

12 ROUNDERS PITCH NEEDS

12.1 Organisational context

- **Rounders England:** Rounders England is the governing body of the sport and supports the development of the game in Harborough district.
- **Affiliated Clubs:** There are ten Rounders England-affiliated clubs in Harborough district.

12.2 Strategic context

12.2.1 Rounders England strategy

Rounders England's *'Rounders Reconnected: Strategic Vision 2022 - 2032 (2021)* contains priorities and objectives of relevance to facilities provision:

Purpose: 'Over the next decade we will grow and develop the nation's much-loved game into a thriving, modern, inclusive sport that can be enjoyed by everyone'.

Objectives: The 'four posts of focus' are as follows:

- **Create:** 'Creating opportunities for more people to play rounders for fun, to get active or start their rounders journey with the aim of 1 million people playing by 2032. A particular focus will be placed on tackling some of the inequalities that exist within sport and physical activity'.
- **Engage:** 'Evolve our membership offer in order to support and service our players, volunteers and our workforce resulting in a happy and engaged community of 100,000 members by 2032'.
- **Compete:** 'Expand and develop a fit for purpose competition structure and pathway culminating in a commercially viable national league structure.'
- **Champion:** 'Promote our sport and raise its profile with stakeholders, partners and the media at a national and international level in order to be commonwealth games ready by 2032'.

12.2.2 Neighbouring local authorities

None of the outdoor sports facilities strategies in neighbouring districts includes an assessment of rounders needs.

12.3 Rounders Pitch Demand

12.3.1 Introduction

This section summarises the demand for rounders in Harborough district and includes:

- Expressed demand.
- Displaced demand.

- Latent and unmet demand.

- Future demand.

12.3.2 Expressed demand

- **League:** The Market Harborough Ladies Rounders League is a fun and friendly Rounders league, set to include as many women as possible into competitive sport. The league has two divisions and matches are played during the summer months on Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays, played both ‘home’ and ‘away’. Cup matches and re-arranged matches are on a Thursday.
- **Teams:** The following teams play in the Market Harborough District Ladies Rounders League. Most are based in Harborough district, those which are not are shown in italics, as are any facilities used outside the district:

| Club | Courts |
|-----------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| <i>Arthingworth Rounders Team</i> | Market Harborough Leisure Centre |
| Blackjacks Rounders Team | Market Harborough Leisure Centre |
| Bowden Blacks Rounders Team | Market Harborough Leisure Centre |
| Bowden Rounders Team | Market Harborough Leisure Centre |
| Green Arrows Rounders Team | Market Harborough Leisure Centre |
| Harborough Bellas Rounders Team | Market Harborough Leisure Centre |
| Harborough Peaches Rounders Team | Market Harborough Leisure Centre |
| Husband’s Bosworth Rounders Team | Husband’s Bosworth Playing Field |
| Kibworth Coyotes Rounders Team | Kibworth Town FC |
| Lyn’s Misfits Rounders Team | Market Harborough Leisure Centre |
| MH Ladies Rounders Team | Market Harborough Leisure Centre |
| <i>Naseby Rounders Team</i> | <i>Naseby Recreation Ground</i> |
| <i>Pam’s People Rounders Team</i> | <i>Welford Sports Ground</i> |

12.3.3 Displaced demand

Displaced demand relates to play by teams from within the study area which takes place outside of the area, or vice versa. Three teams from outside the district play in the Market Harborough Ladies Rounders League, two of which play ‘home’ matches at facilities outside the district. There is therefore a net position of one imported team.

12.3.4 Unmet demand

Unmet demand takes a number of forms:

- Clubs may have access to a facility for matches but nowhere to train or vice versa.
- Some facilities may be unavailable to the community.
- The poor quality and limited capacity of facilities and/or a lack of provision and ancillary facilities which meet a certain standard of play/league requirement.

There is no evidence of unmet demand for rounders in Harborough district at present.

12.3.5 Latent demand

Whereas unmet demand is known to currently exist latent demand is demand that evidence suggests may be generated from the current population should they have access to more or better provision. There is no evidence of latent demand for rounders in Harborough at present.

12.3.6 Future demand

The ONS 2018 sub-national population projections forecast a population of 104,839 by 2031, an increase of 9,302 (or 9.7%). This will create a requirement for equivalent additional capacity by 2031.

12.3.7 Key findings on demand

The key findings on demand are as follows:

- There are ten local clubs serving Harborough district.
- Three teams from outside the district play in the Market Harborough Ladies Rounders League, two of which play 'home' matches at facilities outside the district. There is therefore a net position of one imported team.

12.4 Rounders Pitch Supply

12.4.1 Introduction

This section summarises the detail of rounders pitch supply in Harborough. In all cases the pitches used for rounders are not dedicated as such but are shared with either cricket or football.

12.4.2 Pitches with community use and used

| Site | Address | Primary use | Sub-area |
|----------------------------------|--|--------------------|-----------------|
| Husband's Bosworth Playing Field | Kilworth Road, Husband's Bosworth LE17 6JW | Football | West |

| | | | |
|---------------------------------------|--|----------|--------|
| Kibworth Town FC | Bird's Barn, Fleckney Road, Fleckney LE8 0HJ | Football | Middle |
| Market Harborough Leisure Centre (x2) | Northampton Road, Market Harborough LE16 9HF | Football | East |

12.4.3 Pitches by sub-area

Pitches with community use and used by sub-area are as follows:

| Sub-area | Population | No. Pitches | Pitches per capita |
|-------------------|-------------------|--------------------|---------------------------|
| West | 28,963 | 1 | 1: 28,963 |
| Middle | 35,494 | 2 | 1: 17,747 |
| East | 28,197 | 1 | 1: 28,197 |
| HARBOROUGH | 95,537 | 4 | 1: 23,884 |

12.5 Quality

12.5.1 The criteria assessed for rounders pitches

The qualitative analysis involved a visit to all pitches used for rounders in Harborough district, to undertake the non-technical visual inspections produced by the governing bodies of the primary sports users of the pitches (football). The assessment generated 'scores' for each pitch by evaluating the elements relevant to rounders. This includes grass cover, pitch dimensions, gradient, evenness, length of grass, drainage and evidence of any unauthorised use.

12.5.2 The basis of the ratings

The facilities were rated on a five-point scale, where 5 equates to 'very good', 4 to 'good', 3 to 'average', 2 to 'poor' and 1 to 'very poor'.

12.5.3 Rounders pitch assessment

The ratings for rounders pitches in Harborough are shown in the table below.

| Site | Pitches | Changing | Comments |
|----------------------------------|----------------|-----------------|---|
| Husband's Bosworth Playing Field | Good | Good | Pitches towards the lower end of 'good' quality. 'Good' quality changing. |
| Kibworth Town FC | Good | Poor | 'Standard' quality pitches. 'Poor' quality changing facilities. |
| Market Harborough Leisure Centre | Standard | Good | 'Standard' quality pitches with 'good' quality changing. Car parking is inadequate at peak periods. |

12.6 Accessibility

Rounders England applies a 15-minute drivetime catchment to define accessibility. The map overleaf shows that the whole of Harborough is within 15-minutes' drivetime

of a rounders pitch, with the exception of small areas in the north and east of the district.

HARBOROUGH - Rounders 15 Minutes Drive



2/14/2022

- ROUNDERS
- 15.0 Minutes
- ▭ West Sub Area, Middle Sub Area, East Sub Area
- ▭ Harborough District Boundary

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12.7 Availability

The table below identifies the basis of use of rounders in Harborough:

| Facility | | | Basis of use | |
|------------------|------------|---------|---------------------|-------|
| Husband's Field | Bosworth | Playing | Seasonal booking | block |
| Kibworth Town FC | | | Seasonal booking | block |
| Market Centre | Harborough | Leisure | Seasonal booking | block |

12.8 Ownership, management and security of access

The ownership, management and security of community access of rounders pitches is detailed below. Security of access refers to the extent to which community use is protected (through public ownership, community use agreements etc.), rather than the security of tenure of specific club users.

| Site | Ownership | Management | Access |
|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|---------------|
| Husband's Bosworth Playing Field | Husband's Bosworth Playing Field | Husband's Bosworth Parish Council | Secured |
| Kibworth Town FC | Private landowner | Kibworth Town FC | Secured |
| Market Harborough Leisure Centre | Harborough District Council | Harborough Town Community Trust | Secured |

12.9 Key findings on supply

The key findings are as follows:

- **Pitch supply:** All teams are subservient to the primary sports users (football) at their respective sites, so have to fit usage around the needs of other sports, although since the rounders playing season is during the summer months, there are no current problems with this.
- **Pitch quality:** All the pitches used are at least 'standard' quality, although changing facilities are 'poor' at Kibworth Town FC.
- **Security of access:** All the rounders clubs are based on sites with secured community access.

12.10 Developments since the 2018 PPS

The key development since the assessment of rounders needs in the 2018 PPS is that there is no longer a rounders team from the district that plays in the Leicestershire Rounders League. The number of teams in the Market Harborough District Ladies Rounders League remains the same as in 2018.

12.11 The balance between rounders pitch supply and demand

Four criteria have been assessed to evaluate the balance between rounders pitch supply and demand in Harborough district:

- **Quantity:** Are there enough pitches with sufficient capacity to meet needs now and in the future?
- **Quality:** Are the pitches fit for purpose for the users now and in the future?
- **Accessibility:** Are the pitches in the right physical location for the users now and in the future?
- **Availability:** Are the pitches available for those who want to use them now and in the future?

12.12 Quantity

12.12.1 Current needs

There is no evidence of unmet demand for rounders pitches in Harborough district.

12.12.2 Future needs

Future demand patterns are likely to be similar to current levels, based on participation trends but the population growth projections will create a requirement for 9.7% additional capacity by 2031. This can be accommodated via spare capacity at existing pitches.

12.13 Quality

12.13.1 Current quality

The quality of rounders pitches is generally at least 'standard'.

12.13.2 Future quality

All rounders pitches will need to continue to invest in maintaining and improving their facilities.

12.14 Accessibility

12.14.1 Current accessibility

The whole of Harborough is within 15-minutes' drivetime of a rounders pitch, with the exception of small areas in the north and east of the district.

12.14.2 Future accessibility

It is reasonable to assume that the current geographical coverage will be maintained in the future.

12.15 Availability

12.15.1 Current availability

All sites have secured community access.

12.15.2 Future availability

It is reasonable to assume that secured access will remain.

12.16 The options for securing rounders pitch capacity

The options for securing existing rounders pitch capacity to meet current and future needs are as follows:

12.16.1 Protect

Protecting existing rounders pitches through the Local Plan will be key both to securing local provision by ensuring that planning policy supports the retention of existing facilities, unless the loss of a facility would involve its replacement with a facility of at least the equivalent size, quality and accessibility.

12.16.2 Provide

There is no need to provide additional pitches to meet demand arising from the population growth projections, provided that access to the existing pitch sites is maintained.

12.16.3 Enhance

There is no need to enhance any of the rounders pitch sites to increase capacity.

12.17 Action Plan

12.17.1 Introduction

The table below sets out the action plan for rounders pitches to guide the implementation of the strategy.

12.17.2 Key strategic actions

| Issues | Action | Lead | Partners | Resources | Priority |
|--|--|-------------|-----------------|------------------|-----------------|
| Protection of existing rounders pitches. | Include a policy in the Local Plan to protect all existing rounders pitches. | HDC | - | - | High |