



THREE RIVERS DISTRICT COUNCIL

PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT UPDATE

FINAL REPORT

APRIL 2010

Integrity, Innovation, Inspiration

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GLOSSARY

Active People Survey 2005/06	AP1
Active People Survey 2007/08	AP2
Active People Survey 2008/09	AP3
All England Netball Association	AENA
Cricket Development Group	CDG
East Region Hockey Association	ERHA
England and Wales Cricket Board	ECB
England Athletics	EA
England Golf Partnership	EGP
England Hockey	EH
English Golf Union	EGU
English Women's Golf Association	EWGA
Hertfordshire County Cricket Association	HCCA
Hertfordshire County Football Association	HCFA
Hertfordshire Golf County Partnership	HGP
Hertfordshire Rugby Football Union	HRFU
High Performance Centre	HPC
Junior Academy Centres	JAC
Junior Development Centres	JDC
Key Performance Indicators	KPI
Knight, Kavanagh & Page	KKP
Lawn Tennis Association	LTA
Local Area Data	LAD
Local Development Framework	LDF
National Governing Body of Sport	NGB
National Indicator	NI
Office National Statistics	ONS
Partnership development managers	PDM
Physical Education	PE
Planning Policy Guidance Note 17	PPG17
Playing Pitch Model	PPM
Professional Golfers Association	PGA
Rickmansworth Sports Club	RSC
Rugby Union Football Club	RUFC
Saracens Hertfordshire Cricket League	SHCL
School Sports Partnership	SSP
Sport England	SE
Synthetic Turf Pitches	STPs
Team Generation Rate	TGR
The Football Association	FA
The Rugby Football Union	RFU
Three Rivers & Watford SSP	TR&WSSP
Three Rivers District Council	TRDC
Towards a Level Playing Field	TALPF
Youth Football Club	YFC

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INTRODUCTION

This is the draft report by Knight, Kavanagh & Page (KKP) to deliver an update of the 2005 Open Space, Sport and Recreation Study for Three Rivers District Council (TRDC). It focuses on reporting the updated findings of the original assessment report also carried out, by KKP.

This report update report provides an audit based assessment of the quantity and quality of outdoor sport and recreation facilities in accordance with Planning Policy Guidance Note 17 (PPG17) and its Companion Guide entitled “Assessing Needs and Opportunities” published in September 2002. It will provide a robust evidence base to enable TRDC to develop planning policies as part of the Local Development Framework (LDF) and other local development documents. The specific objectives of this audit and assessment are to:

- ◀ Update the existing audit of outdoor sports facilities.
- ◀ Update the assessment of supply and demand for the facilities through targeted consultation.
- ◀ Reassess deficiencies and surpluses in provision through the Sport England Playing Pitch Model (PPM).
- ◀ Update sports by sport recommendations.

Report Structure

The following sections summarise the local administration of the main grass pitch and non-pitch sports in the District.

Each provides a quantitative summary of provision and a map showing the distribution of facilities. It also provides information about the availability of facilities to/for the local community and, the governing body of each sport and regional strategic plans. The findings of club consultation and key issues for each sport are summarised.

KKP has covered all sports for which there is currently organised, structured play on outdoor playing pitches as follows:

- ◀ General sport issues
- ◀ Football.
- ◀ Cricket.
- ◀ Rugby.
- ◀ Hockey.
- ◀ Bowls.
- ◀ Golf.
- ◀ Tennis
- ◀ Athletics
- ◀ Netball
- ◀ Education provision.

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CONTEXT

National context

Consideration of the national context is paramount. The following section outlines planning policy pertaining to the study.

Planning Policy Guidance (PPG) 17

PPG17 defines outdoor sport and recreation facilities as those 'with either natural or artificial surfaces', and includes both public and privately owned facilities. It therefore includes:

- ✦ Sports pitches.
- ✦ Synthetic turf pitches (STPs).
- ✦ School and educational institution playing fields.

PPG17 recognises the value of outdoor sport and recreation facilities along with other open spaces in delivering government targets concerned with raising levels of physical activity through:

- ✦ Supporting an urban renaissance.
- ✦ Supporting rural renewal.
- ✦ Promotion of social inclusion and community cohesion.
- ✦ (Enhancing) health and well being.
- ✦ Promoting more sustainable development.

Assessing Needs & Opportunities: A Companion Guide to PPG 17

The Companion Guide states that the long term outcomes of a PPG17 study include:

- ✦ Networks of accessible high quality open spaces, sport and recreation facilities, in both urban and rural areas, which meet the needs of residents and visitors and which are fit for purpose and economically and environmentally sustainable.
- ✦ An appropriate balance between new provision and the enhancement of existing provision.
- ✦ Clarity and reasonable certainty for developers and landowners in relation to the requirements and expectations of local planning authorities in respect of open space, sport and recreation provision.

In order to deliver these outcomes, a local authority needs to identify local needs and opportunities and develop and apply provision standards in a way, which is equitable to both developers and local communities.

The Companion Guide outlines a five-step approach to deliver the aims:

- ✦ Step 1: Identifying local needs.
- ✦ Step 2: Auditing local provision.
- ✦ Step 3: Setting provision standards.
- ✦ Step 4: Applying provision standards.
- ✦ Step 5: Drafting policies.

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Towards a Level Playing Field

The aims and objectives outlined in PPG17 and its Companion Guide are reiterated in the Sport England Playing Pitch Strategy Methodology, 'Towards a Level Playing Field' (February 2003).

It should be noted that 'Towards a Level Playing Field' only deals with the assessment of playing pitch provision and does not cover assessments for other outdoor sport and recreation facilities. However, the principles and basic methodology can be applied to the assessment of other sports.

Sport England strongly recommends that each local authority has an up to date playing pitch strategy. The benefits of having a playing pitch strategy are identified as follows:

Corporate and strategic
<p>It ensures a strategic approach to playing pitch provision.</p> <p>It provides robust evidence for capital funding for sports pitch improvement (to support applications to agencies such as the Football Foundation, Heritage Lottery Fund and Sport England).</p> <p>It helps deliver Government policies.</p> <p>It helps demonstrate the value of leisure services.</p> <p>It improves understanding of the quality and standard of sports pitches and associated changing (and other ancillary) facilities and the extent to which they encourage and enable more people to take part and enjoy pitch sports.</p> <p>It can assist in bringing specific sites back into active use and as a framework to assess sports club requests for improved sites and facilities.</p> <p>It can guide sports pitch provision and improvements through the Building Schools for the Future and Primary Capital programmes and regeneration schemes.</p>
Operational
<p>It can result in more efficient use of resources.</p> <p>Quality of provision can be enhanced.</p>
Sports development
<p>It helps identify where community use of school sports pitches is most needed.</p> <p>It provides better information to residents and other users of sports pitches.</p> <p>It promotes sports development and can help unlock latent demand.</p>
Planning
<p>It is one of the basic tools for implementing PPG17, particularly in relation to establishing a local standard for playing pitch provision.</p> <p>It allows the presentation of a coherent, up to date assessment and strategy to Sport England in its role as statutory consultee – when the planning authority is faced with development proposals that affect sports pitches.</p> <p>It provides a basis for establishing the requirement for new pitches or improvements to the quality of existing pitch sites that arise from new housing developments and the use of Section 106 Agreements.</p> <p>It is one of the best tools to justify protection of pitches in the face of rising development pressure on pitch sites for alternative uses, particularly with respect to new housing in order to meet regional targets.</p> <p>It provides an important evidence base, which is part of a holistic approach to open space improvement and protection to support the Local Development Framework including local authorities' emerging core strategies. It establishes a policy framework against which to justify existing or new recreation allocations for playing pitches/other leisure activities.</p>

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

The Football Association (FA) National Game Strategy (2007-2012)

The FA's Strategy provides a strategic framework that sets out the key priorities, expenditure proposals and targets for the national game (i.e., football) over a six year period.

The main issues facing grassroots football are identified as:

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

The Strategy also reinforces the urgent need to provide affordable, new and improved facilities in schools, clubs and on Local Authority sites.

Over 75% of football is played on public sector facilities rather than in private members' clubs. The leisure budgets of most local authorities have been reduced over recent years as priorities have been in other sectors. This has resulted in decaying facilities that do not serve the community and act as a disincentive to play football. The loss of playing fields has also been well documented and adds to the pressure on the remaining facilities to cope with the demand, especially in inner city and urban areas.

The growth of the commercial sector in developing custom built 5-a-side facilities has changed the overall environment. High quality, modern facilities provided by Powerleague, Goals, JJB (now DW) and playfootball.net for example, have added new opportunities to participate and prompted a significant growth in the number of 5-a-side teams in recent years.

Building Partnerships: Cricket's strategic plan 2005-2009 - from playground to test arena

In 2008, the England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) announced a £30million investment in facilities and in club cricket, the most significant injection of funding ever in cricket in England and Wales. The whole of the ECB development team, at a national, regional and county level is committed to making a difference to the game at all levels and building strong partnerships within and outside the game.

Building Partnerships is the ECB's blueprint for cricket's continued success and development over a four-year period (which is currently due for renewal).

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Building Partnerships, which maintains the ECB's theme of 'From playground to test arena', is built on four key pillars:

- ◀ Effective leadership and governance.
- ◀ Vibrant domestic game.
- ◀ Enthusiating participation and following especially among young people.
- ◀ Successful England teams.

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

The RFU Management Board has set out eight key themes to be incorporated in the strategic plan review process. These eight themes are as follows:

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

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

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

Active people

The Active People Survey 2005/06 (AP1) was a survey of over 360,000 adults aged 16 and over living in England. At least 1,000 telephone interviews were carried out in every local authority in England. Sport England developed a diagnostic tool to help use the results of the survey.

It gathered data on the type, duration and intensity of people's participation in different types of sport and active recreation, as well as information about volunteering, club membership, tuition from an instructor or coach, participation in competitive sport and satisfaction with local sports provision. The survey is now in its third year and Active People Survey 3 (AP3) began on 15 October 2008 and ran for 12 months until mid October 2009.

Nationally, key highlights from the Active People Survey include:

- ◀ The number of adults in England who do sport at least three times a week has reached 6.93 million (AP3).
- ◀ Athletics and cycling have each achieved increases of over 100,000 participants in the past year (between 2007/8 and 2008/9).
- ◀ The number of men playing sport three times a week has risen by 176,000 to 4.203 million.
- ◀ Regular participation among non-white adults has increased by 98,800 to 713,800.

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- Over two million adults in England (age 16 and over) volunteer in sport for at least one hour a week. This has increased by 125,000 between 2005/6 and 2007/8 (from 1.92 million adults to 2.04 million adults).
- There has been no change in the percentage of the adult population who receive tuition between 2005/6 and 2007/8.
- Between 2005/6 and 2007/8 there has been a statistically significant decrease in the percentage of the adult population that take part in organised competition, and the percentage of the adult population that are members of a club where they play sport.
- Satisfaction with local sports provision has significantly declined from 2005/6 to 2007/8.
- Football participation (indoor and outdoor) has grown from 2.91 million adults (7.1%) to 3.12 million adults (7.6%), an increase of 232,000 participants.
- Participation in golf has increased from 1.46 million adults (3.6%) to 1.54 million adults (3.7%), an increase of 87,000 participants.

Table 4.1 below shows the AP1, 2 and 3 survey results for Three Rivers in comparison to the England and the Sport England Region of the South East; as well as those for the nearest neighbours.¹ The nearest neighbours are not geographic neighbours, but those which are the closest to Three Rivers in terms of socio-demographics. This type of comparison has been developed to aid local authorities in comparative and benchmarking exercises, the models use a wide range of socio-economic indicators upon which the specific family group (nearest neighbours) is calculated.

Table 4.1: Active People Survey results

Key Performance Indicator (KPI)			National	South East	Three Rivers	Hertsmere	Brentwood	Tandridge
KPI 1 - At least 3 days a week x 30 minutes moderate participation (all adults)	AP1	%	21.00	22.61	22.9	20.7	22.7	22.8
	AP2		21.32	22.34	22.5	21.3	22.3	24.6
	AP3		21.64	22.88	24.5	18.5	22.9	19.7
KPI 2 - At least 1 hour a week volunteering to support sport (all adults)	AP1	%	4.71	5.38	4.1	4.0	6.4	4.9
	AP2		4.93	5.29	8.4	3.7	5.0	7.5
	AP3		4.72	5.42	6.8	4.7	4.6	5.3
KPI 3 - Club member (all adults)	AP1	%	25.11	27.55	28.8	29.5	33.5	31.8
	AP2		24.73	27.48	35.0	29.4	34.2	31.0
	AP3		24.13	26.14	30.0	28.9	32.1	29.2

¹ According to www.cipfastats.net Three Rivers top three nearest neighbours are Hertsmere, Brentwood and Tandridge.

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KPI			National	South East	Three Rivers	Hertsmere	Brentwood	Tandridge
KPI 4 - Received tuition from an instructor or coach in last 12 months (all adults)	AP1	%	18.02	20.65	21.9	21.7	27.4	22.0
	AP2		18.14	20.56	20.5	21.1	28.2	26.2
	AP3		17.55	19.52	20.0	18.5	24.1	20.7
KPI 5 - Taken part in organised competitive sport in last 12 months (all adults)	AP1	%	14.98	17.15	18.2	14.9	17.4	20.6
	AP2		14.65	16.35	18.9	14.2	22.9	20.8
	AP3		14.40	16.00	21.4	12.1	15.9	17.3
KPI 6 - Satisfaction with local sports provision (all adults)	AP1	%	69.53	71.76	68.8	75.8	75.9	69.9
	AP2		66.65	69.89	66.2	70.9	67.5	69.6
	AP3		68.41	71.18	65.8	74.6	71.9	73.2

The following table shows data for Three Rivers and its nearest neighbours in terms of participation in sport (three sessions a week at moderate intensity for 30 minutes). This is a different measure of participation than the NI 8 or KPI 1 participation indicators, which look at sport and active recreation (three days a week, moderate intensity, 30 minutes). The results indicate a marginal increase in participation in sport in Three Rivers over the survey period (approximately three years) from 22.9% to 24.5%. This increase follows a general trend seen at both a national and regional level.

AP1 found that 22.9% of those people surveyed in Three Rivers participated in sport and active recreation at least three days a week for 30 minutes at a moderate level (KPI 1), which places the local authority above the national average. This decreased marginally to 22.5% following AP2 but increased again to 24.5% for AP3.

Of those surveyed, over two thirds (68.8%) of people from Three Rivers were satisfied with local sports provision (AP1) which is slightly below the national average (69.5%) and lower than the comparable areas. AP2 found that the satisfaction levels decreased in Three Rivers (66.2%, mirroring the national trends. Satisfaction levels by AP3 survey continue to decrease in Three Rivers (65.8%).

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Market segmentation

Sport England has also developed a segmentation model with 19 'sporting' segments to help better understand attitudes, motivations and perceived barriers to participation.

Knowing which segment is most dominant in the local population is important as it can help direct provision and programming for sport and recreation. For example, whilst the needs of the smaller segments should not be ignored, it may be useful for TRDC to know the sports enjoyed by the largest proportion of the population. The segmentation may also be able to assist partners to make tailored interventions, communicate more effectively with target market(s) and to better understand participation in the context of life stage and lifecycles. Those segments found to be most dominant in Three Rivers are shown in table 4.2 below.

Table 4.2: Market segmentation results for Three Rivers

Market segment	Key characteristics	% of TRDC population	Activities/sports that appeal to segment
<i>Tim</i> , settling down males	Tim manages trips to the gym, weekends at the canoe club and the odd mid-week game of squash.	13.9%	Football Golf Squash Cricket Rugby Union Shooting American Football
<i>Chloe</i> , fitness class friends	Chloe is likely to be a member of a gym or fitness club. She is motivated to train to keep fit and to meet friends. More free time, people to go with and longer opening hours may encourage more participation.	12.0%	Body combat Swimming Gym Tennis Netball Pilates Running Aqua Aerobics
<i>Ben</i> , competitive male urbanites	The most active type across the population. Team sports are particularly popular, along with other high intensity activities such as lifting weights at the gym or competitive court games.	9.9%	Rugby Squash Cricket Tennis Gym Climbing Windsurfing Football
<i>Philip</i> , comfortable mid-life males	Philip is the most active within his peer group. He enjoys participating in a number of activities, including team sports, racquet games and technical sports. He is likely to be a member of fitness or sports clubs and take part in competitions.	8.6%	Sailing Gym Football Badminton Cycling Jogging Golf Cricket

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Market segment	Key characteristics	% of TRDC population	Activities/sports that appeal to segment
<i>Elsie & Arnold</i> , retirement home singles	Have the lowest participation rates of the 19 segments. Poor health and disability are major inhibitors. Participation occurs mainly in low intensity activities. Safer neighbourhoods or people to go with would encourage participation. Organised, low-impact, low intensity events would be welcomed.	6.2%	Bowls Keep Fit Yoga Aerobics

The male market segment with the greatest proportion (13.9%) of the Three Rivers population is “Tim”, a settling down male. The female market segment with the greatest proportion (12%) of the Three Rivers population is “Chloe”, someone who has fitness class friends.

This means that the greatest proportion of residents would benefit from initiatives that appeal to “Tim”; sports such as football, golf, squash, cricket, rugby union, shooting and American football, or “Chloe”; sports such as netball, swimming, pilates, gym, running, tennis, and aqua aerobics.

Clubmark

‘Playing to Win’ is the Government’s plan to get more people participating simply for the ‘love of sport’. Its stated vision is to give more people of all ages the opportunity to participate in high quality competitive sport through developing an integrated and sustainable sporting system which will nurture and develop sporting talent, underpinned by a high quality club and competition structure.

Sports clubs, and, in particular, Clubmark clubs directly support this aim. Clubmark accredited clubs are externally assessed to ensure they achieve minimum operating standards, regardless of the national governing body of sport (NGB) to which they affiliate. Evidence collected independently of NGBs suggests that they have, over the past two years, increased junior participation, raised the number of active, qualified coaches and improved levels of coach qualification, thus making them, in their own view and that of the evaluators, more effective and sustainable community sports clubs. There are no clubs registered as ‘working towards’ the accreditation.

The following Clubmark accredited clubs use outdoor sport and recreation facilities in Three Rivers:

- ♣ Abbots Langley Cricket Club.
- ♣ Langleybury Cricket Club.
- ♣ Chorleywood Cricket Club.
- ♣ Bushey Cricket Club.
- ♣ Watford Premier Netball Club.
- ♣ Croxley Tennis Club.
- ♣ Batchworth Park Golf Club.

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METHODOLOGY

Consultation

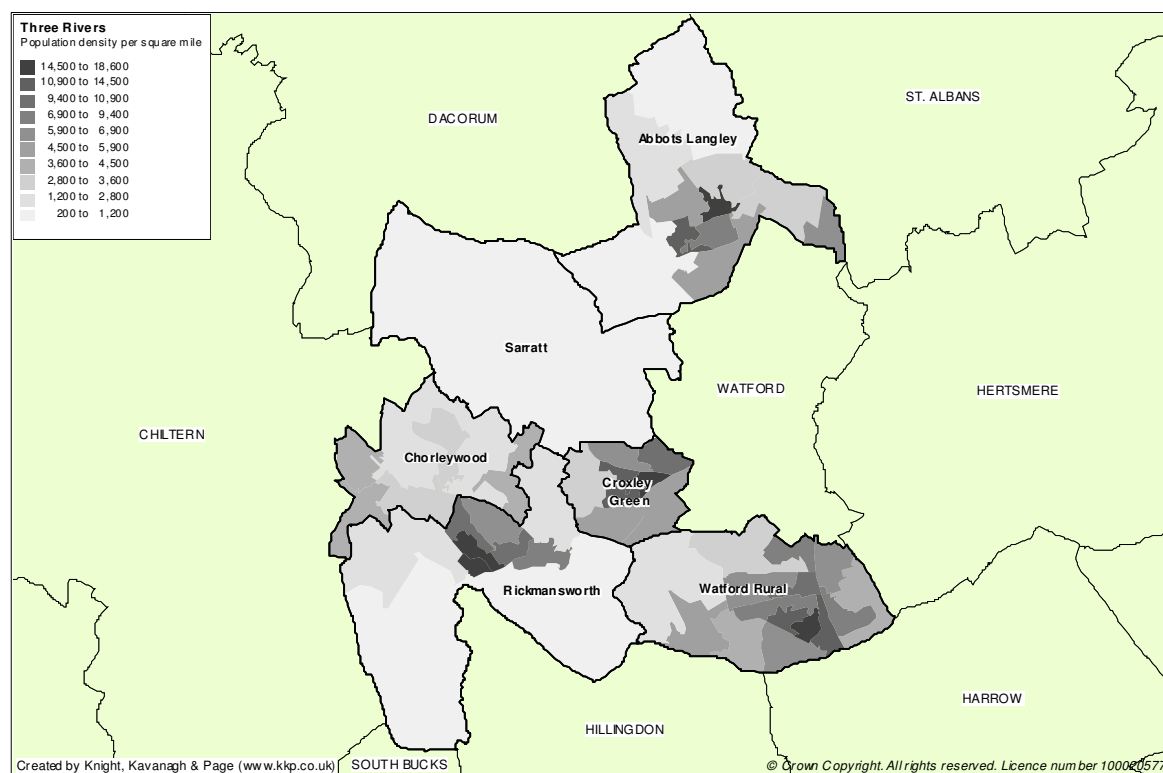
In order to update development issues and demand for outdoor sports facilities, we consulted key clubs and pitch providers in the area, face to face, over a two day period. This was supplemented with telephone consultation with regional governing bodies of sport to update regional priorities and assess the future impact for Three Rivers.

Analysis areas

Three Rivers has been divided into six analysis areas (shown below). Analysis areas allow a more localised assessment of provision and examination of facility surplus and deficiencies at a local level. Use of analysis areas also allows local circumstances and issues to be taken into account. Hence the analysis areas are as follows:

- ▀ Abbots Langley.
- ▀ Cholewood.
- ▀ Croxley Green.
- ▀ Rickmansworth.
- ▀ Sarratt.
- ▀ Watford Rural

Figure 1: Analysis areas in Three Rivers



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Population growth

Population growth has been forecasted using the projected using ONS population projections (2004-2009). It shows that by 2026 (to fit with the Core Strategy and the Regional Spatial Strategy) the District population is projected to be 100,900. This equates to a total increase of 13,227 or 15%. The population increases are used to forecast demand for pitches in 2026, as described in the PPM, and to calculate Team Generation Rates (TGRs).

Therefore, an increase of 15% is applied to each analysis area to reflect the population projections at a local level. However, the only population figures which are available for us to breakdown by analysis area is 2001 Census:

Analysis areas	(2001) Current population	15% Increase	(2026) Future population
Abbots Langley	17,305	2,595	19,900
Chorleywood	9,254	1,388	10,642
Croxley Green	12,078	1,812	13,890
Rickmansworth	16,587	2,488	19,075
Sarratt	1,866	280	2,146
Watford Rural	25,752	3,863	29,615

The projections are trend based projections and do not take in to account future local, regional or national policy and strategies

Analysis areas	2001 Census Population	Mid 2008 Population Estimate ^{1[1]}	15% Increase	(2026) Future population
Abbots Langley Parish	17,278	18,284	2,743	21,027
Chorleywood Parish	10,775	11,402	1,710	13,112
Croxley Green Parish	12,167	12,876	1,931	14,807
Rickmansworth (non-parished)	20,495	21,689	3,253	24,942
Sarratt Parish	1,883	1,993	299	2,292
Watford Rural Parish	20,250	21,429	3,214	24,643
Three Rivers	82,848	87,673	13,227	100,900

¹ Based on applying same proportion of population from Census data to Three Rivers mid year estimate total.

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FOOTBALL

Introduction

The Hertfordshire County Football Association (HCFA) is the primary organisation responsible for development (and some elements of administration) of football in Three Rivers.

FA County Facilities Strategy

Although the County Facilities Strategy does not specifically identify priority projects in Three Rivers, a number of strategic headlines have been developed, which any successful facility project would need to address moving forward:

- ✦ Improving the facilities available in adult league football.
- ✦ Promoting the female game.
- ✦ Improving the current provision of mini-soccer pitches.
- ✦ Promoting the community use of school facilities.
- ✦ Addressing the local needs of quality full size grass football pitches.
- ✦ Ensuring that all facilities are accessible for people with disabilities.
- ✦ Supporting the growth of small sided football.
- ✦ Supporting the development of FA community clubs.
- ✦ Using football as a tool to promote social inclusion.

Club development

In Three Rivers the club to team ratio is 1:3.3 (i.e. each club runs on average 3.3 teams). This compares to a national ratio of 1:2.6 and a regional ratio of 1:2.9. In general terms, the higher ratio is attributed to the number of youth clubs in the area, which run multiple teams. In total, 12 clubs (64 teams) in Three Rivers field youth teams (11 a side) and do not have a mini soccer team. Conversely, almost three quarters (72%) of adult-only clubs, have only one team. There is thus, a prevalent pattern of large entity youth football clubs and a preponderance of single team adult clubs.

In total five football clubs (8.2%) in Three Rivers have been awarded FA Charter Standard accreditation, as follows:

- ✦ Cassiobury Rangers Youth.
- ✦ Chorleywood Common.
- ✦ Croxley Guild.
- ✦ Evergreen Youth.
- ✦ Oxhey Jets.
- ✦ Watford Town Youth.

This is below the England average of 12.3%.

Three thirds of youth and mini soccer teams (59.7%) operate within an FA Charter Standard club.

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There is an increasing trend in Three Rivers towards the development of large clubs with multiple teams, where 20-30 teams are commonplace. There are fourteen clubs fielding 65 mini soccer teams in the District. To sustain this level of participation, clubs have to use facilities across a range of sites. For example, Croxley Guild Youth Football Club fields 18 teams and accesses five sites in the District.

Supply

The audit identifies 35 sites available for community use, providing a total of 103 pitches. In total, 177 teams are identified as playing on pitches in the District. Cassiobury Rangers, Chorleywood Youth and Croxley Guild football clubs all field a significant number of junior/mini boys teams.

Table 1: Summary of pitches available for community use and teams by analysis area

Analysis area	No. of available pitches			No. of teams				
	Senior	Junior	Mini	Senior men	Senior women	Junior boys	Junior girls	Mini-soccer
Abbots Langley	19	8	10	9	-	33	-	17
Chorleywood	8	5	-	2	-	16	-	7
Croxley Green	5	4	2	17	-	13	1	3
Rickmansworth	7	2	-	16	-	2	-	-
Sarratt	3	-	4	3	-	1	-	3
Watford Rural	11	4	11	17	1	8	4	4
THREE RIVERS	53	23	27	64	1	73	5	34

There are a number of pitches, as summarised below, which have been excluded from the supply and demand analysis, as they are not available for community use. These are pitches, primarily located on primary and secondary school sites, comprise of three senior, seven junior and two mini pitches. These sites could offer potential capacity/additional pitches if the current supply does not meet expressed demand in the District.

Table 2: Summary of pitches not available for community use

Analysis area	No. of pitches NOT available for community use		
	Senior	Junior	Mini
Abbots Langley	-	2	-
Chorleywood	-	-	-
Croxley Green	-	-	-
Rickmansworth	2	1	-
Sarratt	-	1	-
Watford Rural	1	3	2
THREE RIVERS	3	7	2

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Figure 2: Location of football pitches in the District of Three Rivers

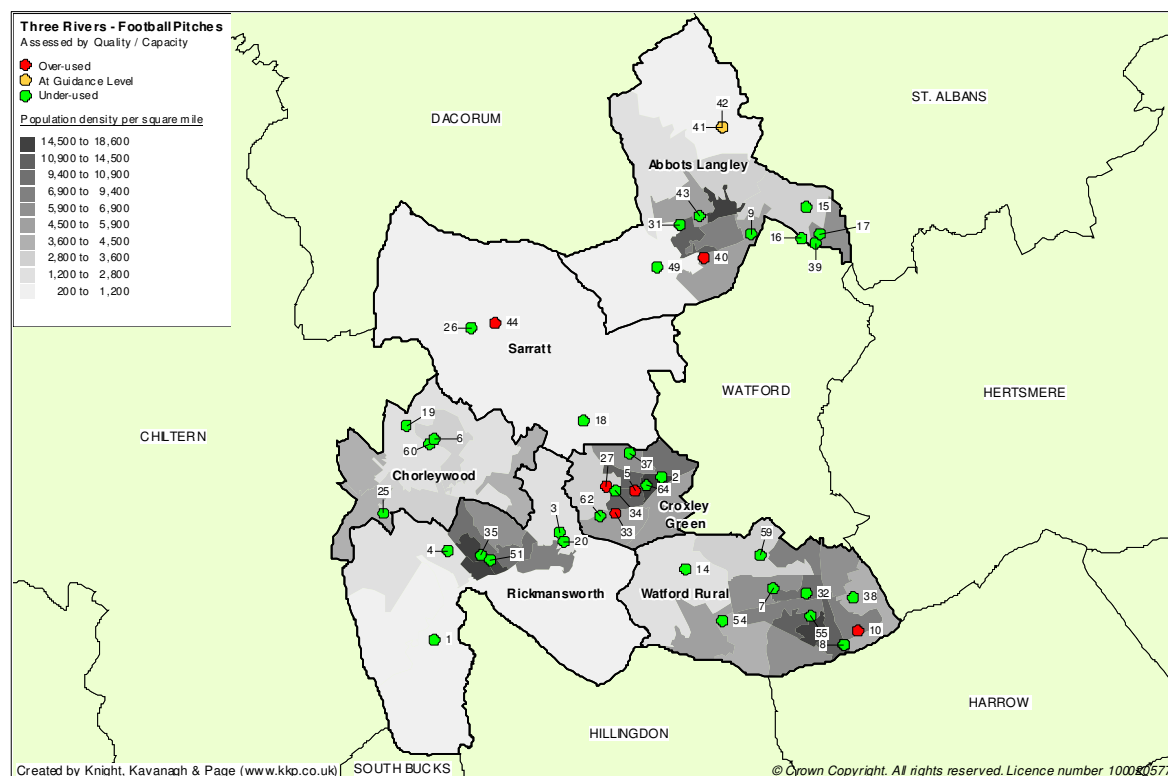


Figure 2 indicates that there is generally an even distribution of football pitches across the District. Abbots Langley, Croxley Green and Watford Rural analysis areas accommodate more sites compared to Sarratt.

Areas with high population density are generally well served by football pitches (e.g., Croxley Green, Rickmansworth and Abbots Langley). However, several sites in Croxley Green have high levels of use and as such are overplayed (red dots on the map). This affects their quality, and subsequently playing capacity. Therefore, whilst there is a good distribution of pitches throughout the District, they are not all available/suitable for additional use.

Table 3: Key to map

Site name	KKP ref	Analysis area	Community use	No. of pitches		
				Senior	Junior	Mini
Bedmond Sports & Social Club	41	Abbots Langley	Yes	1	1	
Bedmond Village Primary School	42	Abbots Langley	Yes			1
Francis Combe School	16	Abbots Langley	Yes	1	2	
Langleybury Playing Fields - Langleybury CC	49	Abbots Langley	Yes	2		
Leavesden County Park	9	Abbots Langley	Yes	1	1	
Manor House Ground	43	Abbots Langley	Yes	2	2	
Parmiters School	15	Abbots Langley	Yes	7	1	7
Southway Playing Fields	40	Abbots Langley	Yes	2	1	1

THREE RIVERS DISTRICT COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT UPDATE

Site name	KKP ref	Analysis area	Community use	No. of pitches		
				Senior	Junior	Mini
St Catherine of Siena Catholic Primary School	39	Abbots Langley	Yes	1		1
St Michael's Catholic High School	17	Abbots Langley	Yes	2		
The Divine Saviour RC Primary School	31	Abbots Langley	No		2	
Chorleywood CC (football pitch)	60	Chorleywood	Yes		1	
Chorleywood House Estate	6	Chorleywood	Yes	4	3	
Chorleywood Primary School	25	Chorleywood	Yes		2	
Clement Danes	19	Chorleywood	Yes	4		
Baldwins Lane Playing Fields	2	Croxley Green	Yes	2		
Barton Way	5	Croxley Green	Yes	1		
Croxley Guild Sports & Social Club	27	Croxley Green	Yes	2	1	
Harvey Road Primary School	33	Croxley Green	Yes		1	
Little Green Junior School	37	Croxley Green	Yes			2
Malvern Way Junior School	64	Croxley Green	Yes			1
Rickmansworth School	62	Croxley Green	Yes	1		
Yorke Mead Primary School	34	Croxley Green	Yes		2	
KGV, Mill End	4	Rickmansworth	Yes	2		
Maple Cross	1	Rickmansworth	Yes	2	1	
Scotsbridge Playing Field	3	Rickmansworth	Yes	2		
Sheppard Primary School	35	Rickmansworth	No		1	
St Joan of Arc School	20	Rickmansworth	No	2		
St Peters C of E School	51	Rickmansworth	Yes		1	
King George V Playing Fields, Sarratt	44	Sarratt	Yes	1		2
Sarratt Church of England School	26	Sarratt	No		1	
York House Prep School	18	Sarratt	Yes	2		2
Bushey Cricket Club football pitch (overmarked)	59	Watford Rural	Yes	1		
Eastbury Farm JMI School	54	Watford Rural	Yes			4
Merchant Taylors School	14	Watford Rural	Yes	3	2	
Oxhey Wood School	55	Watford Rural	No		2	
Romilly Drive and Oulten Way	10	Watford Rural	Yes		1	
Sir James Altham	8	Watford Rural	Yes	1		2
South Oxhey Playing Fields	7	Watford Rural	Yes	6	1	4
St Meryl School	38	Watford Rural	Yes			1
Warren Dell Primary School	32	Watford Rural	No		1	

THREE RIVERS DISTRICT COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT UPDATE

Demand

Data from the FA Local Area Data (LAD)² report suggests that there are 200 teams currently playing competitive football in the District which comprise:

- ✦ 71 adult teams (KKP identified 65).
- ✦ 64 youth teams (KKP identified 78).
- ✦ 65 mini soccer teams (KKP identified 34).

The LAD reports there are no small sided teams.

Conversion rates estimate the number of individuals playing football (expressed as a percentage of the population). The following table summarises conversion rates for Three Rivers from the last three seasons, compared with national and East of England averages. The conversion rates provide a useful baseline for the District.

Table 4: Summary of participation trends 06/07 - 08/09

	Adult male (11v11)	Adult female (11v11)	Youth male (11v11)	Youth female (11v11)	Mini soccer	FA Charter Standard
Three Rivers 07/08	6.5%	0.0%	27.5%	0.9%	13.8%	-
Three Rivers 08/09	6.8%	0.1%	29.4%	0.0%	15.2%	59.7%
East Average 08/09	6.2%	0.2%	29.1%	2.0%	11.0%	-
National Average 08/09	5.0%	0.2%	23.9%	2.0%	8.9%	58.1%

Red - indicates figures below the regional and national average.

Amber - indicates figures in line with the national average.

Green - indicates figures above the national average.

In general terms, conversion rates for Three Rivers are higher than regional (East of England) and national averages across the majority of categories (with the exception of adult and youth female). The conversion rates are significantly higher than regional and national averages for mini soccer, and reflect the prevalence of a number of strong junior clubs in the District, operating a large number of mini soccer teams.

² There are discrepancies between the FA data and KKP data. Consultation with the FA acknowledges that teams in the FA LAD do not always reflect playing venues and hence the KKP data is likely to prove more accurate.

THREE RIVERS DISTRICT COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT UPDATE

Further analysis of the trends over the last two years illustrated by the LAD data, highlights a number of key trends which should be considered:

- ✦ Adult male conversion rates show a decrease of 0.3% over the past two years.
- ✦ Adult female conversion rates show an increase of 0.1% over the past two years.
- ✦ Youth male conversion rates show a significant increase of 1.9% over the past two years. This can be attributed to the consistent growth of a number of clubs such as Chorleywood Youth Football Club.
- ✦ Youth female conversion rate also show a decrease of 0.9% which places Three Rivers under the national and regional average for youth female football. However, youth female has increased by 0.1%.
- ✦ Mini soccer conversion rates have increased by 1.4% over the last two years.

Key issues from consultation

Demand

Consultation indicates high demand for football pitches, particularly in the Rickmansworth area, to support clubs fielding a significant number of teams. There are currently eight football pitches (six senior and two junior) in Rickmansworth analysis area. An analysis of play suggests these pitches could accommodate further play. For example, local authority site Scotsbridge Playing Field (KKP Ref 3) could potentially accommodate a further two matches per week.

There are sixteen schools in the District (13 primary and six secondary) which allow community use of their football pitches. This helps to cater for demand for junior football.

Girls' football

In 2009, Three Rivers and Watford School Sports Partnership assisted Croxley Guild Youth Football Club to establish a girls' football team. Consultation identifies pupils are generally signposted to clubs located outside of the Three Rivers area, due to a lack of clubs fielding girls and women's team in the District. Watford Rural analysis area provides one women's team; Northwood Ladies FC which also fields four junior girls teams. It accesses pitches at Merchant Taylors School (KKP Ref 66). Chorleywood Youth Football Club has plans to introduce a girls' team, which will play at its home ground but will require access to segregated changing.

Chorleywood Youth Football Club

The Club is well established and has a large membership which stands at approximately 500 playing members. It fields 23 teams, providing football opportunities from U7s through to U18s. In addition, it delivers a mini soccer coaching school, accommodating 100 children (U5 and U6). It reports membership levels increase on a yearly basis by approximately 50 players from the mini soccer school.

It has a long term lease from TRDC on its home ground located at Chorleywood Estate. The site provides four senior and three junior pitches and a clubhouse facility. Car parking is limited and is inadequate to serve peak demand. It also accesses pitches at St. Clement Danes School.

In 2009, the Club approached TRDC to expand onto an area of land adjoining its home ground. The aim was to accommodate two senior and one junior pitch and convert a

THREE RIVERS DISTRICT COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT UPDATE

senior pitch at its home ground into a training pitch. The land is owned by TRDC and is designated as a Local Nature Reserve. However, planning permission was refused. It is currently in discussions with a local farmer to lease agricultural land in Chorleywood (close to the M25) and would like advice and assistance from TRDC regarding planning permission for pitch developments.

It envisages membership levels will reach 700 playing members within the next four to five years. The Club suggests if it does not access additional pitches it may need to operate a waiting list for new members.

Training facilities

There are a significant number of teams in the District requiring access to floodlit training provision during the winter months. Training facilities are available at schools including St. Clement Dane, St Michaels Catholic High and Merchant Taylors. Clubs report the cost of hiring St Clement Dane is expensive and it can be difficult to access at peak times particularly due to competition from hockey clubs.

In order to accommodate training, Chorleywood Youth Football Club accesses a large number of sites in the District including St Clement Danes School STP and Dr Challoners School STP, Little Chalfont (located outside the assessment area). It also uses a significant number of open spaces in the Chorleywood area including Chorleywood Common and rough land located on the Chorleywood Estate. It expresses demand for a floodlit artificial pitch in either the Chorleywood or Rickmansworth.

St. Clement Danes STP is regularly used by local football clubs including Chalfont Saints, Chorleywood YFC, Croxley Old Boys as well as local primary schools; Christchurch and St Andrews Church. As part of the planning permission conditions, the STP can only be floodlit until 9pm. The School reports demand for floodlighting until 10pm. It believes this could help to soak up demand for football training. The School operates a strict usage policy on the STP and does not allow use from local pub football teams as it fears this may lead to greater deterioration of the pitch quality.

THREE RIVERS DISTRICT COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT UPDATE

Provision of football pitch sites assessed by quality and capacity

This section presents the current pitch stock available for football in the District. It illustrates the:

- ◆ Number of pitches rated as Good (G), Average (A) and Poor (P) on each site.
- ◆ Type of pitch(es) on each site (i.e., senior, junior, mini).

The column entitled 'matches per week' is split into three sections – play, capacity and rating:

- ◆ The current level of play per week (0.5 for each match played at the site, assuming half of matches will be played 'away').
- ◆ The capacity of the pitches on each site.
- ◆ The rating of the pitches, which indicates if pitches are played under capacity (green), played at capacity (amber) or played over-capacity (red).

Calculation of *capacity* is based on the qualitative ratings. Taking into consideration Sport England guidelines on capacity the following was concluded:

If a pitch is rated as 'good' its capacity is specified as two matches per week.	Green
If a pitch is rated as 'acceptable' its capacity is specified as one match per week.	Amber
If a pitch is rated as 'poor' its capacity is specified as one match every other week.	Red

THREE RIVERS DISTRICT COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT UPDATE

Table 5: Football provision and level of community use

KKP ref	Site name	Analysis area	Community use	Senior			Junior			Mini			Matches per week		
				G	A	P	G	A	P	G	A	P	play	cap	rating
9	Leavesden County Park	Abbots Langley	Yes	1			1						2.0	4.0	
15	Parmiters School	Abbots Langley	Yes	7			1			7			9.5	30.0	
16	Francis Combe School	Abbots Langley	Yes	1			2						1.5	6.0	
17	St Michael's Catholic High School	Abbots Langley	Yes	2									0.5	4.0	
39	St Catherine of Siena Catholic Primary School	Abbots Langley	Yes			1						1	0.5	1.0	
40	Southway Playing Fields	Abbots Langley	Yes		2			1			1		9.5	4.0	
41	Bedmond Sports & Social Club	Abbots Langley	Yes	1			1						1.5	4.0	
42	Bedmond Village Primary School	Abbots Langley	Yes								1		1.0	1.0	
43	Manor House Ground	Abbots Langley	Yes	2			2						3.5	8.0	
49	Langleybury Playing Fields	Abbots Langley	Yes	2									-	4.0	
6	Chorleywood House Estate	Chorleywood	Yes	4			3						11.5	14.0	
19	Clement Danes	Chorleywood	Yes	4									1.0	8.0	
25	Chorleywood Primary School	Chorleywood	Yes					2					-	1.0	
60	Chorleywood CC (football pitch)	Chorleywood	Yes				1						-	2.0	
2	Baldwins Lane Playing Fields	Croxley Green	Yes	2									2.5	4.0	
5	Barton Way	Croxley Green	Yes	1									2.5	2.0	
27	Croxley Guild Sports & Social Club	Croxley Green	Yes	2			1						7.5	6.0	
33	Harvey Road Primary School	Croxley Green	Yes					1					2.0	0.5	
34	Yorke Mead Primary School	Croxley Green	Yes					2					1.0	1.0	
37	Little Green Junior School	Croxley Green	Yes							2			1.0	2.0	
62	Rickmansworth School	Croxley Green	Yes	1									-	2.0	
64	Malvern Way Junior School	Croxley Green	Yes								1		0.5	0.5	
1	Maple Cross	Rickmansworth	Yes	2			1						4.0	6.0	
3	Scotsbridge Playing Field	Rickmansworth	Yes	2									1.5	4.0	

THREE RIVERS DISTRICT COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT UPDATE

KKP ref	Site name	Analysis area	Community use	Senior			Junior			Mini			Matches per week		
				G	A	P	G	A	P	G	A	P	play	cap	rating
4	KGV, Mill End	Rickmansworth	Yes	2									3.5	4.0	
51	St Peters C of E School	Rickmansworth	Yes						1				-	0.5	
18	York House Prep School	Sarratt	Yes		2					2			-	4.0	
44	King George V Playing Fields, Sarratt	Sarratt	Yes		1					2			3.5	3.0	
7	South Oxhey Playing Fields	Watford Rural	Yes	6			1			4			12.0	22.0	
8	Sir James Altham	Watford Rural	Yes	1						2			1.0	6.0	
10	Romilley Drive and Oulten Way	Watford Rural	Yes						1				1.5	0.5	
14	Merchant Taylors School	Watford Rural	Yes	3			2						2.5	10.0	
38	St Meryl School	Watford Rural	Yes									1	-	0.5	
54	Eastbury Farm JMI School	Watford Rural	Yes									4	-	2.0	
59	Bushey Cricket Club football pitch (overmarked)	Watford Rural	Yes	1									-	2.0	

THREE RIVERS DISTRICT COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT UPDATE

‘Shortfall, adequacy and requirement’

Overplay

Overplay occurs when there is more play than the site is able to sustain (which is dependent upon pitch quality). In summary, six sites (comprising six senior, four junior and three mini pitches) are overplayed by a total of ten matches each week. The greatest levels of overplay occur in the Abbots Langley (five matches) and the Croxley Green area (three matches), which is indicative of the presence of large multi-team clubs in these areas.

The table below summarises the sites in each area that are currently being played beyond their capacity. The capacity of the site is calculated by applying a carrying capacity (i.e. matches per week) that should be played on the pitch based on its current quality.

Table 6: Summary of pitch overplay by analysis area

Site	Analysis area	Weekly overplay of matches
Southway Playing Fields	Abbots Langley	5.5
Barton Way	Croxley Green	0.5
Croxley Guild Sports & Social Club	Croxley Green	1.5
Harvey Road Primary School	Croxley Green	1.0
King George V Playing Fields , Sarratt	Sarratt	0.5
Romilly Drive and Oulten Way	Watford Rural	1.0
Total		10 matches

Analysis of supply and demand has found that:

- ◆ Croxley Green and Abbots Langley analysis areas have the greatest levels of overplay.
- ◆ Southway Playing Fields (KKP Ref 40) is the site with the highest level of overplay by over five matches per week.

A significant number of sites (28) are not currently played to capacity; where possible, it is recommended that overplay (as indicated above) is directed to these sites. These pitches represent an opportunity to reduce overplay on other sites in the area.

The majority of overplay (i.e. Southway Playing Fields and Croxley Guild Sports & Social Club) is attributed to junior and mini teams being assigned to a particular site. These sites already have designated junior and mini pitches. However, an increase in formally marked out junior and mini pitches through creation of dedicated junior sites will help to reduce levels of overplay and reduce wear and tear of senior pitches.

THREE RIVERS DISTRICT COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT UPDATE

Summary of future/latent demand

Latent demand is defined as the number of additional teams that could be fielded if there was access to a sufficient number of pitches. Chorleywood Youth Football Club envisages that they will require further junior pitches if their membership increases or they will have to operate a waiting list for new members. In order to accommodate latent demand Chorleywood Youth Football Club are investigating securing tenure of land to accommodate further pitches.

Table 7: Summary of latent demand expressed by clubs

Club	Latent demand	Analysis area	Pitch requirement	
			Number	Type
Chorleywood Youth Football Club	3 junior teams	Chorleywood	1.5	Junior
Totals			1.5	Junior

TRDC should further investigate and update latent demand with other clubs in the District, in particular clubs fielding a large number of teams.

Football Team Generation Rates (TGRs)

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

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

Table 8: Football TGRs

Analysis area	Senior (16-45) Mens	Senior (16-45) Womens	Junior (10-15) Boys	Junior (10-15) Girls	Mini-soccer (6-9) Mixed
Abbots Langley	1:400	-	1:21	-	1:52
Chorleywood	1:738	-	1:23	-	1:70
Croxley Green	1:143	-	1:35	1:475	1:187
Rickmansworth	1:210	-	1:308	-	-
Sarratt	1:97	-	1:67	-	1:21
Watford Rural	1:284	1:4,073	1:131	1:254	1:377
THREE RIVERS	1:250	1:13,057	1:44	1:655	1:126
NATIONAL AVERAGE	1:452	1:19,647	1:195	1:4,038	1:431

THREE RIVERS DISTRICT COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT UPDATE

Relative to national averages, participation rates in Three Rivers are significantly higher than national averages. For example, there are higher levels of senior football participation for both men and women in Three Rivers. Junior participation for boys and girls is also greater than national averages across the District. Furthermore, mini-soccer is also significantly higher than the national average and particularly in the Abbots Langley analysis area.

Future TGRs (2026)

By taking into account potential increases in participation and applying TGRs to the projected population for 2026, we can project the theoretical number of teams that would be generated in the future, and therefore the expected demand on the facilities. Table 5.8 below provides details about potential increases in the number of teams in 2026. The greatest area of growth is in junior boys football.

Table 9: Future football TGRs (number of additional teams)

Analysis areas	Senior men (16-45)	Senior women (16-45)	Junior boys (10-15)	Junior girls (10-15)	Mini soccer (6-9) mixed
Abbots Langley	1.4	-	4.5	-	2.7
Chorleywood	0.3	-	2.2	-	1.1
Croxley Green	2.6	-	2.2	0.1	0.4
Rickmansworth	2.4	-	0.3	-	-
Sarratt	0.5	-	0.2	-	0.5
Watford Rural	2.5	0.2	1.2	0.6	0.6
THREE RIVERS	9.6	0.2	11.5	0.7	5.0

The most likely future increases in the number of teams are identified in the category of junior boys for which there will be an anticipated further 11.5 teams by 2026. These teams are most likely to occur in the Abbots Langley analysis area. This is followed by a future increase in the senior men's category with an anticipated increase by 9.6 teams. This is most likely to occur in the Rickmansworth and Croxley Green analysis areas. It is also anticipated that there will be an increase of five mini-soccer teams.

THREE RIVERS DISTRICT COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT UPDATE

Playing Pitch Model (PPM)

Sport England's PPM is used to assess whether supply of pitches is sufficient at peak times. The current TGRs, taking account of predicted future increases in teams as identified above, are applied to the PPM to illustrate anticipated future pitch shortfalls. A summary of surpluses and deficiencies is shown below.

Table 10: PPM summary

Analysis area	Football pitches		
	Senior	Junior	Mini
Abbots Langley	15.5	-3.3	4.1
Chorleywood	6.9	0.5	-2.4
Croxley Green	-1.5	1.2	2.0
Rickmansworth	-2.0	1.7	-
Sarratt	1.8	-0.3	2.9
Watford Rural	3.4	-0.1	11.6
THREE RIVERS	24.1	-0.3	18.2

**Negative numbers indicate shortfall*

It should be noted that these surplus/deficit predications should not be used in isolation and should be considered within the context of other report findings/outcomes.

Although oversupply is reduced slightly when taking into account future growth, there is still a significant amount of oversupply highlighted across Three Rivers for senior and mini football pitches. This is likely to be as a result of significant spare capacity expressed, particularly in Abbots Langley. In the main, this can be attributed to school sites which although may be being used in part for community use, are not fully in use. For example, Parmiters School has capacity to accommodate 30 matches and is only be used for 9.5 matches.

The deficit of junior pitches is most pronounced in the Abbots Langley area which accommodates, for example, a large number of junior clubs including Evergreen FC, Cassiobury Rangers, Abbots Youth FC and Garston Boys. The calculation is based on a good quality pitch accommodating three matches per week. It is likely there are mini and junior pitches played more than three matches per week.

Where there is an oversupply of senior pitches expressed, but a shortfall of either junior or mini pitches, consideration should be given to converting senior pitches into junior/mini pitches, for example, in Abbots Langley.

THREE RIVERS DISTRICT COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT UPDATE

Football summary

- ◆ KKP identified a total of 177 teams playing in Three Rivers across 35 sites, providing a total of 105 pitches. In addition, there are 10 sites containing 11 pitches which are not currently accessible to the community.
- ◆ FA demand trend analysis and team generation rates (TGRs) highlight that participation rates in Three Rivers are significantly higher than national and regional averages.
- ◆ There are a number of well established clubs in Three Rivers with multiple teams, where 20-30 teams are commonplace. To sustain this level of participation, clubs have to use facilities across a range of sites. Participation rates for youth male football are higher than the regional and national (29.4%).
- ◆ Six sites (comprising six senior, four junior and three mini pitches) are overplayed by ten matches each week.
- ◆ The most likely future increases in the number of teams are identified in the category of junior boys for which there will be an anticipated further 11.5 teams by 2026. This is followed by a future increase in the senior men's category with an anticipated increase by 9.6 teams.
- ◆ The PPM highlights a small deficit of junior pitches across the District. This is further exacerbated when taking into consideration latent demand. The calculations also identify a future over provision of mini and senior pitches. However, this relates to spare capacity at school sites.

The table below identifies the key recommendations falling out of the 2005 Open Space, Sport & Recreational Assessment and an update of the recommendations:

2005 recommendations	2010 update
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Prioritise investment in pitch quality at sites, which have been classified as poor quality. 2. Redistribute play from sites, which have been identified as overplayed. 3. Each site to have appropriate size and specification changing facilities, which enable access from all users groups (e.g. women/girls/disabled) and pitch capacity to be maximised. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Continue to prioritise investment in pitch quality at sites, which have been classified as poor quality. All poor quality sites are located at school sites. 2. A significant number of sites (28) are not currently played to capacity; where possible, it is recommended that overplay is directed to these sites. 3. Each site to have appropriate size and specification changing facilities, which enable access from all users groups (e.g. women/girls/disabled) and pitch capacity to be maximised. 4. Seek provision of junior pitches to satisfy future and latent demand expressed. 5. Work with schools to maximise community use, ensuring access to appropriate ancillary facilities.

THREE RIVERS DISTRICT COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT UPDATE

CRICKET

Introduction

The Hertfordshire County Cricket Association (HCCA) is the governing and representative body of cricket within the County, including Three Rivers. The Board's aim is to promote the game of cricket at all levels through partnerships with the professional and recreational cricketing clubs, and other appropriate agencies within the County. There is a Cricket Development Manager for Hertfordshire which services clubs in the District.

The Saracens Hertfordshire Cricket League (SHCL) is the main opportunity for competitive senior cricket in the County, providing seventeen divisions. All clubs (with the expectation of Old Merchant Taylor) enter teams in the SHCL. Hertfordshire Junior League provides the principle opportunities for junior cricket within the District. It has ten divisions (ranging from U9 to U16's).

The Hertfordshire County Cricket Association Facilities Strategy (4th Draft)

The HCCA Strategy outlines a series of recommendations where appropriate for the action that clubs should take and where the available resources should be concentrated. It focuses on six important criteria including tenure, fine turf, changing facilities, practice facilities and ancillary facilities in the form of sightscreens and covers.

The recommendations include that:

- ◀ Clubs with leased grounds and considering making applications for development funding should seek to extend the period of the lease, if necessary, to at least 25 years.
- ◀ All clubs should undergo a full pitch inspection by a County Pitch Adviser at intervals of five years.
- ◀ Clubs should also become equipped to carry out their own measurements of pitch quality, through a training programme to be run by the County Pitch Adviser.
- ◀ Clubs should consider whether their squares are of adequate size to meet the demand for usage over the next five years, and plan for enlarging them where necessary and practicable.
- ◀ Clubs should ensure that their investment plans include adequate, good quality practice nets.
- ◀ Clubs are urged to give consideration to the adequacy of their changing facilities and to bring them up to standard when an opportunity arises.
- ◀ Clubs are urged to review the facilities provided for their scorers in consultation with them, and to make improvements where necessary.
- ◀ Clubs with two sightscreens should plan to attain the intermediate standard where they wish to accommodate minor county or two-day cricket.
- ◀ All clubs should plan to meet at least the basic standard for covering as soon as possible.

THREE RIVERS DISTRICT COUNCIL

PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT UPDATE

Development

Focus clubs have been identified strategically by the ECB. These clubs are committed to long-term junior development and must adopt a development plan (for the purposes of the development of the sport and facilities) and achieve (or work towards) Clubmark accreditation. In return, clubs receive support (both technical and financial) from the ECB. There are four focus clubs in the District:

- ◀ Chorleywood Cricket Club.
- ◀ Langleybury Cricket Club.
- ◀ Abbots Langley Cricket Club.
- ◀ Bushey Cricket Club.

Rickmansworth Cricket Club is no longer a focus club since the requirement to achieve (or work towards) Clubmark accreditation was introduced. The Club reports, it does not have the capacity to meet this requirement.

There is a generally a high level of junior participation at clubs in the District, which provide 26 junior teams in total ranging from U9s to U18s. Focus clubs provide the majority of junior teams.

Cricket development group's (CDG's)

CDG's consist of partners including local authorities, school sports partnerships, clubs, coaches and HCCA. Their aim is to increase participation and provide opportunities for young people to be involved in the sport. The Three Rivers & Watford CDG serves the District of Three Rivers. Consultation suggests the group is one of the most effective in the County and enables sharing of good practice. It is well attended by clubs in the District and Three Rivers & Watford School Sports Partnership (TR&W SSP).

School-club links

The ECB encourages links between clubs and schools through the development of Kwik Cricket festivals. However, links tend to be "driven" by individual clubs, and are almost invariably underpinned by active club members and the partnership development managers (PDM's) at school sports partnerships (SSP's) across the District. Kwik Cricket is focused around a small-sided game, which is delivered in playgrounds and/or generic halls. Chorleywood Cricket Club delivers Kwik Cricket festivals via TR&W SSP during the cricket season.

The 'Chance to Shine' scheme³ was launched in 2005 and aims to restore cricket to more than a third of schools within England within the next ten years by delivering high quality, sustainable cricket programmes. Each project provides a structured coaching and competition programme for a group of around six primary and secondary state schools. Each group of schools is supported by professional, qualified coaches engaged by one local cricket club. This is being delivered via the TR&W SSP on behalf of cricket clubs in the area. TR&W SSP is currently recruiting a community cricket coach to deliver the 'Chance to Shine' coaching sessions, focusing on Year 6-9 boys and girls cricket.

³ <http://www.chancetoshine.org/about/campaign>

THREE RIVERS DISTRICT COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT UPDATE

Women and girls' cricket

There are currently no senior women's teams playing formal cricket. However, there are now two junior girls' teams playing at Abbots Langley and Langleybury cricket clubs.

In the season 2011/2012, the Saracens Hertfordshire Cricket League (SHCL) will establish a women's county cricket league playing Twenty20 cricket. A Twenty20 game involves two teams; each has a single innings, batting for a maximum of 20 overs. It is also known as T20 cricket. To date, seven teams from the County will enter the League. Langleybury Cricket Club currently has a number of women playing informal cricket and plans to field a women's team in the League, playing at its home ground.

Supply

Table 11: Summary of pitches available for community use and teams by analysis area

Analysis area	No. of available pitches		No. of teams			
	Senior	Junior	Senior men	Senior women	Junior boys	Junior girls
Abbots Langley	4	1	7	-	12	2
Chorleywood	1	-	7	-	3	-
Croxley Green	3	-	6	-	-	-
Rickmansworth	4	-	3	-	-	-
Sarratt	3	-	-	-	7	-
Watford Rural	19	-	3	-	2	-
THREE RIVERS	34	1	26	-	24	2

The District provides 35 cricket pitches and six clubs, generating 52 teams, which are generally comprised of senior and junior cricket teams.

The map indicates a good distribution of cricket pitches across the District. Merchant Taylor Sports Ground (KKP Ref 28) is located on the boundary between Croxley Green and Sarratt analysis areas and therefore serves the two areas. Although there are areas with high population density which is not well served, cricket provision can be accessed in nearby settlements.

THREE RIVERS DISTRICT COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT UPDATE

Figure 3: Location of cricket pitches in the District of Three Rivers

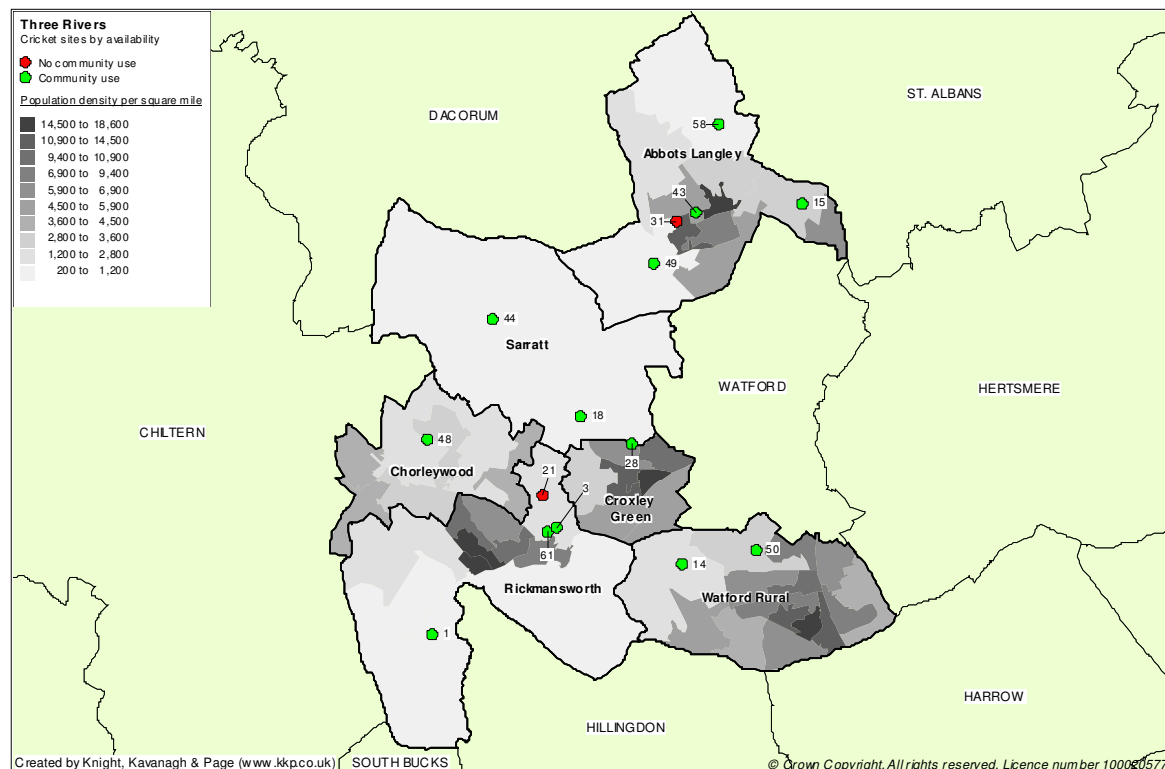


Table 12: Key to map

Site name	KKP reference	Analysis area	Community use	Senior cricket pitches	Junior cricket pitches
Bedmond Sports & Social Club Cricket pitch	58	Abbots Langley	Yes	1	
Langleybury Playing Fields - Langleybury CC	49	Abbots Langley	Yes	1	1
Manor House Ground	43	Abbots Langley	Yes	1	
Parmiters School	15	Abbots Langley	Yes	1	
The Divine Saviour RC Primary School	31	Abbots Langley	No		1
Chorleywood CC	48	Chorleywood	Yes	1	
Merchant Taylor Sports Ground	28	Croxley Green	Yes	3	
Maple Cross	1	Rickmansworth	Yes	1	
Rickmansworth Sports Ground (Cricket pitch)	61	Rickmansworth	Yes	2	
Royal Masonic School for Girls	21	Rickmansworth	No	1	
Scotsbridge Playing Field	3	Rickmansworth	Yes	1	
King George V Playing Fields, Sarratt	44	Sarratt	Yes	1	
York House Prep School	18	Sarratt	Yes	2	

THREE RIVERS DISTRICT COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT UPDATE

Site name	KKP reference	Analysis area	Community use	Senior cricket pitches	Junior cricket pitches
Bushey CC	50	Watford Rural	Yes	1	

Key issues from consultation

Quality

All clubs in the District are invited to become a member of The Hertfordshire Association of Cricket Groundsman which is the body responsible for the continued professional development of groundsman within the County. It also provides clubs with access to the most up to date machinery and techniques to enhance playing conditions. It regularly coordinates courses and workshops for members of the Association and leases machinery to Hertfordshire clubs. All focus clubs are members of this body. In addition, Hertford Cricket Club also offers its groundsman services to other clubs in the District.

Abbots Langley Cricket Club has recently approached the ECB for a loan of £50k for an extension to its score box to include further storage space.

Demand

Chorleywood Cricket Club

The Club's home ground is located next to Chorleywood Common (KKP ref 48) and provides a senior cricket pitch, accommodating 17 grass wickets. It fields 17 teams including seven senior and twelve junior teams. Membership levels at the Club (both senior and juniors) have increased within the previous three years, standing at approximately 300 members (200 juniors and 100 seniors). Note; this figure also includes a small proportion of social members.

In order to accommodate the large number of teams it operates, it also accesses pitches at York House Prep School (KKP Ref 18) and Westwood Park, Little Chalfont (located outside the assessment area). York House Prep School is only used to accommodate junior matches. The Club has an agreement with the School to maintain the pitch in return for usage. It leases Chorleywood Cricket Club (including pavilion) from Chorleywood Parish Council which is due to expire in approximately 2020.

The Club suggests it is operating at capacity in terms of junior teams and anticipates an increase in junior teams would result in the need to access additional pitches to accommodate matches. It is therefore currently in discussion with St. Clement Danes School (also located in Chorleywood) to install six grass wickets at the school site. It proposes to maintain the wickets in return for free usage. It is intended that the older junior teams (i.e. U14, U15 and U18's) would use the site.

Its playing membership has increased due to a number of reasons including more colts progressing into the senior teams and offering a good standard of cricket, with its first XI competing in Division 1 of the SHCL. There are plans to broaden the number of teams over the next five years to introduce women, girls and disabled cricket. However, its main focus at present is its facility development plan to replace or substantially refurbish the old and dated pavilion.

THREE RIVERS DISTRICT COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT UPDATE

Training facilities

Access to training nets is important, particularly for pre season/winter training. Consultation identifies a lack of indoor sports provision at secondary school sites in the District. As a result, there are high levels of demand for existing provision for example, St. Clement Dane School, Chorleywood. The nets are considered to be hampered by inadequate lighting.

Langleybury Cricket Club accesses nets at Choice Cricket Centre, Redbourn (located outside the assessment area). Bushey Cricket Club has recently installed new cricket nets at its home ground. Chorleywood Cricket Club also has two cricket nets. However, the surface is in poor condition and the bounce is uneven. There are plans to refurbish the nets/ surface in winter 2010.

HCCA reports it would like to see provision of a good quality indoor cricket facility at a school site in each local authority area in the County.

THREE RIVERS DISTRICT COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT UPDATE

Provision of cricket pitch sites assessed by quality and capacity

A capacity rating (as per rugby and football) is not given for cricket pitches as it is not possible to determine the number of matches that can be played on a particular pitch. This is due to the length of matches, which cannot always be determined and also differs between adult and junior matches, even though both are often played on the same pitch.

Table 13: Cricket provision and level of community use

KKP ref	Site name	Analysis area	Community use	Pitches		Matches					Peak use
				Senior	Junior	Sat am	Sat pm	Sun am	Sun pm	Other	
15	Parmiters School	Abbots Langley	Yes	1		-	-	-	-	-	
43	Manor House Ground	Abbots Langley	Yes	1		-	1.5	-	-	3.0	300%
49	Langleybury Playing Fields - Langleybury CC	Abbots Langley	Yes	1	1	-	2.0	-	-	4.0	275%
58	Bedmond Sports & Social Club Cricket pitch (overmark)	Abbots Langley	Yes	1		-	-	-	-	-	100%
48	Chorleywood CC	Chorleywood	Yes	1		-	2.0	-	1.0	2.0	200%
28	Merchant Taylor Sports Ground	Croxley Green	Yes	3		-	2.5	-	0.5	-	83%
1	Maple Cross	Rickmansworth	Yes	1		-	-	-	-	-	
3	Scotsbridge Playing Field	Rickmansworth	Yes	1		-	-	-	-	-	
61	Rickmansworth Sports Ground (Cricket pitch)	Rickmansworth	Yes	2		-	1.5	-	-	-	
18	York House Prep School	Sarratt	Yes	2		-	-	-	-	3.5	175%
44	King George V Playing Fields, Sarrat	Sarratt	Yes	1		-	-	-	-	-	50%
14	Merchant Taylors School	Watford Rural	Yes	18		-	-	-	-	-	
50	Bushey CC	Watford Rural	Yes	1		-	1.0	-	0.5	1.0	150%

Note: A number of school cricket pitches have been identified for community use due to other pitches (i.e. football pitches at the site) being available for community use. However, there is no current play identified for these sites.

THREE RIVERS DISTRICT COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT UPDATE

Local authority sites Scotsbridge Playing Fields (KKP Ref 3) and Maple Cross (KKP Ref 1) are available for community use. However, there is no play at the sites due to a lack of demand. Overplay at sites could potentially be redirect to pitches that have no community use or spare capacity.

THREE RIVERS DISTRICT COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT UPDATE

‘Shortfall, adequacy and requirement’

Summary of future/latent demand

Latent demand is defined as the number of teams that could be fielded if there were sufficient pitches. No latent demand was identified during the consultation. However, TRDC should further consult with cricket clubs in the District to identify future/latent demand.

Chorleywood Cricket Club suggests it is operating at capacity in terms of junior teams. It anticipates an increase in junior teams would result in the need to access additional pitches to accommodate matches.

Summary of current demand

Although it is difficult to identify overlap by calculating the capacity of cricket pitches (as the length of a cricket match varies), it would appear that a number of sites are either played at capacity or overplayed. This is most evident in Abbots Langley for example, at Manor House Grounds (KKP Ref 43) and Langleybury Playing Fields (KKP Ref 49) due to the number of juniors playing on at the sites (in addition to senior teams).

Cricket team generation rates (TGRs)

TGRs indicate how many people in a specified age group are required to generate one team. They are derived by dividing the appropriate population age band in the area by the number of teams playing within that area in that age band. Calculating TGRs enables comparison of participation between different areas where similar studies have been undertaken.

The following current TGRs have been calculated for each analysis area. Where none is shown, no teams operate at that age group, for cricket, in that area.

Table 14: Cricket TGRs

Analysis areas	Senior Men (18-55)	Senior Women (18-55)	Junior Boys (11-17)	Junior Girls (11-17)
Abbots Langley	1:288	-	1:64	1:366
Chorleywood	1:428	-	1:134	-
Croxley Green	1:530	-	-	-
Rickmansworth	1:1,438	-	-	-
Sarratt	1:435	-	1:10	-
Watford Rural	1:1,267	-	1:571	-
THREE RIVERS	1:584	-	1:151	1:1,820
NATIONAL AVERAGE	1:1,415	1:54,815	1:1,480	-

There is no national TGR for junior girls cricket (11–17). Participation rates are higher than national averages. In particular, there are high senior TGRs recorded for senior men and senior boys.

THREE RIVERS DISTRICT COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT UPDATE

Future TGRs (2026)

By taking into account potential increases in participation and applying TGRs to the projected population for 2026, we can project the theoretical number of teams that would be generated in the future, and therefore the expected demand on the facilities. Table 6.6 below provides details about potential increases in the number of teams in 2026. The greatest area of growth is in senior men's cricket.

Table 15: Future cricket TGRs (Number of additional teams)

Analysis areas	Senior (18-55) Men	Senior (18-55) Women	Junior (11-17) Boys	Junior (11-17) Girls
Abbots Langley	2.4	-	1.7	0.3
Chorleywood	0.7	-	0.5	-
Croxley Green	0.9	-	-	-
Rickmansworth	0.4	-	-	-
Sarratt	0.2	-	1.3	-
Watford Rural	0.7	-	0.3	-
THREE RIVERS	5.4	-	3.5	0.3

The most likely future increases in the number of teams are identified in the category of senior men's for which there will be an anticipated further 5.4 teams by 2026. These teams are most likely to occur in the Abbots Langley analysis area. This is followed by a future increase in the junior boys category with an anticipated increase by 3.5 teams. This is most likely to occur again in the Abbots Langley and Sarratt analysis areas.

Playing Pitch Model (PPM)

Sport England's PPM is used to assess whether supply of pitches is sufficient at peak times. The current TGRs, taking account of predicted future increases in teams as identified above, are applied to the PPM to illustrate anticipated future pitch shortfalls. A summary of surpluses and deficiencies is shown below.

Table 16: PPM summary

Analysis area	Cricket pitches
Abbots Langley	-6.4
Chorleywood	-1.8
Croxley Green	0.1
Rickmansworth	2.3
Sarratt	0.3
Watford Rural	16.6
THREE RIVERS	11.1

* Negative numbers indicate a shortfall.

The PPM analysis of cricket pitches also takes into account future population growth. It shows there will be a surplus in the provision of cricket pitches across the District by 2026. However, a shortfall of pitches is shown in the Abbots Langley and Chorleywood analysis areas.

THREE RIVERS DISTRICT COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT UPDATE

It should be noted that these surplus/deficit predications should not be used in isolation and should be considered within the context of other report findings/outcomes. For example, the overall surplus can be attributed to the number of cricket pitches in the District that do not have any current play i.e., Parmiters School (KKP Ref 15), Bedmond Sports & Social Club (KKP Ref 58), Maple Cross (KKP Ref 1) and Scotsbridge Playing Fields (KKP Ref 3). In essence, these pitches are surplus to requirements both in terms of current and future demand.

Cricket summary

- ◀ There are 35 cricket pitches available for community use in Three Rivers, accommodating 52 teams (including senior and junior).
- ◀ There is a strong senior and junior league structure which supports high levels of participation. All clubs (with the exception of Old Merchant Taylor) enter teams in the SHCL.
- ◀ Although it is difficult to fully express overplay through calculating the capacity of cricket pitches, it would appear, that there are a number of pitches operating over capacity in Abbots Langley due to the large number of juniors allocated to the sites.
- ◀ Consultation did not identify any latent demand for cricket pitches. However, Chorleywood Cricket Club suggests it is operating at capacity in terms of junior teams. It reports any growth would result in access to additional pitches to accommodate matches.
- ◀ The PPM summary anticipates (taking into account future population growth) that there will be a surplus of 11.1 pitches by 2026. A number of sites do not have current play assigned to them and as such are deemed to be surplus to requirements.

The table below identifies the key recommendations falling out of the 2005 Open Space, Sport & Recreational Assessment and an update of the recommendations for 2010:

2005 recommendations	2010 update
1. At least two clubs in the District to provide and develop opportunities for girls' and women's participation.	1. Support Langleybury Cricket Club to establish and develop a women's team.

THREE RIVERS DISTRICT COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT UPDATE

RUGBY

Introduction

The Hertfordshire Rugby Football Union (HRFU) administers rugby union across the County. There are two clubs playing in Three Rivers; Chess Valley and Old Merchant Taylors.

RFU National Facilities Strategy

The Strategy provides a framework for the sustainable development of facilities for rugby union in England at a national, regional and local level. The framework will enable partners to:

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

Investment into facilities is targeted at priorities and areas of greatest need through county facilities plans.

Supply

Table 17: Summary of rugby union pitches available for community use and teams

Analysis area	No. of available pitches			No. of competitive teams				
	Senior	Junior	Mini	Senior men	Senior women	Junior boys	Junior girls	Mini
Abbots Langley	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Chorleywood	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Croxley Green	2	-	-	3	-	2	-	4
Rickmansworth	2	-	-	2	1	2	-	1
Sarratt	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Watford Rural	15	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
THREE RIVERS	21	-	-	6	1	4	-	5

The audit identifies 21 rugby union pitches (used by 16 teams) available for community use in Three Rivers. This figure also includes rugby pitches located on secondary school sites. However, they are only used for curricular and extra curricular sport.

There are no dedicated junior or mini rugby pitches marked out in Three Rivers. However, junior/mini rugby is played across senior pitches or informally marked out with cones.

THREE RIVERS DISTRICT COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT UPDATE

Figure 4: Location of rugby pitches in the District of Three Rivers

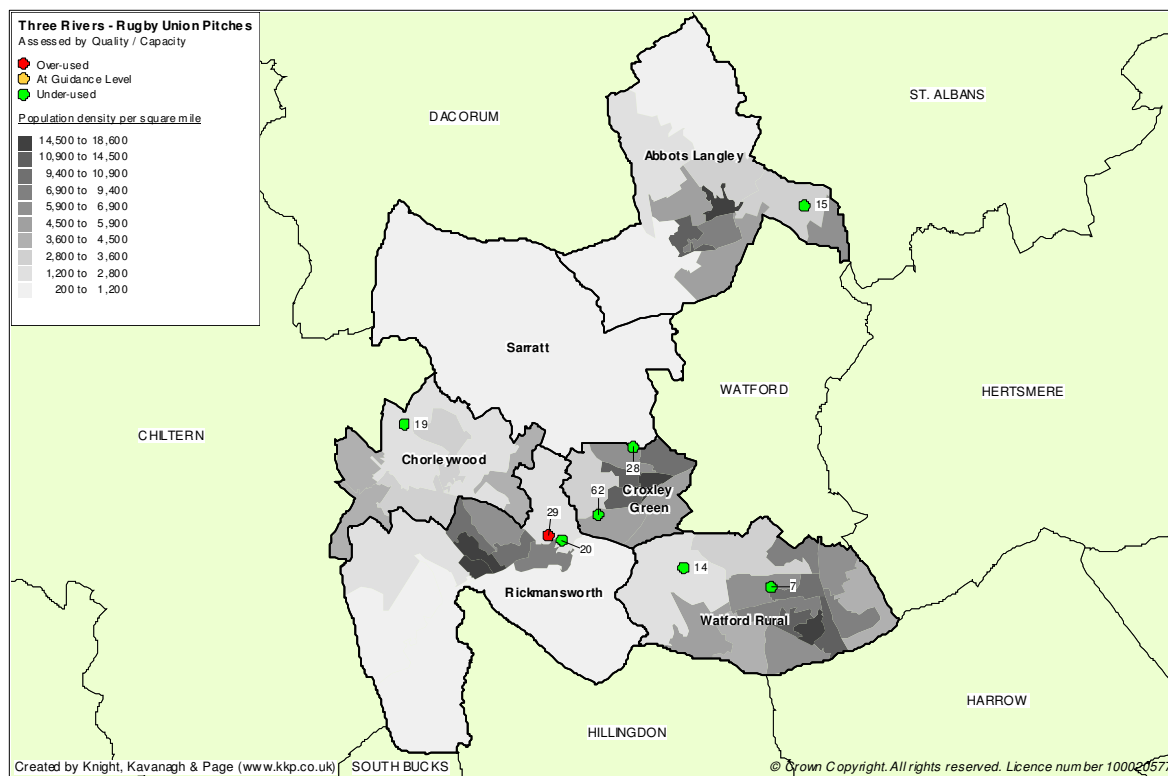


Figure 4 indicates that the distribution of rugby pitches is generally concentrated south of the District. There is no provision in Saratt analysis area.

Table 18: Key to map

Site name	KKP ref	Analysis area	Community use	Senior pitches total
Parmiters School	15	Abbots Langley	Yes	1
Clement Danes	19	Chorleywood	Yes	1
Merchant Taylor Sports Ground	28	Croxley Green	Yes	1
Rickmansworth School	62	Croxley Green	Yes	1
Rickmansworth Sports Ground	29	Rickmansworth	Yes	2
St Joan of Arc School	20	Rickmansworth	No	1
Merchant Taylors School	14	Watford Rural	Yes	14
South Oxhey Playing Fields	7	Watford Rural	Yes	1

THREE RIVERS DISTRICT COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT UPDATE

Key issues from consultation

Chess Valley Rugby Club

Rickmansworth Sports Club (RSC) was bequeathed from a local family in the Rickmansworth area and is managed by the Rickmansworth Sports Club Committee. Chess Valley Rugby Club leases two senior pitches (located on the cricket outfield) at Rickmansworth Sports Ground (KKP Ref 62) on an annual basis.

Its playing membership stands at approximately 350 members. It introduced its junior section approximately three years ago and now fields eight junior teams. It has established a women's rugby team with a view to play competitive fixtures in April 2010.

It trains using pitches located at its main home ground, Rickmansworth School. On occasions it also accessed areas (unofficial usage) of Scotsbridge Playing Fields. There is floodlighting on one senior pitch at Rickmansworth Sports Ground. However, this only provides lighting to approximately two thirds of the pitch. The Club report there is demand for floodlit training pitches in the Rickmansworth area.

The rugby pitches are over marked with a cricket pitch and as such there is a ten week clash of fixtures at Rickmansworth Sports Ground. Over recent years consultation suggests there has been a breakdown in relationships between Chess Valley Rugby Club and the management committee. Responsibility for the maintenance of the pitches lies with RSCC. However, consultation reports there has been little maintenance over the previous year. One pitch can no longer be used due to subsidence and poor drainage. As a result, the Club accesses rugby pitches at Rickmansworth School (KKP Ref 62) to accommodate junior fixtures. It also reports there is over usage on the remaining pitch (which has also been identified in the 'overplay section') impacting on pitch quality.

Rickmansworth Sports Ground also provides changing facilities. However, the Club reports it cannot access the facilities as the site is used on Saturdays by a local gym club.

The majority of club members are from the Rickmansworth area. The Club is in discussions with Rickmansworth School about full relocation to the school site. However, if it relocated it would lose access to social facilities (including a bar facility). It reports if local authority site Scotsbridge Playing Fields provided rugby pitches it would be keen to secure tenure of the site and ancillary/social facilities.

THREE RIVERS DISTRICT COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT UPDATE

Provision of rugby pitch sites assessed by quality and capacity

The table overleaf shows the ratings of each rugby pitch based on the non-technical quality assessment and the carrying capacity for each pitch. Calculation of *capacity* is based on the qualitative ratings. Taking into consideration SE guidelines on capacity the following was concluded:

If a pitch is rated as 'good' its capacity is specified as two matches per week	
If a pitch is rated as 'acceptable' its capacity is specified as one match per week.	
If a pitch is rated as 'poor' its capacity is specified as one match every other week	

The following section presents the current pitch stock available for rugby in the District. It illustrates:

- ◆ Number of pitches rated as good (G), average (A) and poor (P) on each site.
- ◆ The type of pitch(es) on the site (senior, junior, mini).
- ◆ The column entitled 'matches per week' is split into three sections – play, capacity and rating:
 - ◆ The current level of play per week (0.5 for each match played at the site, assuming half of matches will be played 'away').
 - ◆ The capacity of the pitches on each site.
 - ◆ The rating of the pitches, which indicates if pitches are played under capacity (green), played at capacity (amber) or played over-capacity (red).

THREE RIVERS DISTRICT COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT UPDATE

Table 19: Rugby provision and level of community use

KKP ref	Site name	Analysis area	Community use	Senior			Junior			Mini			Matches per week		
				G	A	P	G	A	P	G	A	P	Play	Capacity	Rating
62	Rickmansworth School	Croxley Green	Yes	1									3.0	4.0	
15	Parmiters School	Abbots Langley	Yes	1									-	2.0	
19	Clement Danes	Chorleywood	Yes	1									-	2.0	
28	Merchant Taylor Sports Ground	Croxley Green	Yes	1									1.5	2.0	
29	Rickmansworth Sports Ground	Rickmansworth	Yes	1		1							3.0	2.5	
7	South Oxhey Playing Fields	Watford Rural	Yes	1									0.5	2.0	
14	Merchant Taylors School	Watford Rural	Yes	14									-	28.0	

THREE RIVERS DISTRICT COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT UPDATE

‘Shortfall, adequacy and requirement ’

Summary of current demand

The table below summaries the sites in each analysis area that are currently being played beyond their capacity. The capacity of the site is calculated by applying a carrying capacity (i.e. the number of matches per week) that should be played on the pitch based on its current quality.

Table 20: Summary of pitch overplay by analysis area

Site	Analysis area	Weekly overplay of matches
Rickmansworth Sports Ground	Croxley Green	0.5
Total		0.5 matches

Only one site, Rickmansworth Sports Ground has overplay by 0.5 matches per week. The site provides two senior rugby pitches, one is rated as good and the other as poor quality. As a result, one pitch is out of use due to subsidence and poor drainage.

The RFU places significant importance on facility developments which ensure that mini pitches are separate to adult pitches.

Summary of future/latent demand

Latent demand is defined as the number of teams that could be fielded given access to sufficient pitches. No latent demand has been identified by clubs during consultation.

Rugby Team Generation Rates (TGRs)

TGRs indicate how many people in a specified age group are required to generate one team. TGRs are derived by dividing the appropriate population age band in an area by the number of teams playing within that area in that age band. Calculating TGRs enables participation comparisons to be made between different areas where similar studies have been undertaken. The following current TGRs have been calculated on a District basis.

Table 21: Rugby TGRs

Analysis areas	Senior (18-45) Men	Senior (18-45) Women	Junior (13-17) Boys	Mini-rugby (8-12) Mixed
Abbots Langley	-	-	-	-
Chorleywood	-	-	-	-
Croxley Green	1:763	-	1:192	-
Rickmansworth	1:1,594	1:2,609	1:235	-
Sarratt	-	-	-	-
Watford Rural	1:4,550	-	-	-
THREE RIVERS	1:2,514	1:12,130	1:622	-
NATIONAL AVERAGE	1:7,032	1:43,770	1:2,105	-

THREE RIVERS DISTRICT COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT UPDATE

Future TGRs

By taking into account potential increases in participation and applying TGRs to the projected population for 2026, we can project the theoretical number of teams that would be generated in the future, and therefore the expected demand on the facilities. Table 7.6 below provides details about potential increases in the number of teams in 2026. The greatest area of growth is in senior men's rugby.

Table 21: Future rugby TGRs (Number of additional teams)

Analysis areas	Senior (18-45) Men	Senior (18-45) Women	Junior (13-17) Boys	Junior (16-17) Girls	Mini-rugby (8-12) Mixed
Abbots Langley	-	-	-	-	-
Chorleywood	-	-	-	-	-
Croxley Green	0.5	-	0.3	-	0.6
Rickmansworth	0.3	0.1	0.3	-	0.2
Sarratt	-	-	-	-	-
Watford Rural	0.1	-	-	-	-
THREE RIVERS	0.9	0.1	0.6	0.0	0.8

The most likely future increases in the number of teams are identified in the category of senior men for which there will be an anticipated further 0.9 teams by 2026. These teams are most likely to occur in the Croxley Green and Rickmansworth analysis areas. This is followed by a future increase in the mini-rugby with an anticipated increase by 0.8 teams. Again, this is most likely to occur in the Croxley Green and Rickmansworth analysis areas

Playing Pitch Model (PPM)

Sport England's PPM is used to assess whether supply of pitches is sufficient at peak times. The current TGRs, taking account of predicted future increases in teams as identified above, are applied to the PPM to illustrate anticipated future pitch shortfalls. A summary of surpluses and deficiencies is shown below.

Table 22: PPM summary

Analysis area	Rugby union pitches		
	Senior pitches	Junior pitches	Mini pitches
Abbots Langley	1.0	-	-
Chorleywood	1.0	-	-
Croxley Green	0.3	-1.2	-2.3
Rickmansworth	0.9	-1.1	-0.6
Sarratt	-	-	-
Watford Rural	0.4	-	-
THREE RIVERS	3.5	-2.3	-2.9

* Negative numbers indicate a shortfall.

THREE RIVERS DISTRICT COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT UPDATE

Note that Merchant Taylors, although available for community use and other pitches on the site are currently in use (i.e. football), for the purposes of analysis and due the large number of pitches available at this site, it has been discounted from the PPM analysis.

It should be noted that these surplus/deficit predications should not be used in isolation and should be considered within the context of other report findings/outcomes. For example, across the District, there is anticipated to be a small surplus of senior rugby pitches and a deficit of junior and mini pitches, particularly in the Croxley Green and Rickmansworth analysis areas. This suggests that some senior provision could be converted into junior/mini pitches or new provision of mini/junior pitches should be sought to meet future demand.

Rugby summary

- ▶ The audit identifies 21 rugby union pitches available for community use in Three Rivers. Two clubs play on rugby pitches provided at privately owned sports clubs, generating 16 teams (including senior, junior and mini).
- ▶ There are no rugby pitches in Sarratt analysis area.
- ▶ One pitch at Rickmansworth Sports Ground is overplayed on a weekly basis and the other is out of use due to subsidence and poor drainage.
- ▶ There is demand for better, floodlit training pitches to accommodate rugby teams for training in the Rickmansworth area.
- ▶ No latent demand has been identified by clubs.
- ▶ There is much spare capacity at six sites in Three Rivers, in particular at school sites. Consultation suggests there is limited community use due to a lack of demand from local clubs.
- ▶ TGRs for rugby in Three Rivers are good compared to national averages, particularly at senior men's level and junior boys.
- ▶ There is anticipated to be a small surplus of senior rugby pitches and a deficit of junior and mini pitches, particularly in the Croxley Green and Rickmansworth analysis areas.

The table below identifies the key issues raised in the 2005 Three Rivers Open Space, Sport & Recreational Assessment and whether this is still an issue in 2010:

2005 recommendations	2010 update
1. Support Chess Valley RFC in developing opportunities for women's and girls' participation. This may have an implication for the provision of ancillary facilities.	1. Support Chess Valley RUFC with the potential relocation to alternative pitches in the Rickmansworth area. 2. Consider converting spare senior pitches to dedicated mini/junior pitches to meet identified future demand.

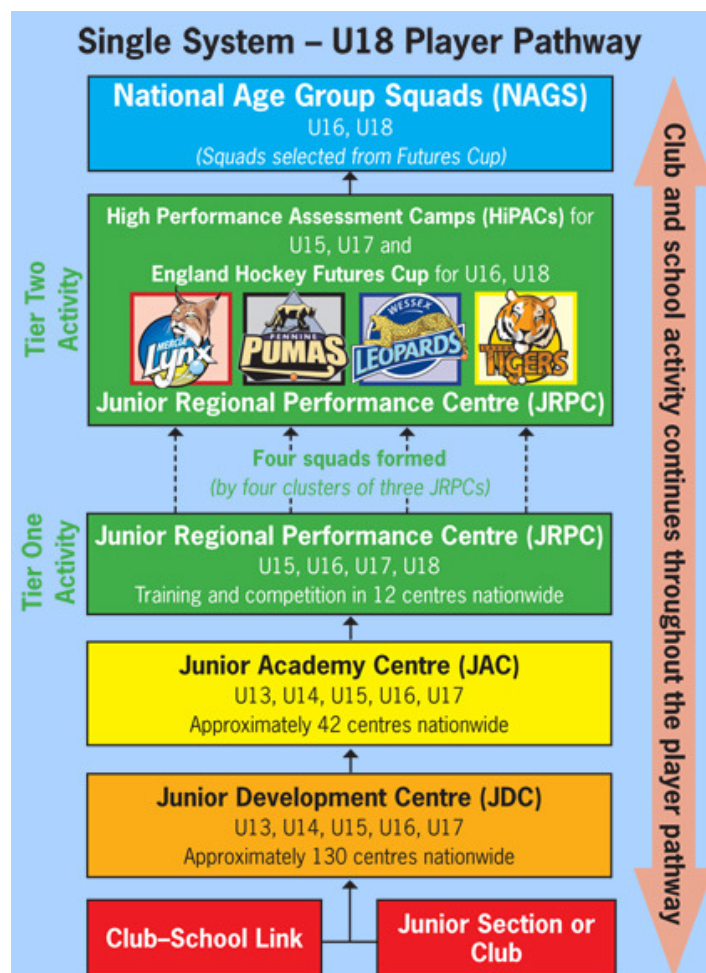
THREE RIVERS DISTRICT COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT UPDATE

HOCKEY

Introduction

Governance of the sport is devolved by England Hockey (EH) at a regional and local level to regional and county associations. The game is played almost exclusively on synthetic turf pitches (STP's). This surface enables players to control the ball more readily and allows the game to be played all year round. EH recommends that long pile pitches (e.g., 3G pitches) are not suitable for competitive hockey. It is further recommended that for training and community facilities that the long pile surface is not a preferred option for the teaching of hockey. It is noted that access to long pile surfaces for introducing the game to beginners would be preferable to a poor grass or tarmac surface.

EH is currently working on its Facilities Strategy which is expected to launch mid to late 2010. However, consultation reports its strategic priority lies around its Single System pathway:



THREE RIVERS DISTRICT COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT UPDATE

East Region Hockey Association (ERHA)

ERHA represent and promote the interest of all hockey in the Region. It has a number of objectives which include to:

- ◆ Implement policy laid down by EH.
- ◆ Develop plans at regional level to ensure the game of hockey prospers at all age groups.
- ◆ To develop umpires, officials, players, managers and coaches so that, where appropriate, they achieve regional, national and international recognition
- ◆ Manage and organise all regional competitions and the regional stages of the national programme.

ERHA is also delivering a one year county development plan which includes a number of outcomes including:

- ◆ Formation of a Herts Junior League at U11, U13 and U15 boys/girls and U18 girls.
- ◆ Encourage clubs to develop Young Umpires and Leaders to support the development pathway for young leaders.
- ◆ Liaise with clubs/SSPs and Community Sports Networks in respect of planned facility developments.

Supply

The District provides three, full sized, floodlit, sand based Synthetic Turf Pitches (STP's) suitable for competitive hockey (located on two sites):

- ◆ St. Clement Danes School (KKP ref 19).
- ◆ St Michaels Catholic High School (KKP ref 17).
- ◆ Merchant Taylors School (KKP ref 66).

In addition, there is now a floodlit, water based STP at Merchant Taylors School, installed in 2009. This is used by Old Merchant Taylors Hockey Club (providing three teams) and various school teams for competitive fixtures.

Rickmansworth and Chess Valley Hockey Club is the main hockey club in Three Rivers. It accesses the STP at St. Clement Danes School.

Figure 5 indicates that distribution of STP provision in the District is evenly distributed. Based on a 20 minute drive time (as recommended by Sport England), there are no gaps in the provision of STP's in Three Rivers.

THREE RIVERS DISTRICT COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT UPDATE

Figure 5: Location of STPs in the District of Three Rivers

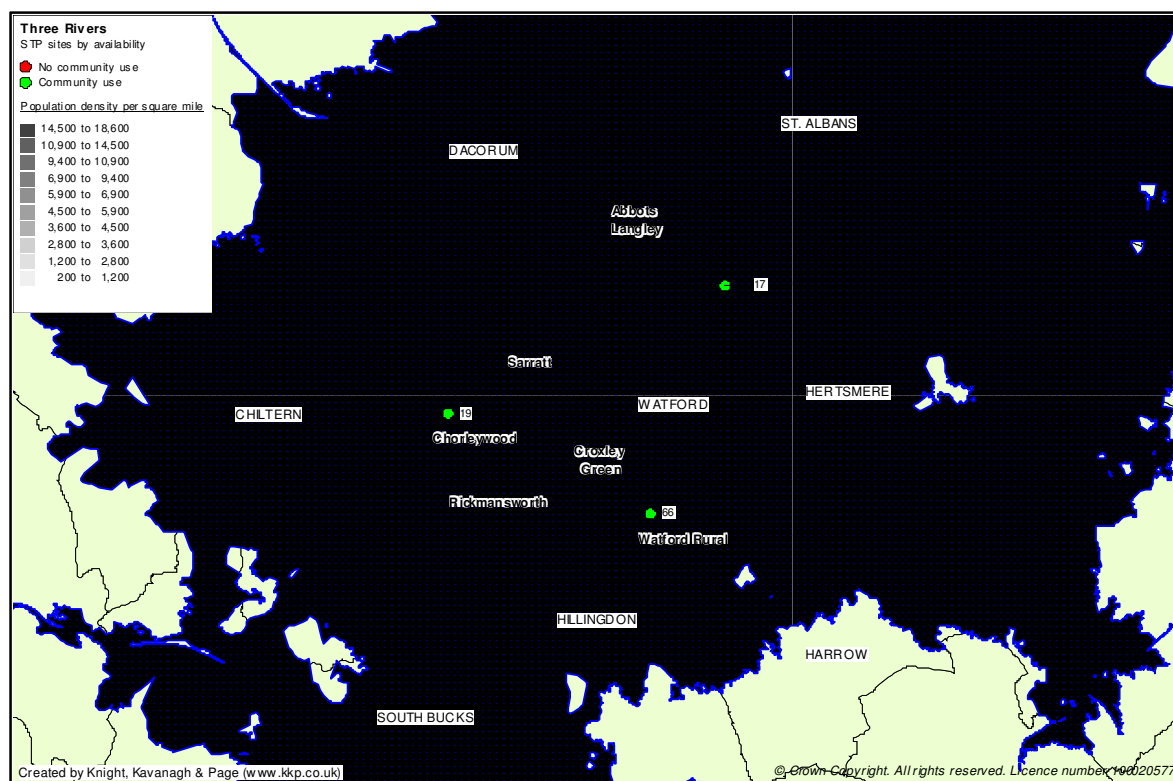


Table 23: Key to map

Site name	KKP ref	Analysis area	Community use	No of pitches
St Michael's Catholic High School	17	Abbots Langley	Yes	1
St. Clement Danes	19	Chorleywood	Yes	1
Merchant Taylors School	66	Watford Rural	Yes	2

Grass hockey pitches

Nationally, in recent years, the number of grass hockey pitches has reduced significantly as EH does not sanction the use of grass pitches for competitive play. However, grass pitches are still important in terms of introducing the game to beginners and still make an important contribution to the stock of hockey pitches, particularly in terms of school facilities.

There are nine grass hockey pitches in the District located on six sites. With the exception of local authority site Scotsbridge Playing Fields (KKP Ref 3), all are located on education sites. Schools actively use grass pitches to deliver PE lessons but will access STP's for competitive matches. For example, Royal Masonic School for Girls fields one preparatory and six senior hockey teams. The teams train using the STP at St. Clement Danes School, Rickmansworth (KKP Ref 19) and the artificial turf pitch (not a full size hockey pitch) at Merchant Taylors School, Northwood (KKP Ref 66). However, teams play competitive matches at Eastcote Hockey Club, Ruislip (approximately 7 miles, 17 minutes from the School site).

THREE RIVERS DISTRICT COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT UPDATE

The grass pitches at Scotsbridge Playing Fields are used for social events by Rickmansworth & Chess Valley Hockey Club on a yearly basis. It runs a mixed tournament for approximately 24 teams and is regarded as a key social event in the County.

There is an area of land located to the rear of Rickmansworth School that previously housed an old art block. The School has sold the land with planning permission for the development of 15 houses. It plans to use the monies from the same to build a four court badminton court (including fitness suite). It proposes to house this on the grass hockey pitch at the main school site.

Development

Junior Development Centres (JDC)

A Junior Development Centre is a local training centre for the U13 to U17 age groups. Each Centre is open to any hockey player who has been nominated by their club, school or coach. After playing for a club or school, attending a centre is the next step on the Player Pathway. Hertfordshire provides two centres of which one; Haileybury College, Hertford, and Queenswood School, Hatfield. Both sites are located outside the assessment area.

The 2005 Strategy recommended that the STP at St. Michael's School should provide a JDC. However, this was not successful, primarily due to the fact that a club is not based at the site to drive it.

Junior Academy Centres (JAC)

A JAC is the next step on the Player's Pathway. There is a JAC located at Queenswood School, Hatfield. EH is in discussions with the ERHA to relocate this to Haileybury College, Hertford (outside the assessment area). This is due to the deteriorating quality of the pitch at Queenswood, which is prone to flooding and does not drain well. As a result, a large number of coaching sessions are cancelled, impacting on player development.

Key issues from consultation

Rickmansworth and Chess Valley Hockey Club

The Club fields six senior and four junior teams. Membership levels stand at approximately 125 members. Within the previous three years there has been a decrease in membership resulting in the loss of a women's team. However, there has been an increase in junior members. This is due to the delivery of coaching sessions in primary schools in the Rickmansworth, Chorleywood and Croxley area, in conjunction with TRDC. The Club has been allocated funding by TRDC to roll this programme aimed at U11 and U14.

The Club originally (when grass hockey pitches could be used for competitive matches) played at Rickmansworth Sports Club (RSC). It continues to pay and access the clubhouse/ancillary facilities even though it is located a distance from the STP at St. Clement Danes School (as there is no access to ancillary/social facilities).

THREE RIVERS DISTRICT COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT UPDATE

Playing at St. Clement Danes School is not considered by the Club and EH to be conducive to club sustainability. St. Clement Danes STP was jointly funded by Sport England approximately 13 years ago through a partnership between the Club and the School. In return, the Club received a discounted booking rate. However, it no longer receives discount and pays a full rate, which is considered to be inhibitive to growth. Linked to this, the School hires the STP out in 30 minute slots, which given the average length of a match is 1.5 hours, further adds to the hire cost. This, coupled with the distance and location of the STP in comparison to its social base, is a significant issue. So much so, that the Club is seeking an alternative home ground in Rickmansworth.

Quality

The quality of the pitch at St. Clement Danes School is regarded as good. The pitch was re-sanded in May 2009.

Demand

Towards a Level Playing Field suggests that a STP should not accommodate more than four competitive hockey matches on a peak day (normally a Saturday). St. Clement Danes School STP is used on a Saturday to accommodate six senior matches. This results in an overplay of 2.0 matches.

EH supports the need for the provision of a STP in Rickmansworth to support club activity, school usage and local football training. Chess Valley Rugby Hockey Club has submitted a joint club/school proposal with Rickmansworth School to Three Rivers District Council for the provision of a STP at local authority owned Scotsbridge Playing Fields. If viable, the next steps will be to seek funding and planning permission for this development.

Rickmansworth School does not have the space required to accommodate a full size synthetic turf pitch hence the proposal at Scotsbridge Playing Fields which is also located next to Rickmansworth Sports Club. It estimates capital costs would be in the region of £350 - £400k.

Hockey summary

- ▶ There are four STP's (three sand based and one water based) and nine grass hockey pitches in Three Rivers. All STP's are located at education sites.
- ▶ The distribution of STP provision in the District is evenly distributed. Based on a 20 minute drive time (as recommended by Sport England), there are no gaps in the provision of STP's in Three Rivers. However, consultation identifies demand for a STP in the Rickmansworth area to support club and school activity.
- ▶ Towards a Level Playing Fields suggests that an STP should not accommodate more than four matches per week.. Using guidance, St. Clement Danes School STP is overplayed by two matches at peak time (Saturday).

THREE RIVERS DISTRICT COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT UPDATE

The table below identifies the key issues raised in the 2005 Three Rivers Open Space, Sport & Recreational Assessment and whether this is still an issue in 2010:

2005 recommendations	2010 update
1. ATP at St. Michael's School to provide a junior hockey development centre.	1. Work towards provision of a junior hockey development centre in Three Rivers. 2. Support Rickmansworth and Chess Valley Hockey Club in relocating to an STP in Rickmansworth.

THREE RIVERS DISTRICT COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT UPDATE

BOWLS

Introduction

Bowls England is the governing body with overall responsibility for ensuring effective governance of flat green lawn bowls. Locally, it is administered by the Hertfordshire Bowls Association which is split into four areas and is managed by an area committee. Three Rivers is managed by the West area committee.

Current provision

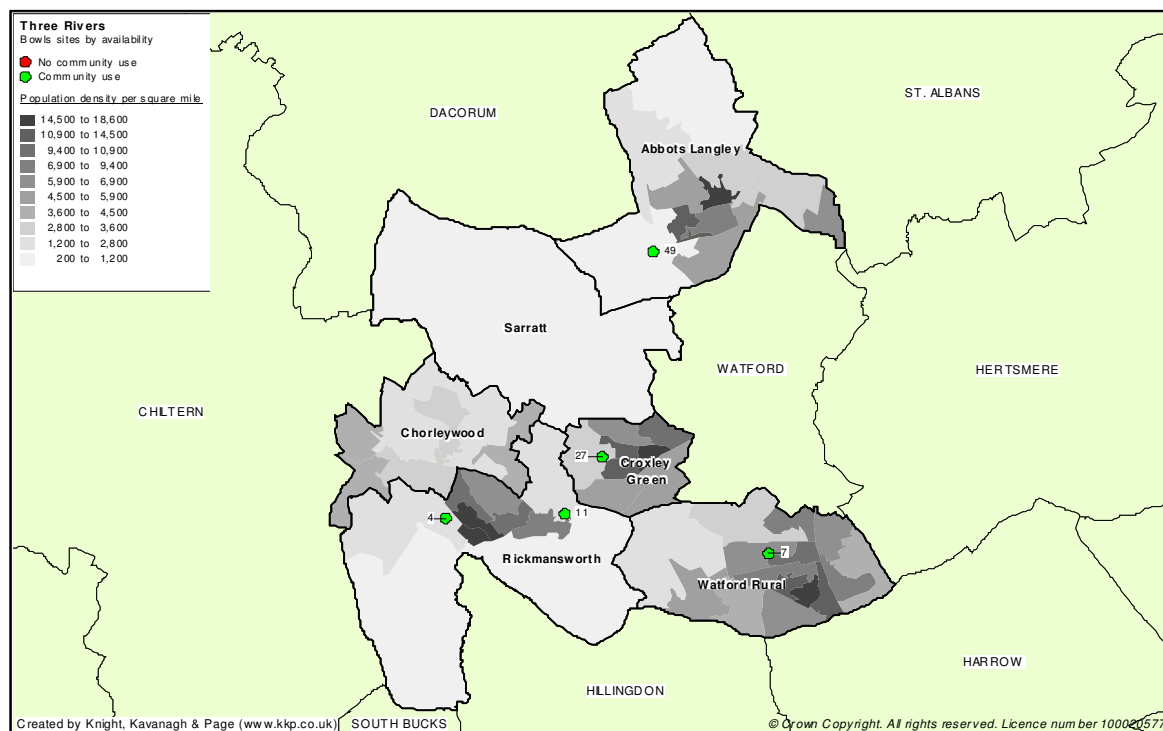
There are five bowling facilities, each providing one flat green. The table below provides a summary of provision.

Table 24: Summary of bowling greens available for community use

Analysis area	No. of lawn bowling greens
Abbots Langley	1
Chorleywood	-
Croxley Green	1
Rickmansworth	2
Sarratt	-
Watford Rural	1
THREE RIVERS	5

Figure 6 identifies Chorleywood and Sarratt analysis areas do not contain bowling greens.

Figure 6: Location of lawn bowling greens in the District of Three Rivers



THREE RIVERS DISTRICT COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT UPDATE

Table 25: Key to map

Site name	KKP reference	Analysis area	Community use	Flat green bowls
Langleybury Playing Fields - Langleybury CC	49	Abbots Langley	Yes	1
Croxley Guild Sports & Social Club	27	Croxley Green	Yes	1
Basing Gardens Bowls Pavilion	11	Rickmansworth	Yes	1
KGV, Mill End	4	Rickmansworth	Yes	1
South Oxhey Playing Fields	7	Watford Rural	Yes	1

Bowls summary

- From the mapping it appears there are areas of high population density that are not served by bowling green provision. For example, Chorleywood, Abbots Langley and areas of Rickmansworth.

The table below identifies the key issues raised in the 2005 Three Rivers Open Space, Sport & Recreational Assessment and whether this is still an issue in 2010:

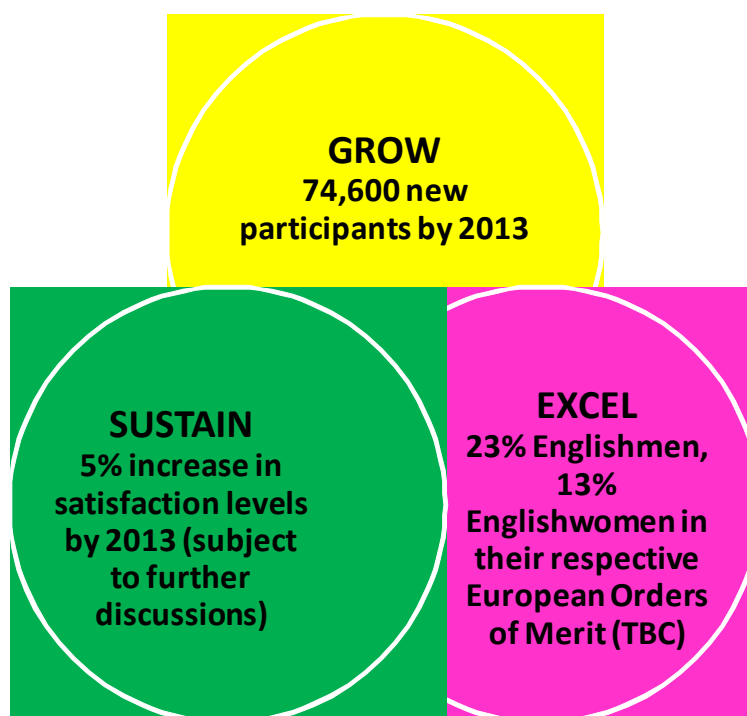
2005 recommendations	2010 update
1. Establish a local bowls forum in order that clubs can share information and resources for grounds maintenance. This could be done in partnership with Watford Borough Council.	1. Continue to work towards establishing a local bowls forum.

THREE RIVERS DISTRICT COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT UPDATE

GOLF

Introduction

The England Golf Partnership (EGP) is comprises the English Golf Union (EGU), English Women's Golf Association (EWGA) and the Professional Golfers Association (PGA) with the support of the Golf Foundation and Sport England. Its aim, through the implementation of its Whole Sport Plan (2009 - 2013), is to increase and widen participation levels in golf and achieve a vision of being 'The Leading Golf Nation in the World by 2020' from grass roots right through to elite level⁴, as follows:



Hertfordshire Golf County Partnership (HGP)

The EGP has awarded the HGP £118k for the period April 2009 to March 2013. The funding will contribute towards the implementation of the partnership's development plan and the activity undertaken will ultimately contribute to the specific outcomes identified within the EGP Whole Sport Plan. The main aims of the partnership is to promote the game of golf, introduce the sport to more people and encourage regular participation in competitive golf and improved the standard of play at all levels. A detailed action plan will guide the Partnership over the next three years.

⁴ <http://www.englishgolfunion.org/showpage.asp?code=000100020006>

THREE RIVERS DISTRICT COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT UPDATE

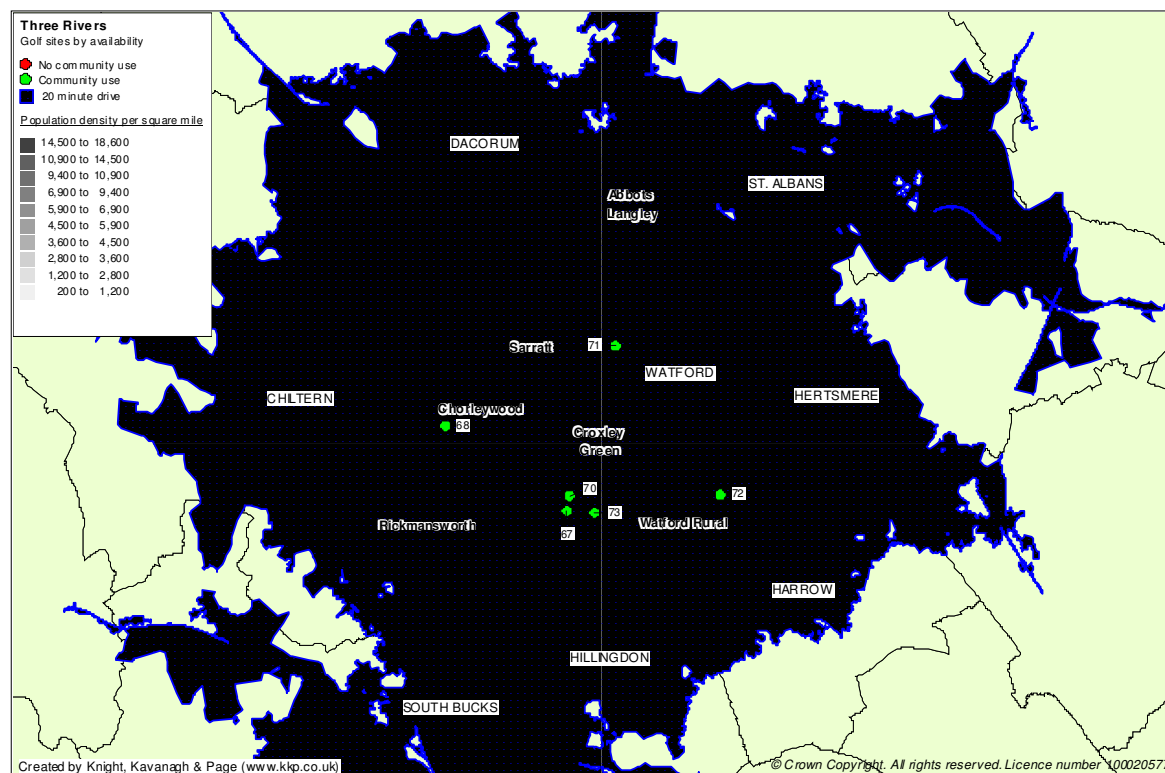
The development plan details a number of key outcomes, some of which include:

- ◆ **Increase** - Aim to increase the number of people (16 plus) regularly (12 times a year or more) participating in golf by 2,194 by 31st March 2013. by promoting and running taster sessions and activity days for adults and juniors, targeting School Club Link projects, improving links with non-affiliated facilities, County Sports Partnerships and Local Authorities.
- ◆ **Retention** (Sustain) - In line with the EGP Whole Sport Plan, the HGP aims to increase the amount of affiliated clubs in Hertfordshire with GolfMark accreditation to 30 by 31st March 2013.
- ◆ **Facilities** - The HGP aims to produce a directory of non-affiliated facilities and retain a database of affiliated clubs, supported by the EGU/EWGA biennial golf club membership questionnaire and local requests for information. The Partnership will promote cooperation between clubs and other sporting facilities to provide enhanced value for members (including Academy players) seeking to improve their experience of the game and opportunities for participation.

Supply

There are five golf courses in Three Rivers; Batchwood Park, Chorleywood, Moor Park, Rickmansworth, the Grove and Oxhey Park. TRDC own courses located at Rickmansworth and Oxhey Park.

Figure 7: Location of golf courses in the District of Three Rivers (with a 20 minute drive time)



Based on a 20 minute drive time (as recommended by Sport England), there are no significant gaps in the provision of golf courses in Three Rivers.

THREE RIVERS DISTRICT COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT UPDATE

Table 26: Key to map

Site name	KKP reference	Analysis area	Community use	Golf course
Chorleywood Golf Course	68	Chorleywood	Yes	Yes
Batchworth Park Golf Course	67	Rickmansworth	Yes	Yes
Rickmansworth Public Golf Course	70	Rickmansworth	Yes	Yes
The Grove	71	Sarratt	Yes	Yes
Moor Park Golf Course	73	Watford Rural	Yes	Yes
Oxhey Park Golf Course	72	Watford Rural	Yes	Yes

Development

In order to increase junior participation in golf, the Golf Foundation has created a junior development programme; Community Links. It has a number of aims including:

- ✦ Increase the number of young people playing the sport.
- ✦ Enable more young people to try the game in their school or community.
- ✦ Enable young people to try the game in a welcoming club or facility environment at little or no cost.
- ✦ Make the young person's introduction to golf a fun and safe experience.
- ✦ Ensure that beginners receive expert tuition on the basic skills and swing technique delivered through an emphasis on learning through games and activities.
- ✦ Teach beginners the principal rules and etiquette of the game.
- ✦ Provide young players with the opportunity to progress through the Junior Golf Passport to a level where they can play 18 holes in 110 shots or better.
- ✦ Strengthen the links between clubs, schools and the wider community.

In return for their involvement, clubs delivering the programme receive a number of benefits including registration as a Junior Golf Passport user which includes listing on the Golf Foundation website, support pack including promotion letters and posters to use in schools, sessions plans, support from EGP Development Officers and access to levels of discretionary grants ranging from £200 to £1,000. Batchworth Park, Oxhey Park and Rickmansworth golf clubs are delivering the Community Links junior programme in the District.

Demand

The Active People Survey shows that golf participation in Three Rivers has decreased slightly from 8.87% in 2005/06 to 6.64% in 2007/08. However, sample sizes for the survey in 2007/08 were smaller.

Golf summary

- ✦ There are five golf courses in Three Rivers; Batchworth Park, Chorleywood, Manor Park, Rickmansworth, The Grove and Oxhey Park. TRDC own courses located at Rickmansworth and Oxhey Park.
- ✦ Golf participation has likely remained static or slightly decreased in recent years.
- ✦ Based on a 20 minute drive time (as recommended by Sport England), there are no significant gaps in the provision of golf courses in Three Rivers.

THREE RIVERS DISTRICT COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT UPDATE

The table below identifies the key issues raised in the 2005 Three Rivers Open Space, Sport & Recreational Assessment and whether this is still an issue in 2010:

2005 recommendations	2010 update
1. Protection and maintenance of the municipal facilities at Rickmansworth Golf Centre.	1. Continue to protect and maintain the municipal facilities at Rickmansworth Golf Centre.

THREE RIVERS DISTRICT COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT UPDATE

TENNIS

Introduction

Governance of the sport is nationally administered by the Lawn Tennis Association (LTA). Hertfordshire Lawn Tennis Association administers, and is responsible for, the development of tennis across the Region, employing a county tennis development manager, which operates across Hertfordshire.

The Watford & District Tennis League is the main senior league servicing the District for both men's and ladies tennis. There are also a number of junior leagues offering junior competitive matches such as the Herts Junior Summer, Mini Tennis Winter and the national AGON Junior Tennis League.

Three Rivers provides a strong community club structures for tennis. There are six affiliated clubs in the District:

- ✦ Croxley Green (Clubmark accredited).
- ✦ Rickmansworth (Clubmark accredited).
- ✦ Oxhey Hall.
- ✦ Sarratt.
- ✦ Chorleywood.
- ✦ Moor Park.

Croxley Green and Rickmansworth tennis clubs are considered as key clubs and are both Clubmark accredited.

LTA Places to Play Strategy

The LTA has recently launched its Places to Play Strategy⁵. Its overall aims are to:

- ✦ Increase the number of people participating.
- ✦ Increase the number of juniors competing.
- ✦ Increase the number of people accessing coaches.

The LTA's regional target is to provide an additional 50,000 playing hours across the eight counties in the Region by 2010.

To achieve this, delivery of the LTA will prioritise funding for building low cost, quality indoor structures, floodlighting outdoor courts and renovating park courts. In order to support any project at club sites they would need to be Clubmark accredited. Currently in Three Rivers this would only apply to Croxley Green and Rickmansworth tennis clubs.

⁵ <http://www.lta.org.uk/Articles/Clubs1/Places-to-Play-Strategy/What-is-the-Places-to-Play-Strategy/>

THREE RIVERS DISTRICT COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT UPDATE

Supply

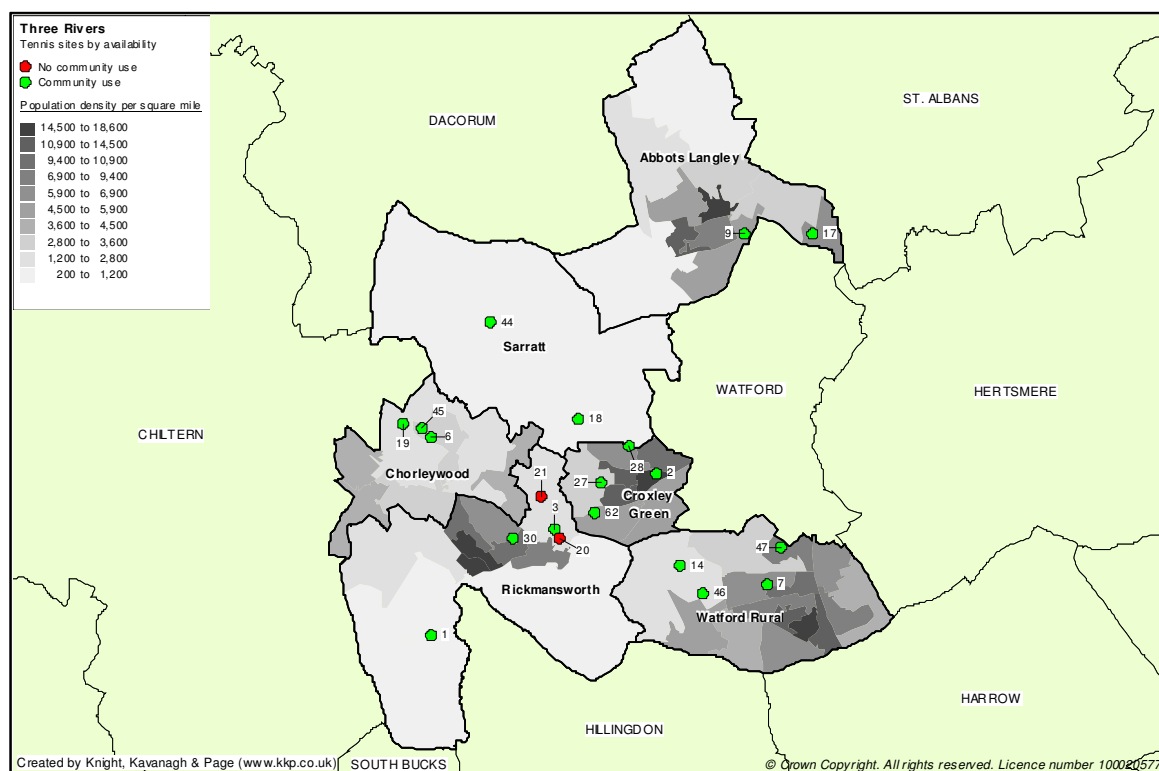
There are 93 tennis courts in Three Rivers. The number of courts has increased significantly from the previous 2005 Three Rivers Playing Pitch Strategy which identified 46 courts.

Table 27: Summary of courts available for community use by analysis area

Analysis area	Tennis courts (available for community use)	Tennis courts (not available for community use)
Abbots Langley	10	-
Chorleywood	13	-
Croxley Green	12	-
Rickmansworth	10	19
Sarratt	5	-
Watford Rural	24	-
THREE RIVERS	74	93

There are six sites in the District providing publicly accessible tennis courts.

Figure 8: Location of all tennis courts in Three Rivers



THREE RIVERS DISTRICT COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT UPDATE

Table 28: Key to map

Site name	KKP reference	Analysis area	Community use	No. of courts
Leavesden County Park	9	Abbots Langley	Yes	4
St Michael's Catholic High School	17	Abbots Langley	Yes	6
Chorleywood House Estate	6	Chorleywood	Yes	3
Chorleywood LTC	45	Chorleywood	Yes	6
Clement Danes	19	Chorleywood	Yes	4
Baldwins Lane Playing Fields	2	Croxley Green	Yes	2
Croxley Guild Sports & Social Club	27	Croxley Green	Yes	6
Merchant Taylor Sports Ground	28	Croxley Green	Yes	1
Rickmansworth School	62	Croxley Green	Yes	3
Maple Cross	1	Rickmansworth	Yes	2
Rickmansworth Tennis Club	30	Rickmansworth	Yes	5
Royal Masonic School for Girls	21	Rickmansworth	No	14
Scotsbridge Playing Field	3	Rickmansworth	Yes	3
St Joan of Arc School	20	Rickmansworth	No	5
King George V Playing Fields, Sarrat	44	Sarratt	Yes	2
York House Prep School	18	Sarratt	Yes	3
Merchant Taylors School	14	Watford Rural	Yes	6
Moor Park LTC	46	Watford Rural	Yes	13
Oxhey Hall Community Centre	47	Watford Rural	Yes	3
South Oxhey Playing Fields	7	Watford Rural	Yes	2

Development

High Performance Centres

In total, there are 19 High Performance Centres (HPC's) throughout England. These centres are designed to meet the needs of performance juniors providing high level coaching and fitness programmes and access to top facilities. The County has two HPC's located at Gosling Tennis Centre (GTC), Welwyn Garden City and Batchwood Tennis Centre, St Albans, both are located outside of Three Rivers.

Three Rivers and Watford Schools Sports Partnership are in discussions with TRDC to increase the usage of local authority courts. This will be through the provision of coaching programmes.

Key issues from consultation

Demand

Junior membership levels at clubs across the District are generally increasing on a year by year basis, in common with regional trends. Consultation suggests this is due to structured junior coaching programmes and support from the LTA. Senior membership levels have generally remained static over the previous three years.

THREE RIVERS DISTRICT COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT UPDATE

Croxley Guild Tennis Club has increased the number of courts it has from five in 2005, to six courts (all floodlit) and two mini-courts in 2010. This was supported by the LTA through a loan/grant scheme. The Club's main focus is to increase its membership from approximately 257 playing members to above 300.

Indoor courts

There is demand for an indoor tennis structure (i.e. bubble structure) in Rickmansworth. The majority of clubs currently travel to the Riverside Health & Racquets Club, Northwood to access indoor provision. The site accommodates 12 indoor courts and is located 3 miles, eight minutes from Rickmansworth. The LTA reports it would support the development if an indoor structure and suggest that this would be best located at a club site (which has the Clubmark accreditation) i.e., Rickmansworth Tennis Club.

Quality

The quality of courts in the District is generally good quality. However, consultation suggests the playing surface at South Oxhey Playing Fields (KKP Ref 7) is poor. Rickmansworth Tennis Club has recently renovated its clubhouse facility.

Tennis summary

- ◆ There are 93 tennis courts and six affiliated LTA tennis clubs in the District. Six sites in the District provide publicly accessible tennis courts.
- ◆ Junior membership levels at clubs in the District are generally increasing on a year by year basis. However, consultation suggests senior membership levels have remained static over the previous three years.
- ◆ The quality of the playing surface at South Oxhey Playing Fields is considered by the LTA to be poor.
- ◆ The LTA suggests there is enough court provision to meet current demand. However, there are clubs that may seek to increase the number of courts to cater for future demand e.g., Rickmansworth and Sarratt tennis clubs.
- ◆ There is demand for an indoor tennis structure (i.e. bubble structure) to be located in Rickmansworth.

The table below identifies the key issues raised in the 2005 Three Rivers Open Space, Sport & Recreational Assessment and whether this is still an issue in 2010:

2005 recommendations	2010 update
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Increase public awareness of playing and coaching opportunities at clubs through increased publicity. 2. Appropriate provision of ancillary facilities at all clubs to maximise accessibility and usability for recreational and competitive play. 3. Protect and maintain the current level of courts, which are open for public recreational use. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Prioritise investment in courts at South Oxhey Playing Fields in order to increase the quality of the playing surface, 2. Continue to protect and maintain the current level of courts. 3. Investigate the feasibility of providing an indoor tennis bubble in the Rickmansworth area.

THREE RIVERS DISTRICT COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT UPDATE

ATHLETICS

Introduction

The sport is governed by England Athletics (EA) which also works at a regional and local level via regional and county associations. Much of the local development work is delivered by the Club and Coach Support Officer.

The Hertfordshire Amateur Athletics Association is responsible for organising a number of athletic fixtures including track and field, cross country, race walking and inter county matches. It is in the process of developing its second year athletics development plan for the County. However, consultation reports the main themes around the development plan will include support school/club links, developing coaching and developing a strong club structure.

The Three Rivers Open Space, Sport & Recreational Assessment in 2005 did not present any key issues with regards to athletics. This is because there was no formal athletic track provision in the District.

EA National Planning & Delivery Strategy (2007 – 2012)

This highlights priorities across the country for large scale developments, upgrades and also how small scale indoor and outdoor facilities are a priority. Priorities for the East Region include the provision of an indoor athletics centres located in Newham and Crystal Palace.

Development

The County is home to two high performance centres; Lea Valley, Enfield (located close to Three Rivers via the M25) and Brunel Athletics Centre, Uxbridge. It is likely that residents in Three Rivers travel to use these facilities.

Supply

There is no athletic track or club provision in Three Rivers. However, there are track facilities, located outside of the area, which are accessible. For example, Watford Harriers Athletic Club is the nearest club and is based at Woodside Stadium (Watford Leisure Centre, Watford). Consultation suggests it has a number of members travelling from the Three Rivers area to compete at the Club. Woodside Stadium is located approximately four miles/ nine minutes from Rickmansworth.

The majority of schools convert their grass playing fields (i.e. football, rugby or hockey) to accommodate a grass athletic track during the summer period. For example, Royal Masonic School for Girls converts its grass hockey pitches into an eight athletic track to facilitate its athletic sports programme.

Athletics summary

- There is no athletic track or club provision in Three Rivers. Watford Harriers Athletic Club is the nearest club and is based at Woodside Stadium, Watford.
- Current demand for athletics in Three Rivers is being satisfied by Woodside Stadium. The stadium is located approximately four miles, nine minutes from Rickmansworth.

THREE RIVERS DISTRICT COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT UPDATE

NETBALL

Introduction

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

East Region Netball Association

'Netball East' is one of AENA's nine regions. The membership of Netball East comprises seven netballing counties; Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire, East Essex, Essex Thurrock, Hertfordshire, Norfolk and Suffolk. As the Regional Association, Netball East is responsible for the management and development of the sport in the Region. Its core functions are to:

'Identify and meet the needs of Netball players, coaches, umpires, and administrators and in doing so, enhance participation experiences and courage more people to take up the sport'.

Development

The Hertfordshire Netball Association's Whole Sport Plan is based on local authority districts and school sport partnerships. Its vision is to provide each of the ten local authorities in Hertfordshire with a minimum of one open age group league, one junior/youth league and one High 5 league.

High 5 netball

High 5⁶ netball is the recognised format for netball at primary schools. It is a version of netball with up to nine players (boys and girls) in each team with five on court at any one time in rotation. Those 'standing off' encompass the techniques of umpiring, scoring and coaching. This is being delivered during the curriculum at primary schools via the TR&W SSP.

Back to netball

The Back to Netball scheme is aimed at women, aged 16 years overs, which have stopped playing netball for a variety of reasons. The Scheme is delivered on indoor courts at Royal Masonic School for Girls, Rickmansworth (KKP Ref 21) and at Rickmansworth School (KKP Ref 62). During the summer it will be delivered on outdoor courts at Rickmansworth School.

The Scheme was implemented in October 2009 across the District in partnership with TRDC. It was originally intended as a six week programme. However, there has been a high uptake in sessions and it has continued to run at both venues.

⁶ <http://counties.Englandnetball.co.uk/hertfordshire/dyncat.cfm?catid=14938>

THREE RIVERS DISTRICT COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT UPDATE

Supply

Figure 9 indicates the majority of netball court provision is located south of the District. Sarratt and Watford Rural analysis areas do not appear to have any netball court provision.

Figure 9: Location of netball clubs in Three Rivers

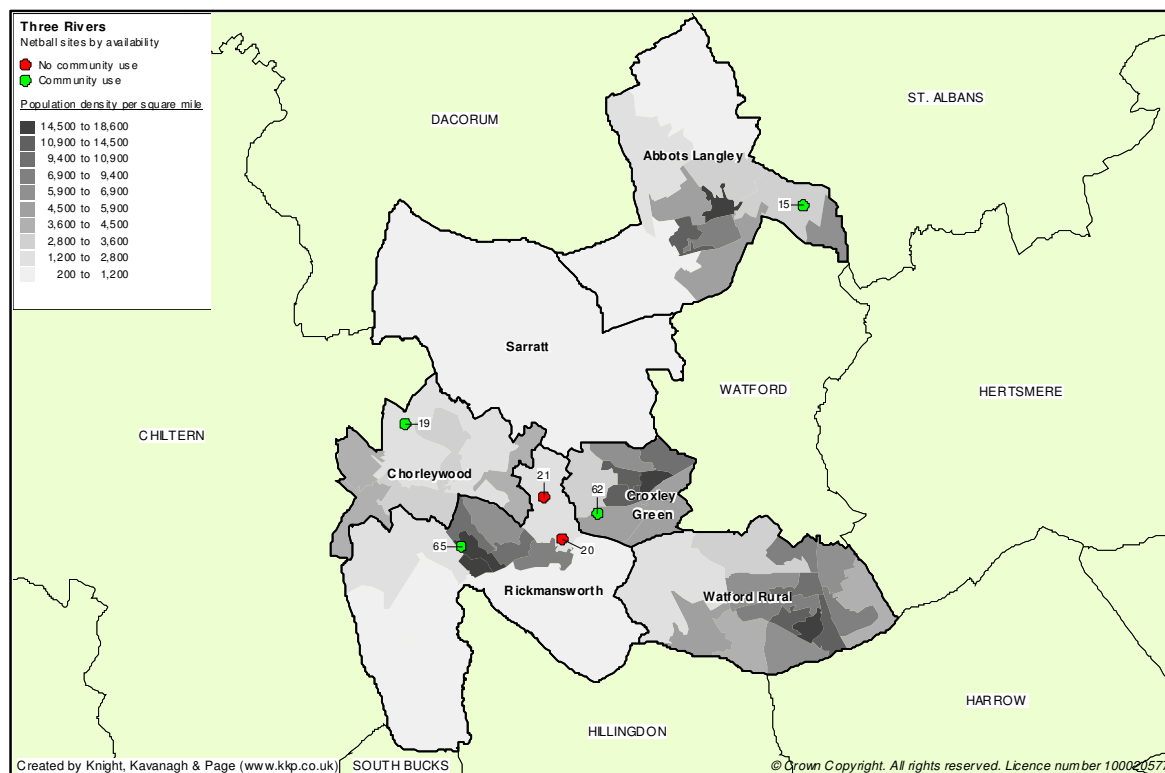


Table 29: Key to map

Site name	KKP reference	Analysis area	Community use	No. of courts
Parmiters School	15	Abbots Langley	Yes	8
Clement Danes	19	Chorleywood	Yes	3
Rickmansworth School	62	Croxley Green	Yes	2
Royal Masonic School for Girls	21	Rickmansworth	No	5
St Joan of Arc School	20	Rickmansworth	No	4
William Penn Leisure Centre	65	Rickmansworth	Yes	2

The audit identifies 24 netball courts in Three Rivers. The large majority are located at school sites. William Penn Leisure Centre, Rickmansworth provides two outdoor netball courts. There are three netball clubs in Three Rivers; Leggatts, Watford Premier and Ley. Hertfordshire Netball Association has established a Disability Netball Club for young people with learning difficulties using courts located at Parmiters School (using indoor courts).

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Watford Premier and Leggatts netball clubs access indoor and outdoor courts at Parmiters School (KKP Ref 15). Ley Netball Club uses the courts at Rickmansworth School to accommodate training and competitive matches.

There are three central venue leagues covering the Three Rivers area; Watford Senior Winter League, U14's Junior Summer League and the West Herts Summer Netball League. All leagues access courts at Parmiters School.

Watford Premier Netball Club

The Club is regarded as one of the strongest and largest clubs in the County. It competes in a number of leagues and fields four senior teams and a junior section. It trains using indoor and outdoor courts (dependent on the weather) at Parmiters School. It is AENA bronze CAPS (Clubmark) accredited.

Quality

The courts at Parmiters School previously hosted the County netball tournaments. However, as of 2010 it will now be hosted at Stanborough School, Watford. Consultation suggests this is due to poor quality courts at Parmiters. Users report the courts are not well maintained and occurrence of broken glass is regular. During inclement weather the courts are also slippery. The School is considering re-surfacing the courts and will seek funding for this during 2010.

St Joan of Arc School provides four floodlit outdoor netball courts (over marked with five tennis courts). In October 2008, the courts were resurfaced and are rated as good quality.

Ancillary facilities

Consultation reports there are not enough showers at Parmiters School to accommodate for the number of teams accessing central venue leagues.

Accessibility

Where courts exist at secondary schools only two; Parmiters and Rickmansworth have community use on outdoor courts. The courts at St Joan of Arc are available for community use but there is low demand from netball clubs for usage.

A number of clubs from the County travel into Three Rivers to access the central venue Watford Winter Senior League at Parmiters School. The League provides six senior divisions and is one of the strongest leagues in the County.

Junior teams from Watford Premier Netball Club travel out of the area to access Turnford Open Summer Junior League at Wormley Playing Fields, Broxbourne (located outside of the assessment area). This is because the junior league in Three Rivers only provides competitive matches for U14's. England Netball has plans to develop this league locally and introduce a comprehensive range of junior divisions.

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Netball summary

- ♦ The audit has identified 24 netball courts in Three Rivers. The majority of courts are located at school sites.
- ♦ There are three central venue leagues in Three Rivers; Watford Senior Winter League and U14's Junior Summer League and the West Herts Summer Netball League. All leagues use courts at Parmiters School.
- ♦ The quality of the courts at Parmiters School remains poor.
- ♦ There appears to be enough netball court provision in Three Rivers to meet current demand.
- ♦ In order to support central venue league structure and sustain netball participation there is demand to increase the quality of the courts at Parmiters School. There is also demand to increase the quantity of the ancillary facilities to accommodate peak time usage.

The table below identifies the key issues raised in the 2005 Three Rivers Open Space, Sport & Recreational Assessment and whether this is still an issue in 2010:

2005 recommendations	2010 update
<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. The surface of the netball courts is inadequate at Parmiter's School for the facility's role as the local league central venue and the County Netball Centre2. Car parking is limited at Parmiter's School.	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. As a priority, support Parmiter's School and Watford Premier Netball Club in seeking funds to improve the quality of the courts.2. Work to ensure that appropriate ancillary facilities are made available to support peak time community use of Parmiter's School.

THREE RIVERS DISTRICT COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT UPDATE

EDUCATION PROVISION

Introduction

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

The new Education and Inspection Act (2006) came into force in early 2009 and amends the existing legislation within the Schools Standards and Framework Act (SSFA) 1998, which was originally introduced by the Government requiring all schools to seek approval from the Secretary of State for Education and Employment (Education and Skills since July 2001 now the Department for Children, Schools and Families) for the sale or change of use of their playing fields. Section 77 of the SSFA seeks to protect school playing fields against disposal or change of use by requiring the prior consent of the Secretary of State before disposal or change of use may take place. The School Playing Fields General Disposal and Change of Use Consent (No.3) 2004 order highlights some limited circumstances in which the requisite approval has been delegated to the relevant governing body (i.e. local authority), which can decide whether the disposal or change of use meets the circumstances and criteria set out in the Consent Order⁷.

School sports partnerships (SSPs)

The SSP programme is part of the national Physical Education and Sport Strategy for Young People (PESSYP). This is led by the Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF) and the Department for Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) to widen participation, raise standards and improve the quality of PE and school sport.

The objective of the Strategy is to ensure that by 2011 all children are offered at least five hours of sport every week, comprising:

- ✦ At least two hours high quality PE in the curriculum (5-16 year olds).
- ✦ The opportunity for at least a further three hours sport beyond the school day delivered by a range of school, community and club providers (5-19 yr olds).

SSPs have set a number of targets to reach by 2010, with individual key performance indicators (KPIs). These are:

- ✦ Increase in participation in high quality PE. The KPI is for 75% of the schools to deliver 90 minutes of high quality curriculum time.
- ✦ Increase in participation in high quality out of school hours learning. All schools will offer at least two opportunities to KS1 pupils.
- ✦ Increase in participation in high quality informal physical activity. This will be achieved by making effective use of playground markings with all secondary schools to offer at least two informal activities.
- ✦ Increase participation in high quality competition and performance, to include the establishment of a calendar of sports events and competitions.
- ✦ Improvement in attitude, behaviour and attendance in PE and sport through the provision of structured activities during break and lunchtimes to discourage incidences of bullying and disruptive behaviour.

⁷ Full and detailed guidance can be accessed at <http://www.teachernet.gov.uk/docbank/index.cfm?id=11600>

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- ◀ Increase in attainment and achievement in and through PE and sport. This will involve all secondary schools achieving accreditation for delivering the sports leadership level 1 course, and all schools to work towards gaining an accreditation of some sort.
- ◀ Increase in participation in community based sport. This will require the strengthening of school-club links.

There is one SSP in Three Rivers; Three Rivers and Watford (TR&W), based at Rickmansworth School, Rickmansworth.

National Competition Framework

TR&W SSP is also part of the National Competition Framework. The aim of the framework is to provide a competitive environment for all young people and to help sport through attracting, supporting, retaining and passing on talent. The vision is to establish a high quality competitive school sport structure by developing school based competition pathways.

There is a Competition Manager whose main role is to develop, manage and co-ordinate the planning and implementation of the National Schools Competition Framework through a programme of inter-school competition within the TR&W SSP and Watford & Herts Schools Sports Partnership; located outside of the assessment area.

Current provision

Table 30: Summary of pitches at school sites and availability of community use in Three Rivers

Analysis area	Total no. of education pitches				No. of education pitches available for community use			
	Senior football	Junior football	Mini football	Senior rugby	Senior football	Junior football	Mini football	Senior rugby
Abbots Langley	11	5	9	1	11	3	9	1
Chorleywood	4	2	-	1	4	2	-	1
Croxley Green	1	3	3	1	1	3	3	1
Rickmansworth	2	2	-	1	-	1	-	-
Sarratt	2	1	2	-	2	-	2	-
Watford Rural	3	5	5	14	3	2	5	14
Three Rivers	23	18	19	18	21	11	19	17

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Table 31: Summary of non-pitch facilities at school sites and availability of community use in Three Rivers

Analysis area	Total no. of education non-pitches		No. of education pitches available for community use	
	Tennis	Netball	Tennis	Netball
Abbots Langley	6	8	6	8
Chorleywood	4	3	4	3
Croxley Green	3	2	3	2
Rickmansworth	19	9	-	-
Sarratt	3	-	3	-
Watford Rural	6	-	6	-
Three Rivers	41	22	22	13

Key issues from consultation

The following summary table highlights the key issues ascertained via consultation with secondary schools. It does not provide a précis of each school.

Table 32: Secondary school key issues

KKP ref	School	Issue
21	Royal Masonic School for Girls	<p>The School is considering opening up its facilities for community. It delivers an extensive hockey programme during curricular and extra curricular using four grass hockey pitches at the site. Football and rugby is delivered to Key Stage four pupils using grassed areas at the site. The School reports it may possible mark out football and rugby pitches in the near future.</p> <p>The School fields a preparatory and six senior hockey teams. The teams train using the STP at St. Clement Danes School, Rickmansworth (KKP Ref 19) and Merchant Taylors School, Northwood (KKP Ref 66). The teams play competitive matches at Eastcote Hockey Club, Ruislip (approximately 7 miles, 17 minutes from the School site).</p>
17	St Michaels Catholic High School	<p>The School has plans to build a four court badminton hall. Consultation identifies there are concerns this facility will not be available for community use.</p>

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KKP ref	School	Issue
19	St. Clement Danes School	<p>The site provides a sand based, floodlit synthetic turf pitch (use for both football and hockey activities) four football, one rugby and an artificial cricket wicket. There are plans to develop three outdoor cricket nets. During the Summer it converts the pitches into a six lane grass athletic track. In 2007, the School purchased 33 acres of land (formerly scrubland) next to the school site. This enabled the School to introduce rugby pitches and training grids.</p> <p>As part of the planning permission conditions the STP can only be floodlit till 9pm. The STP is heavily used by local football clubs in the area including Chalfont Saints, Chorleywood YFC, Croxley Old Boys as well as local primary schools; Christchurch and St Andrews Church. There is demand for floodlighting until 10pm. It believes this could help to soak up levels of demand and accommodate senior football training. The School reports it restricts the usage on the pitch to ensure the quality is protected and does not allow usage from local pub football teams.</p> <p>The School is in discussions with Chorleywood Cricket Club (also located in Chorleywood) to install six grass wickets at the school site. The Club proposes to maintain the wickets in return for free usage. The School site currently provides one artificial wicket. However, artificial wickets are not suitable for league matches (also highlighted in Section six of the report). The STP is used by Chess Valley and Rickmansworth Hockey Club.</p> <p>There is an issue with car 'break ins' in the car park over the recent months. The School is in discussions with the local Police to address this. Consultation reports this is a significant issue in the Chorleywood area as it is accessible and in close proximity to the M25. There are fears this may deter community use.</p>
20	St Joan of Arc	<p>The School has access to two football, one rugby and five tennis courts (over marked with four netball and two basketball). It reports one football and the rugby pitches is undersized and only suitable the Years 7 and 8 competitive matches. It uses opponent pitches to accommodate its sixth form rugby fixtures.</p> <p>Vandalism is an issue on the playing fields with instances such as holes in the fencing and vehicles accessing the pitches.</p> <p>The School reports it has enough outdoor sports provision but is lacking on indoor provision. It was seeking to purchase offices located next to the School site to provide additional classroom space. However, it has recently been outbid by developers. The School the site would have also been able to cater for an indoor sports hall.</p> <p>It rates the quality of the pitches as adequate. The River Chess funnell surrounds the pitches. Consultation suggests the drainage is not adequate and the pitches often become waterlogged.</p> <p>Community use of the school's sports facilities is sporadic. During the Summer it uses Rickmansworth Sports Club (RSC) cricket pitch to accommodate school cricket fixtures. It reports it would like to access the rugby pitches at RSG but it cannot access the changing rooms on a Saturday, when school fixtures take place, as they are in use by gym members of the Sports Club.</p> <p>The changing facilities are of poor quality and are small i.e., not suitable for class sizes.</p>

THREE RIVERS DISTRICT COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT UPDATE

Schools summary

- ◆ There are 80 playing pitches, 41 tennis courts and 22 netball courts at schools in Three Rivers.
- ◆ Secondary schools are generally well provided for in terms of outdoor sports provision. An issue across the district is the lack of indoor sports provision. Schools report this impacts on over usage of its playing fields.

The table below identifies the key issues raised in the 2005 Three Rivers Open Space, Sport & Recreational Assessment and whether this is still an issue in 2010:

2005 recommendations	2010 update
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Continue the development of community use of schools pitches. Provide support, where appropriate in order for schools to achieve effective community use agreements. 2. Support those schools that have existing community use and require improvements to the facilities to enable increased capacity as well improving facilities for curriculum purposes. 3. Improvements to pitches and ancillary facilities to accommodate additional wear and tear, and improvements to site access, security and car parking may be required. This must include access to changing facilities, and where not possible access to toilets as a minimum. 4. Work closely with the SSP, once it is fully established, to extend the range of sporting opportunities within the District for children and young people. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Continue the development of community use of schools pitches. Provide support, where appropriate in order for schools to achieve effective community use agreements. 2. Support those schools that have existing community use and require improvements to the facilities to enable increased capacity as well improving facilities for curriculum purposes. 3. Improvements to pitches and ancillary facilities to accommodate additional wear and tear, and improvements to site access, security and car parking may be required. This must include access to changing facilities, and where not possible access to toilets as a minimum. 4. Continue to work with Three Rivers and Watford SSP to extend the range of sporting opportunities within the District for children and young people.