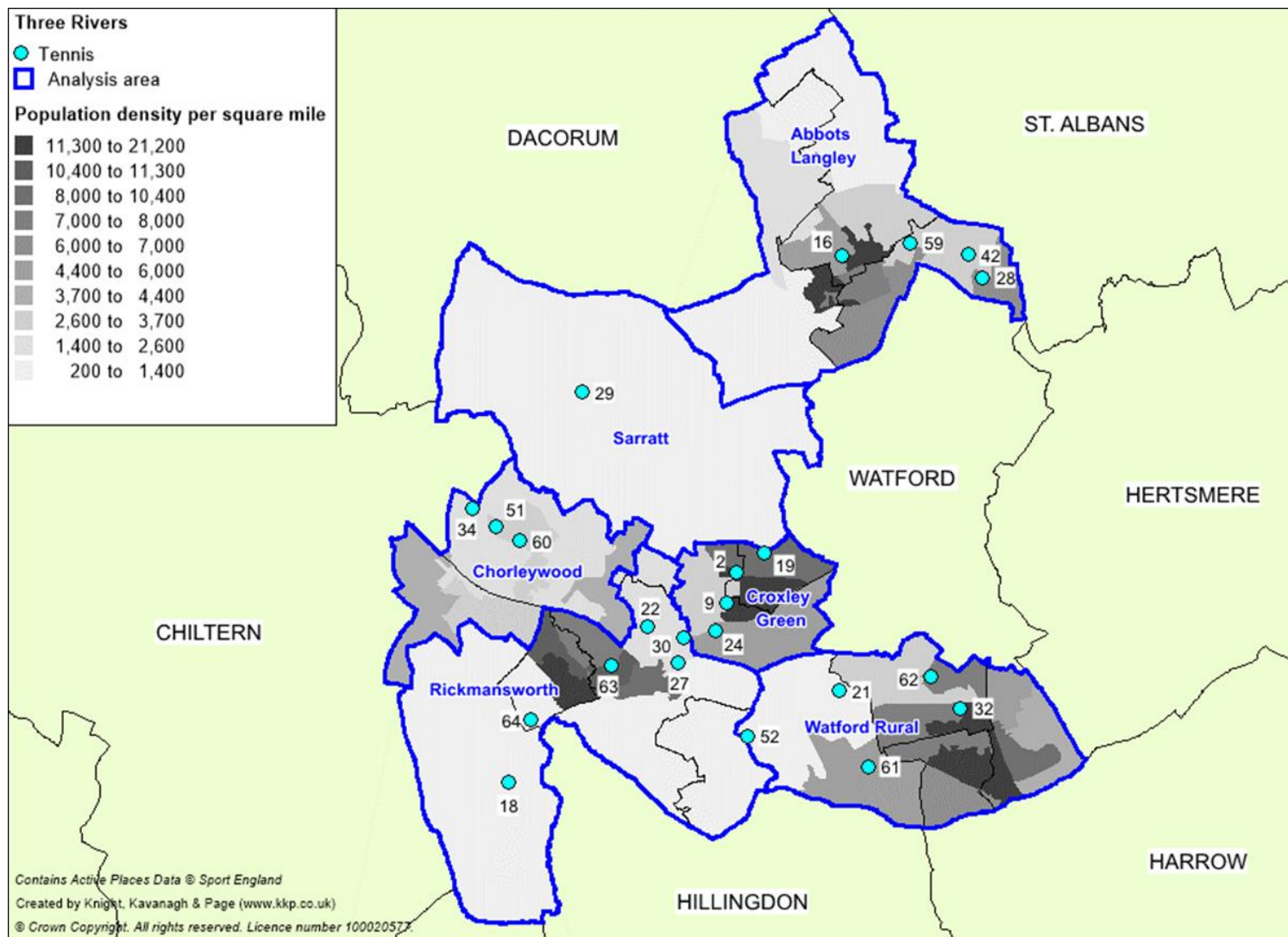
Consultation with Chorleywood LTC carried out as part of the PPS highlights demand for an indoor facility housing two additional courts for winter use.

Indoor tennis is further examined in the Indoor Leisure Facilities Needs Assessment that is being produced in conjunction with this report.

Figure 9.1 below identifies the location of current outdoor tennis courts in Three Rivers.

THREE RIVERS DISTRICT COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

Figure 9.1: Location of tennis courts in Three Rivers



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Table 9.3: Summary of provision site by site

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Management	Community use?	No. of courts	Floodlit?	Court type
2	Baldwins Lane Playing Fields	Croxley Green	Council	Yes	2	No	Macadam
51	Chorleywood Lawn Tennis Club	Chorleywood	Sports Club	Yes	6	Yes	Artificial
60	Chorleywood House Grounds	Chorleywood	Council	Yes	3	No	Macadam
9	Croxley Guild of Sport and Social Club	Croxley Green	Sports Club	Yes	6	Yes	Macadam
61	Eastbury Playing Field	Watford Rural	Council	Yes	4	No	Macadam
16	Manor House Grounds	Abbots Langley	Parish Council	Yes	3	Yes	Macadam
18	Maple Cross Playing Fields	Rickmansworth	Council	Yes	2	No	Macadam
19	March Durrants Sports and Social Club	Croxley Green	Other	Yes	3	No	Macadam
21	Merchant Taylors School Sport Complex	Watford Rural	Education	Yes	3	Yes	Macadam
					3	Yes	Artificial
52	Moor Park Golf Club	Watford Rural	Sports Club	Yes	6	Partially	Artificial
22	Nuffield Health at RMS	Rickmansworth	Commercial	Yes	10	No	Macadam
62	Oxhey Hall Lawn Tennis Club	Watford Rural	Sports Club	Yes	3	No	Macadam
24	Rickmansworth School	Croxley Green	Education	Yes	4	Yes	Artificial
63	Rickmansworth Lawn Tennis Club	Rickmansworth	Sports Club	Yes	10	Partially	Macadam
64	Reach Free School	Rickmansworth	Education	No	4	No	Macadam
27	Saint Joan of Arc Catholic School	Rickmansworth	Education	No	5	No	Macadam
28	Saint Michael's Catholic High School	Abbots Langley	Education	Yes	6	No	Macadam
29	Sarratt King George Field	Sarratt	Other	Yes	2	Yes	Macadam
30	Scotsbridge Playing Fields	Rickmansworth	Council	Yes	3	No	Macadam
32	South Oxhey Playing Fields	Watford Rural	Council	Yes	2	No	Macadam
34	St Clement Danes School	Chorleywood	Education	No	4	No	Macadam
42	Thomas Parmiter Sports Centre	Abbots Langley	Education	Yes	8	No	Macadam
59	YMCA Abbots Langley	Abbots Langley	Other	Yes	2	Yes	Macadam

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Ownership and management

No responding clubs express concerns with regards to security of tenure. In principle, all clubs are happy with the agreements currently in place, whether that is through ownership, annual rental agreement or a long-term lease arrangement. The remaining community courts are managed either through the Council, Education Centres, Commercial Organisations or Trusts.

Table 9.4: Courts available for community use by ownership

Council	Parish Council	Sports Club	Commercial	Education	Private/Other
16	3	31	10	37	7

Floodlighting

Floodlit courts enable use throughout the year and are identified by the LTA as being particularly crucial for club development. In Three Rivers there are 33 floodlit courts available for community usage across the District. These are located at the following sites:

- ◀ Croxley Guild of Sport and Social Club
- ◀ Manor House Grounds
- ◀ Rickmansworth Tennis Club
- ◀ Moor Park Golf Club
- ◀ Sarratt King George Field
- ◀ Chorleywood Lawn Tennis Club
- ◀ YMCA Abbots Langley
- ◀ Merchant Taylors School Sports Complex

Court type

The majority of courts in Three Rivers have a macadam surface. The estimated lifespan of a macadam court is ten years, depending on levels of use and maintenance levels. To ensure courts can continue to be used beyond this time frame, it is recommended that a sinking fund is put into place for eventual refurbishment. The LTA reports that this should cost £1,200 a year per macadam court (which includes on-going maintenance costs).

The remaining courts have an artificial turf surface (sand-based). Such provision generally allows for greater levels of access, especially during inclement weather spells, as well as requiring less frequent maintenance. Nevertheless, the cost of resurfacing the courts is more expensive despite the lifespan being similar.

Quality

Following a non-technical assessment, 63 community available courts are assessed as good quality, 21 as standard quality and seven as poor quality.

Table 9.5: Summary of community available court quality

Good	Standard	Poor
63	21	7

All poor quality courts in Three Rivers are located at District Council owned sites; Baldwins Lane Playing Fields, South Oxhey Playing Fields and Chorleywood House Grounds. The maintenance of these courts is basic and infrequent, as opposed to club and privately maintained courts that tend to receive more specialised and dedicated work. However, it is worthy of note that courts at Council sites, Eastbury Playing Field and Maple Cross Playing Fields are assessed as good quality having been resurfaced 2017.

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Improving park courts is a national priority for the LTA; however, it reports that unless tennis courts are supported by changing facilities, a café and floodlighting, it becomes more difficult to operate a sustainable tennis programme, which therefore makes it more difficult to generate external investment. The LTA also advocates that sites with a minimum of four courts are likely to be more sustainable.

The remaining poor courts in the District are located at Saint Joan of Arc Catholic School. These courts are in need of resurfacing as the current surface is damaged and has loose gravel. This raises safety concerns so the courts are no longer used by the school or available for community use.

In terms of club courts, all six courts at Chorleywood Lawn Tennis Club, Croxley Guild of Sports and Social and Moor Park Golf Club are assessed as good quality. All ten of the courts at Rickmansworth Tennis Club are also assessed as good quality, with the remaining club courts at Oxhey Hall Lawn Tennis Club and Sarratt King George Field assessed as standard.

The courts at Manor House Grounds (Abbots Langley TC) are also assessed as good quality and have only recently been refurbished with the works completing in October 2018. This involved replacing the one tennis and two macadam MUGA courts with one macadam MUGA and three tennis courts. Further to this, a new skate park will be built (completion April 2019) over the existing basketball area adjacent to the courts/MUGA.

For a detailed breakdown of quality at each site with tennis courts, please see the table below.

Table 9.6: Site by site quality ratings

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Community use?	No. of courts	Court quality
2	Baldwins Lane Playing Fields	Croxley Green	Yes	2	Poor
60	Chorleywood House Grounds	Chorleywood	Yes	3	Poor
51	Chorleywood Lawn Tennis Club	Chorleywood	Yes	6	Good
9	Croxley Guild of Sports and Social Club	Croxley Green	Yes	6	Good
61	Eastbury Playing Field	Watford Rural	Yes	4	Good
16	Manor House Grounds	Abbots Langley	Yes	3	Good
18	Maple Cross Playing Fields	Rickmansworth	Yes	2	Good
19	March Durrants Sports and Social Club	Croxley Green	Yes	3	Standard
21	Merchant Taylors School Sports Complex	Watford Rural	Yes	6	Good
52	Moor Park Golf Club	Watford Rural	Yes	6	Good
22	Nuffield Health at RMS	Rickmansworth	Yes	10	Good
62	Oxhey Hall Lawn Tennis Club	Watford Rural	Yes	3	Standard
63	Rickmansworth Lawn Tennis Club	Rickmansworth	Yes	10	Good
24	Rickmansworth School	Croxley Green	Yes	4	Standard
28	Saint Michael's Catholic High School	Rickmansworth	Yes	6	Standard
29	Sarratt King George Field	Sarratt	Yes	2	Standard
30	Scotsbridge Playing Fields	Rickmansworth	Yes	3	Standard
32	South Oxhey Playing Fields	Watford Rural	Yes	2	Poor
42	Thomas Parmiter Sports Centre	Abbots Langley	Yes	8	Good
59	YMCA Abbots Langley	Abbots Langley	Yes	2	Good

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All courts that are unavailable for community use are assessed as poor quality. Given that these are located within school sites, improvement is recommended to aid curricular and extra-curricular activity and also to encourage community availability. Saint Joan of Arc Catholic School reports that it would be open to lettings if quality was acceptable and sustainable.

Ancillary provision

Whilst Croxley TC rate its facility as good quality, the Club report that the changing facilities located at the site are of poor quality and that the car parking available is inadequate. Moor Park TC and Chorleywood LTC both report good quality ancillary facilities, whereas Oxhey Hall LTC cites that the current ancillary provision on site is adequate. Manor House Grounds, where Abbots Langley TC plays has a very small clubhouse.

9.3: Demand

Combined, membership of the responding clubs in Three Rivers equates to a total of 1,208 members, which is derived from 713 senior members and 495 junior members.

Table 9.7: Summary of club membership

Name of club	Number of members		
	Seniors	Juniors	Total
Moor Park TC	83	56	139
Chorleywood LTC	160	130	290
Oxhey Hall LTC	30	9	39
Rickmansworth LTC	280	170	450
Croxley TC	160	130	290
Total	713	495	1,208

The largest club is Rickmansworth LTC, with 450 total members; the smallest club is Oxhey Hall LTC, catering for 39 members. Moor Park TC provides for 139 members and both Chorleywood LTC and Croxley TC have 290 members each.

Please note that Abbots Langley TC is a brand new club operating at Manor House Grounds. It currently has no membership, but it will be providing a coaching programme from March 2019.

Participation trends

Moor Park TC and Oxhey Hall LTC both report that membership has decreased over the previous five years at senior level. Oxhey Hall LTC indicates that this has been due to a lack of members to offer competitive tennis, as well as an ageing membership. In contrast, Chorleywood LTC reports an increase in senior membership thanks to an annual recruitment drive. Croxley TC states that their senior membership base has remained static.

In terms of junior membership, both Oxhey Hall and Chorleywood tennis clubs report that there has been no change in the number of juniors at the Club whereas Moor Park TC and Croxley TC experienced an increase in junior members.

Rickmansworth LTC reports that membership for both junior and senior members has remained consistent over the previous five years.

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Latent demand

Latent demand refers to potential demand; individuals who would like to participate within the sport but do not do so. This can be for a variety of reasons including a lack courts or appropriate facilities. There is no identified latent demand in Three Rivers.

Additionally, Sport England's Market Segmentation Tool³⁰ enables an analysis of 'the percentage of adults that would like to participate in tennis within Three Rivers, but are not currently doing so'. The tool identifies latent demand of 1,849 people, 301 (16.3%) of which are within the segment 'Tim – settling down males'.

This latent demand figure is comparable to that revealed in the neighbouring authority of Hertsmere, where 2,008 people were identified as wanting to participate in tennis but not currently doing so. However, this is considerably lower than the latent demand for tennis identified in Dacorum, where a total of 2,847 people were identified.

Future demand

Four of the five clubs which responded to consultation indicate plans to increase membership in the future totalling 190 members.

Table 9.8: Summary of future demand

Name of club	Future demand (members)		
	Seniors	Juniors	Total
Moor Park TC	10	10	20
Chorleywood LTC	30	30	60
Oxhey Hall LTC	0	0	0
Rickmansworth LTC	20	40	60
Croxley TC	20	30	50
Total	80	110	190

As noted earlier, Abbots Langley TC is a new club and as such does not currently have a membership base, but it will be providing a coaching programme from March 2019. In the longer term, this may result in new teams.

Parks tennis

Parks tennis leagues are less formal in comparison to established club play, offering greater flexibility and an opportunity for all abilities to engage in competition at local venues. The leagues are run by Local Tennis Leagues which affiliates to the LTA and are available to all aged 18 years and above, with administration and support based online. Players are organised into mixed sex leagues of eight based on similar ability levels, with matches arranged between the two players at whatever time and court is agreed. The flexibility of play is conducive to the use of park sites which are typically more easily accessible. There is not a Parks Tennis League currently operating in Three Rivers, with the closest located in neighbouring authority St Albans.

³⁰ See Appendix 2

THREE RIVERS DISTRICT COUNCIL

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Tennis Tuesdays

After being trialled in London in 2014, the LTA launched Tennis Tuesdays in partnership with sportswear brand Nike. The initiative focuses on increasing women's participation in tennis and skill development with a key fundamental social element, seeking to engage women in new and innovative ways to help break down barriers to female participation. Sessions are available to all abilities and are structured based on four ability levels ranging from beginner to advanced, each week based on one of six themes ranging from improving specific techniques to tactical awareness and match play. Sessions run from May to October, taking place every Tuesday evening for an hour.

As it stands there are no Tennis Tuesday's sessions running within Three Rivers, with the closest session operating in the London Borough of Hillingdon.

Tennis for Kids³¹

Tennis for Kids is a six week coaching offer for children that have never played tennis before and is identified as a priority by the LTA. For £25, kids get six weeks coaching by an LTA Accredited coach, along with a free racket, pack of balls and personalised t-shirt so that they can continue playing. To date nearly 25,000 kids have participated in the Tennis for Kids programme this year. There are currently no Tennis for Kids programmes operating in Three Rivers, with the nearest programme running in Chiltern.

Tennis for Free³²

Tennis for Free is a community sports charity that work in partnership with the LTA. The charity delivers free, fully inclusive weekly coaching sessions for all ages and abilities in local communities across the UK, especially those in low income areas. Tennis for Free offer a package for local authorities and court operators that includes financial support for local LTA Accredited coaches to deliver the sessions, tennis equipment for attendees and coaches and promotional support. Sessions are typically delivered across three courts, although the charity have recently launched 'Tennis for Free Lite', to unlock the large number of two court community venues that could benefit from the offer. Through its offer it aims to:

- ◀ Reinvigorate under-used public facilities
- ◀ Make tennis a sport for all
- ◀ Make tennis more financially accessible in the UK
- ◀ Improve the physical and mental wellbeing of local communities through tennis.

There are currently no Tennis for Free sessions operating in Three Rivers, with the nearest session operating in Cassiobury Park, Watford.

Great British Tennis Weekend³³

The Great British Tennis Weekend is an LTA initiative which all registered venues can access. Clubs have the ability to sign up to host open days, which are free of charge, and create a relaxed and welcoming environment for those new to tennis to participate. This in turn can potentially lead to the clubs attracting new members.

³¹ <https://clubspark.lta.org.uk/tennisforkids>

³² <https://www.tennisforfree.com/index.php>

³³ www.lta.org.uk/gbtw.

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The LTA hosts two dedicated weekends a year which are the UK's biggest public tennis events. Furthermore, venues are able to run additional events outside these dates and will benefit from their events being promoted on the national LTA campaign website. All clubs running an open day are asked to promote a follow on offer to all attendees, such as a reduced rate introductory membership or a number of free coaching sessions, to encourage people to continue playing after the event. There are currently no open days operating in Three Rivers, with the closest event running in Wandsworth.

Informal tennis

It is considered that all community available courts in Three Rivers that are not accessed by clubs have spare capacity for a growth in demand, although this is difficult to quantify as use is not recorded at every site due to many being open access. It is generally considered that courts are at their busiest during summer months, with little activity taking place outside of this. The venue management software Clubspark, developed by Sportslabs in partnership with the LTA could be explored at education and park sites in order to track court usage. This is not currently in place at any sites within Three Rivers.

LTA Clubspark Programme

LTA insight has identified unclear, lengthy or analogue booking journeys to be a significant barrier to people getting on court more often. As a result, it has recently developed a venue management system called Clubspark in order to improve the customer journey for people wanting to get on court at club, community and education sites.

Instead of providing open access, an online booking system (Clubspark) allows members and pay and play users access through the use of a fob or access code system via electronic gates. Not only does this deter misuse use of courts but it also allows genuine tennis participation to be more effectively tracked and monitored, thus providing data on how well and how often courts are being accessed and used. This online booking system sends an automated email as evidence as part of a self-policing system for managing court bookings.

Nationally, the LTA reports that over 2,000 hours of court time were booked in 2016 by a database of over 2,000 people held on Clubspark. Another advantage of securing access is to make tennis courts revenue generating rather than open access, with the income generation forming a sinking fund for the repair and eventual resurfacing of the courts at each site, thus making courts more sustainable in the long-term.

Pay and play

All clubs are asked to provide information in regard to whether their courts are available for pay and play when they register with the LTA. Using this, in Three Rivers, only Moor Park Golf Club and Rickmansworth Sports Club offer pay and play. This is featured on the LTA's Find a Court Tool, typically used by non-club members to identify local opportunities to play. The LTA strongly encourage tennis clubs to ensure that this information is kept up to date. It should be noted that clubs which offer pay and play tennis can generate additional income and usage of courts, as well as helping them attract potential future members.

9.4: Supply and demand analysis at club sites

The LTA suggests that a non-floodlit hard court can accommodate a maximum of 40 members whereas a floodlit hard court can accommodate a maximum of 60 members. Using these figures, the table below analyses whether or not courts currently in use by clubs are sufficient to meet both current and future demand.

THREE RIVERS DISTRICT COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

Table 9.9: Summary of supply and demand

Site ID	Site name	Current demand	Future demand	Recommended site capacity	Future capacity
9	Croxley Guild of Sport and Social Club	290	50	360	20
51	Chorleywood Lawn Tennis Club	290	60	360	10
52	Moor Park Golf Club	139	20	280	121
62	Oxhey Hall Lawn Tennis Club	39	-	120	81
63	Rickmansworth Lawn Tennis Club	450	60	520	10

There is sufficient supply of tennis courts at all club sites to meet current and future demand. Chorleywood Lawn Tennis Club, Rickmansworth Lawn Tennis Club and Croxley Tennis Club will be operating close to capacity if future demand aspirations come to fruition. For these clubs, focus should be to sustain current quality and to make improvements, where necessary. Each of these sites is considered to attract enough demand to warrant protection.

As Sarratt TC did not respond to consultation requests, further exploration is required to fully determine whether options to increase capacity are needed.

As all remaining non-club courts are deemed to have spare capacity, focus should be on improving quality to a suitable standard for informal play, particularly at publicly available sites that are currently assessed as poor or standard quality.

Tennis summary

- ◀ **Based on recommended LTA capacity guidance, there is sufficient supply of tennis courts at all club sites to meet current and future demand.**
- ◀ **As all remaining, non-club courts are deemed to have spare capacity, focus should be on improving quality to an adequate standard and to increase informal activity.**
- ◀ There are 104 tennis courts identified in Three Rivers across 23 sites, with 91 of the courts being available for community use.
- ◀ The Rickmansworth Analysis Area has the largest amount of provision, with the Sarratt Analysis Area containing the least amount of provision with just two courts.
- ◀ Five courts at Saint Joan of Arc Catholic School are unavailable for community use due to quality issues.
- ◀ No clubs' express concerns with regards to security of tenure.
- ◀ Each club is serviced by some level of floodlit provision, with 33 floodlit courts existing across the District.
- ◀ Of the community available courts, 72 have a macadam surface and the remaining 19 have an artificial turf surface.
- ◀ Following a non-technical assessment, 63 community available courts are assessed as good quality, 21 as standard quality and seven as poor quality.
- ◀ None of the responding tennis clubs highlight any issues with the ancillary provision at their respective sites.
- ◀ Combined, membership of the responding clubs in Three Rivers equates to a total of 1,208 members, which is derived from 713 senior members and 495 junior members.
- ◀ Abbots Langley TC is a brand new club operating at Manor House Grounds. It currently has no membership but they will be providing a coaching programme from March 2019.
- ◀ Only two clubs offer pay and play at their respective sites, Moor Park Golf Club and Rickmansworth LTC.
- ◀ Limited demand for outdoor tennis has been identified in the District as usage of open access courts is rarely recorded and no LTA initiatives are currently operating in Three Rivers.

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PART 10: NETBALL

10.1: Introduction

England Netball governs netball in England. Levels of participation are quickly increasing, with over 100,000 affiliated members and at least one million women and girls playing during a typical week. The NGB's aim is to provide its members and partners with the best possible service and experience in sport.

Nationally, netball activity takes place both indoors and outdoors. England Netball is currently working on delivering its new five-year plan, *Your Game Your Way*. Its mission is for netball to be played in a diverse range of ideal environments that inspire and enable participation, growth and world class performance. It is to achieve this mission through directing tailored programmes to each of its segments of participation, which are:

- ◀ Minis, returners, adult casual, youth social and recreational
- ◀ I Heart Netballers, Hooked on Netball
- ◀ Hooked on netball, Aspiring to perform, Talented youth and developing excellence
- ◀ Elite and high performance, aspiring to perform, Talented youth and developing excellence

Consultation

Consultation was undertaken with England Netball to gather strategic understanding of local facility provision and demand. Complimentary information was collected through online research.

10.2: Supply

In total, there are 66 outdoor netball courts located across 34 sites in Three Rivers. Of these, 30 courts (across ten sites) or 45% are available for community use.

Generally, schools do not allow their courts to be available for community use. This can be due to variety of reasons, such as a lack of local demand for court usage, lack of floodlighting, high staff costs to enable community usage or a preference to preserve court quality for curricular use. Despite sites being available for community use, only two sites; Thomas Parmiter Sports Centre and Nuffield Health at RMS, (12 courts) are regularly accessed for community netball.

Indoor courts

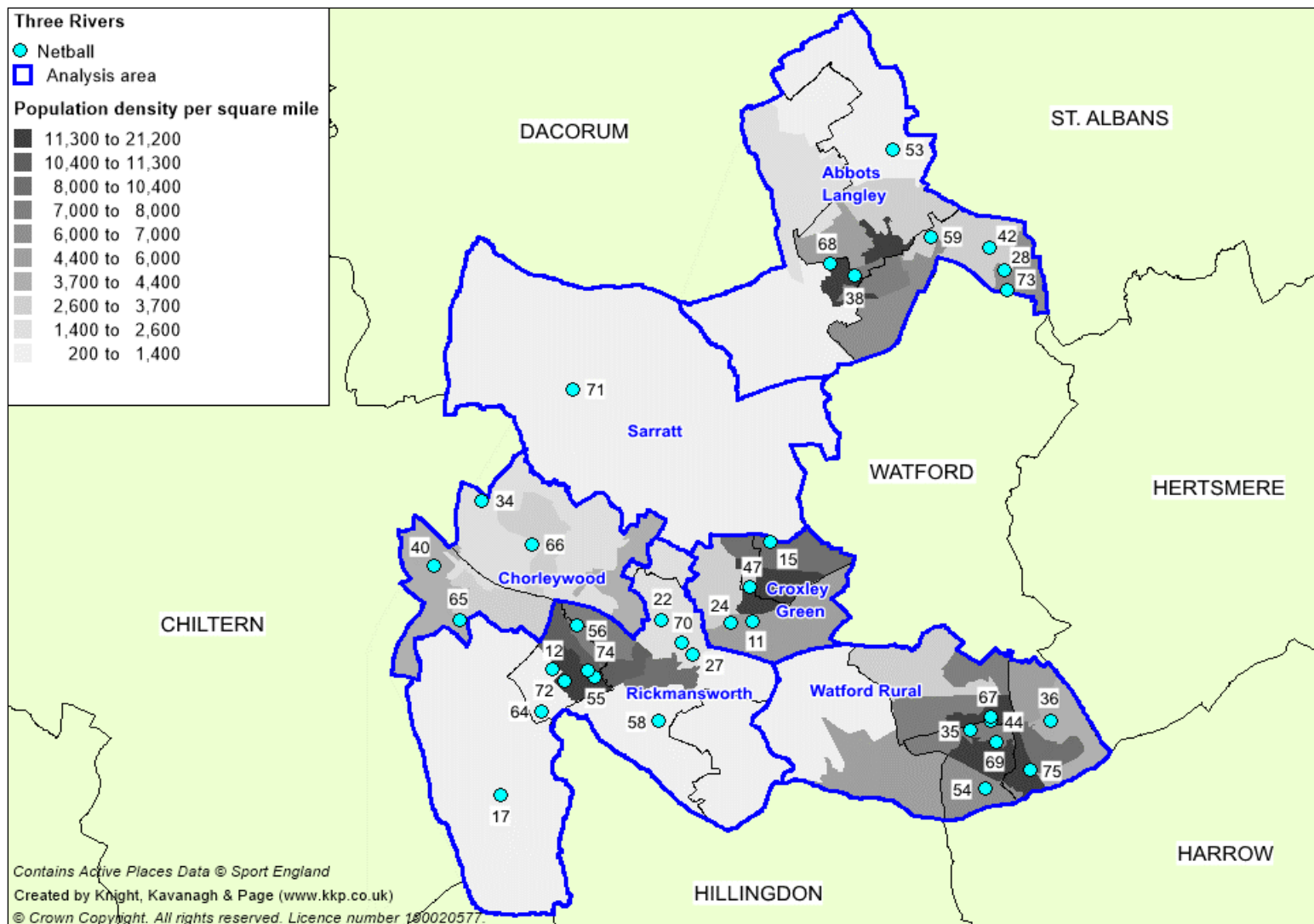
Nuffield at RMS, Thomas Parmiter Sports Centre, St Clement Danes and William Penn sports centres all also offer indoor netball. This is through a mixture of Uplay netball (junior netball), Back to Netball, Walking Netball and club training sessions.

It is reported that booking of indoor courts for club training is a challenge as halls are generally booked and are not available at times at which clubs would like them. There are also reports of relatively high costs at some venues.

Indoor netball is further examined in the Indoor Leisure Facilities Needs Assessment that is being produced in conjunction with this report.

THREE RIVERS DISTRICT COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

Figure 10.1: Location of outdoor netball courts in Three Rivers



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Table 10.1: Netball courts in Three Rivers

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Available for community use?	No. of courts	Court quality
56	Arnett Hills JMI School	Rickmansworth	Yes	1	Standard
53	Bedmond Village Primary School	Abbots Langley	No	1	Standard
65	Chorleywood Primary School	Chorleywood	No	1	Standard
66	Christ Church of England School	Chorleywood	No	1	Standard
67	Colnbrook School	Watford Rural	No	1	Standard
54	Greenfields Primary School	Watford Rural	No	2	Standard
11	Harvey Road School	Croxley Green	Yes	2	Standard
12	King George V Playing Field	Rickmansworth	Yes	2	Standard
15	Little Green Junior School	Rickmansworth	Yes	2	Standard
17	Maple Cross JMI School	Rickmansworth	No	2	Standard
22	Nuffield Health at RMS	Rickmansworth	Yes	4	Good
69	Oxhey Wood Primary School	Watford Rural	No	1	Standard
64	Reach Free School	Rickmansworth	Yes	3	Good
70	Rickmansworth Park JMI School	Rickmansworth	No	1	Poor
24	Rickmansworth School	Croxley Green	Yes	3	Standard
27	Saint Joan of Arc Catholic School	Rickmansworth	No	4	Poor
28	Saint Michael's Catholic High School	Abbots Langley	Yes	5	Standard
71	Sarratt C of E School	Sarratt	No	1	Poor
72	Shepherd Primary School	Rickmansworth	No	1	Standard
73	St Catherine of Siena Catholic Primary School	Abbots Langley	No	2	Poor
34	St Clement Danes School	Chorleywood	No	3	Standard
74	St John's Catholic Primary School	Rickmansworth	No	2	Standard
35	St Joseph's Catholic Primary School	Watford Rural	No	1	Poor
58	St Mary's C of E Primary School	Rickmansworth	No	2	Standard
36	St Meryl School	Watford Rural	No	1	Poor
55	St Peter's VA Primary	Rickmansworth	No	1	Poor
38	Tanners Wood School	Abbots Langley	No	1	Poor
68	The Divine Saviour Roman Catholic Primary School	Abbots Langley	No	1	Standard
40	The Russell School	Chorleywood	No	1	Poor
42	Thomas Parmiter Sports Centre	Abbots Langley	Yes	8	Good
44	Warren Dell Primary School	Watford Rural	No	1	Standard
75	Woodhall Primary School	Watford Rural	No	1	Standard
59	YMCA Abbots Langley	Abbots Langley	Yes	2	Good
47	Yorke Mead School	Croxley Green	Yes	1	Good

Following a non-technical assessment, most courts are assessed as standard quality 35 (or 51%) are assessed as standard quality, 20 are assessed as good quality (30%) and the remaining 13 (19%) courts are assessed as poor quality.

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Over marking

Whilst it does help with usage levels and sustainability, an issue for netball nationally is that many of its courts are dual use tennis courts. This limits accessibility (especially during the summer when tennis nets are often permanently in place) and can impact on quality due to higher levels of wear and tear. Of the community available netball courts in Three Rivers, Little Green Junior School, Harvey Road School, Saint Michael's Catholic High School, Yorke Mead School and Arnett Hills JMI School have dedicated netball courts. It should be noted that Saint Michael's Catholic High School only has one dedicated netball court at its site.

Court type

The vast majority of outdoor netball courts in Three Rivers have a macadam surface (96%), with the remaining courts 4% having an artificial surface. Artificial courts are located at Rickmansworth School.

The estimated lifespan of a macadam court is ten years, depending on levels of use and maintenance levels. To ensure courts can continue to be used beyond this time frame, it is recommended that a sinking fund is put into place for eventual refurbishment. Artificial courts generally allow for greater levels of access, especially during inclement weather spells, as well as requiring less frequent maintenance. Nevertheless, the cost of resurfacing the courts is more expensive despite the lifespan being similar.

10.3: Demand

There are two formal clubs in the District; Watford Premier Netball Club and Ley Netball Club. However, all of Ley Netball Club's play takes place indoors at St Clement Danes School.

The Watford Netball League and Kath Worrell Junior League are also based in Three Rivers and use outdoor courts.

uPlay Netball also operates a junior club in the District, offering coaching programmes for children in school years 5 - 9 at Nuffield Health at RMS on the indoor and outdoor courts on site.

Watford Premier Netball Club

Watford Premier Club is a bronze CAPS accredited Club. It has six established senior teams and four junior teams with four coaches. The Senior 1st, 2nd and 3rd teams train on Tuesday nights between 19.30 – 21.30 at Thomas Parmiter Sports Centre (indoor).

The senior 4th and 5th teams train on Thursday evenings between 19.30 – 21.30 at Thomas Parmiter Sports Centre on the outdoor (floodlit) courts. The 4th and 5th teams compete in Division 1 of the St Albans League. All matches are played on Saturday afternoons at St Albans Girls School.

The senior 6th team competes in the Division 1 Watford Netball League; its matches are played at Thomas Parmiter Sports Centre (outdoor) on Sundays.

All club junior teams (years 6, 7, 8 and 9a, 9b) train on Monday nights 19.00 – 20.00 at Thomas Parmiter Sports Centre. This can take place indoors or outdoors depending on the weather. They compete in the Garden City Junior Netball League and matches are held on Sundays at Stanborough School.

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Ley Netball Club

The Club operates as a social netball team which does not play in local leagues. It has approximately 12 junior female participants (although this number varies from session to session). It has one coach who is Level 1 qualified. Training sessions are held in the sports hall at St Clement Danes School. Whilst the school has outdoor netball courts, the team prefers to play indoors.

Indoor netball is further examined in the Indoor Leisure Facilities Needs Assessment that is being produced in conjunction with this report.

Watford Netball League

The Watford Netball League began in 2010 with three divisions of eight teams each. Since then, the League has fluctuated between three and four divisions. For the current 2018/19 season, 23 teams compete across three divisions. It operates from a centralised venue, with all matches taking place on the outdoor courts at Thomas Parmiter Sports Centre.

Kath Worrell Junior League

Similarly, to the Watford Netball League, the Kath Worrell Junior League also operates from a centralised venue, with all matches taking place at Thomas Parmiter Sports Centre. It currently has two divisions, an Under 14s division with eight teams and an Under 11s division with six teams.

Other demand

I Heart Leagues

The England Netball 'I Heart Leagues' are a social and gentle introduction into match play. The leagues are designed for players which have participated in the Back to Netball program or Social Players looking for access to a lightly competitive game each week.

There is an I Heart Netball League at St Michael's Catholic High School running from January 2019 with 10 teams. The season runs for 13 weeks and all matches take place indoors.

Play Netball

Play Netball is Britain's largest social netball league provider and arranges fixtures, league tables, umpires, netballs and bibs so players can focus on playing. People can join as individuals to find a team, a group to join the same team or produce their own team of 7 or 10 people.

Plans are in place for a Play Netball Watford League to begin at Thomas Parmiter Sports Centre. The league would operate over a ten-week season, with matches played on Wednesdays across three match slots; 7pm, 7:40pm and 8:20pm. However, there has been no confirmation of this league operating yet.

Back to Netball and Walking Netball

Back to Netball sessions are running across England and provides women of all ages a welcoming re-introduction to the sport. Sessions cover the basics of the game including passing, footwork and shooting and finish with a friendly game. Since its creation in 2010, over

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60,000 women have taken part. Currently, Back to Netball sessions take place outdoors at YMCA Abbots Langley and St Clement Danes School (summer only) in Three Rivers.

Further sessions run indoors at William Penn Leisure Centre and St Clement Danes School (winter only). An indoor Netball Now session also operates at the Reach Free School.

Walking netball has evolved from a growing demand of walking sports e.g. walking football. Walking netball is a slower version of the game. It has been designed so that anyone can play regardless of age and fitness level and therefore offers opportunities for older adults to participate and enjoy. Currently, there is one Walking Netball session operating in Three Rivers. This is based at the William Penn Leisure Centre and all of the play takes place indoors.

Latent demand

Latent demand refers to potential demand; individuals who would like to participate within the sport but do not do so. This can be for a variety of reasons including a lack courts or appropriate facilities. There is no identified latent demand in Three Rivers.

Additionally, Sport England's Market Segmentation Tool³⁴ enables an analysis of 'the percentage of adults that would like to participate in netball within Three Rivers but are not currently doing so'. The tool identifies latent demand of 292 people, 105 (36%) of which are within the segment 'Chloe – fitness class friends'.

In comparison to the other West Herts authorities, it is comparable to Hertsmere which has an identified latent demand of 317 people but somewhat behind Dacorum, where 451 people were identified as wanting to play netball but do not currently do so.

10.4: Supply and demand analysis

In summary, there is enough outdoor netball provision in Three Rivers to meet current and future club/league demand. However, priority should be placed on maintaining existing levels of provision and improving court quality. This is particularly key at sites which have regular use of their outdoor courts.

There is also high demand for netball initiatives in Three Rivers through Back to Netball and Walking Netball. Sessions are held at YMCA Abbots Langley, William Penn Leisure Centre and St Clement Danes School. A Netball Now session also now (from Jan 2019) takes place at Reach Free School.

Future demand is identified for a future Play Netball Watford League to begin at Thomas Parmiter Sports Centre.

It should be noted that netball in Three Rivers is focused at school sites, whether it is outdoor or indoor, therefore securing long term community use of these sites is crucial for the growth of the sport.

³⁴ See Appendix 2

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Netball summary

- ◀ **In summary, there is enough netball provision in Three Rivers to meet current and future demand therefore a priority should be placed on maintaining court quality and ensuring courts remain.**
- ◀ **Netball in Three Rivers is focused at school sites, whether it is outdoor or indoor, therefore securing long term community use of these sites is crucial for the growth of the sport.**
- ◀ In total, there are 66 outdoor netball courts located across 35 sites in Three Rivers. Of these, 30 courts (across ten sites) or 45% are available for community use.
- ◀ Generally, schools do not allow their courts to be available for community use. This can be due to variety of reasons, such as a lack of local demand for court usage, lack of floodlighting, high staff costs to enable community usage or a preference to preserve court quality for curricular use. However, there is a Community Use Agreement in place for Reach Free School and is part of the Planning Conditions for the new Croxley Danes School.
- ◀ Following a non-technical assessment, most courts are assessed as standard quality 35 (or 51%) are assessed as standard quality, 20 are assessed as good quality (30%) and the remaining 13 (19%) courts are assessed as poor quality.
- ◀ There are two netball clubs operating in Three Rivers; Watford Premier Netball Club and Ley Netball Club. In addition, uPlay Netball also operates a junior club at Nuffield Health at RMS.
- ◀ Two key netball leagues operate out of Three Rivers; Watford Netball League and Kath Worrell Junior League. Both leagues are based at Thomas Parmiter Sports Centre. There is also an I Heart Netball League at St Michael's Catholic High School.
- ◀ There is additional high demand for netball in Three Rivers through Back to Netball and Walking Netball. Sessions are held at YMCA Abbots Langley, William Penn Leisure Centre and St Clement Danes School. A Netball Now session also now (from Jan 2019) takes place at Reach Free School.
- ◀ Plans are in place for a future Play Netball Watford League to begin at Thomas Parmiter Sports Centre.
- ◀ Latent demand for Netball in Three Rivers is comparable to that revealed in Hertsmere, where 292 and 317 people were identified respectively. However, this is somewhat behind Dacorum, where latent demand of 451 people was identified.
- ◀ St Joan of Arc School has four floodlight outdoor courts currently not used due to surface quality issues. If this could be improved to standard or good it could become a key site.

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PART 11: ATHLETICS

11.1: Introduction

Athletics is administered across the United Kingdom by UK Athletics, including responsibility for developing and implementing the rules and regulations of the sport, anti-doping protocol, health and safety, facilities and welfare, training and coach education and permitting and licensing.

Locally, the sport is governed through England Athletics via a team consisting of an area manager and coach/club support officers. It will have one Club Support Manager for various areas, with 12 existing across the Country.

Consultation

There are two identified running clubs in Three Rivers; Ucanjog2 and Ricky Running Sisters. Both clubs were invited to complete a survey but only Ricky Running Sisters was responsive to consultation requests.

11.2: Supply

There is one formal athletics tracks in Three Rivers located at Merchant Taylors School Sports Complex which has a six-lane synthetic track (it is not floodlit). Further to this, there are several school sites which have grass athletics tracks marked out on their school fields. An example of this is at St Pauls C of E Primary School which has a six-lane grass running track.

In addition, Woodside Athletics Track although located in Watford, is on the boundary of the Abbots Langley Analysis Area. It provides an eight lane synthetic track with two 100 metre straights and all accompanying field event facilities including, four sand pits, hammer and discuss cages, Olympic standard pole vault, two shot putt fans and two synthetic javelin runways. The stadium provides a 700 seater covered spectator stand. The Club, Watford Harriers, will likely serve, at least, a portion of the Three Rivers District.

Running clubs generally use a variety of other spaces such as parks and recreation grounds, for example, Manor House Grounds and also the general road network to participate. It is therefore essential to ensure that particularly in parks that the infrastructure is adequately able to accommodate such high levels of usage in relation to ensure path quality, access to toilet facilities and car parking.

There is a link to be made in relation to cross referencing with the Three Rivers Open Space Study which is currently being developed alongside this PPS in relation to both open space provision including parks provision but also in relation to the public rights of way (PROW). For example, ensuring the quality of key footpaths is maintained and road crossings are adequately provided.

Ownership/management

All athletics track provision in Three Rivers is based at education sites and therefore owned and managed by the respective school.

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Quality

The track at Merchant Taylors Sports Complex is assessed as good quality. The track was refurbished in 2011 and maintenance work is undertaken regularly to ensure that the track remains suitable for competition usage. In contrast, the track located at St Pauls C of E Primary School is a generic school grass track and overlaps a cricket outfield. Maintenance work is undertaken as and when required in so that the track remains suitable for school usage.

Ancillary provision

Ancillary provision at Merchant Taylors Sports Complex is also noted as being good quality, with a dedicated pavilion to service the sports facilities on site.

11.3: Demand

There are no athletics clubs operating within Three Rivers; however, there are two running clubs. Numerous events are also held in the District such as Parkrun and Junior Parkrun.

Ricky Running Sisters

Rickmansworth Running Sisters is a women's running group located in Rickmansworth. The Club's official club run takes place every Tuesday at 7:30pm and begins at Mill End Community Centre. This run is then split into groups to cover a range of distances and abilities. It also participates regularly in the Rickmansworth Parkrun, whether that be as runners or volunteers. The Club operates its own 'Beginners' Course' on an annual basis and usually in April. This course is a form of Coach to 5k over six weeks. The Club had 149 paid members in 2018 and 117 paid members in 2017.

Ucanjog2

Ucanjog2 is a women's jogging club based in Abbots Langley. Sessions take place on Mondays at 6&7pm, Wednesdays at 7pm and Fridays at 9:15am. All runs begin in the car park of Manor House Ground. The Club also offer an eight-week Beginners Running Course. This begins gently with a combination of walking and jogging before gradually increasing the ratio of jogging to walking, as well as the distance and pace.

Imported demand

Whilst there are no athletics clubs in Three Rivers, there is still demand for athletics in the area as Chiltern Harriers Athletic Club access the track at Merchant Taylors School Sport Complex on an ad-hoc basis for competitions.

Chiltern Harriers Athletic Club are an active athletics club competing in Track & Field, Cross-Country and Road Running. The Club is based in the Chiltern District in south Buckinghamshire and has around 600 members. It should be noted that the Club has a dedicated home venue in Chiltern and that access to Merchant Taylors Sports Complex is on a competition only basis.

Jetstream Triathlon Club (based in Hillingdon) also access the track at Merchant Taylors School Sports Complex on a sporadic basis. The club has been awarded the Bronze TriMark award and currently has around 180 members.

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Parkrun

Parkrun is a series of weekly five kilometre (k) runs held on Saturday mornings in areas of parks and open space across 850 locations in 12 countries including the UK. They are open to all, free, and are safe and easy to take part in. Parkrun events are all ability runs open to all aged 14 years and older, whilst there are shorter 2k Junior parkrun events available on Sunday mornings for runners aged four to fourteen years old. In order to take part, runners must first register online in order to receive a printed barcode which gives them access to all parkrun events.

Parkrun actively promotes local clubs as part of its weekly events in order to advertise them to runners who may potentially be interested in joining a club, whilst approximately 10% of current parkrun participants are already associated to running clubs. It is common for local clubs to also support parkrun events through volunteering.

At present, there are two parkrun events in Three Rivers every week. These events take place at South Oxhey Playing Fields and Rickmansworth Aquadrome. The South Oxhey parkrun has taken place 203 times since its inception, attracting a total of 2,009 runners and an average of 47 runners. Its biggest attendance to date is 143. As for the Rickmansworth parkrun, it has taken place 91 times, attracting a total of 5,980 runners with an average of 336 runners. Its biggest attendance to date is 501.

There is also a junior parkrun event which takes place at Leavesden Country Park. This event has taken place 74 times and has attracted a total of 949 runners, with an average of 71 runners. Its biggest attendance to date is 130.

Couch to 5k

Couch to 5k is a national health initiative promoted by the National Health Service (NHS) to encourage absolute beginners get into running as part of establishing and maintaining an active and healthy lifestyle including regular exercise. The plan consists of three runs per week and a day of rest in between, with a different schedule for each of the nine weeks to completion. It starts with a mix of running and walking, to gradually build up fitness and stamina, in order to create realistic expectations and a sense of achievability to encourage participants to stick with it. The end goal of the plan is for the participant to be able to run 5k.

Through the Couch to 5k plan the NHS particularly promotes the health benefits of running and regular exercise which underpin the initiative, such as improved heart and lung health, weight loss and possible increases in bone density which can help protect against bone diseases such as osteoporosis. This also includes mental benefits of running through goal setting and challenge setting, which can help boost confidence and self-belief. Furthermore, running regularly has been linked to combating depression.

It is believed that an increase in people running through the Couch to 5k plan may increase interest and possibly have a knock-on effect leading to increased demand at running groups and clubs as people may wish to continue develop their running further.

Three Rivers District Council are currently promoting a Couch to 5k programme which will run for eight weeks, starting on Friday 11th January at the Rickmansworth Aquadrome.

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RunTogether

RunTogether is an official England Athletics recreational running project which aims to get the whole nation running. The role of RunTogether is to provide enjoyable, supportive and inclusive running opportunities across England in the form of set routes, running groups and access to programmes such as Find a Guide and Mental Health Ambassadors.

In Three Rivers, there are no registered RunTogether groups.

Future demand

England Athletics reports that there is generally a current growth being experienced in relation to athletics and running. In addition it is to be expected that the popularity of the Parkrun events and Race for Life event, as well as demand for RunTogether groups, will increase in the future following national trends.

Sport England's Market Segmentation Tool enables an analysis of 'the percentage of adults that would like to participate in athletics within Three Rivers but are not currently doing so'. The tool identifies latent demand of 5,196 people, 1,236 (23.7%) of which are within the segment 'Tim – settling down males'.

This figure is much higher than both Hertsmere and Dacorum, with latent demand identified as 2,273 people and 3,258 people respectively.

11.4: Supply and demand analysis

Given the lack of floodlighting available at Merchant Taylors School the facility is generally limited for daytime curricular use and weekend use for competition. Grass running tracks are unsuitable to host competitive athletic competitions.

Evidence does not suggest a wider need (based on accessed demand) for further dedicated athletics facilities within the Three Rivers District particularly given the accessibility to other tracks in the Area including Woodside Athletics Track in neighbouring Watford.

Priority should therefore be placed on sustaining and increasing the popularity of the numerous running events taking place within Three Rivers as well as exploring the growth of initiatives such as RunTogether groups.

Notwithstanding the above, there may be opportunities to consider compact athletics tracks (see below) to further help satisfy the growing demand from run clubs in the District. Further to this, there may also be an opportunity to explore floodlighting at Merchant Taylors School if community use could be established.

Compact athletic facilities³⁵

England Athletics has adopted UKA's strategic position that we should concentrate on preserving and improving the existing stock of 400m tracks rather than seeking to build additional ones. However, there are areas in the country where journey time to the nearest full size outdoor track is longer than ideal, and there are places where good coaching has created significant demand despite the lack of a local athletics facility.

³⁵ More details of this concept can be found at <http://www.sportengland.org/facilities-planning/design-and-cost-guidance/other-design-guidance>.

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The Compact Athletics concept is intended to fill this gap, providing training facilities in places where there is insufficient demand, funding or land to accommodate a full-size track.

A Compact Athletics facility can take a number of forms, but essentially provides a strip of synthetic track plus some capacity for jumps and throws, enabling core athletic skills to be taught, enjoyed and developed.

Athletics summary

- ◀ **Evidence does not suggest a wider need (based on accessed demand) for further dedicated athletics facilities within the Three Rivers District particularly given the accessibility to other tracks in the Area including Woodside Athletics Track in neighbouring Watford.**
- ◀ **There may be opportunities to explore further in relation to establishing greater community use at Merchant Taylors School or consideration of compact athletics facilities in the District.**
- ◀ **Priority should therefore be placed on sustaining and increasing the popularity of the numerous running events taking place within Three Rivers as well as exploring the growth of initiatives such as RunTogether groups.**
- ◀ There is one formal athletics tracks in Three Rivers located at Merchant Taylors School Sports Complex which has a six-lane synthetic track (it is not floodlit).
- ◀ The track at Merchant Taylors School Sports Complex is maintained to a good quality for competition usage (but only used for school usage).
- ◀ Woodside Athletics Track although located in Watford, is on the boundary of the Abbots Langley Analysis Area and is likely to service Three Rivers residents. It provides an eight lane synthetic track with two 100 metre straights and all accompanying field event facilities.
- ◀ No formal athletics clubs have been identified in Three Rivers, however, there is some demand for athletics in the area as Chiltern Harriers Athletic Club and Jetstream Triathlon Club access the track at Merchant Taylors School Sports Complex on an ad-hoc basis.
- ◀ Further to this, Rickmansworth Running Sisters and Ucanjog2 have been identified as a prominent running clubs in the District.
- ◀ At present, there are two parkrun events in Three Rivers every week. These events take place at South Oxhey Playing Fields and Rickmansworth Aquadrome in addition to this, there is a junior parkrun event at Leavesden County Park.
- ◀ Sport England's Segmentation Tool identifies latent demand of 5,196 across Three Rivers of those which would like to participate in athletics but are not currently doing so. This is much higher than the latent demand identified in both Hertsmere and Dacorum.

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APPENDIX 1: SPORTING CONTEXT

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

National context

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

Department of Media Culture and Sport Sporting Future: A New Strategy for an Active Nation (2015)

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

- ◀ More people taking part in sport and physical activity.
- ◀ More people volunteering in sport.
- ◀ More people experiencing live sport.
- ◀ Maximising international sporting success.
- ◀ Maximising domestic sporting success.
- ◀ A more productive sport sector.
- ◀ A more financially and organisationally sustainable sport sector.
- ◀ A more responsible sport sector.

Sport England: Towards an Active Nation (2016-2021)

Sport England has recently released its new five year strategy 'Towards an Active Nation'. The aim is to target the 28% of people who do less than 30 minutes of exercise each week and will focus on the least active groups; typically women, the disabled and people from lower socio-economic backgrounds.

Sport England will invest up to £30m on a plan to increase the number of volunteers in grassroots sport. Emphasis will be on working with a larger range of partners with less money being directed towards National Governing Bodies.

The Strategy will help deliver against the five health, social and economic outcomes set out in the Government's Sporting Future strategy.

- ◀ Physical Wellbeing
- ◀ Mental Wellbeing
- ◀ Individual Development
- ◀ Social & Community Development
- ◀ Economic Development

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National Planning Policy Framework (2018)

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 and safe communities' theme identifies that planning policies should be based on robust and up-to-date assessments of the need for open space, sports and recreation facilities (including quantitative or qualitative deficits or surpluses) and opportunities for new provision. Information gained from the assessments should be used to determine what open space, sport and recreational provision is needed, which plans should then seek to accommodate.

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

- ◀ An assessment has been undertaken, which has clearly shown the open space, buildings or land to be surplus to requirements; or
- ◀ 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; or
- ◀ The development is for alternative sports and recreational provision, the benefits of which clearly outweigh the loss of the current or former use.

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

The FA National Football Facilities Strategy (2018-28)

The Football Association's (FA) National Football Facilities Strategy (NFFS) provides a strategic framework that sets out key priorities and targets for the national game (i.e., football) over a ten-year period. The Strategy is presently in draft and is due for publication in 2018.

The Strategy sets out shared aims and objectives it aims to deliver on in conjunction with The Premier League, Sport England and the Government, to be delivered with support of the Football Foundation.

These stakeholders have clearly identified the aspirations for football to contribute directly to nationally important social and health priorities. Alongside this, the strategy is clear that traditional, affiliated football remains an important priority and a core component of the game, whilst recognising and supporting the more informal environments used for the community and recreational game.

Its vision is: *"Within 10 years we aim to deliver great football facilities, wherever they are needed"*

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£1.3 billion has been spent by football and Government since 2000 to enhance existing football facilities and build new ones. However, more is needed if football and Government's shared objectives for participation, individual well-being and community cohesion are to be achieved. Nationally, direct investment will be increased – initially to £69 million per annum from football and Government (a 15% increase on recent years).

The NFFS investment priorities can be broadly grouped into six areas, recognising the need to grow the game, support existing players and better understand the different football environments:

- ◀ **Improve 20,000 Natural Turf pitches**, with a focus on addressing drop off due to a poor playing experience;
- ◀ **Deliver 1,000 3G AGP 'equivalents'** (mix of full size and small sided provision, including MUGAs - small sided facilities are likely to have a key role in smaller / rural communities and encouraging multi-sport offers), enhancing the quality of playing experience and supporting a sustainable approach to grass roots provision;
- ◀ **Deliver 1,000 changing pavilions/clubhouses**, linked to multi-pitch or hub sites, supporting growth (particularly in women and girls football), sustainability and providing a facility infrastructure to underpin investment in coaching, officials and football development;
Support access to flexible indoor spaces, including equipment and court markings, to support growth in futsal, walking football and to support the education and skills outcomes, exploiting opportunities for football to positively impact on personal and social outcomes for young people in particular;
- ◀ **Refurbish existing stock to maintain current provision**, recognising the need to address historic under-investment and issues with refurbishment of existing facilities;
- ◀ **Support testing of technology and innovation**, building on customer insight to deliver hubs for innovation, testing and development of the game.

Local Football Facility Plans

To support in delivery of the NFFS, The FA has commissioned a national project. Over the next two years to 2020, a Local Football Facility Plan (LFFP) will be produced for every local authority across England. Each plan will be unique to its area as well as being diverse in its representation, including currently underrepresented communities.

Identifying strategic priorities for football facilities across the formal, recreational and informal game, LFFPs will establish a ten-year vision for football facilities that aims to transform the playing pitch stock in a sustainable way. They will identify key projects to be delivered and act as an investment portfolio for projects that require funding. As such, around 90% of all will be identified via LFFPs. LFFPs will guide the allocation of 90% of national football investment (The FA, Premier League and DCMS) and forge stronger partnerships with local stakeholders to develop key sites. This, together with local match-funding will deliver over one billion pounds of investment into football facilities over the next 10-years.

It is important to recognise that a LFFP is an investment portfolio of priority projects for potential investment - it is not a detailed supply and demand analysis of all pitch provision in a local area. Therefore, it cannot be used as a replacement for a Playing Pitch Strategy (PPS) and it will not be accepted as an evidence base for site change of use or disposal.

A LFFP will; however, build on available/existing local evidence and strategic plans and may adopt relevant actions from a PPS and/or complement these with additional investment priorities.

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The FA: National Game Strategy (2018-2021)

The FA launched its new National Game Strategy in July 2018 which aims to inspire a life-long journey in football for all. To achieve this, the strategy will focus on five key aspects of the game:

- ◀ A high quality introduction to football
- ◀ Developing clubs and leagues
- ◀ Embrace all formats of football and engage all participants
- ◀ Recruit, develop and support the workforce
- ◀ Develop sustainable facilities

Through these five pillars, The FA's objectives are to:

- ◀ Increase the number of male affiliated and recreational players by 10%.
- ◀ Double the number of female affiliated and recreational players via a growth of 75%.
- ◀ Increase the number of disability affiliated and recreational players by 30%.
- ◀ Ensure affiliated Futsal is available across the country in order to increase the number of Futsal affiliated and recreational players.

The sustainable football facilities should provide support to an agreed portfolio of priority projects that meet National Football Facility Strategy (NFFS) investment priorities.

The sustainable football facilities should provide support to an agreed portfolio of priority projects that meet National Football Facility Strategy (NFFS) investment priorities.

England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) Cricket Unleashed 5 Year Plan (2016-2021)

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

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

- ◀ ***More Play*** – make the game more accessible and inspire the next generation of players, coaches, officials and volunteers. Focus on:
 - *Clubs and leagues*
 - *Kids*
 - *Communities*
 - *Casual*
- ◀ ***Great Teams*** – deliver winning teams who inspire and excite through on-field performance and off-field behaviour. Focus on:
 - *Pathway*
 - *Support*
 - *Elite Teams*
 - *England Teams*
- ◀ ***Inspired Fans*** – put the fan at the heart of our game to improve and personalise the cricket experience for all. Focus on:
 - *Fan focus*
 - *New audiences*
 - *Global stage*
 - *Broadcast and digital*
- ◀ ***Good Governance and Social Responsibility*** – make decisions in the best interests of the game and use the power of cricket to make a positive difference. Focus on:
 - *Integrity*

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- *Community programmes*
- *Our environments*
- *One plan*
- ◀ **Strong Finance and Operations** – increase the game’s revenues, invest our resources wisely and administer responsibly to secure the growth of the game. Focus on:
 - *People*
 - *Revenue and reach*
 - *Insight*
 - *Operations*

The Rugby Football Union Strategic Plan (2017-2021)

The RFU has released its new strategic vision for rugby in England. The strategy is based on four main elements which are; Protect, Engage, Grow and Win. It covers all elements of rugby union ranging from elite rugby to grassroots, although the general relevancy to the PPS is centred around growing the game.

The RFU exists to promote and develop rugby union in England and ensure the long-term sustainability of clubs by growing player numbers and retaining them across all age groups. Responding to wider market influences, work will continue on developing new ways to take part in all forms of the game, without comprising the sports traditions. This will ensure a lasting legacy from elite success by attracting new players and encouraging current male and female adult players to play.

The four key aims to ensure long term sustainability are to:

- ◀ Improve player transition from age grade to adult 15-a-side rugby
- ◀ Expand places to play through Artificial Grass Pitches (AGPs)
- ◀ Engage new communities in rugby
- ◀ Create a community 7’s offering

England Hockey (EH) - A Nation Where Hockey Matters 2013

The vision is for England to be a ‘Nation Where Hockey Matters’.

We know that delivering success on the international stage stimulates the nation’s pride in their hockey team and, with the right events in place, we will attract interest from spectators, sponsors and broadcasters alike. The visibility that comes from our success and our occasions will inspire young people and adults to follow in the footsteps of their heroes and, if the right opportunities are there to meet their needs, they will play hockey and enjoy wonderful experiences.

Underpinning all this is the infrastructure which makes our sport function. We know the importance of our volunteers, coaches, officials, clubs and facilities. The more inspirational our people can be, the more progressive we can be and the more befitting our facilities can be, the more we will achieve for our sport. England Hockey will enable this to happen and we are passionate about our role within the sport. We will lead, support, counsel, focus and motivate the Hockey Nation and work tirelessly towards our vision.

As a governing body, we want to have a recognisable presence to participants of the game, be that through club or association website or their communications, or through the work of the many outstanding coaches in our game, so that players understand that their club is part of a wider team working together to a common goal.

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The core objectives are as follows:

1. Grow our Participation
2. Deliver International Success
3. Increase our Visibility
4. Enhance our Infrastructure
5. For England Hockey to be proud and respected custodians of the sport

Club participation

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

Hockey is clearly benefiting from a double Olympic legacy. After Great Britain's women won bronze in front of a home crowd in London in 2012 the numbers of young girls playing the sport doubled and a historic gold in Rio 2016 saw more than 10,000 players promptly joining clubs. These triumphs have inspired the nation to get active and play hockey. Thanks to the outstanding work of the network of clubs across the country, England Hockey has seen unprecedented growth at both ends of the age range. There has been an 80% increase in the number of boys and girls in clubs, as well as a 54% increase in players over the age of 46.

Hockey clubs have reaped the rewards of the improved profile of the sport, focussing on a link with schools to provide excellent opportunities for young players. Programmes such as Quick sticks – a small-sided version of hockey for 7-11 year olds – in Primary Schools have been hugely successful in allowing new players to take part in the sport from an early age. The growth in the sport since the eve of London 2012 has been seen across the country, examples being a 110% increase in under 16s club participation in London, and a 111% growth in the North West in the same age bracket.

England Hockey Strategy

England Hockey's Facilities Strategy can be found [here](http://www.englishockey.co.uk/page.asp?section=2075§ionTitle=Facilities+Strategy).
<http://www.englishockey.co.uk/page.asp?section=2075§ionTitle=Facilities+Strategy>

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

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

The 3 main objectives of the facilities strategy are:

1. PROTECT: To conserve the existing hockey provision

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

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

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

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

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

Growing the Game of Golf in England (2017-2021)

In 2014, England Golf developed its first national strategy to help golf in England rise to some serious challenges. Membership was declining, many clubs were facing financial and business problems and the perception of the game was proving damaging. As such, it decided to set out recommendations for actions that would help “raise the game”. The 2014 strategy helped achieve the following:

- ◀ 427,111 people being introduced to golf for the first time.
- ◀ 31,913 new members for England’s golf clubs from national initiatives.
- ◀ Over £25 million generated for golf clubs through new members.
- ◀ Four counties to merge their men’s and women’s unions associations.
- ◀ Support for 15,200 national, regional and county squad players.
- ◀ Over 150 championships and events organised across the country.

Following the above strategy, England Golf is now setting out to “grow the game” of golf through seven strategic objectives. Developed in consultation with the golfing community, six of these are developed from the previous work in 2014, whilst one (being customer focussed) is brand new and intends on boosting the impact of them all.

The objectives are:

- ◀ Being customer focussed
- ◀ Stronger counties and club
- ◀ Excellent governance
- ◀ Improve image
- ◀ More members and players
- ◀ Outstanding championships, competitions and events
- ◀ Winning golfer

Bowls England: Strategic Plan 2014-2017

Although the Plan is currently being updated, this version remains the most up to date available. Bowls England will provide strong leadership and work with its stakeholders to support the development of the sport of bowls in England for this and future generations.

The overall vision of Bowls England is to:

- ◀ Promote the sport of outdoor flat green bowls.
- ◀ Recruit new participants to the sport of outdoor flat green bowls.
- ◀ Retain current and future participants within the sport of flat green bowls.

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In order to ensure that this vision is achieved, ten key performance targets have been created, which will underpin the work of Bowls England up until 31st March 2017.

- ◀ 115,000 individual affiliated members.
- ◀ 1,500 registered coaches.
- ◀ Increase total National Championship entries by 10%.
- ◀ Increase total national competition entries by 10%.
- ◀ Medal places achieved in 50% of events at the 2016 World Championships.
- ◀ County development officer appointed by each county association.
- ◀ National membership scheme implemented with 100% uptake by county associations.
- ◀ Secure administrative base for 1st April 2017.
- ◀ Commercial income to increase by 20%.

Despite a recent fall in affiliated members, and a decline in entries into National Championships over the last five years, Bowls England believes that these aims will be attained by following core values.

The intention is to:

- ◀ Be progressive.
- ◀ Offer opportunities to participate at national and international level.
- ◀ Work to raise the profile of the sport in support of recruitment and retention.
- ◀ Lead the sport.
- ◀ Support clubs and county associations.

British Tennis Strategy 2019

The new LTA Strategy includes seven strategies relating to three objectives which are built around the following vision and mission:

Vision: tennis opened up

Mission: to grow tennis by making it relevant, accessible, welcoming and enjoyable

Objectives

- ◀ Increase the number of fans on our database from [623,602] to [1,000,000] by 2023.
- ◀ More people playing more often;
 - Increase the number of adults playing tennis each year from [7.7% (4,018,600)] of the population to [8.5% (4,420,460)], and the frequency of adults playing tennis twice a month from [1.9% (858,700)] of the population to [2.2% (1,000,000)] by 2023.
 - The number of children playing tennis from [x] to [y] by 2023 (to be finalised December 2018 on publication of Sport England's new Child Participation Survey).
- ◀ Enable 5 new players to break into the top 100 by 2023 and inspire the tennis audience.

Strategies

1. Visibility -Broaden relevance and increase visibility of tennis all year round to build engagement and participation with fans and players.
2. Innovation - Innovate in the delivery of tennis to widen its appeal.
3. Investment - Support community facilities and schools to increase the opportunities to play
4. Accessibility - Make the customer journey to playing tennis easier and more accessible for anyone
5. Engagement - Engage and collaborate with everyone involved in delivering tennis in Britain, particularly coaches and volunteers to attract and maintain more people in the game.

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6. Performance - Create a pathway for British champions that nurtures a diverse team of players, people and leaders.
7. Leadership - Lead tennis in Britain to the highest standard so it is a safe, welcoming, well-run sport.

England Netball - Your Game, Your Way 2013-17

Even though this Plan is out of date, England Netball remains committed to its '10-1-1' mission, vision and values that form the fundamentals for its strategic planning for the future for the sport and business. To facilitate the successful achievement of Netball 10:1:1 and Goal 4, England Netball will:

- ◀ Accelerate the participation growth by extending our market penetration and reach through the activation of a range of existing and new participant-focused products and programmes that access new and targeted markets.
- ◀ Increase the level of long-term participant retention through targeting programmes at known points of attrition and easy transition through the market segments, supported by an infrastructure that reflects the participant needs and improves their netball experience.
- ◀ Build a sustainable performance pathway and system built on the principles of purposeful practice and appropriate quality athlete coach contact time.
- ◀ Develop sustainable revenue streams through the commercialisation of a portfolio of products and programmes and increasing membership sales. This will also include the creation of cost efficiencies and improved value for money through innovative partnerships and collaborations in all aspects of the business.
- ◀ Establish high standards of leadership and governance that protect the game and its people and facilitates the on-going growth and transformation of the NGB and sport.

England Athletics Strategic Plan – Athletics & Running: for everyone, forever – 2017 and beyond

This plan sets out England Athletics' mission, vision and strategic priorities that will direct how they work as an organisation during the coming years: what they do and how they will do it.

Vision: Make athletics and running the most inclusive and popular sport in England, led by a network of progressive clubs and organisations and supported by a sustainable, respected and trusted governing body.

For England Athletics to achieve this vision, they will focus on three values:

- ◀ Pride – taking pride in their work and demonstrating to athletes that they recognise the importance of their role in bettering athletics.
- ◀ Integrity – demonstrate integrity to earn respect and to build effective partnerships.
- ◀ Inclusivity – promote inclusivity in all their actions.

Mission: To grow opportunities for everyone to experience athletics and running, to enable them to reach their full potential.

In order to achieve their mission, England Athletics will have three strategic priorities.

1. To expand the capacity of the sport by supporting and developing its volunteers and other workforce. The target is to achieve a 6% increase every year of licensed leaders, coaches and officials.
2. To sustain and increase participation and performance levels in our sport. To achieve this, England Athletics' current targets are to increase the number of club registered athletes

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from (149,000 to 172,000), engage 135,000 people through the RunTogether programme and to increase athlete performance levels across all events and disciplines by 1% every year.

3. To influence participation in the wider athletics market. Their target here is to increase the number of regular athletes or runners by at least one million.

England Athletics Facility Strategy (2018 – 2025)

The purpose of this document is to set out our long term vision for athletics facilities in England. Facilities form a vital component of the overall England Athletics strategy.

The development, protection and enhancement of facilities will support our strategic plan and help England Athletics contribute to the delivery of the Department for Culture, Media and Sport's Sporting Futures: A New Strategy for Sport and Sport England's strategy Towards an Active Nation. Appropriate facilities help to attract and inspire new participants and provide the foundation and focus for a significant proportion of the England Athletics family.

The England Athletics Strategic Plan notes that the sport increasingly needs to become financially sustainable and that a business-like and innovative approach is a vital component of its future success. Facilities are fundamental, but they are also expensive to create and to maintain. The sport therefore faces a significant challenge to develop, improve and maintain facilities, most of which are currently operated and funded by third parties.

This strategy sets out a challenge to all those involved with the delivery of the sport to be innovative and business like in the operation and development of facilities at a time of financial challenge, as it aims "To create an innovative and inspiring network of sustainable athletic facilities, with the capacity to meet both current and future demand across England".

UK Athletics Facilities Strategy (2014-2019)

Facilities are essential to attracting, retaining and developing athletes of the future. Having the right facilities in the right place will be crucial in meeting growing demand, increasing participation in physical activity and athletics, improving the health of the nation and supporting a new generation of athletes in clubs and schools through to national and world class level.

UKA and the Home Country Athletics Federations (HCAFs) recognise the challenges faced by facility owners and venue operators, and the 5 year Facility Strategy (2014-2019) uses a Track & Field facility model designed to support a sustainable UK network of development, training and competition venues that meet Home Country needs aligned to UKA's Athlete/Participant Development Model. In addition to Track and Field provision, UKA recognises the huge amount of club activity that takes place on roads, paths and trails and the strategy also maps out a plan for future "running" facilities.