

A SPORTS DEVELOPMENT AND
FACILITIES PLAN
FOR
EAST GRINSTEAD – 2005

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SPORTS DEVELOPMENT AND FACILITIES PLAN FOR EAST GRINSTEAD - 2005

1 Introduction

The timing of this Plan is extremely fortunate. It coincides with the awarding by the International Olympic Committee to London of the 2012 Olympic Games.

Sport plays a large part in this nation's consciousness. It will undoubtedly do so to a greater extent in the coming years as the dream of these Games becomes an ever closer reality and the "inspiration of sport" that Lord Coe referred to in his winning speech is increasingly instilled in the nations' hearts and, particularly, our young people.

Sport is already important in East Grinstead. It will become more so in the coming years. The first East Grinstead Sports Development and Facilities Plan was published in 1998. The Plan has played a useful part in achieving lottery funds for East Grinstead to both East Grinstead Sports Club and Imberhorne School but it now requires updating. This new Plan attempts to achieve that.

This Plan has a number of objectives. Firstly it reviews the strategic nature of existing sports development plans at national, regional, county and district level. This provides the context for this East Grinstead Plan.

Secondly it attempts to record details of sports clubs operating within the civil parish of East Grinstead. This is an ongoing and dynamic process and to date it has only been possible to record the largest clubs and organisations but it is intended that over a period of time the database will be expanded.

Thirdly building upon the responses from the local sports clubs, and two secondary schools and other interested parties some assessment has been undertaken with regards to establishing further needs and priorities for sports development within East Grinstead in the next 10 years, with identification of short term (up to three years), medium term (three to six years) and long term (six to ten years) objectives.

Fourthly we have attempted to look at the way sports are structured within East Grinstead focussing upon the role of private sports clubs, our schools and public sector provision through the local authority. In this context also we recognise very much the important role of the East Grinstead Youth Sports Development initiative. This has been so successful in encouraging young people into sport these past nine years and the report details how it is intended this important work will be continued under the new School Sports Co-ordinator initiative that is due to be introduced locally from September 2006.

The Plan will also help inform the Local Development Documents being prepared as part of the Mid Sussex Local Development Framework. In particular the Plan will be used as a background document for both the Core Strategy and the East Grinstead Area Action Plan. Indeed it is hoped that the Area Action Plan will positively assist local sports clubs and organisations in attracting external funding through planning obligations.

2 Strategies for Sport – The National Structure

The Structure of Sport in England is extremely complex. The Governments modernisation agenda for sport is well set out in “Game Plan”. This is a strategy for delivering the Government’s sport and physical activity objectives. It is a starting point for any new strategy relating to sport, health and education. There are three key aims:

- (1) To encourage **a mass participation culture** with as much emphasis on physical activity as competitive sport. The target is for 70% of the population to be reasonably active (e.g. 30 minutes of moderate exercise five times a week) by 2020: an increase of around 40%.
- (2) To enhance **international success**.
- (3) To adopt a different approach to **hosting mega sports events**.

In 2004 Sport England, following consultation and Henley Centre Analysis, produced “The framework for sport in England – making England an active and successful sporting nation: a vision for 2020”. The key points of this framework report are:

- an **analysis** of participation that can be used for local analysis and targets
- the importance of opportunities for sport and PT at **Key Stage 2 (7-11 years)**
- the need to create **“a network of multi-activity/multi sport ‘hubs’”**
- **performance related funding** for sports clubs and public venues
- the reduction of 75 Sport England programmes into **two funding streams**:
- a **national stream** working with **20 priority sports**; and
- a **community stream** delivered through the nine new Regional Sports Boards.
- a further **10 development sports**
- it proposes **market segmentation**
- **key performance indicators**
- the target to **increase participation in sport (taking part in sport three times a week) to 50% of the population by 2020**
- to be achieved by a minimum annual growth of 1%
- and that, **“local innovation is fundamental** to increasing and widening the base of participation”.

More information on the above can be obtained from the Sport England website www.sportengland.org.

Further to the national guidance a new regional plan for sport has been published in 2004, “Mission possible: The South East Plan for Sport 2004-2008”. This presents national guidance in a regional context. This attempts to address the following seven main outcomes of the national framework within a regional context:

1. Increasing participation in sport as active recreation.
2. Improving levels of performance.
3. Widening access.
4. Improving health and well-being.
5. Creating stronger and safer communities.
6. Improving education.
7. Benefiting the economy.

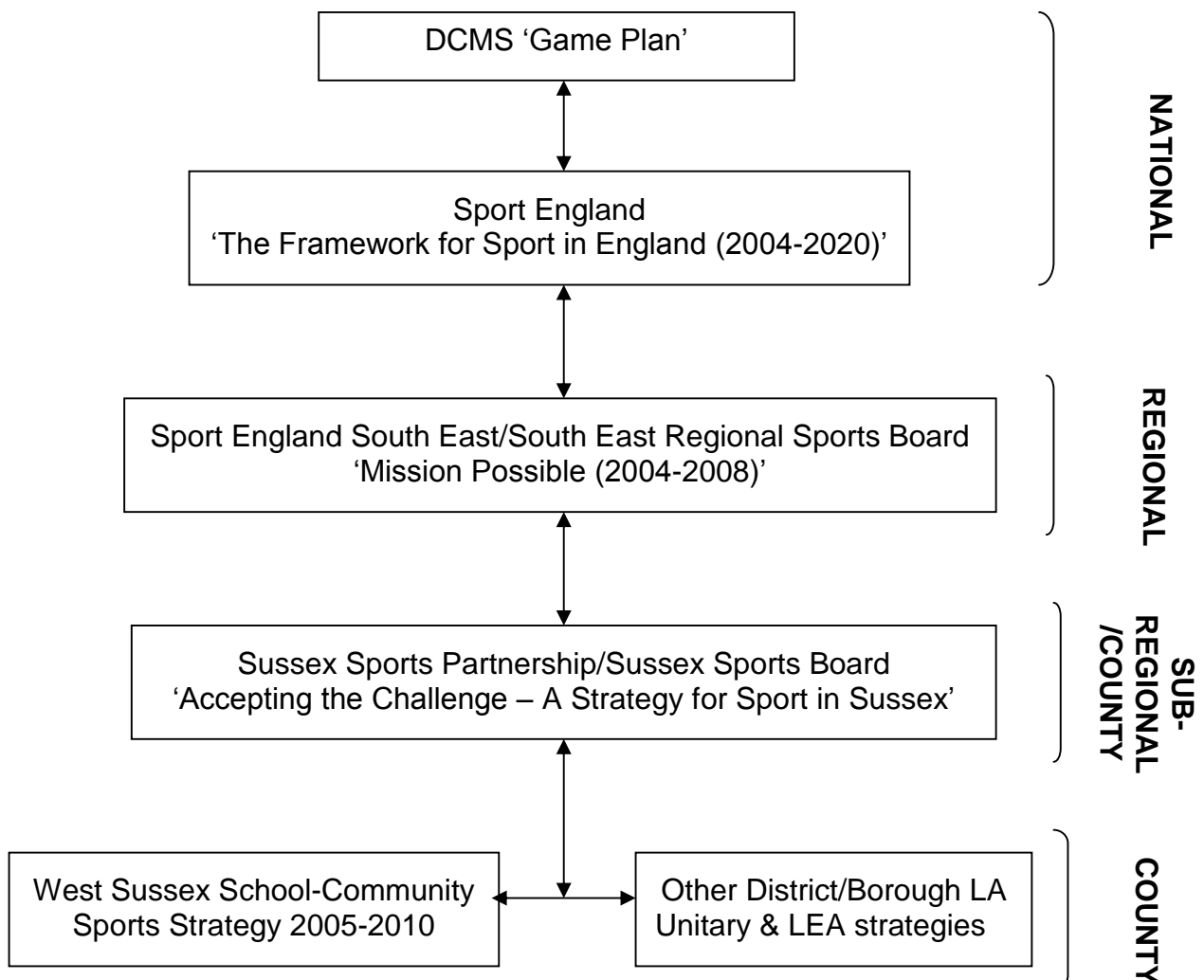
Under the Sussex Sports Partnership, the Sussex Sports Board in open consultation with District, and Borough Councils and County Sports Bodies has produced a county strategy “Accepting the challenge – a strategy for sport in Sussex”. This strategy, which is being launched in 2005 emphasises how sport is organised at pan Sussex level and how important working in the Sussex wide context is to address the issues and opportunities facing sport.

Working in parallel to the Sussex Strategy, the West Sussex School - Community Sports Strategy Team has published a document based upon the county themes and the emerging issues and priorities of the PE and Sports Curriculum and specifically addresses the future role of schools in their communities. There are in addition local strategies produced by Mid Sussex District Council, including for sport and playing pitch provision (PPG17).

The following diagram illustrates the family of plans in the context of a policy and strategy relational diagram. This diagram has been reproduced from a pre-consultation draft (December 2004) of the West Sussex Schools Community Sport Strategy.

It is within the context of all of these plans that the East Grinstead Sport and Development Facilities Plan is being produced.

The family of plans – policy and strategy relational diagram



In October 2005 Sport England issued a new series of publications titled “Sport Playing its Part”. These have received endorsements from all the central government departments, the Department of Health, Home Office, ODPM and the DCMS. Aside from an Executive Summary there are four publications in the series. They highlight the wider impact of sport and show clearly how an even greater emphasis on sport and physical activity can benefit communities. They are as follows:

- The Contribution of Sport to Meeting the Needs of Children and Young People;
- The Contribution of Sport to Economic Vitality and Workforce Development;
- The Contribution of Sport to Building Safe, Strong and Sustainable Communities, and
- The Contribution of Sport to Healthier Communities.

These publications are aimed at guiding and supporting policy makers and practitioners through the contribution sport can make in delivering national and local priorities. In this regard publication at this time is both timely and confirmatory that the approach to Sport that is being progressed in East Grinstead is the right one and in accordance with national thinking.

Sport England believes that sporting outcomes and social policy outcomes work hand in hand. The Chief Executive of that body, Roger England, has stated “Getting more people involved in sport contributes to the achievement of a healthier, fitter nation with lower levels of obesity and coronary heart disease. It can contribute to economic vitality, help create stronger communities that come together through sport and enhance the lives of our children and young people who enjoy, achieve and make a positive contribution through sport.”

The aforementioned views are fully supported by East Grinstead Town Council and all other groups and bodies that have contributed to this Plan.

3 East Grinstead – The Current Situation

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.

Working in conjunction with the various clubs through a steering group during 2004 and 2005 it has been possible to obtain core information regarding a number of the sports clubs operating within East Grinstead. This information provides details of membership in terms of numbers, gender and age. It also lists the detailed facilities of the clubs and has established where there are specific needs. A schedule of the detailed information in respect of each club, school and organisation surveyed is set out at the foot of this section.

It needs emphasising that this inventory of local clubs is by no means complete. It is intended that other clubs who have not to date produced their information, can do so at a later date and the inventory will be updated on a regular basis.

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.

The role of the East Grinstead Youth Sport Development Initiative cannot be understated in the context of youth sport and participation in East Grinstead. Since the initiative was created in the mid 1990's this project, working in conjunction with the town's two secondary schools and their feeder primary schools, and with funding support from the two schools and East Grinstead Town Council (with funding in earlier years also from the West Sussex Youth Service and Mid Sussex District Council), has ensured an effective linkage between the young people and the clubs/sports organisations facilitated by the East Grinstead Youth Sports Development Officer. The Annual Sports Fair, the TOPS Festival, the coaches training courses, the participatory events to encourage young people to try new sports and, more recently, the community sports leader project have all played an invaluable role. The introduction of Schools Sports Co-ordinators in both secondary schools with effect from summer 2006 will, hopefully further aid this development. Details of this new initiative are attached as Appendix A.

It is also important to note the important role that the two secondary schools have in providing opportunities for local sports clubs that do not have their own dedicated facilities. The multi-use games area at Imberhorne School together with the athletics facilities (part-funded by Sports England Lottery funding) have particularly assisted to meet, for example, the needs of the East Grinstead and District Netball League, the East Grinstead Girls Football Club and the East Grinstead & District Athletics Club. The redgras area at Sackville School also provides opportunities for local sports clubs although it is recognised that until funds are available for its refurbishment such use will inevitably be more limited.

The current development of a new sports hall at Sackville School and the intended development of one at Imberhorne School (Imberhorne Lane site), in the near future provides opportunities for further engagement with local sports clubs and development of enhanced community liaison. There is a desire by both schools to develop community use of these facilities within a formalised structural arrangement similar to that that has long been the norm within other districts in West Sussex including, for example, Horsham and Arun.

The Kings Centre, owned and operated by Mid Sussex District Council (MSDC), provides both wet & 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 25-year history. There are limitations to the extent to which the existing facilities can meet the needs of any future enhanced population and Mid Sussex District Council is currently conducting a detailed review of this Centre together with leisure facilities generally within the town. The findings from this review will be released in early 2006.

EAST GRINSTEAD TOWN FOOTBALL CLUB

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 a total membership of 80 adults and over 200 juniors.

The ground at East Court, where senior and ladies 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 satisfactory condition with the exception of the clubhouse. Training facilities for the Club's members are hired from East Grinstead Sports Club and from MSDC at Mount Noddy.

The Club need to improve their facilities to meet the requirements of the new FA Ground gradings, which come into force for the 2007-08 season, to be able to maintain continued participation at their current status within the national league system. For the club this will mean a new 150-seater stand, an extension of hospitality facilities, additional changing facilities, new dugouts and a number of other improvements to the facilities.

A new clubhouse will also be required. The current building, which was erected in 1971, is of a predominantly wooden construction and has been patched-up several times. Advice from building experts is that it will have to be permanently replaced within the next five years.

The Club will also need to replace their all-weather training area, which has fallen into disrepair.

Extensive investment has recently been made on the playing surface at its East Court ground and the Club are also currently undertaking a project to improve security by erecting fencing around its open/unprotected boundaries.

East Grinstead Town Football Club shares a common aim with East Grinstead Sports Club in providing sport in the community and increasing sport participation amongst junior and senior participants regardless of background, age, sex or ability. Together they recognised a significant potential to become a multi sport environment by the relocation onto the Sports Club's Saint Hill site of the Football Club with a new football stadium, third generation artificial training pitch and three additional grass pitches. This relocation would have been a key element in their common aim to sustain current participation levels with improved facilities to meet recently introduced Football Association Ground Grading requirements which the Football Club's current facility at East Court does not.

Redevelopment/realignment as proposed would have facilitated increased participation and would have helped to reduce the deficiency of grass pitches within East Grinstead with an overall net gain of grass pitches. This objective would also have met the sustainability requirements of both the clubs.

Regrettably it has not proven possible to take such a project forward. The Clubs have not been able to proceed in the way they wish for a number of reasons. These have included the impossibility of proceeding in a way that would meet the timescales of the Clubs, what the Clubs perceived to be a lack of political will, and, most importantly in the views of the planning authority, what they consider to be the overriding planning constraints affecting the Saint Hill site.

The Football Club now have an urgent need to secure funding to either upgrade their current facilities or relocate to purpose built facilities elsewhere in East Grinstead.

EAST GRINSTEAD SPORTS CLUB

The Club is a registered charity. It comprises an adult membership of 320, some 60% of whom are male and 40% female. There are also 200 juniors comprising 60% male and 40% female.

The club has excellent modern facilities specifically meeting the needs of cricket, hockey, squash and badminton. The Charity owns the land and assets of the site.

The facilities include one sand-based all weather pitch, one water-based all weather pitch, one cricket field and training nets, one sports hall available for various sports including four badminton courts, two squash courts, one wellness centre (gym) that is operated by a third party, a crèche/nursery, a sports shop, 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 hope 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. Nearly all of the facilities are in good condition with the possible exception of the sand-based all weather pitch that will require replacement within some three years.

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 become a multi sport environment centre for East Grinstead.

Now that the project for the short-term relocation of East Grinstead Town Football Club to the Saint Hill site is no longer proceeding, the Sports Club will look to continue to enhance its sporting facilities on site with a specific objective of encouraging other team sports to move their base to the club. Netball is a sport that would meet the criteria and with the local Netball league and club structures there are many synergies that could be achieved by building a number of courts at the club.

East Grinstead Sports Club recognises its location in the High Weald AONB within two miles of both East Grinstead Railway Station and the Town Centre. Accordingly they will in the future be seeking, when funds permit, to offer a "Sports Bus" operation where links with local schools can be further developed. This is part of their charitable objects to offer a sporting environment to help with the education and development of the local community and to become an example of best practice that can be shared with all clubs.

East Grinstead Netball League

The East Grinstead Netball League has a total membership of 400 adults of whom 360 are female and 40 male. There are also 400 juniors comprising 370 female and 30 male. The League does not have its own dedicated facilities but hire from others.

The League currently hire four courts at Imberhorne School on a Monday night, all floodlit, they also hire three courts on a Monday night at Mount Noddy from Mid Sussex District Council. The surface of these Mount Noddy courts is very poor however and the League has experienced difficulties in operation due to remote management. They hire two courts on a Wednesday evening for the mixed netball and all five courts on Saturdays for the Junior Netball League. All of these courts are at Mount Noddy.

The East Grinstead Netball League have an urgent need for a single home base, which has at least eight netball courts with playable surfaces. They would also like somewhere with a social area where they can meet and have a feeling of a club/league atmosphere with the necessary changing and toilet facilities.

In the course of contributing to this document the League have also commented at the poor coverage given by the local newspapers to their activities. They feel that both local newspapers focus on men's sports particularly rugby, hockey and football to the detriment of successful and significantly participative sports like their own. This view was supported by a number of other clubs. Its inclusion in the report here is dictated by the lack of anywhere more appropriate to record the comments, which are to be separately progressed with the local editors concerned.

East Grinstead Swimming Club

East Grinstead Swimming Club have a membership of 20 adults of whom half are male and half are female and 290 juniors of the same gender split.

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 swimming pools at Ardingly College and Caterham School. This is far from ideal for them. The major cost they have as a club is the expense of hiring the Kings Centre Pool.

The Club would ideally wish to focus all their activities around the Kings Centre. However this is impossible due to the available pool time. At the present time they can manage to offer their top squad swimmers a maximum of 7.45 hours water-based training a week. Other comparable club squads within Sussex are able to offer between 12 and 14 hours of water-based training per week. Notwithstanding this the club has achieved significant results and is currently in Sussex League Division One and Speedo League Premier Division.

The cost of hire at the Kings Centre for training is a major drain on club funds, and they consider this to be excessive. Their training is constrained by a lack of availability of pool time. The Club wishes to see a major overhaul of the pool at the Kings Centre or a new facility built that is sympathetic to competitive swimming. They make the point that due to the lack of poolside facilities and spectator facilities they are unable to host many galas at the Kings Centre, having to use facilities in Tunbridge Wells and Horsham. Additionally they consider that the Kings Centre swimming facilities are becoming tired.

East Grinstead Lawn Tennis and Squash Club

This club is also extremely active with 237 adults in membership, comprising 145 male and 92 female and 140 juniors comprising 98 male and 42 female.

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.

For the Club their major objective is to maintain good tennis and squash playing facilities. They have recently installed additional floodlighting on two courts and hope soon to refurbish the existing lights on two other courts. Furthermore they also wish to refurbish the clubhouse to provide accessible and effective facilities in a pleasant, comfortable and relaxing environment.

East Grinstead and District Athletic Club

The Athletic Club has a membership of 59 adults comprising 34 male and 25 female and 84 juniors comprising 47 male and 37 female. The Club own no facilities of their own and athletic training facilities are based 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 undertake secondary training from other convenient local sites including East Court.

The Clubs objectives are 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), and to have access to a suitable weight training facility.

Southeast Disability Athletics Club

This Club has five adults in membership, all male. A prime mover in the Club is a Para Olympic field athlete who has achieved significant national success. The Club meet at Imberhorne School but share the concerns of East Grinstead and District Athletics' Club regarding the need to enhance track facilities and for a sports hall with an indoor throwing facility. The Clubs training is spent away from East Grinstead at better facilities elsewhere within the region.

Spooners Indoor Bowls Club

Spooners Indoor Bowls Club is a dedicated private members club, owned by a local family, located behind Dunning Mill off Dunnings Road with an adult membership of 300, 180 male and 120 female, and six juniors, three male and three female.

The Club has excellent facilities comprising six indoor greens, a bar, a dining area, changing room facilities and a terrace. The Club is barely viable however and requires an enhanced membership in order to secure its future. The Club is seeking to double its membership to 600 although the time span for this is uncertain.

The Club also wishes to involve new and younger people in the sport as older participants do not generally wish to travel or play after 8pm. By enhancing the membership range this would produce an enhanced economy of scale and mean the facilities could be used for longer periods of time.

East Grinstead Rugby Football Club

East Grinstead Rugby Football Club has 340 adult members, 260 male and 80 female, and 285 junior members, 260 male and 25 female. The club is in the forefront in developing female rugby with a ladies team established for 10 years and girl's teams in the 2 recognised age groups.

The Club has owned the Club's ground off Saint Hill Road, comprising some 14.5 acres, since 1971/2. They have three match pitches, a training pitch and a hard court area, which is also suitable for tennis, netball and 5 a side football. The present clubhouse was opened in 1997 and was partially financed by way of a Sport England Lottery Grant. The clubhouse provides separate changing facilities for ladies and the bar and clubroom on the first floor is equipped to host meetings and lectures for up to 150 people. The clubroom provides a function room for conferences and social events supported by full catering and bar facilities. The Club works with the Sussex RFU to provide a centre for coaching courses and meetings and has hosted junior inter county matches and schools tag rugby competitions. The Club also hosts rugby

training schools in the school holidays and East Grinstead Lacrosse club are now based at the club using all the clubs facilities.

The Club also has a gymnasium providing an exercise and conditioning facility for players, which is also used by number of members who are not directly involved in the rugby side of the club. There is accommodation for a physiotherapist in this building, which also includes a flat for the Club's resident full time Facilities Manager. They have parking for approximately 150 cars and the buildings are in good condition but in need of constant upkeep. The ground requires regular maintenance and a yearly overhaul. The floodlighting to the practice pitch is sub-standard and needs updating urgently.

The Club recognises the need to generate sufficient funds to continue to offer Rugby and other sporting facilities to the inhabitants of East Grinstead and its surroundings at an affordable cost. The club is recognised nationally as it has for 48 years run the annual Sunshine Sevens in aid of national and local charities. They wish to improve and refurbish their existing facilities and to attract and develop new members by enhanced levels of coaching and maintaining and developing their contacts with local schools.

East Grinstead Girls Football Club

East Grinstead Girls Football Club, an independent club that has no connections with any other youth/senior football clubs in the town, has 55 juniors in membership. Training and pitch facilities are hired from Imberhorne School. Training takes place on the multi-use games area at Imberhorne Lane with mini-soccer and junior size football pitches/changing rooms being used at Windmill Lane. All of these are totally satisfactory.

The Club wishes to continue to maintain the interest and develop the skills of the girls who have now been with the Club for five years as well as those new members as yet too young to play league football. They also wish to continue to provide safe training and pitch facilities.

As the number of teams increases each year the Club also need to find new parents from within the different age groups willing to assist the coaches with the running of the teams as well as offering to assist with other duties such as refereeing.

East Grinstead Junior Basketball Club

East Grinstead Junior Basketball Club has a total junior membership of 63. The Club play in the new sports hall of Michael Hall School, located just outside of the parish of East Grinstead within Forest Row. The Sports Hall is one of the best basketball facilities in the Sussex Basketball League.

The hall is hired at a rate that is just about affordable for the Club but they do make the point that other sports halls they have used are either the same or more expensive. The advantage of Michael Hall School is that the hall is available for exclusive use by the Club each practice night. This hall and the freedom they have is what junior basketball needs and is an ideal environment for calm coaching and sports development.

The Club wish to maintain and increase membership numbers and there is evidence that membership is on the increase and is certainly greater than when they were based in East Grinstead. They also wish to develop basketball to a higher level, to be a Club for the community and to encourage young children into sport thereby proving basketball to all.

Other Sports

It is recognised that there are many other sports clubs operating within East Grinstead parish. Information will be obtained on these over time. The new East Grinstead Lacrosse Club (based at East Grinstead Rugby Football Club), Estcots Lawn Tennis Club and East Grinstead Target Shooting Club (both based at East Court), Meridian Archery Club (based at East Grinstead Sports Club), the local Hash House Harriers and many 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 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 at Chartham Park, Holtye, Lingfield and Copthorne; snooker at Dunnings Mill and the Atrium, 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.

4 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 that was assessed at 39% in 2002 for East Grinstead and Ashurst Wood – Action: Mid Sussex District Council (MT);
- Significant enhancement of East Grinstead Town Football Club facilities at East Court to meet new league standards or alternatively relocate to purpose built facilities with enablement funding – Action: East Grinstead Town Football Club (ST by beginning of 2007/2008 football season);
- Better water facilities for Club and public use, including spectator facilities for galas, at a significantly upgraded Kings Centre or at a new dedicated leisure centre to be developed in community/school partnership, possibly at Imberhorne – Action: Mid Sussex District Council in conjunction with EG & District Swimming Club (MT/LT);
- 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 sporting 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 – Action: East Grinstead Sports Club (ST and ongoing);
- Development of further school/community use facilities at Imberhorne School on a dual-use basis, including, possibly, four further netball courts (based on a MUGA arrangement), a new sports hall, an all weather synthetic football pitch and, subject to further review, an all weather athletics track with changing facilities – Action: West Sussex County Council/Imberhorne School/ Partner Clubs (MT);
- Maintain the impetus of the East Grinstead Youth Sports Development Initiative through the new School Sports Co-ordinator posts at Sackville and Imberhorne Schools working in conjunction with feeder primary schools and local sports clubs post September 2006 linking with national governing bodies, community sports coaches and local sports clubs – Action: West Sussex County Council/Secondary Schools and partner organisations (ST and ongoing);

- Support the continuance of 20% discretionary rate relief on top of the 80% mandatory relief for our local sports clubs and registered charities. The role of Mid Sussex District Council and other authorities in this regard is duly acknowledged – Action: Mid Sussex District Council (ST and ongoing);
- In noting the coming review by Mid Sussex District Council of Section 106 policies the Group identified the need to ensure that any developer contributions received from Section 106 agreements, and allocated for sports and leisure purposes, whether received 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 mid 2006).

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 Plan was produced in 1998 and 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 In recognising the importance of **performance** within the continuum we will aim to provide people with a quality assured sustainable programme as a means of improving their skill levels. 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.
- 3 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.
- 4 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.

- 5 Through this facilities strategy, we will work to ensure that where there are **gaps in provision** efforts will be made to fill them.
- 6 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.
- 7 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.
- 8 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.
- 9 We will also work to support the Sport England campaign to **increase active participation in sport and physical activity**. In this regard we will seek to learn from Sport England's Active People survey, the biggest ever of its kind, which will determine how many people take part in sport and physical activity, what kind of activity they undertake and where they undertake it.

The data will be used to help local authorities and other community partners drive increases in the numbers of people who undertake sport and physical activity. The survey will also enable Sport England to ensure its innovative Everyday Sport campaign better targets those who can benefit most from exercise. This in turn 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 increase participation in sport and physical activity by an average 1% year-on-year.

East Grinstead will seek to learn from the survey results (which are to be published in February 2006) and to seek to benefit from Sport England's Sports facilities investment strategy, which will be developed from this. 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.

**Specialist Sports Colleges and the School Sport
Co-ordinator Programme**

The concept and commitment behind the Specialist Sports Colleges has been supported by central government to develop and fund school sport. The scheme aims to provide a network of Sports Colleges to strategically link Physical Education, school sports and local clubs in an attempt to improve sporting opportunities and performance. It is the responsibility of the Local Educational Authorities (LEA's) to take the lead on their local initiative and provide the required information – such as funding streams through various sports awards.

The key aims for School Sport in Sussex are as follows:

- Ensure integrated delivery of the National Strategy for PE, school sport, club links and the Game Plan at a local level.
- Increase the opportunity of establishing more Specialist Sports Colleges with the planned national expansion of the School Sport Co-ordinator scheme.
- Increase the number of Primary School teachers that are trained (in depth) in physical education.
- Increasing the number of hours per week of 'High Quality' PE.
- Make school facilities fully available within an integrated local facility use strategy that meets sports development needs.
- Provide support for elite athletes, sports leaders, coaches and volunteers.

The concept requires a Secondary School to 'bid' for Sports College Status. Once accepted the Sports College (which plays host to the Partnership Development Manager / PDM) acts as the strategic hub to develop and promote school sport across the defined area. This will involve a number of partner secondary schools hosting a School Sport Co-ordinator whose role is to liaise with their own designated Primary feeder schools. The communication link between the SSSCo (School Sports Co-ordinator) and the feeder primary schools is with a PLT (Primary Link Teacher) who is given time away from teaching (12 hours per academic year) to work on particular projects and initiatives.

In most cases the PDM is a full-time role, whereas the SSSCo is likely to be a PE teacher who spends 3 days teaching and 2 days working with the Sports College, the Partner Secondary Schools and their own Feeder Primary Schools.

A SPORTS DEVELOPMENT AND FACILITIES PLAN FOR EAST GRINSTEAD - 2005

Composition of Steering Group

Chris Rolley	Town Clerk (in the Chair)
Ian Bond	E.G. Swimming Club
John Herbert	E.G. Swimming Club
David Brown	E.G. Sports Club
Daran Bennett	E.G. Sports Club
Richard Leman	E.G. Sports Club
Steve Cairns	E.G. Rugby Football Club
Richard Hawkins	E.G. Rugby Football Club
Bob Russell	E.G. Rugby Football Club
David Hooker	E.G. Rugby Football Club
Sarah Anderson	E.G. Rugby Football Club
Richard Schabel	South East Disabilities Athletics
Kate Middleton	E.G. Netball Association
John Runacres	E.G. Tennis & Squash Club
David Underhill	E.G. Tennis & Squash Club
John Rogers	E.G. Athletics Club
Bruce Talbot	E.G. Town Football Club
Richard Tramontin	E.G. Town Football Club
Sue Kelly	Sackville School
Rebecca Ellis	Sackville School
Jon Ford	Imberhorne School
Ann Bolt	Imberhorne School
Steve Hill	East Grinstead Youth Sports Development Officer
David Heasman	East Grinstead Town and District Councillor
Jenny Dadd	Mid Sussex District Council Leisure
Ed Lancaster	Mid Sussex District Council Planning Policy
Simon Hardy	Mid Sussex District Council Leisure

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