

RIBBLE VALLEY BOROUGH COUNCIL REPORT TO COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE

Agenda Item No.

meeting date: 29th AUGUST 2017
title: OPEN SPACE AUDIT
submitted by: DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY SERVICES
principal author: MARK BEVERIDGE

1 PURPOSE

- 1.1 To present the most recent information on the Council's Open spaces and ask Committee to recommend acceptance of the current position as expressed in the audit attached to this report.
- 1.2 Relevance to the Council's ambitions and priorities
- Community Objectives – To sustain a strong and prosperous Ribble Valley
 - Corporate Priorities - To help make people's lives safer and healthier
 - Other Considerations – To develop, with relevant partners, measures to support the visitor economy

2 BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The Council owns and manages a number of grass and artificial football pitches. However it is not the only provider of such facilities, many more are provided by Parish Councils, schools and other owners. It is prudent to keep updated evidence on the quality of those assets.
- 2.2 In 2012 a comprehensive assessment of sporting facilities was prepared for the Council by Lancashire Sport (appendix A provides a summary of that document).
- 2.3 The Council has in addition since that time carried out an audit of all pitches in the Borough, covering Council and other providers, together with an assessment of these pitches where they could be accessed. Not every owner of a pitch was willing to co-operate. This work was carried out by a qualified ground person who has done similar work across the North West. (Appendices B and C)

3 ISSUES

- 3.1 Where new housing developments are proposed the Council seeks to ensure that recreational provision is accounted for in the vicinity through applying a formula which seeks to get the developer to pay a contribution to the development of new activities. Although to date that has tended to focus on play area development. The audit of pitches is a useful tool in approaching this through planning obligations and other negotiations.

4 RISK ASSESSMENT

- 4.1 The approval of this report may have the following implications

- Resources – The audit will be updated annually and the pitch assessment will be carried out on a less frequent basis, again both would be funded from existing resources.
- Technical, Environmental and Legal – The Council is legally entitled to place conditions on planning approvals which seek to benefit the local population as a whole.
- Reputation – The health of the Borough population is important from a social and economic perspective, if improvements can be made as a result of housing developments, it will hopefully result in the population overall benefiting.

5 RECOMMENDED THAT COMMITTEE

5.1 The Committee is recommended to endorse the pitch audits and assessments.

MARK BEVERIDGE
HEAD OF CULTURAL AND LEISURE SERVICES

JOHN HEAP
DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY SERVICES

BACKGROUND PAPERS

For further information please ask for Mark Beveridge, extension 447

Ribble Valley Facilities Review

Prepared by Lancashire
Sport Partnership for
RVBC (August 2012)

1. Summary

a. Overview

Broadly the Ribble Valley has the appropriate facility mix and capacity to meet its current population level of need and profile. There is an identified need for an Athletics track and evidence for full size grass football pitches to be maintained, improved and new facilities brought on line. There is also an emerging picture of the Ribble Valleys heavy reliance on Education sports provision; which is variable in its accessibility and longevity of tenure for the Community. The proposed increases in the Ribble Valley population (2008 – 2028) in line with planning and development opportunities will clearly release some funding for new provision, however it is proposed that if the Ribble Valley will meet the challenges of an increase in demand and a diversity of facility type (particularly in rural areas), the Borough Council may consider undertaking a strong facilitation and leadership role; working with the education providers, private sector and social enterprises to strategically plan and secure the sports provision for its Communities.

b. Recommendations

It is the recommended on the basis of the facility study mapping that Ribble Valley Borough Council specifically gives consideration to the development of:

- i) Increased Health and fitness provision in line with the current population needs (38 stations based upon anticipated population levels) and monitors this level of provision in line with future anticipated demand. It is recommended that these facilities are located in areas of poor provision

linked to more isolated and remote communities. Lancashire Sport believe that examination of existing Sports facilities, Community facilities (e.g. Village Halls) and / or encouragement given to private sector partners (e.g. Hotel and retirement facilities) may increase efficiently the overall provision and its distribution in line with need and the older age profile for the Ribble Valley.

- ii) A specialist Athletics facility with consideration being given to an athletics running track. It is proposed that this facility should be linked with an existing facility such as a school and / or Community Club and that Whalley being considered as a suitable location. The current and latent demand for Athletics in the Borough will be sufficient to sustain this facility and meet future anticipated need. The option for the Ribble Valley Athletics to operate the facility should be examined.
- iii) A planned approach to maintaining, improving and increasing the capacity of full size grass football pitches across the Borough in line with emerging need and rural community requirements. It is proposed that leadership for these developments comes from the Borough Council with consideration being given to sites being operated by clubs and social enterprises in the future where possible.
- iv) Strategically planned and collocated sports facilities in the three key communities of Whalley, Longridge and Clitheroe in line with the total emerging housing capacity and community profile for those areas. Consideration should be given to co locating existing sports facilities on a single site to find efficiencies of operation e.g. one shared changing facility, collaboration e.g. shared school and club facilities and coherence / profile within Communities i.e. an identified centre for Community sport provision.

AGP

Site Name	Age of Surface	Evidence of moss/lichen(all surfaces)	Loose gravel(macadam surface)	Holes or rips in surface(macadam, art. Grass or polymeric surfaces)	Grip underfoot	Line markings-quality	Problem Areas: Evidence of Glass/stones/litter	Problem Areas: Areas: Evidence of inappropriate use	Problem Areas: Evidence of damage to surface	Access for disabled players. i.e.: ramps onto courts, width of gates	Condition of posts/nets/goals	Surrounding fencing	Adequate safety margins(whether appropriate)	Is the AGP floodlit?	Is the AGP left open at all times?	Are there dug outs?	Are there youth shelters/spectator seating around AGP?	Is there changing accommodation for the AGP?
Langho Juniors	less than 2 years	None	None	None	Good	Good	None	None	None	Poor	Good	Good	Yes-fully	Yes	No	No	No	Yes
Longridge MS Clitheroe Cricket =Tennis club	over 10 years	None	None	None	Good	Good	None	None	None	Good	Good	Good	Yes-fully	Yes	No	No	No	Yes
Rimington	5-10years over 10 years	Yes-some	None	None	Good	Good	Yes-some	None	None	Good	Adequate	Poor	Yes-fully	Yes	Yes	No	No	No
Chipping Village Hall Edisford RD	5-10years over 10 years	None	None	None	Good	Poor	Yes-some	None	None	Good	Adequate	Good	Yes-fully	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes
Pitch3 Edisford RD	years over 10	Yes-some	None	None	Good	Good	None	None	None	Good	Good	Good	Yes-fully	Yes	No	No	No	Yes
Pitch1 Edisford RD	years over 10	Yes-some	None	None	Good	Good	None	None	None	Good	Good	Good	Yes-fully	Yes	No	No	No	Yes
Pitch2	years	Yes-some	None	Yes-lots	Good	Poor	None	None	Yes-lots	Good	Good	Adequate	Not-but adequate	Yes	No	No	No	Yes

Adequate 3
 Good 4
 Poor 0

APPENDIX C

PLAYING FIELDS IN RIBBLE VALLEY - CURRENT PROVISION

FOOTBALL

	<u>Adult pitches</u>	<u>Youth pitches</u>	<u>Mini grass pitches</u>
<u>Community Provision</u>			
Hurst Green FC	1		
Canberra Club (BAe)	1		
Bolton by Bowland CC		1	
Dunsop Bridge Playing Field		1	
Chatburn Playing Field	1	1	
Chipping Village Hall	2	1	
Salesbury Village Hall		1	
Edisford Road	4	5	
Grindleton Playing Fields	1		
Longridge Town	1		
Kestor Lane Rec.	1		
John Smith Playing Field			1
Langho F.C.	1	2	2
Mardale Playing Fields	2	2	
Mellor Sports Ground-Whinney Lane	1		4
Mellor Village Hall	1	4	
Read Playing Field	1		
Ribchester Playing Field	1	2	
Rimington Playing Field	1		
Sabden FC	1		
West Bradford Village Hall		1	
QEII Playing Field		2	1
Whalley Viaduct Field	1	2	1
Waddington Playing Field	1		
High Moor-(Clitheroe Wolves)		5	2
<u>Private Provision</u>			
Blackburn Rovers Academy	10	4	
Clitheroe FC	1		
<u>SUB TOTAL</u>	34	34	11

School Provision

Ribblesdale High School		2*	
Clitheroe Grammar		2*	
Longridge High School		2*	
Bowland High School		2*	
St Augustine's High School		5*	
Oakhill College	1*	2*	
St Cecelias		2*	

Salesbury		1	
Longridge Primary –St Wilfred’s		1*	
Barnacre Road Longridge		2*	
Longridge CE			2*
Alston Lane Longridge		1*	
Edisford Primary		2*	
Brabins Endowed Chipping		1*	
Bolton By Bowland		1*	
St Michael & St John’s Clitheroe			1*
St Leornards Langho		1	
Waddington & West Bradford			1
St Wilfred’s Ribchester		1	
Brennand’s Endowed Slaidburn			1
Brookside Clitheroe			1
Gisburn		1	
Read		2*	
Salesbury		1	
Thorneylolme Dunsop Bridge		1*	
Whalley		2*	
Barrow		1*	
St Mary’s Mellor		1*	
St Mary’s Osbaldeston		1	
St Mary’s Sabden		1	
St Mary’s Langho		2*	
Simonstone		1*	
St James Clitheroe		1*	
PRIVATE EDUCATION			
Stoneyhurst College	1	2	
Moorland Private School		1	
Sub Total=	2	46	6
<u>TOTAL (All Pitches)</u>	36	80	17

(*)-Pitches on school sites which were identified as being available for community use. 21 school sites with 36 pitches

Rugby

Community Provision

Ribblesdale High	1
Clitheroe Grammar	1
Clitheroe RUFC	1
St Augustine’s	1
<u>Non Community</u>	
Stoneyhurst College	9
<u>TOTAL</u>	13

Cricket

<u>Community Provision</u>	<u>Pitches</u>	<u>Grass wickets</u>
Clitheroe C.C	1	16
Ribblesdale Wanderers C.C	1	14
Whalley C.C	1	13
Read C.C	1	10
Salesbury C.C	1	18
Longridge C.C	2	22
Chatburn C.C	1	4
Bolton by Bowland C.C	1	2
Grindleton C.C	1	2
<u>Non Community</u>	4	
Stoneyhurst College		
<u>TOTAL</u>	14	101

ARTIFICIAL GRASS PITCHES (A.G.P's)

Community Accessible

Longridge H.S. (Full Size Hockey)
Chipping Village Hall
Edisford Road (Ribblesdale Pool)
Rimington
Clitheroe Cricket/ Tennis Club.

Non Community-(Private/ Educational)

Ribblesdale H.S.
Stoneyhurst College
Moorland School
Clitheroe Grammar School
Blackburn Rovers F.C.