



A SPORTS DEVELOPMENT AND  
FACILITIES PLAN  
FOR  
EAST GRINSTEAD – 2011

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# **A SPORTS DEVELOPMENT AND FACILITIES PLAN FOR EAST GRINSTEAD - 2011**

## **1 Introduction**

In 2005 the Town Council published a sports development and facilities plan for East Grinstead, which was drawn up in conjunction with sports clubs and secondary schools within East Grinstead and which was timely given the award by the International Olympic Committee to Great Britain of the 2012 Olympic Games some months previously.

The purpose of that plan was, and has been, to focus attention on specific sports development needs within the Town and to help harness external grant aid towards development proposals that had been worked through in a strategic and systematic way.

It was intended that the plan would help to inform work being prepared at that time as part of the Mid Sussex Development Plan; work on that has been extremely slow but is likely to pick up pace in 2011/2012. This new updated plan will hopefully help inform that process and positively assist local schools, sports clubs and associations.

This plan could not have been drawn up without the active engagement and involvement of local representatives of local secondary schools and sports clubs. It has been evident that there has been significantly more input, and more clubs involved in the process this time around than previously. This has been reflected in attendances at the six meetings of the working group. A list of those who have participated in the process is set out in appendix A.

## **2 Evidence**

Sport England recognises that development and implementation of policies using a sound evidence base is one of the central tenets of the new planning system. In the PPS 12 Companion Guide it states that "Comprehensive survey and monitoring survey will be needed to develop evidence basis to identify opportunities, constraints and issues for their areas." It goes on to say "Local communities, stakeholders and commercial interests should be involved in the development of the evidence base." In particular it is recognised information available through PPG 17 audits and needs assessments of open space and sports and recreational facilities is key to the evidence base. Much work has been done in this area by Mid Sussex District Council, and is ongoing, and the findings of their research to date are set out in chapter 3, below.

## **3 PPG 17**

In 2006 Kit Campbell Associates undertook an audit for Mid Sussex District Council on the draft standards for outdoor and formal and informal recreational provision in the district. Subsequently Mid Sussex District Council has been conducting a review as to the findings of that original audit, to ensure the information remains robust and takes account of new provisions developed since 2006 and amendments affected by the reconfiguration of pitches, led by demand.

The outcome of the District Council's review helps to provide an updated audit of outdoor recreational facilities for North Mid Sussex and for East Grinstead (including Ashurst Wood) and demonstrates the amount of formal sports provision within the twenty minute driving threshold standard as laid down by Sport England.

PPG 17 guidance requires Mid Sussex District Council to adopt local standards. These standards will include those for outdoor leisure and sporting facilities and allotments, for which the previous NPFA standards did not make provision. In addition informal open space provision will be assessed as part of the green infrastructure audit. These standards can then be embodied for use in the planning policy documentation.

Standards applied for the results of the work undertaken to date in East Grinstead are all set out in appendix B. It needs emphasising that these are the results reported to Mid Sussex District Council's Better Environment Advisory Group on 2 February 2011, with minor modifications, and represents a snapshot of provision at that time. Comments relating to these are as follows:

1. The Area has a marginal deficiency of adult football pitches, even after school sites with community use are taken into account. These pitches are at Fonthill Lodge School (1), Imberhorne Upper School (3) and Sackville School (2) although the latter two sites are also used for other sports dependent upon school term.
2. Evidence and discussions with junior football clubs showed there is demand for more junior football facilities and a shortfall of five pitches even after allowing for some community use at Ashurst Wood Primary School (1) and Blackwell Primary School (1). Although there are a further 14 junior pitches on school sites they are not currently available for community use. In addition there are mini soccer pitches available for community use at Estcots Primary School (1), Fonthill Lodge School (3) and The Meads Primary School (1). There are five more that are not available for hire. It needs noting that the trustees have (early 2011) announced the closure of Fonthill Lodge School and the future of its football and cricket pitches has not been resolved. There is land available adjoining East Grinstead Sports Club, which could provide additional capacity for junior football pitches subject to planning and funding.
3. Cricket appears to be underprovided, however there are two squares at East Court and King Georges Field which have been closed due to lack of demand. There are additional facilities that are not currently available for community use at Imberhorne Upper and Lower Schools (1 artificial at each) and Sackville School (1 artificial), although they are not grass wickets. In addition there are a number of cricket clubs close to East Grinstead in villages that provide relatively easy accessibility (Turners Hill, Crawley Down, Copthorne, Lingfield, Forest Row, Newchapel and Dormansland). East Grinstead Cricket Club has an arrangement to use a pitch at Fonthill Lodge School. Future use needs to be resolved following the school closure.
4. Rugby provision is slightly higher than PPG17 requirements but notwithstanding this there is local evidence to show additional need. There are pitches potentially for community hire on secondary school sites though these are interlinked with football provision.
5. There are fewer bowling greens than are required. There is a small surplus of tennis courts in the Town, which includes multi-courts.
6. The level of artificial turf pitches is considered broadly appropriate though it might be possible to make a business case for one additional facility subject to further evidential research. Of the two artificial pitches at East Grinstead Sports Club, the sand based pitch was refurbished with a new 3G surface in summer 2010 and the other is a water based surface which will require a new surface in the next three years. The water based pitch is only used for hockey therefore subject to demand there could a need for an additional ATP within the Town, possibly dual use with a secondary school. Given the demise of the Government's Building Schools for the

future programme it is important to consider what approach West Sussex County Council may take regarding their provision of providing a MUGA (multi-use games area) and ATP (artificial turf pitch) in every secondary school. An alternative approach to consider may be the provision of smaller training pitches which can also be used for small sided games to take the pressure off full sized pitches.

In considering the above analysis of outdoor provision it is important to recognise the non-robust nature of the information given in respect of school sites, which for primary schools in particular may need further work. Mid Sussex District Council is trying to get an invite to the schools locality forum to enable this. Key to the whole success of this is to encourage school use provision to the point a written SLA agreement may be required to guarantee community use in return for Section 106 funding. This funding can only be based upon enhancement of capacity and quality of any facilities.

The above paragraphs only refer to outdoor provision and more work needs to be undertaken in respect of this. However the work of the working group has been helpful in focusing on this and Chapter 6 deals specifically with the current situation of many of East Grinstead's sports sites (indoor and outdoor) and future development intentions of the various clubs in question.

#### **4 A Leisure and Cultural Strategy for Mid Sussex 2009 – 2020**

In 2008 Mid Sussex District Council commissioned a report from leisure consultants PMP to understand where the District is placed with regards to its provision for sport and physical activities services, its current leisure assets, and analysis of the future requirements and subsequent projected gaps in service provision. Whereas the PPG17 research dealt mainly with numbers, the PMP study focused upon demand.

The purpose of the strategy is to provide a framework for increased participation in sport and physical activity by ensuring that leisure is integral to the lives of individuals and communities, making people fully aware of the health and wellbeing benefit of participating in regular leisure actively and in helping to achieve wider policy objectives in areas of crime reduction, education, social inclusion and economic development.

In general performance terms the analysis of PMP is that the quality of the built facilities available is good or average and there is a higher proportion of positive responses in the north of Mid Sussex District than in the south. In relation to sports clubs there was a general view from clubs that responded to the consultation that facilities were good or very good but concerns that they may not in all cases meet training needs and raised issues including storage, size of facilities, programming and poor maintenance.

The PMP study enabled detailed analysis on a north, central and south basis within Mid Sussex with the northern area comprising East Grinstead and the catchment communities of Ardingly, Ashurst Wood, Horsted Keynes, Sharpthorne, Turners Hill, West Hoathly and Worth (Crawley Down and Copthorne). Analysis for East Grinstead shows that there is adequate provision to meet projected demand for Sports Halls (courts) and Health and Fitness suites but there is a deficit in respect of swimming pools of some 16m<sup>2</sup>. The deficit would increase significantly to 112m<sup>2</sup> if the future projected housing developments were all built, though there is some expectation now that lower house building than originally envisaged will be located in the northern part of the district. The implication of the deficit is that PMP have identified a recommendation for a 25 m x 8 lane pool (currently 6 lanes) in the East Grinstead area.

The report also identified that whilst sports halls and health and fitness stations currently meet demand in the East Grinstead area there would be a deficit in respect of both were large numbers of future housing to be built. The consultants indicated that this could require an additional 4 court sports hall, possibly at the Sports Club (subject to funding provision) and a minimum 50 station gym with associated dance studios.

## **5 School Sports**

Due to the change in Government (2010) the Schools Sports Partnerships and the valuable work undertaken at both Imberhorne and Sackville Schools in conjunction with their primary feeder schools is at risk. October 2010 announcements confirmed the devolvement of SSP's. However, as a result of lobbying and media support the decision was partly reversed (December 2010). Subsequent announcements made by Jeremy Hunt (February 2011) have indicated an existence of a sporting 'partnership' to deliver a 'world leading PE and school sport system' which focuses on competition as the core outcome. Significantly, there will almost certainly be a focus to continue to link with sports clubs, liaise with sports leaders and young play leaders to maintain partnerships to encourage coaching and volunteering programmes.

In the past year (2009-2010) research in Mid Sussex research shows that that there have been over 10,000 hours of dedicated support for PE and school sports, over 1,600 hours of free coaching, 46 sports have been offered to 18,000 children, nearly 4,000 sports leaders and 28 Olympic ambassadors have been developed, gifted and talented sports camps, health clubs and swimming support schemes have been run and over 650 sports competitions for children of all ages supported. Therefore, the implication of the government cuts to school sports is difficult to understand – especially at a time when we should be looking forward to the 2012 Olympic Games and planning ahead for a long lasting legacy.

### **5.1 Sackville School**

Sackville School (in Bourg de Peage Avenue but with a postal address of Lewes Road) has a Sports Hall, sports field with four playing pitches, two gymnasiums, a fitness suite, four tennis courts and a redgras running track. The School considers the facilities are generally adequate for current and identified future needs though some investment in the redgras track will be necessary in the near future.

### **5.2 Imberhorne School**

Imberhorne School is a two-site school with the senior school located in Imberhorne Lane and the lower school in Windmill Lane.

At Imberhorne Lane the School owns a wide variety of facilities, including a multi-use games area (MUGA), an ATF (Athletics Training Facility), and grass running track, one rugby pitch, two football pitches, a playground area for basketball and a single badminton court sized sports hall. The School has had a long-standing and now urgent need for a new sports hall and has established a Committee to develop plans and a funding strategy. It should be noted here that West Sussex County Council did previously aim to provide a sports hall, artificial turf pitch, and fitness equipment in each of their secondary schools in the county as part of the Building Schools for the Future programme.

On the Windmill Lane site the School has a playground area, two football pitches, a cricket nets area, one rugby pitch, a gymnasium and a single badminton court sized sports hall.

## **6 Sports Clubs**

The Sport England 'Active Peoples' survey identified that 30% of adults in Mid Sussex are members of sports clubs - data is not drilled down to individual communities. This indicates a very high level of provision by sports clubs as opposed to a predominance of local authority provision experienced elsewhere. Therefore it is considered essential that sports clubs are supported in their development of facilities and activities.

A detailed survey of the sports clubs in East Grinstead was undertaken as an initial exercise by the working group. Many clubs and organisations completed questionnaires and a summary of the current position on an individual Club basis is set out below together with their aspirations for future development/growth. This information is critical to support the case for future funding. Whilst lottery and other grants are increasingly hard to come by there may be opportunities for Section 106 funding for the right schemes in the right locations and this evidence base will hopefully play a key role in support of, and justification for, such funding bids.

From the research undertaken it is patently clear that East Grinstead is fortunate with the number and quality of Sports Clubs operating within the parish. Many of these are long established and have an excellent reputation for meeting the needs of the community including young people. This inventory of local clubs is by no means complete. It does however without exception include the largest, most active Clubs and those that have played a central role in production of this Plan.

What is particularly evident from the information received to date are the large memberships of the various clubs and, particular, the emphasis that all the clubs have on encouraging participation by young people and in developing their talent. Whilst it needs recording that not all memberships will come from people resident within the civic parish of East Grinstead, the memberships do come from the wider local community, which comprises East Grinstead and its immediate catchments hinterland, recognising the town's position at the heart of the southeast region.

### **6.1 East Grinstead Town Football Club**

The Club was formed in 1890 and was a founder member of the Mid Sussex League in 1900 and the Sussex County League in 1920. Home matches were played at West Street which the Club left in 1959 before eventually moving to East Court in 1967. The Club is a registered Community Amateur Sports Club and was one of the first football clubs in Sussex to attain FA Standard Chartered Development Club status. It has 100 adult playing members, 150 junior members, 20 social members and is run entirely by volunteers including all the qualified coaches.

The recently renamed GAC Stadium at East Court, where senior and Under 18 matches are played, is leased to the Club from East Grinstead War Memorial Company. All facilities at the ground are owned by the Club and are in a reasonably satisfactory condition with the exception of the car park surface and the all weather training area which has fallen into total disrepair. Training facilities for the Club's members are hired from third parties. These include the 3G pitch at East Grinstead Sports Club, the hard courts at Mount Noddy and the indoor hall at the Jubilee Community Centre. Third and Fourth team matches are played on the MSDC senior pitch at East Court, with junior matches being played at East Court, King George's Field and Mount Noddy and are all hired.

2007 saw the most significant phase of ground improvements at the Club in order to meet the FA Ground grading requirements applicable to clubs in Division One of the Sussex County League in which the Club currently competes. This included a 115-seater covered stand with disabled spaces and access, a covered stand for 100 standing spectators, a new pitch perimeter barrier, dugouts and emergency lighting in a fully enclosed arena. The access road was also resurfaced. Total costs were £128k of which £91k was funded by grants and the balance from a donation. The playing surface has been vastly improved since 2005 through substantial annual end-of-season renovations since when the club has been able to stage friendlies against Crystal Palace, Crawley Town as well as Horsham and Tonbridge Angels.

The current clubhouse was erected in 1971 and is of a predominantly wooden construction. This was in need of replacement but as funding for a new structure has not been available, major refurbishment has been undertaken over the last two years, funded entirely by donations. The exterior has been newly clad in the club colours in the same material as the spectator stands and the interior has been completely renovated including new windows.

The Club has aspirations of progressing to the next level in the Football Pyramid (Ryman South) in the foreseeable future. This will require further upgrades to the facilities. Covered accommodation will need to increase to 300 including a minimum of 150 seats, including 2 press seats with lighting and writing facilities. It will need two spectator entrances with turnstiles suitably housed and lit with operator protection and a suitable safe exit for spectators which will also act as an access for emergency services. External toilets will need to be erected and there will probably be a need for a larger Directors / Guests room.

The Club also need to replace their all-weather training area, which has fallen into disrepair. Ideally this would be with a 3G training facility.

## 6.2 East Grinstead Sports Club

East Grinstead Sports Club is a multi-sport community hub club owned by a charitable foundation. It has been a charity for seven years. The Club comprises a total playing membership of some 2,000 of who some 60% are juniors. The breakdown by individual sports clubs is as follows:

- Hockey 350
- Cricket – 160
- Netball – 200
- Badminton – 75
- Gym – 750
- Archery – 75
- Basketball – 50
- East Grinstead Blues Football Club – 100
- Squash – 65.

The Club comprises a wide range of specialist sports sections, which are mostly geared to team sports as well as a gymnasium, which is available to all.

The Club is a multi-sport community hub and the first Sport England 'pathfinder' site in Sussex. There is a great deal of untouched potential and the overall objective must be to work together collectively with better marketing to promote facilities. East Grinstead Sports Club is an accredited training venue for hockey for the 2012 Olympics and East Grinstead Sports Club is working with other Gatwick diamond training sites in this regard.

The Club has recently restructured following the failure of the Trading Company and day-to-day management has been outsourced to Freedom Leisure, who also operates the Kings Olympus Centre on behalf of MSDC. The new management arrangements are working well.

The Club has excellent modern facilities, which have been enhanced since 2005 with the development of new gym and netball facilities. The Charity owns the land and assets of the site.

The facilities include one 3G all weather pitch (which was installed in 2010), one water-based all weather pitch, one cricket field and training nets, one sports hall available for various sports including four badminton courts, one wellness centre (gym) that is operated by a third party, a jogging trail, a multi-use room that is available for group fitness classes, a function room, a meeting room, 10 changing rooms, a members bar/function room and an indoor marquee that can be placed within the sports hall for larger events and functions. Fifteen acres of woodland and some seventeen acres of grassland are also owned. The Club hopes these may have some potential for future sympathetic use, subject to planning approval, recognising also the significant constraints that apply in the High Weald Area of Outstanding Beauty. The Club also let a second cricket field on the opposite side of Saint Hill Road that is owned by Fonthill School. The facilities are mostly all in good condition though the maintenance costs associated with such a vast (and largely voluntary) undertaking are huge.

The Club would like to be able to sustain the Sports Club for the benefit of the Member Clubs and all community users in line with the Objects of the Charity. They are also seeking to expand the current facilities so the Club is able to offer a wider range of sports for the local community. In this way the Club can maintain its pre-eminence as a multi sport environment centre for East Grinstead.

Subject to satisfying the requirements of the planning authority (MSDC) the Club is keen to provide junior grass football pitches at the Club to satisfy need. They are also looking to secure grant funds to enable construction of indoor seating in the Main Sports Hall and are working with Dunnings Mill Squash and Racketball Club to develop enhanced on-site facilities, referred to in that Club's entry.

The Sports Club is also looking at opportunities to develop BMX. Tandridge District Council has recently ploughed up a former facility at Felbridge and there is a potential in the large quarry to develop a new facility. Discussions in relation to this are ongoing.

### 6.3 East Grinstead Hockey Club

The Hockey Club is one of the top performing hockey clubs in the country. It has an impressive collection of national and international players with an array of club honours gained over the recent years, along with a tradition of providing many Olympic players and administrators. The Club was formed in 1898 and has always been located in the East Grinstead Parish.

The existing facilities were able to be built with the merger of the Hockey and Cricket Clubs in 1989 when the overarching East Grinstead Sports Club was formed (see other reference in this document). With the combined funds, the Clubs were able to build a new pavilion, cricket square and all weather hockey pitch. That innovation was the foundation for the recent successes, since without these facilities on site it would have been impossible to build such a strong club.

After further funding was pulled together, a second 'water' based artificial pitch was built along with more changing facilities. The Club now regularly attracts 400 spectators to home matches and operates through a network of volunteers.

To maintain its position as such a premier and community based hockey club it will be necessary to replace the current 'water' based surface and improve the parking and training facilities at the Sports Club.

The interest from juniors is rapidly rising and the Club needs to be able to continue to provide and improve training and support for the men's, women's, junior and veterans' teams that operate through the Club. The club is recognised as a 'Clubs First' club by England Hockey.

There are 350 playing members of the Club and the coaching programme for the juniors is one of the largest in the country. Recently 150 seats were installed at the club for spectators but there is a need to further improve the support facilities. These include:

1. Replacement of the existing 'water' based carpet
2. Provision of a training area where small sided games can be played
3. Upgrading of the lights to provide more 'focussed' lux levels to reduce the light spillage into the community
4. Provision of seating for the indoor sports hall
5. Enhanced car parking facilities
6. Revenue funding to support a 'Coaching Director' to run and organise the coaching programmes for the club.

#### 6.4 East Grinstead Junior Netball League

Since the 2005 Plan was published the new nine-court G4S Netball Centre at East Grinstead Sports Club has been completed and opened and now meets the extensive needs of the League.

The League has been running for 28 years, providing an excellent and affordable opportunity for local young people to learn to play Netball whilst getting fit, having fun and meeting like-minded friends. The League is not just designed for young people that can already play netball. They also run a 'trainees' High Five Netball Skills Session (open to girls and boys in School Years 4 to 6) each Saturday morning from 9am.

The League is also divided into divisions based on players' ages, Minor, Junior, Intermediate, Senior and Premier, each playing every Saturday morning at the G4S Netball Centre at Saint Hill in East Grinstead. They welcome all new players, from non-players to experienced, whether they are already in a team or wishing to find a team to play in.

#### 6.5 East Grinstead Swimming Club

East Grinstead Swimming Club has a membership of some 20 adults and 240 juniors.

The majority of the Club's training is carried out at the Kings Centre in East Grinstead. However, because of what the Club considers are conflicting demands placed on the local authority facility by clubs and public swimming and the high cost of hire, they also use the pool at Ardingly College to increase pool time. This is far from ideal for them.

The Club would ideally wish to focus all their activities around the Kings Centre and are supportive of a new enhanced Centre being built elsewhere on the King George's site in

accordance with the identified requirements established by PMP and sympathetic to the needs of competitive swimming. At the present time the Club can only offer their top squad swimmers a maximum of 10 hours water-based training a week. Other comparable club squads within Sussex are able to offer between 15 and 20 hours of water-based training per week. Notwithstanding this the club has achieved significant results and is currently third in Sussex League Division One and Speedo League Division One.

#### 6.6 East Grinstead Lawn Tennis and Squash Club

East Grinstead Tennis and Squash Club is the fifth oldest tennis club in the world, first established some 125 years ago. The Club own their facilities off Ship Street and these comprise three outdoor artificial grass tennis courts, five hard courts, three squash courts, a clubhouse and car park. All the playing facilities are currently adequate but will be in need of major maintenance including replacement of the artificial grass surface within the next three years.

The Club is a centre of excellence, is located in the centre of the town, is accessible and has freehold ownership. The Club has two professional coaches, one each for tennis and squash plus significant additional coaching provision including for the juniors. The club is shortly hoping to progress to Clubmark status.

The Tennis section has 227 members, the Squash section has 100, and 54 are members of both. Of the above 99 members in total are juniors under-18.

In addition to the annual membership fee the only additional fees for playing is a light fee for squash and for use of flood lights for tennis in the evenings. There are four men's squash teams and one ladies squash team although this will soon increase to two. There are also two new racquetball teams. The Club works closely with the appropriate governing bodies. Squash use is at capacity and dependent on what transpires at East Grinstead Sports Club with Dunnings Mill Squash and Racketball Club there would be interest in securing external grant funds to enhance provision at Ship Street.

In respect of tennis, there are currently four men's teams, five ladies teams and four mixed. There is an emphasis on junior coaching and an identified need for adult improvement also. Four of the courts are floodlit and they would wish to floodlight more in the future in order to maximise playing time. Some of the astroturf surfaces will soon need replacement. There is an expectation of a need to spend some £70,000 in the near future. The Club has no sponsors and relies solely on income from membership.

Although the Club's site was zoned in the Mid Sussex Local Plan (2004) for possible future residential development with the Club relocating elsewhere that is no longer the intention and the Club is now committed to remaining at its Ship Street premises and developing its facilities there.

#### 6.7 East Grinstead and District Athletics Club

The Athletic Club has a membership of 30 adults and 50 juniors and 15 social members. The Club own no facilities of their own and athletic training facilities are based primarily at Imberhorne School. The Club hires the facility with comprises excellent all-weather field facilities, funded from Sport England, and a 400-metre grass track training facility but no synthetic track. The facility requires low-level maintenance from time to time and this is done in liaison with the School. The Club also use the weights room at Sackville School during the

winter and undertake secondary training from other convenient local sites including the playing fields at East Court.

The Clubs objectives are still to acquire a full all-weather 400m track, to urgently bring in volunteers to help coach/officiate and administer (a common theme amongst most clubs), to attract more junior boys, and to enhance relationships with primary and secondary schools. The Club could be soon to be at risk of winding up if they are not able to achieve progress in some of these areas in the coming years.

## 6.8 East Grinstead Rugby Football Club

The Club was formed in 1929, originally at Sackville Lane and they later moved to East Court and then King George V playing field. At that time there was one team but later two or three teams were formed that were based at Imberhorne Lane and East Court. In about 1969 the Club had found its current site in Saint Hill Road, which was then a barley field. They had levelled and drained it and the prefabricated building initially provided as a clubhouse had served well for some 25 years. The whole site of 16 acres is owned freehold by the Rugby Club. In 1995 the Club successfully bid for funds from the National Lottery for a new clubhouse, gymnasium and Manager's flat and the project had been developed at a cost of some £380,000. During the subsequent years the building has had updates and refurbishments and there has been investment in the site generally. The club is however not wealthy, notwithstanding the 400 members (100 adults and 300 juniors), and like many similar clubs struggles financially, particularly with revenue funding.

The first team play in London South East League 2 and the second team in Sussex League 1. There is also a third team and occasional fourth, together with a veteran team who play on Sundays. In addition there is a colts section and extensive junior section and minis also.

The Club has experimented with holding junior football on their Saint Hill Road site but this has not been altogether successful as the surface which is fine for rugby is not altogether appropriate for football. There is also a tennis court that can be used, including for various training, and a gym which is operational seven days a week until 9.00 p.m. with its own dedicated membership.

The Club's revenue does not cover all day-to-day running costs. Some income streams have declined over recent years including bar revenue, an inevitable consequence of the out-of-town location, drink driving laws and societal changes. The Club does let the facilities for private bookings and other lettings, which helps generate useful income and is fortunate with a number of generous sponsorships. Membership income totals some £35,000 a year and rates have been held for the last three years. An adult full playing member pays £140, which is inclusive of all playing and training costs. A junior member pays £90. These have been unchanged for three years.

In terms of the future the Club does wish to develop and is concluding its five-year development plan. Planning permission was obtained for an extension to the Clubhouse in 2005 but it proved impossible to bring this forward due to lack of volunteers/support. The planning consent has now lapsed but is shortly to be resubmitted. The Club's desire for a 3G pitch remains. The Club has been fortunate in obtaining new floodlights in recent years, funded by the Rugby Football Union.

Like many other clubs the Rugby Club is indebted to a nucleus of volunteers who give freely and generously of their time. Clubs such as the East Grinstead Rugby Club are dependent on their volunteers as without them they would not be viable, even with them it can still be a huge problem keeping things above water. In the future the Club is determined to increase

the amount of sport being played on the site and to increase use of the clubhouse, particularly during the day. There was an option to acquire a field next to the existing site, owned by Fonthill School, which could be obtained on a peppercorn lease. The Club estimated it would cost £70,000 as a ball park figure to get this into use, including provision of drainage. This is now problematic given that the School is in administration but the Club is still interested in securing this land together with other adjacent land in the ownership of the Peredur Trust, should it become available, as this would enable development of additional pitches and facilities.

#### 6.9 East Grinstead Meads Football Club

The Club provides football activities, coaching and matches for children aged 5-16. The Club operates a complete “open” policy and fully supports the Sport for All ethics.

The Club comprises over 200 junior playing members of whom 80 are in the age ranges under-6 to under-10 and 120 are in the age groups under-11 to under-16. They are supported by 24 FA qualified volunteer adult coaches and 15 parental helpers. Membership has been consistently increasing at 10% per annum but is now close to capacity due to a lack of facilities.

The Club hire pitches from Mid Sussex District Council (Imberhorne Lane), Blackwell School (sports field) and the Meads School (sports field). All these pitches have no facilities. They also hire the Astroturf facility at East Grinstead Sports Club during the winter months for training.

The Club would longer-term wish to secure a single-site venue within the civil parish, which includes toilets as a minimum, but eventually have changing rooms and catering facilities. If the Club could find a suitable venue they would try to get Lottery / Sport Governing Body funding for land purchase and/or provision of facilities. As a Charter Standard Development Football Club they consider they would have a good chance of getting grants / support from National Charity Organisations, Sports Governing Bodies and Local Authorities

#### 6.10 MMJ Table Tennis Club

MMJ Table Tennis Club is based at Sackville School and Imberhorne Lower School, having started some three years, building from scratch. The Club has 30 adult playing members, 47 junior playing members and 15 social members. The Club can visualise membership growth of up to 500% over the next five years and has its own development plan.

The Club supports the planned development of the Imberhorne Sports Hall or the building of a multi-hall facility at Sackville that would meet the developing needs of table tennis locally. The Club is in contact with England Table Tennis Association regarding a bid for facility grant support and would also wish to seek funding opportunities from elsewhere.

#### 6.11 East Grinstead Cricket Club

The Club is based at East Grinstead Sports Club in Saint Hill Road. They have 40 adult playing members, 120 junior members plus up to 30 at any time undertaking taster courses, and 33 social / non-playing members. Junior memberships have increased by some 60% over the last five years.

There is a structured coaching programme in place which is undertaken by ECB qualified coaches, the coaching is on either a group basis or one to one on request.

The Club has its own business development plan, which is updated annually to meet the requirements of the English Cricket Board. In addition to the main square and facilities at the Sports Club, which requires some improvement to bring it up to top standard, they have a rolling lease on a second pitch on land in ownership of Fonthill Lodge School, which also needs work to improve it for developing players.

Over the coming year the Club will as a minimum require a heavy roller to replace the existing one which is 50 years old and almost impossible to keep operational as spares are no longer available, a new pitch mower for the main ground, and extensive development work on both squares to sustain their usability. The Club will be seeking financial funds from the ECB and other grant-giving bodies but make the point that the Lottery funds are far more difficult to attract at present due to the focus on Olympic funding.

Elsewhere in this document there is reference to the future closure of Fonthill Lodge School. The Cricket Club commenced hiring the Fonthill School playing field for cricket in 1997. At the time it was used for occasional Sunday football and was in a poor condition. The ground was worked on extensively by the club groundsman and a cricket square with 8 pitches was developed, initially played on fortnightly. Its use has subsequently expanded for Mid Sussex League cricket with both the 3rd and 4th XI teams using this every Saturday and some Sundays plus three to four junior matches a week throughout the season. There are in the order of 40 league matches played each season on the ground. A programme of intense work on the cricket square commenced at the end of the 2010 season with the aim of providing a high standard playing surface, which was durable and capable of sustaining cricket on the ground for many years. Whilst the school was not active at cricket it did play around six casual matches each season on the ground. Should the facility be lost for cricket use in the future it would have a devastating impact on the club and for cricket in the area.

#### 6.12 East Grinstead Target Shooting Club

The Clubhouse and facilities of the Target Shooting Club are owned by the Club and located at East Court on land leased from East Grinstead War Memorial Company. The Club has 50 adult members and ten juniors. The facilities are also used by up to 10 members of other target shooting clubs on an occasional basis and by the Sussex County Rifle Association for County matches.

The Club is a centre of expertise for target shooting whose broad plan is to seek continual improvement of performance in competition, plus improvement of the Club's facilities and access to them. They want to increase the number of instructors and coaches trained to National Small-Bore Rifle Association standards from five to ten. The Club was awarded Community Amateur Sports Club Status in 2009.

The Club facilities are generally good but do not cater for 'three position shooting' (prone, kneeling, standing) as due to height restrictions on the indoor 25 yard range the Club is suited to prone shooting only. Adapting the existing facilities would be difficult. Site redevelopment, as arose during discussions regarding East Grinstead Sports Club in 2005 in conjunction with their landlords EG War Memorial, could have been an opportunity to build new facilities covering additional disciplines but this option (together with relocation the football club) was rejected on 'area of outstanding natural beauty' grounds. The Club is hopeful that position may be reviewed by the MSDC planners in due course. Three position shooting is an Olympic sport.

The Club has recently obtained section 106 funds to help improve access to the Club for people with disabilities or other infirmity. The Club would also wish to work in partnership with any developing Sports College concept being developed, and to see target shooting particularly air rifle/pistol appearing as an option, where the Club might be in a position to offer facilities. Target shooting requires good muscle control and coordination, personal discipline, a good understanding of ballistics, particularly the effects of wind and distance, and how to compensate for variations in weather when shooting outside.

#### 6.13 Dunnings Squash and Racketball Club

Following the closure of the Dunnings Mill facility in 2008 the Club's squash and racketball membership has affiliated itself to East Grinstead Sports Club where planning permission has been granted for up to five new squash courts. The new Club currently has some 70 active members but with no facilities at the Sports Club, until the new development is completed, the members play their sport elsewhere, mostly at the Kings Olympus Centre.

The new development proposes three dedicated squash courts and ancillary facilities at a cost of some £425,000. Funding for this is coming from MSDC - £50,000; section 106 contributions - £150,000 (dependent upon commencement of the Dunnings Mill housing development), and the England Squash and Racketball National governing body - £125,000 though this latter sum is contingent on government spending cuts not impacting on provisional grants awarded. The Club also expect to raise £34,000 from a debenture scheme. They are still seeking additional funding sources to close the funding gap.

Subject to the development progressing, the Club aims to restore membership to previous levels of over 150 and grow beyond that in terms of junior participation. The Club has an approved development plan and wishes to work with other sports locally to better develop wider sports participation opportunities, outreach to schools, and to seek ways to identify talent that can be nurtured and developed for feeding to higher and elite levels.

#### 6.14 East Grinstead Triathlon Club.

East Grinstead Triathlon Club has been based at the Kings Centre for 25 years. They have 80 members, all seniors. Membership has doubled over the last five years. The club is embarking on a Youth Development Plan to encourage 16-19 year olds to take up the sport. There is, however, no plan for a junior section. Training takes place weekly. The main event is the East Grinstead Triathlon held at of Olympus Kings in May each year. The event attracts over 500 triathletes to the town from across the South-East.

The main problem the Club experiences relates to lack of pool time. The club regularly has 40 plus attending Saturday morning swimming and this means there are often seven swimming in a lane, which is unacceptable. The Club is now looking further afield including Southwater and Edenbridge. This issue needs to be addressed locally. Because of this problem there is little incentive to increase membership further as new members would only exacerbate the existing difficulties.

Half of the members of the Club come from East Grinstead, and most are over 40. In recent times there has been an increase in women and younger adults coming through. The Triathlon Club enjoys excellent links with East Grinstead Swimming Club and a developing relationship with East Grinstead Athletics Club and East Grinstead Cycling Club. The club has recently been awarded the STAR mark (Senior Triathlon Accredited Club Scheme) from triathlons national governing body for the quality of its management, coaching and development plans – one of only three clubs in the South East to achieve this award.

#### 6.15 Estcots Lawn Tennis Club

Estcots Lawn Tennis Club is a small Club based at East Court, and the two all-weather courts are owned by East Grinstead Town Council and let on a long lease. Unfortunately there is no provision for electricity, which deters play beyond the hours of daylight. The Club has a declining membership and struggles particularly to attract young members. Currently there are 40 adult members, of whom five are honorary. The Club is finding it difficult to get people through the door and onto the courts.

In 2010 the Club fully upgraded one of the two surfaces and the second will need upgrading in the next year or two. This has been identified as a project suitable for a Section 106 funding application. The Club would like to see more junior memberships and have recently attracted a new coach who will work with junior schools. Because there is not a permanent presence at the courts, to take payments, pay as you play is difficult.

#### 6.16 Felbridge Badminton Club

Felbridge Badminton Club was formed in 1966 originally playing at Felbridge Village Hall before becoming part of East Grinstead Sports Club in 1996 and hosting both club nights and matches in the four court sports hall.

The Club is affiliated to Badminton England and hold their Club Mark Premier Club accreditation for high quality clubs working with young people.

The club offers a range good club and league standard badminton. They currently run 20 Senior & Junior teams in five different leagues which results in over 150 competitive matches being played during the season 1st September to 30th April.

As well as the senior club there is a well established and thriving junior club which can cater for up to 60 members from under 10s through to transition into the senior section at 17. The club provides a qualified coach to support a number of graded training sessions during the week. Junior members of the club have regularly competed at county representational level and above and in various local tournaments and events.

The club also runs both a Junior and Senior Summer Club during May, June and July.

#### 6.17 Access All Sports

Access All Sports is an informal club for young people who have physical or mental disabilities and/or special needs; some of these needs are profound. The Club meets weekly (currently on Thursdays at 5.30 pm) at Kings Leisure Centre and is supported by Freedom Leisure and the schools. Members can be self-referred but are more usually referred by special schools and general practitioners.

Members range in age from about seven to 20. Weekly attendances tend to be in the order of 10 or 12 and further promotion is taking place to enhance this. Activities undertaken include badminton, table tennis, short tennis, football skills and swimming. There is a soft play area for those with greater needs. There is excellent supervision as the Club Leader is supported by many young volunteers who are sports leaders from Imberhorne and Sackville Schools.

It is intended to offer, after Easter 2011, a further after-school session at Jubilee Centre (probably Tuesdays at 3.45 pm). This will focus on higher ability levels up to school year 8 and will take the form of a multi-activity club for higher ability levels than are accommodated at Kings. Team sports will be offered with arts/crafts as an additional activity. Again the Club will be run with support from young volunteers from the two secondary schools and will begin with two taster sessions at Easter and will then build from that.

#### 6.18 Other Sports

It is recognised that there are other sports clubs operating within East Grinstead parish for which detailed information has not been obtained and is therefore not recorded above. Information will be obtained on these over time. These include The East Grinstead Lacrosse Club (based at East Grinstead Sports Club), Meridian Archery Club (based at East Grinstead Sports Club), the local Hash House Harriers, East Grinstead Junior Basketball Club, and East Grinstead Girls Football Club and others. Some of these have their own facilities and others hire facilities. Their needs are as important as those of other clubs mentioned in greater detail within this plan. The plan is inclusive and this is reflected in the content.

It is pleasing many of the Clubs have grown their memberships and facilities since the last Plan in 2005. Conversely some facilities such as Spooners Indoor Bowls Centre have closed due to low memberships and non-financial viability. The commercial snooker centre in the Atrium was also unprofitable and closed and there are indications that the owner of the Dunnings Snooker Club is also seeking to close that facility and replace with housing as it is no longer generating the use and income it once was.

It also needs recognising that there are a plethora of other sports facilities and opportunities just over the parish boundary including, for example, sailing and fishing at Weir Road Reservoir; golf, including at Chartham Park, Holtye, Lingfield and Copthorne; and horseracing at Lingfield Park. Many thousands of East Grinstead parishioners utilise those facilities as participants or spectators. It is not however possible within the context of this exercise to extend the remit of the Plan to incorporate those facilities. However it is suggested that the appropriate District and Parish Councils should be encouraged to embark upon a similar exercise for themselves if they consider there may be merit in undertaking a similar exercise for their areas.

### **7 Kings Leisure Centre**

The Kings Centre, owned by Mid Sussex District Council (MSDC) and managed on their behalf by Freedom Leisure Ltd provides both wet and dry facilities for the needs of organised Clubs and individuals. The Centre attracts over 240,000 attendances per annum of which a third is swimming related.

The Centre has been extended and refurbished on a number of occasions in its over 30-year history. There are limitations to the extent to which the existing facilities can meet the needs of any future enhanced population. The facility is now identified in MSDC's Leisure Strategy as requiring redevelopment and enhancements. The District Council is looking where it should prioritise should funding come up. The work to date has identified the need for an 8 lane pool, a 50 station gym and a 4 court hall, subject to the consultant's recommendation to survey the current capacity use of the existing sports halls in the Town.

The facilities currently provided in the Centre include:

- Competition Swimming Pool - 25×13m six lane swimming pool. Double shallow end. Deep section in the middle. Minimum depth 1.01m. Maximum depth 1.8m
- Teaching Pool - 6m x 6m. Minimum depth 0.76m. Maximum depth 0.86m. Steps to one side.
- Pool Balcony - Seating for 60 persons
- Changing Village - 24 Individual changing cubicles; 173 lockers; 2 family change rooms; 1 male group change; 1 female group change; male/female showers and toilets; disabled toilet.
- Health Club - Consisting of resistance/cardiovascular and free weights machines; changing rooms with shower facilities and lockers.
- Playworld - Soft play.
- Studio - 11.9m x 8m. Multi-purpose use, ranging from exercise classes to martial arts
- Squash Courts - Two with upstairs viewing area.
- Main Hall - 40mx20m with 5 badminton courts.
- Crèche - Takes place in Playworld.
- Pavilion Social area - 7.5m x 11.35m. Used for meetings, martial arts, playgroups and light exercise classes
- Catering facilities

## **8 Planning for the Future**

The Steering Group review has highlighted a number of key issues that need addressing. These focus upon the specific needs of individual clubs and more general town wide issues. The detailed responses were highlighted in the previous section. Those key issues that have clear consensus support from a wider range of clubs, schools, organisations and local authorities (but not necessarily unanimous agreement) and which require addressing whether in the short (ST), medium (MT) or long term (LT) include the following:

- More grass sports pitches, particularly for youth football, within the parish in order to address the shortfall in provision identified by calculations utilising the National Playing Fields Association standards and the proposed local standards identified in PPG17. In addition, or as an alternative to creating more pitches, there may be scope to improve community access to school pitches through physical improvements and/or dialogue with head teachers – Action: Mid Sussex District Council (MT);
- Significant enhancement of East Grinstead Town Football Club facilities at East Court to meet Ryman's league standards, and to ensure DDA compliance, or alternatively relocate to purpose built facilities with enablement funding – Action: East Grinstead Town Football Club (ST by beginning of 2011/2012 football season);
- Better water facilities for Club and public use, including spectator facilities for galas, at a significantly upgraded Kings Centre or newly built provision in the Town Centre. The new Swimming Pool must provide for 8x25 metre lanes. The Sports Hall element, whilst preferable in the Town Centre, could be developed in community/school partnership, possibly at Imberhorne. The squash facilities should be reviewed in the context of other developments taking place within East Grinstead, including at the Sports Club and Tennis and Squash Club – Action: Mid Sussex District Council in conjunction with EG & District Swimming Club, East Grinstead Triathlon Club and other clubs as appropriate (MT);

- That the management at Kings Centre continues to review pool usage times with clubs and undertakes, in conjunction with clubs as appropriate, annual surveys on charges – Action: Mid Sussex District Council (ST and ongoing);
- Further develop East Grinstead Sports Club as a multi-sports hub for the community built upon the continental model, including at least one further core member club located at the Saint Hill complex to enhance membership mass and create an enhanced economy of scale. Subject to funding and planning permission there are several potential projects to enhance community sport in the area:
  - Tiered seating to the sports hall
  - New squash courts
  - New surface for the Water based pitch
  - Smaller all weather hockey practice pitch
  - Roof over the top tier (3 pitches) of the netball centre to provide indoor facility
  - Levelled field converted into junior football pitches and archery butts
  - Ownership of adjoining woodland currently used by the club to be confirmed through adverse possession
 Action: East Grinstead Sports Club (ST and ongoing);
- Development of a new sports hall at Imberhorne Upper School, recognising this is the only secondary school in West Sussex without such facility, an artificial training pitch and, subject to further review and detailed evaluation, an all weather athletics track with changing facilities, all of which must be available for community use – Action: West Sussex County Council/Imberhorne School/ Partner Clubs (MT);
- Maintain the impetus of the School Sports Partnerships (Mid-Sussex) and the School Sports Co-ordinator (SSCO) posts at Sackville and Imberhorne Schools. As a consequence of the funding cuts possibly reducing the contact time for the SSCO role by 50%, there will be an even greater need to work with local sports clubs in an attempt to maintain sustainable provision to the secondary and primary feeder schools to help deliver an Olympic Legacy and a drive towards even more competition in and between schools. Action: West Sussex County Council/Mid Sussex School Sports Partnership/Secondary Schools and partner organisations (ST and ongoing);
- In view of the increasing pressure on local authority discretionary expenditure, support the District Council's objective (Leisure & Cultural strategy) to encourage local sports clubs to achieve Charity or Community Amateur Sports Club status in order to qualify for 80% mandatory rate relief. Encourage the District Council to continue to offer the discretionary relief 'top up' to 100%, subject to facilities being available for casual club/community use. Action: Sports Clubs and Mid Sussex District Council (ST and ongoing);
- In noting the coming review by Mid Sussex District Council of Section 106 policies and the likely future introduction of a Community Infrastructure levy the Group identified the need to ensure that any developer contributions received, and allocated for sports and leisure purposes, whether in respect of any strategic development proposals or consequential upon smaller scale developments, are spent in accordance with official policy and in ways that reflect the needs of the community and there is community support and agreement to the allocation of such funding – Action: Mid Sussex District Council in partnership with East Grinstead Town Council and local clubs (ST and ongoing), and
- The creation of an East Grinstead Sports Council to meet approximately twice yearly, to share information and best practice and to be an official forum that can effectively

represent local views on issues relevant to sport and leisure that impact upon clubs, schools and individuals – Action: Town Council to initially co-ordinate but ultimate ownership to rest with local clubs (ST with inaugural meeting 16 November 2011).

In addition to the above key proposals there are a number of general policy statements and objectives that need emphasising for the future development of sport and related facilities in East Grinstead and around which all local authorities, clubs and schools can find common cause. These were relevant when the first two Plans were produced in 1998 and 2005 and, subject to some minor amendments which are reflected below, have every bit as much relevance now.

### **General Policies and Objectives:**

- 1 We will support the importance of **foundation** by ensuring people recognise the positive role of sport and recreation. We accept that the level of adult interest is directly affected by their childhood experiences. While foundation is particularly for people of school age, it is not restricted to this age group.
- 2 We will seek to **increase active participation in sport and physical activity**. This will help to ensure East Grinstead plays its part in the laudable quest to develop England as an active and successful sporting nation. The ultimate objective is to achieve a real increase in participation in sport and physical activity year-on-year. Although Sport England's Active People Survey (2006) showed Mid Sussex, including East Grinstead, as coming out high in this compared with much of the rest of the country there is real scope for further progress. The Steering Group is mindful of the benefits of increased participation, which is essential if we are to have an active and healthy population. The realisation of Sport England's Olympic vision, tackling obesity and helping to create more cohesive communities all rest on establishing a clear understanding of how physically active a nation we are and will help ensure that future national investment in sporting facilities has the maximum impact and that all groups in our community are able to benefit from that investment.
- 3 We recognise the importance of **performance** and we will support coaches and clubs that provide programmes to develop skills and accelerate talent. Specifically there is a need for people to be matched with the right coaches, clubs and opportunities. Examples include focus sports, champion coaching and club sport.
- 4 In promoting the role of leisure/sports development with the private sector the local authorities will be keen to achieve a number of **objectives**, including appropriate provision; avoidance of competing attractions and activities, and promotion of economic and social development opportunities through leisure.
- 5 Governments have consistently regarded the promotion of sport for people with **disabilities** as particularly important in view of the role that sport can play in developing the individual's self esteem and in focusing particular attention on disabled persons' abilities and not their disabilities. All providers of sport facilities in East Grinstead will be encouraged to pursue policies that work, wherever possible, towards the greater integration of disabled and able-bodied sport and to work with East Grinstead Access Group and East Grinstead Access All Sports Group respectively on facility development and participation issues pertaining to physical accessibility.
- 6 Through this facilities strategy, we will work to ensure that where there are **gaps in provision** efforts will be made to fill them.

- 7 We will seek to ensure that the people of East Grinstead have **access** to the widest possible range of sports opportunities and facilities whilst recognising that all partner providers are able to influence a positive outcome to this objective in the development and management of such facilities.
- 8 We will encourage greater **community use** of educational sports facilities in order to increase the opportunities for youngsters to take part in out-of-school sport, and to encourage investment in and development of educational sports facilities for community benefit.
- 9 To ensure that the existing Sports Clubs in East Grinstead continue to thrive we will continue to encourage **new clubs** to become established, particularly **minority sports** that are under-represented in the town, and welcome facility development which will support the sports continuum and enable club members to progress in their chosen sport.

### Composition of Steering Group

Grateful thanks are recorded to all members of the Steering Group who assisted in the preparation of this Plan, gave valuable technical input, and attended meetings. Numbers in brackets indicate the number of meetings attended out of the five held. Thanks are recorded to others, too numerous to mention, who provided background information, completed questionnaire returns, and supported this initiative.

Roger Bean, East Grinstead Tennis and Squash Club (1)  
 Geoff Border, East Grinstead Cricket (2)  
 Helen Bridgman, Mid Sussex District Council (1)  
 Dave Brown, East Grinstead Sports Club (4)  
 Mandy Brown, East Grinstead Swimming Club (1)  
 Steve Cairns, East Grinstead Rugby Football Club (5)  
 Elaine Clark, Mid Sussex District Council (2)  
 Malcolm and Margaret Collard, Estcots Tennis Club (1)  
 Gary Coulthas, East Grinstead Tennis and Squash Club (1)  
 Martin Dezisee, MMJ Table Tennis Club (1)  
 Jake Endersby, Sackville School (3)  
 Lorraine Everard, Mid Sussex School Sports Partnership (1)  
 Terry Field, Estcots Tennis Club (2)  
 Caroline Halpin, Access All Sports (1)  
 Caroline Harding, Mid Sussex District Council (1)  
 Simon Hardy, Mid Sussex District Council (5)  
 Sally Harper, Sussex Sports Partnership (1)  
 Andy Hayes, MMJ Table Tennis Club/East Grinstead Cricket Club (1)  
 Steve Hill, Imberhorne School (4)  
 David Hooker, East Grinstead Rugby Football Club (1)  
 Pat Kennedy, Estcots Tennis Club (1)  
 Ben Knight, Chartham Park Golf Club (2)  
 Richard Leman, East Grinstead Hockey Club/East Grinstead Sports Club (4)  
 Jeff Morris, Dunnings Squash and Racketball/East Grinstead Sports Club (3)  
 John O'Brien, East Grinstead Rugby Football Club (5)  
 Brian McCorquordale, East Grinstead Town Football Club (2)  
 Lester Medcalf, East Grinstead Athletics Club (3)  
 Rob Musk, East Grinstead Town Councillor (2)  
 Steve Phillips, East Grinstead Meads Football Club (3)  
 Maggie Robson, Sackville School (1)  
 Chris Rolley, Town Clerk, EGTC (Coordinator) (5)  
 Graham Rowcroft, East Grinstead Target Shooting Club (1)  
 Bob Shelley, Dunnings Squash and Racketball/East Grinstead Sports Club (4)  
 Paul Templeman, East Grinstead Rugby Football Club (1)  
 Richard Tramontin, East Grinstead Town Football Club (4)  
 Allan Tyler, East Grinstead War Memorial Company (2)  
 Dave Watmore, East Grinstead Triathlon Club (3)

**East Grinstead & Ashurst Wood (population 25,713)**

Provision (Draft standard for district per person)	Standard Size (Sq m)	Population per pitch	Amount of Club / LA Provision	Amount of School pitches with community use	Total Club / Community provision	Total Sqm In Town	Need (Population x PPG17 size standards per head)	Under/Over provision.	Schools not confirmed public use
Football Adult (4.25 sqm pp)	8,500	2000	6	6	12	102,000	109,280	1	0
Football Junior (2.7 sqm pp)	6,100	2259	4	7	11	67,100	69,425	1	10
Mini (FA Standard)	1,875	N/a	6	5	11	20,625	N/A	N/A	5
Cricket (4.45 sqm pp)	17,550	3944	2	1	3	52,650	114,423	3 under	7
Rugby (0.85 sqm pp)	11,850	13941	3	0	3	35,550	21,856	1 over	8
Allotments (1.75 sqm pp)	150	71	238	N/a	238	35,700	44,998	62 under	N/a
Artificial Turf Pitches (0.5 sqm pp)	7,420	14840	2	0	2	14,840	12,856	0	0
Bowls Greens (0.17 sqm pp)	1,475	11346	2	0	2	2950	4,371	1 under	0
Tennis courts (0.44 sqm pp) PLUS multi-courts with tennis	666	1514	15	12	27	17,982	11,314	10 over	3
Multifunctional Green Space	Minimum Size 2000	-	N/A			650,000	664,477	0	0

**Town Headlines**

- The area has an adequate supply of adult football pitches if school sites with community use are taken into account - these pitches are at Fonthill Lodge School (1) and Imberhome Upper School (3), Sackville Community College (2) although the latter two sites are also used as football pitches dependent upon the school term\*.
- Evidence from discussions with Junior football clubs show that there is demand for more junior football facilities. There is a shortfall of up to five pitches even taking into account school sites with community use. These pitches are at Ashurst Wood Primary (1 – 1700sqm max), and Blackwell Primary School (1). There are a further 14 junior football pitches on school sites that are either not currently available or suitable for

community use. In addition, there are mini-soccer pitches available for community use at Estcots Primary School (1 – 4000sqm max), Fonthill Lodge School (3) and The Meads Primary School (1 – 1350sqm max) and five more that are not available for hire.

- Cricket appears to be under provided however there are two squares at East Court & King George’s field which have been closed due to lack of demand . There are additional facilities that are not currently available for community use at Imberhorne Upper and Lower Schools (1 artificial at each) and Sackville School (1 artificial). In addition there are a number of Cricket clubs close to the town in villages which provide additional accessibility (T/Hill, Craw Down, Copthorne, Lingfield, Forest Row, Newchapel and Dormansland). East Grinstead Cricket Club has an arrangement to use the site at Fonthill Lodge School.
- Rugby provision is slightly higher than the PPG17 requirement and there are pitches potentially available for community hire on secondary school sites that are interlinked with football provision.
- Allotments show an under provision in the Town and analysis of demand identifies that there is a need for increased provision due waiting lists.
- There is around the right level of multifunctional green space. The Town is lucky to have good access to the Countryside especially through the East Court Estate.
- There are also less bowling greens than required.
- There are a surplus of tennis courts in the Town - there are 21 multi-courts on school sites, 15 of these are marked for tennis and of these 12 are available for community use plus a further 15 local authority or club tennis courts, making a total of 27 available.
- The level of Artificial Turf Pitches is about right although additional pitches would alleviate the pressure on grass pitches for training purposes for both rugby and football. There are two Redgras pitches at Sackville Community College that are potentially available for hire although practical use of this type of facility is very limited. It should be noted that one of the artificals at the EG Sports Club is water based and only for hockey therefore subject to demand there could be a need for an additional ATP within the town perhaps dual use with a secondary school . Given the current policy on Building Schools for the future it is important to consider what approach the County Council may take regarding their vision of providing a MUGA and ATP in every secondary school.

**A summary of the areas provision follows based upon feedback from Schools & Clubs (but excluding school sites which is subject to review):**

**Summary of provision**

Site name	Site owner (LA, voluntary only, Commercial or Other)	Cricket nets	Cricket pitches	Adult pitches	Junior pitches	Mini-pitches	Hockey / ATP	Rugby	Tennis	Bowls	Allotments	Multi-Use Sport	Notes
Ashurst Wood Recreation Ground	LA	0	0	1	0	2	0	0	0	0		0	
East Court Recreation Ground	LA	0	0	1	1	4	0	0	0	0		0	
East Grinstead FC	Club	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0		0	
East Grinstead Rugby Club	Club	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	0		1	Tennis & Kickabout
East Grinstead Sports Club	Club	4	1	0	3	0	2	0	0	0		3	3 Netball & Tennis (plus 6 netball only) Several potential junior football pitches subject to levelling, drainage and planning.
East Grinstead Tennis & Squash Club	Club	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	8	0		0	
East Court (Estcots TC)	Club	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0		0	
Felbridge CC	Club	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		0	
Felbridge Recreation Ground	Club	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	3	1		0	
Imberhorne Lane Recreation Ground	LA	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0		0	
John Pears Recreation Ground	LA	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0		0	
Kings Field	LA	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0		0	
Mount Noddy Recreation Ground	LA	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1		5	Basketball, 5 A-Side, Tennis and Netball
St John's Road	Assoc										148		
Imberhorne Lane	Assoc										90		
<b>East Grinstead Sub total</b>		<b>5</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>238</b>	<b>9</b>	