

Harborough District Playing Pitch Strategy 2022

Outcomes and Action Plan

The success of the Playing Pitch Strategy (PPS) will be determined by how it is used. While the provision of the PPS is led by Harborough District Council, its application and delivery of actions should be the responsibility of the clubs, other key local stakeholders including Sport England and the governing bodies of the pitch sports. The PPS has a number of applications:

Sports development planning

The PPS can be applied to help:

- Highlight, justify and make the case for sports development activities with particular sports, groups and clubs and in particular areas.
- Identify current and future trends and changes in the demand for individual sports and how they are played.
- Inform the work, strategies and plans of sporting organisations active in the area.
- Advocate the need to work with specific educational establishments to secure community use of their site(s).
- Develop and/or enhance school club links by making the best use of school sites where they have spare capacity and are well located to meet demand.

Planning policy

The PPS can be applied to help:

- Develop new, and review the effectiveness of existing, local planning policy (e.g. Local and Neighbourhood Plans) in line with the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF).
- The implementation of local planning policy to meet the needs of the community in line with the NPPF.

Planning applications

The PPS can be applied to help:

- Inform the development of planning applications which affect existing and/or proposed new sports facilities provision.
- Inform pre-application discussions to ensure any subsequent planning applications maximise their benefit to sport and are developed in line with national and local planning policy.
- Sports clubs and other organisations provide the strategic need for development proposals thereby potentially adding support to their application(s) and saving them resources in developing such evidence.
- The Council to assess planning applications affecting existing and/or proposed new playing pitch provision in line with national and local planning policy.
- Sport England and other parties respond to relevant planning application consultations.
- The PPS can also be applied to help the Council to meet other relevant requirements of the NPPF including:
- Taking account of and supporting local strategies to improve health, social and cultural wellbeing for all, and deliver sufficient community and cultural facilities and services to meet local needs.
- Delivering the social, recreational, cultural facilities and services the community needs.
- Planning positively for the development and infrastructure required in the area to meet the objectives, principles and policies of the framework.
- Working with public health leads and health organisations to understand and take account of the health status and needs of the local population, including expected future changes, and any information about relevant barriers to improving health and well-being).

Funding bids

The PPS can be applied to help:

- Provide the evidence base and strategic need to support funding bids by a range of parties to a variety of potential funding sources.
- Inform potential bidders of the likely strategic need for their project.

Facility and asset management

The PPS can be applied to help:

- Ensure a strategic approach is taken to the provision and management of playing pitches.
- Inform the current management, strategies and plans of playing pitch providers e.g. the Council, leisure trusts and educational establishments.
- Share knowledge of how sites are managed and maintained, the lessons learnt and good practice.
- Highlight the potential of asset transfers and ensure any proposed are beneficial to all parties.
- Provide additional protection for particular sites over and above planning policy, for example through deeds of dedication.
- Resolve issues around security of tenure.

Public health

The PPS can be applied to help:

- Understand how the community currently participates in sport, the need for playing pitches and how this may evolve.
- Raise awareness of and tackle any barriers to people maintaining and increasing their participation.
- Highlight and address any inequalities of access to provision within the study area.
- Provide evidence to help support wider health and well-being initiatives.

Co-ordinating resources and investment

The PPS can be applied to help:

- Raise awareness of the current resources and investment (revenue and capital) going into the management, maintenance and improvement of playing pitch provision.
- Co-ordinate the current and any future resources and investment to ensure the maximum benefit to sport and that value for money is secured.
- Ensure the current and any future resources and investment are complimentary and do not result in their inefficient use.

Capital programmes

The PPS can be applied to help:

- Provide the evidence base to justify the protection and investment in playing pitch provision.
- Influence the development and implementation of relevant capital programmes (e.g. school refurbishment and new build programmes).

Key Strategic Actions

<i>Sport</i>	<i>Issues</i>	<i>Action</i>	<i>Lead</i>	<i>Partners</i>	<i>Resources</i>	<i>Priority</i>
Football	Community access to pitches	Pursue formal Community Use agreements at all existing and any future proposed pitches on education sites.	Harborough District Council	Academies and schools	Possible funding for improvements to physical accessibility.	High
Football	Securing developer contributions	Ensure that policy provision is made to secure developer contributions towards new and improved football facilities.	Harborough District Council	Developers	Determined by Sport England's Playing Pitch Calculator	High
Football	Identify site for a '3G' (Third generation) football turf pitch	Examine the feasibility of providing a '3G' pitch at an appropriate site.	Potential host site	Football Foundation S106 funding	£10,000 for feasibility study. £960,000 for pitch	High
Football	Site specific grounds maintenance needs	Review site specific grounds maintenance needs through the FA Pitch Improvement Programme.	Football Association	Pitch Power	£100 per site annually.	High
Rugby	Co-operation with the Rugby Football Union and England Hockey	Dialogue between the respective governing bodies on coordinating shared artificial grass pitch needs	Football Association	Rugby Football Union and England Hockey	-	High
Rugby	Securing developer contributions	Ensure that policy provision is made to secure developer contributions towards new and improved rugby facilities.	Harborough District Council	Developers	Determined by Sport England's New Development Calculator	High

Key Strategic Actions

<i>Sport</i>	<i>Issues</i>	<i>Action</i>	<i>Lead</i>	<i>Partners</i>	<i>Resources</i>	<i>Priority</i>
Hockey	Securing developer contributions	Ensure that policy provision is made to secure developer contributions towards additional hockey pitch capacity and ancillary facilities.	Harborough District Council	Developers	Determined by Sport England's New Development Calculator	High
Hockey/Football	Use of hockey pitches for football training.	Investigate the potential for additional '3G' football turf pitch provision.	Harborough District Council	Football Association/England Hockey	-	High
Hockey/Football/Rugby	Co-operation with the Football Association and Rugby Football Union	Dialogue between the respective governing bodies on coordinating shared artificial grass pitch needs	England Hockey	Football Association and Rugby Football Union	-	High
Tennis	Protection of existing tennis courts.	Include a policy in the Local Plan to protect all existing tennis courts.	Harborough District Council	-	-	High
Tennis	Improving the use of parks courts	Investigate gate access technology and Clubspark court booking system.	Harborough District Council	Lawn Tennis Association	to be confirmed	Medium
Bowls	Protection of existing bowls greens	Include a policy in the Local Plan to protect all existing bowls greens.	Harborough District Council	-	-	High

Key Strategic Actions

<i>Sport</i>	<i>Issues</i>	<i>Action</i>	<i>Lead</i>	<i>Partners</i>	<i>Resources</i>	<i>Priority</i>
Netball	Protection of existing netball courts.	Include a policy in the Local Plan to protect all existing netball courts.	Harborough District Council	-	-	High
Netball	Netball court markings on Multi Use Games Areas	Ensure that netball courts are marked on all MUGAs to promote the expansion of the game.	Harborough District Council	Multi Use Games Area providers	£1,000 per Multi Use Games Area	High
Rounders	Protection of existing rounders pitches.	Include a policy in the Local Plan to protect all existing rounders pitches.	Harborough District Council	-	-	High

Site Specific Actions Football

<i>Site</i>	<i>Issues</i>	<i>Action</i>	<i>Lead</i>	<i>Partners</i>	<i>Resources</i>	<i>Priority</i>
Aylestone St. James RFC	No current issues.	No action required.	-	-	-	-
Bird's Barn	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Youth 9v9 pitches used to over-capacity at peak times. 'Poor' quality changing facilities. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Secure additional pitches on land adjacent to the site. Provide a new pavilion. 	Kibworth Town FC	Football Foundation	£185,000 for pitches £690,000 for pavilion	High
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Youth 11v11, youth 9v9 and mini 7v7 pitches used to over-capacity at peak times. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Investigate the feasibility of providing floodlit, hybrid pitch. 		HDC	£250,000 for the floodlit pitch	

Site Specific Actions Football

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Bowden's Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Harborough Town FC wishes to extend changing facilities. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve changing facilities. 	Harborough Town FC	Football Foundation	£200,000 for changing.	High
Dunley Way Playing Field	No current issues.	No action required.	-	-	-	-
Dunton & Broughton Rangers FC	No current issues.	No action required.	-	-	-	-
Fleckney Sports and Leisure Centre	No current issues.	No action required.	-	-	-	-

Site Specific Actions Football

<i>Site</i>	<i>Issues</i>	<i>Action</i>	<i>Lead</i>	<i>Partners</i>	<i>Resources</i>	<i>Priority</i>
Frolesworth Road Recreation Ground	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 'Poor' quality pitches. • 'Poor' quality changing facilities. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assess pitch using Pitch Power. • Implement improved maintenance. 	Broughton Astley Parish Council	Pitch Power	to be confirmed	Medium
Gilmorton Playing Field	Adult pitch used to over capacity at peak times.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assess pitch using Pitch Power. • Implement improved maintenance. 	Gilmorton Parish Council	Pitch Power	to be confirmed	Medium
Great Glen Recreation Ground	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adult pitch used to over capacity at peak times. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assess pitch using Pitch Power. 	Great Glen Parish Council	Pitch Power	to be confirmed	Medium

Site Specific Actions Football

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	'Poor' quality mini 7v7 pitches.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implement improved maintenance. 				
Houghton Field	'Poor' quality changing.	Improve changing facilities.	Houghton-on-the-Hill Parish Council	-	£100,000	Medium
Husband's Bosworth Playing Field	No current issues.	No action required.	-	-	-	-
Lodge Road Recreation Ground	'Poor' quality changing.	Review the need for on-site changing.	Fleckney Parish Council	Fleckney Athletic FC	-	Low
Lutterworth Football Academy	Adult, youth 11v11 and 9v9 pitches used to over capacity at peak times.	The '3G' pitch proposed for the site will meet all pitch capacity needs.	Lutterworth Athletic FC	Football Foundation	Funding already secured	High

Site Specific Actions Football

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Lutterworth High School	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Youth 11v11 and youth 9v9 pitches used to over-capacity at peak times. Unsecured community access 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assess pitch using Pitch Power. Implement improved maintenance. Negotiate Community Use Agreement 	Lutterworth HS	Harborough District Council Pitch Power	to be confirmed	Medium
Medbourne Sports and Social Club	No current issues.	No action required.	-	-	-	-
North Kilworth	'Poor' quality mini 7v7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assess pitches using Pitch Power. 	North Kilworth FC	Pitch Power	TRC	Medium

Site Specific Actions Football

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Football Club	and 5v5 pitches.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implement improved maintenance. 	North Kilworth FC	Pitch Power	TBC	Medium
Robert Smyth Academy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Youth 11v11 pitch used to over-capacity at peak times. • Unsecured community access 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assess pitch using Pitch Power. • Implement improved maintenance. • Negotiate Community Use Agreement 	Robert Smyth Academy	HDC Pitch Power	TBC	Medium
South Kilworth Recreation Ground	Youth 11v11 pitch used to over-capacity at peak times.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assess pitch using Pitch Power. 	South Kilworth Parish Council	Pitch Power	to be confirmed	Medium

Site Specific Actions Football

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implement improved maintenance. 				
Symington's Recreation Ground	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Youth 9v9, mini 7v7 and 5v5 pitches all used to over capacity at peak times. • 'Poor' quality changing facilities. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assess pitches using Pitch Power. • Implement improved maintenance. • Improve changing facilities. 	Borough Alliance FC	HDC Pitch Power	to be confirmed £100,000 for changing.	High
Thomas Estley Community College	No current issues.	No action required.	-	-	-	-

Site Specific Actions Football

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Ullesthorpe Playing Fields Association	Mini 7v7 pitch used to over capacity at peak times.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Assess pitch using Pitch Power.	Ullesthorpe Playing Fields Association	Pitch Power	to be confirmed	Medium

Site Specific Actions

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Billesdon Cricket Club	No current issues.	-	-	-	-	-
Bitteswell Cricket Ground	No current issues.	-	-	-	-	-
Dixon's Field	Grass pitches used to over capacity on a seasonal basis.	Reschedule fixtures to sites with spare capacity	Houghton & Thurnby CC	Fleckney Village CC	-	High
Broughton Astley Recreation Ground.	No current issues.	-	-	-	-	-

Site Specific Actions

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Dunton Bassett CC	'Poor' quality non-turf pitch	Re-surface non-turf pitch	Dunton Bassett CC	-	£8,000	High
Fleckney Recreation. Ground	No current issues.	-	-	-	-	-
Gilmorton Cricket Club	'Poor' quality practice nets.	Provide new nets	Gilmorton CC	-	£20,000	Medium
Great Bowden Recreation Ground.	No current issues.	-	-	-	-	-

Site Specific Actions

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Great Glen CC	No current issues.	-	-	-	-	-
Gumley Cricket Club	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Poor quality outfield • Poor quality changing • No secured community access 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve outfield • Improve changing <p>Negotiate Community Use Agreement.</p>	Gumley Cricket Club	Site owner	<p>£5,000 for outfield works</p> <p>To be confirmed for changing</p>	Medium

Site Specific Actions

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Hallaton Recn Ground	No current issues.	-	-	-	-	-
Houghton and Thurnby CC	'Poor' quality changing	Improve changing	Houghton and Thurnby CC	Harborough District Council, England Cricket Board	TBC	High
Illston Abey CC	Proposed provision of football pitches on the outfield	Assess the impact of football on cricket usage	HDC	Football Association, England Cricket board	-	High

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Kibworth Cricket Club	• 'Poor' quality second changing pavilion	• Refurbish second changing pavilion	Kibworth Cricket Club	-	To be confirmed for changing	High
	• 'Poor' quality practice nets	• Provide new practice nets			£20,000 for practice nets	
Langtons Cricket Club	Proposal to expand changing facilities	Expand changing	Langtons Cricket Club	-	To be confirmed	High

Site Specific Actions

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Laughton and Mowsley CC	'Poor' quality changing	Improve changing	Laughton and Mowsley CC	-	To be confirmed	Medium
Little Bowden Recn. Ground	No current issues.	-	-	-	-	-
Lutterworth Cricket Club	Grass pitches used to over capacity on a seasonal basis.	Develop a second pitch at Lutterworth Grammar School	Lutterworth CC	Lutterworth Grammar School	£5,000 per season for maintenance	High
Market Harborough CC	No current issues.	-	-	-	-	-

Site Specific Actions

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Marston Trussell Cricket Ground	No current issues.	-	-	-	-	-
Medbourne Cricket Club	No current issues.	-	-	-	-	-
Neville Holt Cricket Club	No secured community access	Negotiate Community Use Agreement.	Neville Holt Cricket Club	Site owner	-	Medium
North Kilworth CC	Grass pitches used to over capacity on a seasonal basis.	Reschedule fixtures to sites with spare capacity	North Kilworth CC	-	-	High

Site Specific Actions

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Swinford Cricket Ground	'Poor' quality changing	Improve changing	Oakfield and Rowland CC	-	To be confirmed	Medium
Tilton and Lowesby CC	'Poor' quality changing	Improve changing	Tilton and Lowesby CC	-	To be confirmed	Medium
Ullesthorpe Playing Field	Grass pitches used to over capacity on a seasonal basis.	Reschedule all fixtures new pitch at Lutterworth Grammar School	Lutterworth CC	-	-	High

Site Specific Actions

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Aylestone St. James Rugby Football Club	Clubhouse development is incomplete.	Complete the clubhouse project.	Aylestone St. James Rugby Football Club	Rugby Football Union	£100,000	High
Lutterworth Rugby Football Club	Shortage of capacity for Age Grade rugby in the peak period.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve drainage and maintenance. • Provide full floodlighting to partially floodlit pitch. 	Lutterworth Rugby Football Club	Rugby Football Union	£100,000	High
Market Harborough RFC	Shortage of capacity for midweek training	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve drainage and maintenance. • Provide floodlighting to two additional pitches. • In the longer term, provide a floodlit rugby-compliant artificial grass pitch. 	Market Harborough RFC	Rugby Football Union	£100,000 for drainage and floodlights £970,000 for artificial grass pitch.	High

Site Specific Actions

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Leicester Grammar School	No current issues.	-	-	-	-	-
Lutterworth College	No secured community use.	Negotiate Community Use Agreement	Lutterworth College	Welford Hockey Club	-	Medium
Robert Smyth Academy	No use after 9.00pm on midweek evenings	Re-negotiate planning conditions to allow use until 10.00pm	Robert Smyth Academy	Harborough District Council Market Harborough Hockey Club	-	High
Welland Park Academy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pitch needs resurfacing • No access on Sundays. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Negotiate Community Use Agreement • Investigate the potential for Sunday opening 	Welland Park Academy	Harborough District Council Market Harborough Hockey Club	£100,000 for pitch resurfacing £100,000 for changing upgrade	High

Site Specific Actions

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Coplow Centre	No current issues	No action	-	-	-	-
Foxton Tennis Club	No current issues	No action	-	-	-	-
Gilmorton Tennis Club	Poor disabled access	Provide a tarmac path from the access point	Gilmorton Tennis Club	-	£1,500	Medium
Great Glen Recreation Ground	No changing facilities	Provide a clubhouse	Great Glen TC	Lawn Tennis Association	£120,000	High
Hallaton Recreation Ground	No current issues	No action	-	-	-	-
Houghton Tennis Club	No current issues	No action	-	-	-	-
Hungarton Sports Club	No current issues	No action	-	-	-	-
Husband's Bosworth TC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Poor changing • Poor disability access 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide a tarmac path from the access point • Upgrade the changing shelter 	Husband's Bosworth TC	-	£1,500 for path £20,000 for changing	High
Kibworth Tennis Club	No current issues	No action	-	-	-	-
Lutterworth Tennis Club	No current issues	No action	-	-	-	-
Market Harborough TC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Courts used to over capacity • One court and surrounds undersized. 	Provide floodlights to the fourth court	Market Harborough TC	Lawn Tennis Association	£10,000	High
Medbourne Tennis Club	Courts used to over capacity	No action	-	-	-	-
Robert Smyth Academy	No current issues	No action	-	-	-	-
North Kilworth Sports Assoc.	No current issues	No action	-	-	-	-
Tilton Sports Club	Courts used to over capacity	No action	-	-	-	-
Wadkins Recreation Ground	No current issues	No action	-	-	-	-
Welland Park	No current issues	No action	-	-	-	-

Site Specific Actions

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Hart of Fleckney Bowls Club (BC)	No current issues	No action	-	-	-	-
Houghton BC	Poor quality green	Improve maintenance	Houghton BC	-	£2,000 p.a.	Medium
Kibworth BC	No current issues	No action	-	-	-	-
Little Bowden BC	No current issues	No action	-	-	-	-
Lutterworth Town BC	No current issues	No action	-	-	-	-
Market Harborough Conservative BC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Poor quality changing Poor disabled access 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Upgrade changing Improve disabled access 	Market Harborough Conservative BC	-	£50,000 for changing £3,000 for disabled access	Medium
Medbourne BC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Poor quality green Poor quality changing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improve maintenance Upgrade changing 	Medbourne BC	-	£2,000 p.a. maintenance £50,000 for changing	-
North Kilworth BC	Poor disabled access	Improve disabled access	North Kilworth BC	-	£3,000	-
South Kilworth BC	No current issues	No action	-	-	-	-
Wycliffe BC	No current issues	No action	-	-	-	-

Site Specific Actions

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Lutterworth College	Unsecured community access	Negotiate a Community Use Agreement	Harborough District Council	Lutterworth College	-	Medium
Robert Smyth Academy	No current issues	No action required	-	-	-	-
Stoneygates School	Unsecured community access	Negotiate a Community Use Agreement	Harborough District Council	Stoneygates School	-	Medium