

**Ribble Valley**

**Borough Council**



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# **OPEN SPACE & SPORT & RECREATION PROVISION TOPIC PAPER**

**MARCH 2016**



# **Open Space and Sport and Recreation Provision Topic Paper** (March 2016)

## **1. INTRODUCTION**

This topic paper sets out the Council's current evidence in relation to the several different kinds of land use that are summarised under the broader term "Open Space" as a part of the preparation of the Housing and Economic Development DPD (HEDPD). It will be the Council's land allocation DPD to accompany the Core Strategy which was formally adopted in December 2014. These different types of land use are described in more detail in section 2 below.

Also this paper considers other types of provision for sport and recreation that do not occur within an Open Space context, for instance those that are located within built facilities, such as sports halls and swimming pools.

It sets out current provision across a wide variety of facilities and sets out a variety of assessments of likely future strategic provision in light of the anticipated population growth set out in the Adopted Core Strategy. As such it underpins the various relevant Key Statements and specific Development Management policies within the Core Strategy and sets out the strategic basis for further research necessary to produce possible Supplementary Development Plan documents (SPDs) and also potentially inform issues such as Planning Obligations negotiations

Several aspects of Open Space provision are already referred to in the Local Infrastructure Plan (LIP) which was examined as a part of the Examination in Public of the Core Strategy in January 2014.

All the sites identified as belonging to the various categories of Open Space defined in this paper will be mapped onto a revised version of the Proposals Map that will accompany the HEDPD through its public consultations.

## **2. WHAT IS OPEN SPACE? – Policy Context, Definitions and Typologies.**

### **2.1 National Planning Guidance**

The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) defines Open Space as, "All open space of public value, including not just land, but also areas of water (such as rivers, canals, lakes and reservoirs) that offer important opportunities for sport and recreation and can act as a visual amenity".

"Green Infrastructure" is defined in NPPF as a network of multi-functional greenspace, both urban and rural, which is capable of delivering a wide range of environmental and quality of life benefits to local communities. As such it could be regarded as including, though not being synonymous with, elements of the Open Space typology within PPG17 Guidance. Green Infrastructure and its relationship to the various elements of this paper is discussed below in 2.3.

NPPF Para 74 also states that “Existing open space, sports and recreational buildings and land, including playing fields, should not be built on unless:

- An assessment has been undertaken which has clearly shown the open space, buildings or land to be surplus to requirements; or
- The loss resulting from the proposed development would be replaced by equivalent or better provision in terms of quantity and quality in a suitable location; or
- The development is for alternative sports and recreational provision, the needs for which clearly outweigh the loss.”

The above NPPF position is encompassed within the Adopted Ribble Valley Core Strategy Development Management policy DMB4 Open Space Provision (see 2.2.2 below).

Wider recreational facilities also include Public Rights of Way that NPPF (para 75) states should also be protected and enhanced. Also, on a wider environmental level, open spaces can enhance the natural environment in the form of protected and valued landscapes that also provide biodiversity, green infrastructure and wider ecosystem services (paras 109 and 114).

More specifically NPPF para 73 states that,

“Access to high quality open space and opportunities for sport and recreation can make an important contribution to the health and wellbeing of communities. Planning policies should be based on robust and up to date assessments of the needs for open space, sports and recreation facilities and opportunities for new provision. The assessments should identify specific needs and quantitative or qualitative deficits or surpluses of open space, sports and recreational facilities in the local area. Information gained from the assessments should be used to determine what open space, sports and recreational provision is required.”

Previous national planning policy relating to Open Space, sport and recreation was set out in Planning Policy Guidance (PPG) 17 – “Planning for Open Space, Sport and Recreation” (published in 2002). While the specific policy statement has now been abolished and replaced by the NPPF its accompanying companion guidance “Assessing Needs and Opportunities: a companion guide to PPG17” is still a useful tool in considering the varied aspects of Open Space provision. In the January 2013 government review of planning guidance it was considered to “contain some useful methodologies but this could be produced as technical guidance by the sector”. Pending the appearance of revised guidance elements of this document have been used in this paper. It is referred to below as “PPG17 Guidance” and has been used to help structure this paper.

Current Planning Policy Guidance (PPG) on Open Space para 1 states that “it is for local planning authorities to assess the need for open space and opportunities for new provision in their areas. In carrying out this work, they should have regard to the duty to co-operate”. It also refers LPAs to Sport England (SE) in cases where development would affect existing playing field facilities or create new ones and also in other cases involving “any major sports facility”.

SE have informed the Council that their remit relates solely to formal sport provision assessment, relating to specific types of provision such as playing pitches, and do not consider that they can provide any assessment tools about other aspects of Open Space. Therefore the PPG17 guidance would appear to remain a pragmatic general guide to developing wider Open Space needs assessment as required within the NPPF.

NPPF states that “local authorities should undertake robust assessments of the existing and future needs of their communities for open space facilities” and sets out guidance for local policies on Open Space to serve new developments, including the establishment of local open space standards to guide those policies. It also covers the protection of existing Open Spaces and their enhancement through planning obligations.

PPG 17 Guidance recommends a strategic approach and sets out ways that local authorities can undertake assessments and audits of Open Space and suggests a variety of ways that a standard for some of them can be established. Included in its guiding principles for assessment is the need to define the ‘extent to which open space meets clearly identified local needs and the wider benefits they generate for people, wildlife, biodiversity and the wider environment’. This includes undertaking audits on the quality, quantity and accessibility of existing Open Spaces to establish needs, assess whether any open space is surplus and to inform the local Open Space standards required through policy.

PPG17 Guidance (para 2.2) also recognises that there are differences between urban and rural areas. It states that, “residents in rural areas cannot realistically expect to have the same level of access to the full range of open spaces and sport and recreation facilities normally available in more densely populated urban areas.” It goes on to acknowledge that rural residents usually have to travel further than most urban residents to some types of provision without clarifying what an acceptable extra travel distance might be.

Given the above this paper is structured around the PPG17 based Open Space typology (PPG17 Guidance para 2.6). This typology identifies several different kinds of Open Space. This approach also (PPG17 Guidance para 2.4) allots to each element within the overall typology a “primary purpose” while acknowledging that many open spaces are multi-functional. This has the additional benefit of avoiding double counting sites within an audit system. More detailed descriptions of each of the typology’s individual elements are given in PPG17 Guidance Annex A.

Ribble Valley’s Open Spaces are described in detail in Section 3 in terms of the typology below.

### **PPG 17 Guidance : Types of Open Space and their Primary Purposes.**

- **Parks and Gardens** - Accessible, high quality opportunities for informal recreation and community events
- **Natural and Semi-Natural Urban Greenspace** – (includes urban woodland) – wildlife conservation, biodiversity and environmental education and awareness
- **Green (Open Space) Corridors** –walking, cycling or horse riding, whether for leisure purposes or travel and opportunities for wildlife migration

- **Amenity Greenspace (Open Space)** – opportunities for informal activities close to home or work or enhancement of the appearance of residential or other areas.
- **Outdoor Sports Facilities** – participation in outdoor sports such as pitch sports, tennis, bowls, athletics or countryside and water sports
- **Provision for children and young people** – areas designed primarily for play and social interaction involving children and young people, such as equipped play areas, ball courts, skateboard areas and teenage shelters.
- **Allotments, community gardens and urban farms** – opportunities for those people who wish to grow their own produce as part of the long-term promotion of sustainability, health and social inclusion.
- **Cemeteries, disused churchyards and other burial grounds** – quiet contemplation and burial of the dead, often linked to the promotion of wildlife conservation and biodiversity
- **Civic Spaces** – providing a setting for civic buildings, public demonstrations and community events.

It is important to note as a reminder that, in addition to the elements of Open Space outlined above, this paper also includes an separate assessment of Indoor Sport and Recreation Facilities, which are not dealt with within any of the descriptions of Open Space set out above.

## **2.2 Adopted Ribble Valley Core Strategy Open Space related policies**

Core Strategy para 8.7 Delivery Mechanisms states that “Open Space (including all typologies of sport, leisure, green infrastructure and potentially allotments)” be included within matters appropriate for planning obligation contributions. This paper assumes that the typologies referred to above are the same as within this paper.

The Core Strategy Spatial Portrait implicitly refers to the importance of Open Space matters in its acknowledgement of the importance of the area’s high quality and accessible rural environment to its essential character, both for residents and visitors. This is also further emphasised in the Vision for the area and also in the first Strategic Objective in the Core Strategy relating to the need to respect, protect and enhance the high quality environment and biodiversity the Borough possesses. Another Strategic Objective refers to innovating and diversifying the area’s sustainable tourism offer, which strongly relies on its environmental assets.

### **2.2.1 Core Strategy Development Management Policies**

On a more specific policy level several aspects of Development Management Policy DMG1-General Considerations relate to the preservation of the area’s open spaces and associated amenity values. Most specifically DMG1 refers to development not resulting,

“..in the net loss of important open space, including public and private playing fields, without a robust assessment that the sites are surplus to need. In assessing this, regard must be had to the level of provision and standard of public open space in the area, the importance of playing

fields and the need to protect school playing fields to meet future needs. Regard will also be had to the landscape or townscape of an area and the importance open space has on this”.

DM Policy DMG 3 - Transport and Mobility includes emphasis on the provision of pedestrian and cyclist access to the wider environment. Various Environment policies relate to the protection of the environment and its associated open spaces and protected landscapes, including parks and gardens.

Also DM Policy DMB5 - Footpaths and Bridleways relates to the retention, maintenance and improvement of the area’s by-ways and unclassified roads.

## **2.2. 2 Core Strategy DM policy DMB4 - Open Space Provision**

This is a specific policy and relates to NPPF para 74 requirements (see 2.2 above) and to Open Space definitions derived from PPG17, as mentioned in 2.1 above.

It states that,

“On all residential sites of over 1 hectare, the layout will be expected to provide adequate and usable public open space. On a site by site basis the Council will also negotiate for provision on smaller sites, or seek to secure an off- site contribution towards provision for sport and recreation facilities or public open space within the area where the overall level of supply is inadequate. Any green infrastructure should be multi- functional and encourage, where possible, walking and cycling opportunities.

The Borough Council will refuse development proposals that involve the loss of existing public open space, including private playing fields, which are in recreational use. In exceptional circumstances, and following a robust assessment, where the loss of a site is justifiable because of the social and economic benefits a proposed development would bring to the community, consent may be granted where replacement facilities are provided, or where existing facilities elsewhere in the vicinity are substantially upgraded. These must be readily accessible and convenient to users of the former open space areas.

It is important to protect existing recreational areas from development. Within defined settlements public recreational land will be identified on the Proposals Map”.

The HEDPD to which this paper relates will include an updated Proposals Map which will show all designated Open Spaces of all types.

## **2.3 Open Space and Other Provision Relating to Green Infrastructure**

Many of the different types of Open Space mentioned within the PPG17 typology are also encompassed within the wider and more recently developed term of Green Infrastructure, which NPPF (glossary) defines as,” a network of multi functional green space, urban and rural, which is capable of delivering a wide range of environmental and quality of life benefits for local communities”.

NPPF (para 14) states that, "Local Planning Authorities should set out a strategic approach in their Local Plans, planning positively for the creation, protection, enhancement and management of networks of biodiversity and green infrastructure".

Lancashire County Council's Mario public web mapping system contains a Green Infrastructure layer defining various types of green infrastructure provision. This detailed map based audit includes the following types of sites that could also be termed Open Space or recreational provision that fall within the scope of this paper. They are: allotments, cemeteries, church yards and burial grounds, open access land, outdoor sports facilities, parks and public gardens and woodland. The Green Infrastructure mapping mentioned above is also referred to in the Core Strategy evidence base document Local Infrastructure Plan (LIP Map 8).

### **3. INDIVIDUAL OPEN SPACE TYPOLOGIES IN RIBBLE VALLEY and FUTURE NEED ASSESSMENT.**

#### **3.1 Parks and Gardens**

This PPG 17 typology element includes large urban and country parks that offer a wide range of facilities for formal and informal recreation and events. It also includes neighbourhood parks and smaller pocket parks and recreation grounds that offer a more limited range of facilities for informal and formal sport, play and recreation. These sites offer more than just areas for children's play. Formal gardens are also included and these comprise specifically laid out gardens including memorial gardens that include formal grass areas, floral and permanent landscaping and seating. Within the 2006 Settlement Audit Formal Open Space was mapped on a ward and settlement level. In it the Borough was assessed as possessing 92.66 ha of formal open space, including its parks and gardens.

##### **3.1.1 Local Provision in Detail**

There are no formally designated Country Parks within the Borough. As a predominantly rural Borough formal public park provision in the urban sense of the term is limited to the two main settlements of Clitheroe and Longridge. The other key service centre of Whalley has no formal park provision. All parks are considered to be well located within their settlements and are well used and it is intended to retain their current protection from development through the application of relevant Development Management policies in the Core Strategy (see 2.2.1 and 2.2.2 above). The provision within the two main centres of Clitheroe and Longridge is described in more detail below.

###### **3.1.1.a Clitheroe**

Brungerley Park, dating from 1876, lies in the north-western part of Clitheroe and follows the banks of the Ribble. It is very well used and incorporates a sculpture and nature trail. There is also public parkland within the grounds of Clitheroe Castle in the centre of the town, bought by public subscription in 1920. This includes a memorial to those who lost their lives in the Great War and also contains a rose garden, play area and bowling green and a recently developed skate park. Also in Clitheroe is Edisford Park, which contains a playground, a narrow gauge railway, a café and has footpath access to the banks of the Ribble.

### **3.1.1 b Longridge**

In Longridge there are parks at Kestor Lane Recreation Ground, John Smiths Park and at Mardale Road Playing Fields.

PPG17 Guidance on Parks and Gardens (PPG17 Annex A, paras A2 to A3) indicates that the provision of new parks should be opportunity led and can be created on brownfield sites unsuitable for other types of development and be funded by enabling development on nearby open space that is considered to be in poor condition. The matter of future provision of new formal parks will be kept under review as suitable realistic opportunities present themselves. Current provision and accessibility is considered to be adequate for the needs of the current communities and able to accommodate future needs from future development set out in the Core Strategy.

## **3.2 Natural and Semi-Natural Greenspaces**

These are defined as less formal sites, such as river valley areas, Local Nature Reserves and woodlands that benefit wildlife conservation, biodiversity and raising environmental education awareness and countryside recreation.

As a largely rural borough Ribble Valley is fortunate to have ready access, through a dense public rights of way (PROW) network (see 3.11 below), from all settlements to the wider countryside. This allows access to a wide variety of habitats including river valleys such as the Ribble and Hodder, and a variety of designated wildlife conservation sites in both the upland and lowland parts of the area including Local Nature Reserves and SSSIs. These are outlined within the LIP (Page 39.)

In addition, though also incorporating some of the above sites, over 70% of the area of the Borough is also designated within the Forest of Bowland AONB and is managed for a variety of purposes including public access and environmental awareness. The detail of this is set out within the AONB Management Plan, another part of the Core Strategy's evidence base.

PPG17 (A6) indicates that, broadly speaking, planning for new natural greenspace in established urban areas should be opportunity-led. In other areas and in general it goes on to state that these sites are intended to provide habitats that will enhance local biodiversity through Local Biodiversity Action Plans (LBAPs) and that planning authorities can assist in achieving the aims of the LBAPs by promoting the provision, protection and enhancement of natural and semi natural greenspace.

Core Strategy Key Statement EN4 specifically commits the Borough to a policy of protection of Lancashire Biodiversity Action Plan (LBAP) priority habitats and species among protection of a wider variety of sites designated for environmental purposes such as SSSIs, LNRs, County Biological Sites, Special Areas of Conservation (SACs), Special Protection Areas (SPAs), Local Geodiversity Heritage Sites, Ancient Semi-Natural Woodlands, European Directive on Protected Species and Habitats (Annexe 1 Habitats and Annexe 2 Species) and Habitats and Species of Principal Importance in England. The specific details of the relevant LBAPs were included within the Core Strategy evidence base.

This general policy position is continued in detail within a variety of Core Strategy Development Management policies such as DME1 – Protecting Trees and Woodland; DME2



– Landscape and Townscape Protection and DME3 – Site and Species Protection and Conservation. The latter again specifically mentions the LBAP sites. It is anticipated that new development, whilst benefitting from the accessible greenspace that these sites provide, will be also be managed within the context of the above development management policies to minimize environmental impact, protect existing biodiversity and where possible enhance it.

As an example of the site by site opportunistic approach to the enhancement of local biodiversity and natural and semi- natural greenspace the Council has established, through Section 106 negotiations, developer funding for the creation of a new Local Nature Reserve in southern Clitheroe based around the disused former mill lodge at Primrose Mill. This site has been identified as a gold standard receptor site with the Environment Bank using biodiversity offsetting funding mechanisms. The site has already received some Section 106 funds and biodiversity offset credits funds. Within this initiative discussions are taking place for the Lancashire Wildlife Trust to take over the delivery and future management of this site, which will include public access. A Management Plan has been developed for this site.

### **3.3 Open Space Green Corridors**

These sites are routes for walking, cycling or horse riding whether for leisure purposes or travel and also opportunities for wildlife migration. PPG 17 guidance goes on to state (Annex A para A7) that the need for green corridors stems from the need to promote environmentally sustainable forms of transport such as walking and cycling within urban areas and that therefore “there is no sensible way of stating a provision standard...” for these kinds of sites.

Instead it suggests that planning policies should promote the use of green corridors to link housing to the wider national cycle network, to town centres, places of employment and community facilities (see section 3.13 below in relation to County and Borough Council cycle initiatives) and, as such, provision should be demand led.

However PPG17 Guidance goes on to state that planning authorities should also take opportunities to use established linear routes, such as disused railway lines or canals as green corridors (see sections 3.12 and 3.13 below).

In Core Strategy Key Statement EN4 the Council “will seek wherever possible to conserve and enhance the area’s biodiversity and geodiversity and to avoid the fragmentation and isolation of natural habitats and help develop green corridors” within wider commitments to conserve and enhance the area’s geodiversity and biodiversity, while Core Strategy policies such as DMG1 General Considerations and DMG3 Transport and Mobility emphasise the importance of new development making provision for pedestrian, cycling and reduced mobility access; encouraging development at locations that are highly accessible by means other than the car and improving travel choice in relation to walking and cycling.

In relation to cycling the Borough is currently developing a Cycling Strategy for Clitheroe while the County Council is also involved in revising its current Cycling Strategy and other cycle related initiatives as outlined within the LIP (see LIP page 25). This latter includes a proposed disused railway line cycle route south of Read that would also link into wider cycle

networks. Further detail on the above is outlined in section 3.12 Accessible Countryside in the Urban Fringe below.

Also the development of walking and cycling opportunities, both within and outside green corridor areas, are part of the authority's on going contributions to the East Lancashire Highways and Transport Masterplan (eg within elements mentioned on Masterplan Pages 33 and 34 relating to cycling and wider health and well-being issues).

On a more specific and current level the Council have placed conditions relating to footpath and cycleway improvements within the permitted outline application relating to the Core Strategy Standen Strategic site adjacent to Clitheroe.

### **3.4 Amenity Green Space (Open Space)**

These are sites that provide opportunities for informal activities close to residential areas and improve the visual appearance of residential or other areas. This type includes spaces such as those landscaped areas within housing estates and employment areas, village greens and open spaces along highways that provide visual amenity.

PPG17 Guidance (Annex A para A9 to A11) goes on to define these spaces' functions as including: enhancing the appearance of developments such as housing or employment sites; providing opportunities for informal activities such as jogging or dog walking and childrens' play close to home (as opposed to more formal play areas); sunbathing and other informal activities such as places for workers to sit and eat sandwiches and take part in a kick about and also as contributing to noise reduction and wind sheltering. It is important to emphasise here that such informal spaces must allow public access.

It also goes on to state that while a population-based quantitative standard of forward provision is an acceptable approach, one that took this further by building the open space into the design of the development from the outset would yield a better result. This latter would be a matter for the detailed appliance of a range of development management policies, such as Core Strategy policies relating to design, to specific applications as they come to the Council.

In 2006 the Authority produced a detailed Settlement Audit that, among other matters, surveyed in detail on a ward and settlement level the amount of formal and informal open space in the area. From that information it developed an informal Open Space per head of population statistic on a per head per hectare basis. The definition applied to informal Open Space was synonymous with the PPG type Amenity Green Space mentioned above.

On a Borough- wide basis it assessed the area as possessing a total of 92.66 ha of formal open space; 62.1 ha of informal open space and a per head statistic of 0.003 ha of informal open space per person. The audit contained detailed maps of the locations of these spaces.

Given the PPG 17 advice mentioned above it is proposed to carry forward as a general approach the informal open space per head statistic while, through the development management process, building informal open space into development at the design stage wherever possible using the relevant Core Strategy policies including DMB4 Open Space Provision.

It should also be noted that the Open Space requirements within the Core Strategy have been subjected to a viability analysis within a wider whole plan viability study (see Ribble Valley Viability Study, August 2013). This study found that the informal Open Space standards were not judged to place undue restrictions on potential development.

### **3.5 Outdoor Sports Facilities**

These sites include facilities such as outdoor sports including pitch sports, tennis, bowls and athletics and PPG guidance (Annex A para A8) states that outdoor sports provision is normally demand-led and therefore it is appropriate to use a population based quantity standard to predict forward supply, but also that this standard needs to be applied flexibly in rural areas to reflect local aspirations. It goes on to state that converting demand into participation also needs to take account of the accessibility and quality of current provision and needs to acknowledge its overall cost effectiveness.

#### **3.5.1 Ribble Valley Facilities Review (Lancashire Sport Partnership, December 2013)**

In assessing in more detail the current provision and future anticipated need for such a wide variety of facilities and sites the Authority commissioned a specific review of the local sports facility offer from Lancashire Sport Partnership (LSP) updated in December 2013. The full report is appended as Appendix 1 and in this report is subsequently referred to as the LSP report.

This used the Sport England (SE) Active Places Power analysis tool to provide an overview of the types, location and counts of the key sporting facilities in the Borough. In addition the report used a nearest neighbour (local authority peer) analysis as identified by the CIPFA (Chartered Institute of Public Finance) to provide a benchmarking comparison with similar localities. In addition the report included a SE modelled indication of the facilities per thousand, where such a measure exists within currently available statistical sources, that would be needed to provide for the demand flowing from the future development contained within the Core Strategy up to 2028 (see LSP Report para 1.a).

It also included indications of the quality and value of these facilities to the local population. In certain cases this qualitative assessment has been supplemented by information from RVBC officer audits and from recent independent audits produced for the forthcoming Playing Pitch Strategy.

The LSP report included consideration of Ribble Valley's current levels of participation in sport, a health profile and a general supply and demand balance involving all the various recreation and sport market segments. The analysis included a breakdown of individual facilities by ward and an assessment of their collective condition and accessibility. This analysis took into account the levels of future housing provision indicated within the Core Strategy. The report concluded with a series of recommendations as to future provision.

An important general point that has arisen from these various audits is that no current outdoor sports provision is regarded as surplus to current general needs.

## **Levels of Participation, Health Profile and Supply and Demand Balance**

(from LSP Report, Section 3, pages 25 – 37)

In terms of levels of participation Ribble Valley residents are typically physically active and engaged in sport on a regular basis with residents participating 3 or more times a week, above both national and regional levels. Ribble Valley also has below average levels of inactivity. The Borough out-performs its national peers and national and regional averages in terms of obesity and the costs to the health service as a result of its active and participative population profile.

In terms of anticipated performance (see section 3d, page 33) the Borough's population is performing slightly above where it would be anticipated to be in terms of levels of participation in sport and physical activity. There is considerable skewing to the older age ranges of the population. Increases in affordable housing are anticipated to start to re-balance this skewed age profile with an associated higher demand for facilities associated with younger people such as running tracks.

### **3.5.2 Current Local Provision**

Various kinds of facilities were modelled using a Sport England (SE) standard of facilities per 1000 that would be required to service a population the size of the Ribble Valley. (The full report is included in Appendix 1 of this paper).

The various elements of the LSP study that relate specifically to Open Spaces as defined within PPG17 Guidance are described immediately below. The SE report also dealt with other non- Open Space related sports and recreation facilities such as swimming pools and health and fitness suites, these are dealt with separately in Section 3.11.

#### **A. Athletic Tracks** (see LSP report page 7)

The Borough has no Athletics facility, although an Athletics club exists which uses facilities at Blackburn. The Sport England model and the North West average per 1000 people is 0.05 facilities. The report suggested that if the Borough were to have Athletics facilities at the above national ratio it would require 2.7 facilities against a current provision of no facilities. It further suggested that the options for the future provision of this facility needed to be examined in more detail but that the Whalley area and a possible linkage with an educational provider (to ensure high usage levels) could be considered. The Council is currently negotiating with potential local partners on this matter.

#### **B. Full Sized Grass Football Pitches** (see LSP report pages 9 – 10)

The Borough's 43 pitches, a high proportion of which are owned and managed by educational facilities, serves the deprived populations well in the Borough and the majority of rural communities outside the main townships. Only 8 of 24 wards have no direct access to these facilities.

The LSP report stated that Sport England has no formal modelled facility number (ie population based formula) for this type of provision but evidence from Lancashire Football Association indicates that there is a latent demand for, and a shortage of access to, full sized, high quality grass pitches for youth and adult games which needs further investigation and continued investment from the operators to maintain existing standards, including that of

associated parking, changing and other facilities. The report went on to recommend that consideration should be given to expanding the provision of this facility type.

In relation to the further investigations mentioned above the in-house Ribble Valley Club Football Assessment (see Appendix 2 of this paper) assessed all local football clubs and using standards based on FA and Institute of Groundsmanship Performance Quality Standards. All local football clubs (juniors and seniors) were canvassed for their views on the quality and quantity of the facilities they used. Some reported pitch shortages others deficiencies in the associated facilities such as changing rooms. Others were happy with their current provision.

In 2015 a more detailed audit of all the area's playing pitches (including all football, cricket and rugby pitches) was commissioned from outside consultants. This is described more fully as the 2015 Pitch Audit (section 3.6 below.) and is summarised in Appendix 3 of this paper.

### **C. Grass Junior Football Pitches** (see LSP report pages 10 – 11)

The Borough has 54 pitches, again a high proportion of which are owned by local educational facilities. These serve the deprived populations in the Borough and the majority of rural communities outside the main towns well with only 6 out of 24 wards having no direct access. Sport England has no modelled facility numbers for this type of provision but evidence from Lancashire Football Association indicates that there is a thriving community of regular users and that there are concerns that some of the facilities are over- played and in need of investment to maintain their current and future condition, though none were stated as surplus to requirements. The report went on to suggest that further significant investment is required to upgrade and maintain the existing stock. These pitches were also a part of the independent pitch audit set out below in section 3.6 and Appendix 3.

### **D Mini Soccer Grass Pitches** (LSP report page 12)

The 5 facilities in the Borough are regarded as serving the Borough as a whole well but provision in the rural areas is somewhat lacking with only 2 out of 24 wards having direct access. There is no modelled formula for the provision of this facility type but recent upgrades indicate that current provision is in good condition. See also the 2015 Pitch Audit (section 3.6 below.)

### **E. Grass Cricket Pitches** (see LSP report pages 12 – 13)

All the Borough's 19 facilities are owned and managed by either clubs or educational facilities and are sufficiently well distributed to serve the deprived populations in the Borough well and the key townships. 14 of the 24 wards have no direct access to these facilities, however access and travel times appear to be manageable. There are no Sport England modelled facility numbers for this type of provision but the English Cricket Board indicate that there is a thriving community of regular users across the Borough with provision appearing to be stable and meeting current local demand. See also the 2015 Pitch Audit (section 3.6 below.)

#### **F. Senior Rugby League Grass Pitches** (see LSP report pages 13 – 14)

The distribution of this relatively specialised facility for Lancashire (1 club owned facility in total in the Borough) serves the population well in the wider Borough and potentially beyond its boundaries, but is limited for rural communities outside Clitheroe. The LSP report also stated that there is no Sport England ration for this type of provision, but however “given the emerging nature of rugby league this level of facility may be considered a little low”. The report did not go on to recommend any additional level of future provision in relation to this type of facility. See also the 2015 Pitch Audit (section 3.6 below).

#### **G. Senior Rugby Union Grass Pitches**

There are 12 facilities, mainly based within education establishments, which have the potential to serve the population in the wider Borough well, but provision is limited for rural communities outside Clitheroe. Access to these facilities by the general public, as they are within a school setting, needs to be confirmed. There are no Sport England ratios for these facility types however feedback from the RFU indicates that the local provision is adequate at present. See also the 2015 Pitch Audit (section 3.6 below.)

#### **H. Rounders Grass Pitches** (see LSP report pages 15 – 16)

All 29 facilities are owned by educational facilities and are sufficiently distributed to serve the population in the wider Borough well. Sport England has no facility profile for this type of provision, however existing information indicates that provision appears to be adequate for current needs.

#### **I. Water Based Synthetic Turf Pitch** (see LSP report page 21)

The Borough has one largely hockey based facility, owned by an educational facility, which serves the population of the southern part of the Borough well, but is limited for rural communities. The Sport England ratio for specialised facilities of this type is 0.00 facilities per 1000 population. Ribble Valley has 0.01 facilities per 1000, above both national and regional ratios. It is considered that there are sufficient facilities of this type in the Borough to meet local needs and potentially some need from outside the area.

#### **J. Rubber Crumb Pile Synthetic Turf Pitch** (LSP report pages 21 – 22)

There are 2 of these relatively specialised facilities in the Borough, which are mainly used for football and handball and are based in educational facilities. However their distribution serves the population in the wider Borough poorly having a limited offer outside Clitheroe. Sports England’s modelled standard for provision is 0.01 facilities per 1000, Ribble Valley’s provision lies above this at 0.03. Taking into account the issue of distribution there are sufficient facilities in the Borough to meet local need.

#### **K Sand Based Synthetic Turf Pitch** (see LSP report pages 20 – 21)

There are two of these specialised facilities, both within educational settings, but only one is regarded as actually available. The rural population is poorly served by them. The Sport England modelled provision is 0.03 facilities per 1000 population with Ribble valley

possessing 0.09 per 1000. Under current access arrangements the report considers that there is sufficient provision.

#### **L. Golf** (see LSP report page 22)

The 6 all privately owned facilities within the Borough are sufficiently well distributed to serve the local population well. Sport England national standards are 0.67 facilities per 1000 population, with Ribble Valley having 1.11 facilities per 1000. There are sufficient facilities of this type in the Borough to meet local needs and that of the wider sub region, with some facilities being of an exceptional quality.

In addition the LSP report added that the presence of an artificial ski slope was an additional benefit to the Borough (see LIP page 23).

#### **3.5.3 LSP Comparison with Peer Authorities** (see LSP report pages 4 – 5)

Ribble Valley's provision of the following facilities, some of which are Open Space related, was compared to four "peer authorities". The facility types used for this comparison were: golf, grass pitches, health and fitness suites, indoor tennis centres, ski slopes, sports halls, swimming pools and synthetic turf pitches. The four peer local authorities were Harborough, Maldon, Melton and South Northamptonshire. The implications of this analysis for indoor recreational facilities can be found separately in section 3.10.

In terms of the above peer comparison outdoor provision Ribble Valley has significantly better numerical provision in terms of grass pitches, comparable provision in terms of synthetic pitches and comparable golf provision. However the analysis also points out that a large proportion of the Ribble Valley provision lies within educational establishments "of which there is considerable uncertainty about the ability of the community to access the facilities when required..."

#### **3.5.4 Summary Overview of and Specific LSP Report Recommendations in Relation to Outdoor Open Space Recreation Related Facilities.**

The Lancashire Sport Partnership December 2013 report stated that broadly the Borough 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 that full size football pitches need to be maintained, improved and new facilities to be brought on line. There is also an emerging picture of the Borough's heavy reliance on education sports provision, which is variable in its accessibility and longevity of tenure for wider community use.

The proposed increases in the population within the Core Strategy period of 2008 – 2028 will clearly release some funding for new provision, however it is proposed that if Ribble Valley is to meet the challenges of increased demand and diversity of facility type (particularly in rural areas) the Council will need to consider undertaking a strong facilitation and leadership role working with a wide variety of bodies.

In more specific terms the report recommended that the Council should give consideration to the development of the following:

**3.5.4.1.** A specialist Athletics facility including a running track linked to an existing facility such as a school and/or a community club and that Whalley should be 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 of the Ribble Valley Athletics Club operating the facility should be examined.

**3.5.4.2** A planned approach, led by the Council, 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. The actual operation of facilities could be by local clubs and social enterprises.

Following the independent playing pitch audit of 2015 a Playing Pitch Strategy is currently being developed by the Council to address this matter.

**3.5.4.3** Strategically planned and co-located sports facilities in the three key communities of Whalley, Longridge and Clitheroe in line with the total emerging housing capacity and community profile for these areas. Consideration should be given to co-locating existing sports facilities on a single site to find efficiencies of operation eg one shared changing facility; collaboration eg shared school and club facilities and coherence within the community through an identified centre.

**3.5.4.4** In addition, while not a recommendation, the LSP report also emphasises that much of the Borough's outdoor and indoor formal sport provision is based within or close to Clitheroe and Longridge (see page 24) and that many local residents travel further to access provision than the national 15 minute travel time threshold within the Sport England modelling tool.

## **3.6 Ribble Valley Playing Pitch Audit 2015**

In addition to relevant playing pitch related elements of the LSP report referred to above the Council has also commissioned a specific Playing Pitch Assessment Audit undertaken by an approved S.E. independent contractor. These are non- technical assessments of all the football, cricket and rugby pitches in the area. These assessments were produced by Sport England in consultation with the respective Governing Body and the summary details are shown in Appendix 3 to this paper.

The methodology used in the audit is in line with the respective governing body Non - Technical Playing Pitch Assessment practice and pitches were assessed during the playing season; Football and Rugby in winter and Cricket during the Summer. This audit, together with a supporting Club Audit to assess current levels of demand, will be used to inform the forthcoming Playing Pitch Strategy which is based on the following overall objectives:

**Objective 1.** Address quantitative deficiencies to meet existing unmet demand and potential future demand, through planned increases in provision, as and where required.

**Objective 2.** Address qualitative deficiencies and enhance existing provision to continue to support high levels of participation.



**Objective 3.** Maximise access to all outdoor facilities (including DDA compliances, marketing and accessibility).

### **3.7 Provision for Children and Young People**

Within the PPG17 typology these are described as areas designed primarily for play and social interaction involving children and young people, such as equipped play areas, multi-use games areas and skate parks.

PPG17 Guidance (Annex A, paras A12 and 13) indicates that provision should encourage interaction and the development of social and movement skills whilst not creating a nuisance to others. It is envisaged that provision should be a mix of “carefully located facilities” including play areas, areas that can be passively supervised from nearby houses, and teenage shelters and more natural areas in which children and others can take part in energetic activities.

The current approach taken by the Council in relation to formal play facility provision in relation to new development is to seek planning contributions to deliver formal play provision within the development or contributions towards off site provision, such as skate parks, depending on the individual proposal. This is negotiated using Core Strategy Obligations policies, in which Open Space contributions are one of the priority categories. Both on and off site approaches have been successfully used within wider contributions negotiated on a site by site basis.

#### **3.7.1 Formal Play Areas**

The individual provision of this type of facility was mapped in detail within the Settlement Audit of 2006 (see informal open space discussed in section 3.4 above) on a settlement and ward basis as a category called “Children’s Play Areas”. On a Borough wide basis the area possessed a total of 5.54 ha of this facility in 2006.

Information on the condition of all the area’s Play Areas within the Ribble Valley was collected during an audit of all sites during 2014-15. This Evaluation Audit (Appendix 2) supersedes an earlier assessment undertaken in 2007 and will be utilised in the production of a new Borough Play Strategy which itself will replace the Council’s 2007 Play Strategy.

It is expected that any significant development, such as the Core Strategy Standen Strategic Site in Clitheroe, would require appropriate provision for this age group. This would be dealt with through the development management process, guided by current national and local planning policies.

The Strategy considers that there is a lack, generally, of play facilities for older young people. Whilst it is recognised that such provision is not feasible at the same level as for the under 8’s there is a need for a network of such facilities reflecting the main population centres across the Ribble Valley. The Council will negotiate for such provision using relevant policies within the Core Strategy.

### 3.7.2 Evaluation of Play Facilities in Ribble Valley.

As mentioned above, all play facilities within the Borough were recently audited (October 2015) by RVBC Sports Development staff using the Play England- Making Space for Play- Tools for evaluating local play provision (2009). The full detailed site by site audit is included in Appendix 2 to this paper. In detail the methodology for this survey comprised of a series of key principles which are set out below.

#### The 10 principles for designing successful play spaces

Successful play spaces:

1. are 'bespoke' – designed to enhance their setting
2. are well located – in the best possible place for children
3. make use of natural elements – close to nature
4. provide a wide range of play experiences – where children can play in different ways
5. are accessible to both disabled and non-disabled children - where they can play together
6. meet community needs and are loved by the community
7. allow children and young people of different ages to play together
8. build in opportunities to experience risk and challenge – where children can stretch and challenge themselves in every way
9. are sustainable and appropriately maintained - maintained for play value and environmental sustainability
10. allow for change and evolution

The scoring of facilities is against the following key areas;

- Location
- Play Value
- Care and condition

The specific spaces to be covered by the audit are classified according to Fields in Trust (FIT) as LAP, LEAP and NEAP facilities;

**Toddler/doorstep (LAP)** - small space near housing specifically designed for play; may or may not have some small items of equipment or other features for toddlers and seating for adults.

**Large play area (LEAP)**- A larger space which can be reached safely by children beginning to travel independently and with friends without accompanying adults. This is aimed at 5- to 11-year-old children with a larger range of features offering a wide range of play experiences, and space/design for ball games, wheeled sports. Offers seating and is near to housing.

**Neighbourhood play area (NEAP)**- A larger space or facility for informal recreation which children and young people used to traveling longer distances independently can reach safely and spend time in play and have a wide range of play experiences providing for all children including teenagers.

Facilities as for large play area but with additional features offering challenge to older children; youth shelter type provision; and floodlit MUGA (multi-use game area) and/or wheeled sports facilities.

The scoring system is based upon a local judgement of what constitutes good quality in respect to the criteria used in assessing the facility.

**Location-** Research shows that location is perhaps the single most important factor in how well children use not only play areas but also open spaces. In general, children like to play locally where they can be seen, see others and meet others. Young people are able to roam further and can therefore use neighbourhood play areas, although they too like to feel safe wherever they are 'hanging out'. Disabled children and parents or carers with buggies should be able to access the play areas as much as non-disabled children. Often children will play with younger siblings who may need to be taken to the area in a buggy or push chair.

The scoring system is designed to identify the suitability of the location of play areas and spaces where children may play.

**Play Value-** The assessment deliberately focuses on the different, innovative and challenging ways in which children can have a wide range of play experiences and sensations such as rocking, swinging and sliding – this is particularly important for some disabled children whose impairments mean they cannot for example, sit on traditional swings.

The natural environment also has play value so consideration should be given to the varied and interesting ways in which children can play in these environments. Quiet, contemplative play is as important as boisterous and physical play and although children will play in their own way in any given area, their play can be enriched through creating appropriate and stimulating play environments.

Children need to take risks to learn about and understand their own capabilities. Risk does not mean creating hazardous environments, but it does mean ensuring opportunities for challenging play are available through design.

**Care and Condition-** All areas will require that children can play free from unexpected hazards. The care and maintenance of a facility is identified through any noticeable defaults and the appearance in terms of general up keep.

There are 40 play areas across the Borough with the highest concentration being in the main population centres. Ownership is evenly spread with 19 of the facilities being run by the Council and 21 Parish Council's or independent trusts. There are no significant areas without fixed play provision.

On the whole the play offer is considered to be fairly traditional with most play areas offering the same range of equipment. This is reflected in age range which is predominantly for the under 12's. Inclusive access tends to follow the same pattern. Most play areas have focussed on physical access by providing hard standings between equipment and 'disability friendly' kit.

The location, Play Value and condition of the facility were each assessed during inspections and overall the quality of provision was high with some good examples in outlying villages such as Ribchester and Dunsop Bridge but also facilities in each of the 3 main towns were well served especially for children of the age range 12 years and below. The provision for older teenagers is not as prevalent with Skateboarding and M.U.G.A facilities restricted to the main population centres.

Local community volunteers are the real driving force for improvement. Local volunteers who are willing to give the time to carry out local consultation, engage with play equipment providers and undertake fund raising have driven nearly all play area improvements. There are examples, such as Sawley, where new play areas have been developed. Sawley is perhaps unique in that it has been constructed next to Sawley Abbey which is a scheduled ancient monument and so had to adopt a much more sensitive approach to the provision of foundations and safety surfacing.

### **3.7.3 Skate Parks (from Ribble Valley Play Strategy Sept 2007)**

The Borough has two skate parks, located in Clitheroe and Longridge. The Clitheroe facility was built and is operated by the Lancaster Foundation, a Christian charitable organisation. Provision of the park was in response to young people who felt there were no facilities for teenagers and from a range of organisations who felt a facility should be provided, both from a safety and an anti-social behaviour perspective. The Skate Park, which is said to be the best in the north-west, has proved to be very popular and was well received by the community as a whole.

Longridge also has a skate park, though on a more modest scale, which was developed in the same way as the Clitheroe facility, through requests from young people for somewhere to go and something to do. They were involved in the design of the park and continue, along with a range of agencies, to manage and promote the facility. There is no PPG17 related suggestion of relevant provision of this kind of facility and future provision will be considered as a part of the wider Facilities Audit mentioned above.

### **3.8 Allotments, Community Gardens and Urban Farms**

PPG 17 defines these sites as providing people with the opportunity to grow their own produce as a part of the long- term promotion of sustainability, health and social inclusion. It recommends that provision be guided by local demand. There is no absolute standard size for allotments and therefore absolute future land requirements will be guided by a variety of locally based factors.

The acknowledged benefits of allotments include not just food growing but improved physical health and exercise and mental health benefits; improved social wellbeing and networking; increased educational awareness of environmental sustainability and carbon reduction through reduced food transportation costs. After a period of national decline interest in allotments has recently increased and demand for new plots has significantly improved. In some cases demand has resulted in waiting lists being closed, thus limiting a full understanding of true demand.

Within Ribble Valley provision is through Parish and Town Councils leasing land from either or both Borough Council and private landowners. These same Parish/Town Councils also hold lists of current holders and waiting lists of prospective holders. The Borough Council leases land that is used for allotments to Longridge Town Council and Ribchester and Grindleton Parish Councils. There are currently 250 allotments in total in the Borough with no current vacancies. The current general provision of sites and their landownership within Ribble Valley is listed in Table 1 below.

**Table 1. Allotment Sites in Ribble Valley.**

- Preston Road Longridge (landowner: United Utilities)
- Off Greenside, Ribchester (Parish)
- Low Moor, Clitheroe (Private)
- Tennyson Avenue, Read (United Reform Church)
- Greenfield Avenue, Chatburn (Private)
- Mellor Lane, Mellor (Methodist Church)
- Stonygate Lane, Ribchester (Private)
- Whalley Road, Barrow (Private)
- Waddow View, Waddington (Parish)
- West View, Clitheroe (Town Council)
- Off Whalley Road, Clitheroe (Town Council)
- Hayhurst Street, Clitheroe (Town Council)
- Off Worthalls Road, Read (Parish Council)
- Windsor Avenue, Longridge (Town Council)
- Whalley Road, Sabden (Private Farmer)
- Sawley Road, Chatburn (Parish)
- Off Main Street, Grindleton (Parish)
- Milthorne, Clitheroe (Town Council)

In early 2016 contacts with local allotment providers indicated allotment waiting lists at the following settlements.

Sabden Parish Council	- 17
Grindleton Parish Council	- 1
Clitheroe Town Council	- 40
Longridge Town Council	- 30+
Ribchester Parish Council	- 6

### **3.9 Cemeteries, Disused Churchyards and other Burial Grounds.**

PPG 17 typology defines these as sites for quiet contemplation and burial of the dead, often linked to the promotion of wildlife conservation and biodiversity. The Council itself is responsible for four closed churchyards, two in Clitheroe, one each in Gisburn and Chipping.

The only Council owned burial area in the Ribble Valley is the Waddington Road Cemetery in Clitheroe. The cemetery services provide for traditional burials, Muslim burials, woodland

burials and the burial of cremated remains. There is also an arboretum which has been created at Clitheroe Cemetery to meet increased demand for commemorative trees.

In October 2010 Ribble Valley Borough Council acquired an additional nine acres of land at Waddington Road, Clitheroe adjacent to the existing cemetery. This is considered by the Council to be adequate for anticipated need well into the future (ie providing over 25 years anticipated need) and consequently no further provision is planned.

Other than church graveyards, the only other known burial ground currently in use is one owned and run by Whalley and Wiswell Joint Burial Committee, situated between Whalley and Barrow.

A planning permission to develop a privately run crematorium and burial ground to be called the Ribble Valley Remembrance Park off Mitton Road, Whalley at the site of the Calderstones Cemetery, was approved in October 2015.

### **3.10 Civic and Market Squares and Other Hard Surfaced Areas Designed for Pedestrians**

PPG 17 considers that these sites provide a setting for civic buildings, public demonstrations and community events. PPG17 guidance (Annex A para A17) states that these are normally provided on an opportunistic and urban design- led basis. Therefore future provision is considered to be through local plan led urban design frameworks and in general terms the development management process. In Ribble Valley terms recent work on the Clitheroe Masterplan (2010), has included draft suggestions for improving some of the town's central public spaces including the Castle Street and Market Place areas.

### **3.11 Indoor Sport and Recreational Facilities**

This category of provision includes indoor recreational facilities not immediately associated with an outdoor related facility or with Open Space related issues. They are included in this paper to set out the remaining recreational facilities that may, be ancillary to, or operate separately from those associated Open Space types mentioned above. Facilities specifically associated with outdoor provision would include elements such as changing rooms associated with outdoor football pitches etc and are dealt with above in section 3.5.

Whilst outdoor sports provision is mentioned above within the broader definitions of Open Space (see section 3.5 above) this paper also needs to consider the wider none outdoor sports and recreation situation. A significant part of this relates to indoor facilities. These facility types were also included within the Lancashire Sport Partnership (LSP) report of December 2013 described above in section 3.5 and included recommendations relating to both future indoor and outdoor provision.

The Sport England Active Places Power analysis tool was used to provide an overview of the types, location and counts of the key indoor sporting facilities in the Borough on a ward basis. Further analysis used a nearest neighbour local authority peer methodology to provide benchmarking. In addition the various facilities were modelled using a Sport England standard of facilities per 1000 that would be required to service a population the size of, but not the distribution of, the Ribble Valley, and taking into account the likely future demand

flowing from the Core Strategy developments to 2028. The full LSP report is included in Appendix 1.

As with outdoor sports provision it should be noted that current evidence points out that no element of current provision is judged to be surplus to requirements.

### **3.11.1 Health and Fitness Suites**

There are 10 such facilities in the Borough, all refurbished within the last 10 years. These are generally available through a pay and play model with only one being solely for private use. The distribution across the area serves deprived communities well, except the rural communities, with 16 of 24 wards having no direct access. Sport England's ratio of provision per 1000 is 5.88, Ribble Valley's comparative ratio being 4.71.

Provision is judged to be low and distribution limited, particularly in rural areas, and provision needs to rise by 63 stations to meet Sport England averages. Provision could be via third party rather than directly by the local authority.

### **3.11.2 Indoor Tennis Centre**

The Borough possesses 1 facility of this type, which is Council owned and in good condition. This serves the wider Borough well but is limited for rural areas outside Clitheroe. The Sport England ratio for such facilities is 0.03 per 1000 population, with Ribble Valley lying above this at 0.04. Based on this the Borough has an adequate if not slight oversupply of provision which may allow it to serve a market beyond its boundaries.

### **3.11.3 Main Sports Hall**

There are 9 facilities in the Borough, all but one under educational ownership, serving the population well in general terms but limited in distribution for the more rural parts of the area with 14 of 24 wards having no direct access. Sport England average ratios per 1000 population are 80m<sup>2</sup> per 1000 with Ribble Valley at 95m<sup>2</sup> per 1000.

It should however be noted that these facilities are mostly in educational settings and access to them is variable due to a variety of factors including curriculum provision and school management requirements. An apparent over-provision actually masks low levels of real effective provision, particularly in rural areas. A full and detailed analysis of the available provision needs to be undertaken to determine the true level of Community access to school based sports provision. This work will be within the Facilities Audit that the Council's Sport Development section will be undertaking.

### **3.11.4 Activity Sports Hall**

There are 7 facilities in the Borough. The distribution provides limited value and opportunity to the wider population of the Borough but serves local communities well. Sport England has no specific guidelines for this facility type, which is complementary to main hall provision. Provision should be examined further in relation to the more rural parts of the Borough. It is possible that there is unidentified additional provision within some local community halls.

### **3.11.5 Main Swimming Pool**

There are 2 facilities in the Borough, one owned by the local authority the other by an educational institution. They are limited both in their capacity and in their access by the area's population, particularly those in the more isolated parts of the Borough. Sport England's modelled ratio per 1000 people for such facilities is 13m<sup>2</sup>, Ribble Valley having a ratio of 11.79m<sup>2</sup>. It must be stressed that half the local facilities are in educational ownership and access is very restricted for the local population. However Ribble Valley residents do have access to facilities in neighbouring local authority areas that supplements the need for further local provision.

The assessment by Lancashire Sport Partnership found that realistically the Borough therefore has 1 main swimming pool to service its population, a level of provision that falls well short of the national average and what can be considered realistic travel times for the rural populations. It should also be noted that the Borough's population can access 7 swimming pools in neighbouring authorities within a 30 minute travel time and that, when combined with the local provision, these met the Borough's overall needs.

### **3.11.6 Swimming Pool – Learner/Teaching/Training**

There are 3 facilities in the Borough, 2 of which are in private ownership. The facilities are limited in their capacity and access by the Borough's population, particularly for the area's more isolated rural communities. Sport England's modelled ratio per 1000 population is combined with the main pool provision to give an overall ratio of 18.9 m<sup>2</sup>, Ribble Valley's comparative ratio being 4m<sup>2</sup>. This secondary learner based provision gives an additional 2 locations to the main pools but comprises relatively small facilities. A planning permission for another teaching facility in Longridge has recently been granted. Given this recent permission Lancashire Sport Partnership consider that local provision now meets the national Sport England average.

### **3.11.7 Recommendations for Future Provision in Relation to Indoor Recreation**

The LSP report recommended that the Council should consider increasing health and fitness suite provision in line with current population needs by 38 stations, based on anticipated population levels and monitor this level in line with anticipated demand. It is also recommended that this new provision be located in areas of poor provision linked to more isolated and remote communities.

Lancashire Sport Partnership considers that further detailed examination of existing sports facilities, community facilities (eg Village Halls) and / or encouragement given to private sector partners (eg retirement and hotel facilities) may increase overall provision and distribution in line with need and the older age profile of the area.

## **3.12 Accessible Countryside in the Urban Fringe**

Although not a specifically defined Open Space type within the PPG17 approach, the general accessibility of various typologies of sites is an important underlying element in the Borough's effective provision of open space, sport and recreation. As a predominantly rural area the Borough possesses large areas of accessible countryside that are widely used for a wide variety of recreational purposes by both residents and visitors to the area. Over 70% of



the land area of the Borough lies within the Forest of Bowland AONB, which is managed through a Management Plan that includes objectives relating to public access and quiet recreation. This document is a part of the overall Core Strategy evidence base.

Both the AONB and the wider countryside are connected to local settlements through a dense network of Public Rights of Way (PROW) (see Map 1 below) that is considered to offer good access to all residents, including those living in the larger settlements such as Clitheroe and Longridge. In addition the large areas of upland moor and fell are now designated as Open Access areas under recent legislation, increasing their availability to residents and visitors.

The network is maintained by Lancashire County Council (LCC) as the Highway Authority and RVBC, which retains maintenance responsibilities through a Service Level Agreement with LCC for the parishes of Aughton Bailey and Chaigley, Alston, Balderstone, Billington, Chatburn, Clayton le Dale, Clitheroe, Dilworth, Dinckley, Dutton, Gisburn, Great Mitton, Horton, Hothersall, Little Mitton, Newsholme, Mellor, Osbaldeston, Paythorne, Ramsgreave, Ribchester, Salesbury, Sawley, Thornley with Wheatley, Whalley, Wilpshire and Wiswell.

The currently adopted County Council Rights of Way Improvement Plan (ROWIP) dates from 2005 and is at present being updated. It contains a range of policies relating to rights of way and public access and makes assessments as to the extent that local rights of way meet present and likely future demand, although this will not, given the date of the ROWIP, directly relate to the potential impact or requirements that would flow from proposed specific development within the Ribble Valley Submission Core Strategy. However consultation responses received during the development of the Core Strategy have not indicated any significant strategic concerns relating to rights of way.

The ROWIP also made assessments of the opportunities provided by local rights of way for exercise and other forms of outdoor recreation and accessibility for those with reduced mobility. It was widely consulted on through Local Access Fora and subjected to public consultation.

It contains a number of policies relating to the following themes:

- The maintenance of the Definitive Map
- Inspection and Improvement of the area's ROW
- Education and Information
- Community Links
- Bridleways and Off Road Cycling
- Reduced Mobility and Visually Impaired issues
- Higher Rights and Other Provisions

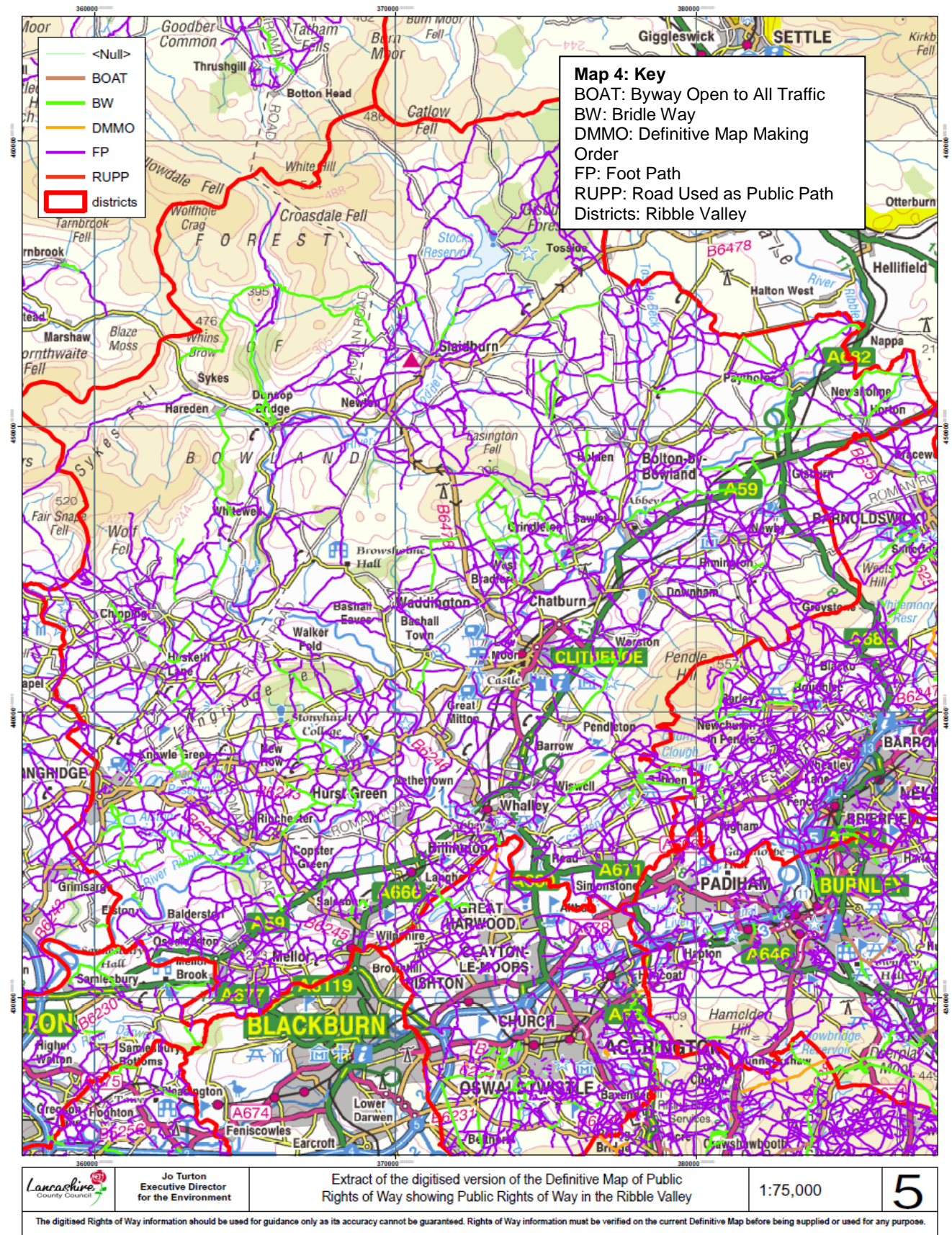
Many of the above policies are intended as generic across the whole of the County and include ROWIP policies CCL1 and CCL2 (pages 50 - 51) which outline the ability of the Highway Authority to create new routes in liaison with District Councils. There are few

direct references to Ribble Valley in the ROWIP, however in the assessment of areas with a low density of public rights of way, (see page 24-27) the Ribble Valley parishes of Downham, Mearley, Middop, Worston, Bowland Forest High, Bowland Forest Low and Newton were considered to have a low density of provision. The ROWIP policy CCL2 goes on to state that the Highway authority will seek to promote the development of safe routes in areas such as those with least provision and greatest latent demand and using recent legislation to create new routes.

The ROWIP also mentions the Parish Lengthsman Scheme (see ROWIP Page 12) which involves maintenance and environmental projects involving public rights of way. This initiative has now changed and this work now takes place within the Local Delivery Scheme through which Parish and Town Council's either fund Lengthsmen or organise footpath maintenance through private contractors or volunteers.

Also the Quiet Lanes and Greenways around the parishes of Chipping and Slaidburn, designated within the Local Transport Plan of 2001 – 2005, (see ROWIP page 13) remain in place as networks of safe routes for cycling, walking and horse riding.

**Map 1 – Public Rights of Way**



Source: LCC Countryside Service - Environment Directorate

### **3.13 Cycle Based Recreational Provision**

There are also a number of recreational cycle routes throughout the borough which link into the wider East Lancashire network. These are considered to provide a significant leisure and recreation resource for both existing and new residents. Potential future cycle provision is being co-ordinated through Lancashire County Council (LCC) and in Ribble Valley focuses on the projects listed below:

1. LCC is working with officers at Ribble Valley Borough Council and local cycling groups in and around Clitheroe to develop and improve cycling links between residential areas and the town centre. Work is currently being progressed by the Sports Development section of the Council to develop a Cycle strategy for Clitheroe.
2. LCC is actively pursuing extending the Preston to Grimsargh cycle path in the future to Longridge along either appropriate roads or the disused railway. This would link Longridge to Preston and the employment areas at Red Scar, link Grimsargh with Longridge's schools and services and provide a leisure route.
3. LCC is also actively considering extending the cycle route that currently ends at Padiham through part of the Ribble Valley BC area to Simonstone and the adjacent employment area and ultimately to continue the route further west over the disused Martholme Railway Viaduct towards Blackburn, although funding for this latter extension is unclear. This would link the employment area at Altham in Hyndburn with Simonstone and provide a high quality leisure route for this part of the Borough. It is anticipated that at a later date links to Read and Whalley could be developed.
4. In addition LCC also intend to pursue improvements to the cycling facilities along the important A59 corridor, which includes the major existing and future employment site at British Aerospace Samlesbury and also have aspirations to improve links along the A666, A671 and B6245 corridors, although no detailed plans or funding exists for these at present.
5. It should also be borne in mind that recently new and very successful mountain biking facilities have been constructed in Gisburn Forest with funding from the Forestry Commission and the Ribble Valley Local Strategic Partnership.

### **3.14 Country Parks (LIP)**

There are no Country Parks in the Borough. However Stonyhurst College has extensive gardens, which are listed as grade II\*.

#### **References.**

- Assessing Needs and Opportunities – a Companion Guide to PPG17, ODPM, 2006
- Lancashire County Council Rights of Way Improvement Plan, LCC, 2005
- Ribble Valley Core Strategy 2008 - 2028 A Local Plan for Ribble Valley, Regulation 22 Submission Draft.
- Ribble Valley Local Infrastructure Plan, April 2012
- Ribble Valley Play Strategy, 2007
- Ribble Valley Settlement Audit (Ribble Valley and its Villages – Local Characteristics), 2006
- Ribble Valley Viability Study, August 2013



**Appendix 1.**



**LANCASHIRE**  
**sport**  
partnership

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# Ribble Valley Facilities Review

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Prepared by Lancashire  
Sport Partnership for  
RVBC (Revised  
December 2013)

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Author: Adrian Leather, Chief  
Executive

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# **Ribble Valley facilities modelling study**

## **Overview**

### **1. Introduction**

#### **a. Remit**

The purpose of this short report is to collect and provide, together with a supporting analysis, information on the Sports facility offer for Ribble Valley BC Officers and Members to form a view of the current and anticipated facilities that meet the needs of the current residents and visitors to the Ribble Valley and anticipate demand for the Future. The report will we understand be made available to the public following internal consideration. The report anticipates and responds to the anticipated increase in population resulting from the Planning proposals outlined in the Ribble Valley Core Strategy (August 2013).

#### **b. References for report information**

Information for this review has been obtained from Sport England (Active Places Power), the Office for National Statistics (2011 dataset), Trends Business Research Ltd and Mindshare. Lancashire Sport Partnership has provided the analysis and recommendations based upon this information and relevant local intelligence.

## 2. Current facilities overview

### a. Facilities summary

The Active Places Power tool has been used to provide an overview of the types, location and counts of the key sporting facilities in the Ribble Valley. In providing the analysis I have used a nearest neighbour (peer) analysis as identified by the CIPFA (Chartered Institute of Public Health and Finance) to provide a benchmarking comparison. I have also provided a Sport England modelled indication of the facilities per 1000 (where possible) that would be required to service of the population of the size (but not the distribution) of the Ribble Valley. I have also provided some indications of quality and value to the local and in some cases sub regional populations as appropriate.

Calculations of sport facility provision are based upon an expected increase by 2028 of 11,500 to the Ribble Valley population (based on Core Strategy profile). Currently; 78% of Ribble Valley population are aged 16 years and over, amounting to 44,700 people, based upon this ratio; the projected 2028 population aged 16 years and over for the Ribble Valley utilised within this document is 53, 670. The age 16 years and over population is the benchmark measure used to model access ratios per 1000 of population.

#### **Headline summary comparison by Local Authority peer.**

	Ribble Valley (Total)	Harborough	Maldon	Melton	South Northamptonshire
<b>Population</b>	53.6	65.7	48.7	36.8	69.2
<b>Facility Type</b>					
Golf	6	6	13	5	9
Grass Pitches	211*	77	44	34	126
Health and Fitness Suite	10	7	7	8	13
Indoor Tennis Centre	1	1	1	0	0
Ski Slopes	2	0	0	0	0
Sports Hall	16*	13	11	9	27
Swimming Pool	5*	5	8	5	6
Synthetic Turf Pitch	8*	6	3	1	5
<b>Total</b>	<b>259*</b>	<b>115</b>	<b>87</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>186</b>



\*It should be noted that the figures highlighted represent the total facility profile and not those available exclusively for Community use in the Ribble Valley. For example the number of Community use grass pitches in the Ribble Valley is 85, against a total of 211. The reason for this disparity is that many of the facilities are owned and managed by schools and may have significantly restricted use. As an overall guide, approximately 75% of the Ribble Valleys non community facilities fall into this bracket.

**Comment:** This headline information provides a snapshot overview of the facility total count (as recorded on Active Places). Although figures for Ribble Valley are the highest, this is because of the inflating nature of the number of Grass pitches (Football, Cricket and Rugby) which are recorded in the Borough. It should also be noted that in our estimation nearly three quarters of all the facilities are based in educational establishments of which there is considerable uncertainty about the ability of the Community to access the facilities when required; this will need to be considered on a case by case basis. The following calculations of sports facility

### **Summary analysis by facility type**

The following information analysis by type provides a breakdown of the location of the facility by ward. Each separate facility will count in its own right; for example, two pitches on a single site would count as two pitches for the purposes of this study.

Facility Type : <b>Health and Fitness Suite</b>		
<b>SNO.</b>	<b>Name of Ward</b>	<b>Count in Ward</b>
1	Aighton, Bailey and Chaigley Ward	1
2	Alston and Hothersall Ward	1
3	Billington and Old Langho Ward	1
4	Edisford and Low Moor Ward	1
5	Gisburn, Rimington Ward	1
6	Littlemoor Ward	2
7	Mellor Ward	1
8	St. Mary's Ward	1
9	Whalley Ward	1
<b>Total</b>		<b>10</b>

**Condition:** The condition of the Leisure facilities offering Health and Fitness provision across the Borough is good; the oldest facility having been refurbished less than 10 years ago.

**Access:** The facilities are generally available through a pay and play and membership model. Only the Ribblesdale High School and Stonyhurst College facilities are identified as being solely private use.

**Comment:** The distribution of these facilities (255 stations in total – none Council owned) serves the deprived populations well in the Borough, but not the rural communities outside the main townships. In total 16 of the 24 wards have no direct access to these facilities. The ratio of these facilities per 1000 population is modelled by Sport England at 5.88 stations per 1000 population, with the Ribble Valley currently having 4.71 stations per 1000 (NW average 6.29 /1000).

### Summary of current provision in meeting future need

Based on Sport England’s national ratio / 1000, (Which excludes the Ribblesdale and Stonyhurst Schools provision), the level of overall stations in the Borough are low and distribution is limited, particularly in rural areas. Overall the numbers of stations needs to rise by 63 overall to meet the Sport England average and consideration needs to be given to the growing population in Clitheroe and wider rural locations. It should be noted that this provision more than any other would lend itself to facilitation rather than direct delivery of the asset; RVBC may consider facilitating this additional provision through a third party e.g. Hotel provider or Social Enterprise on a strategic development basis - particularly with consideration of rural areas.

Facility Type : **Athletic Tracks**

Facility Sub Type : **All**

SNO.	Name of Ward	Count in Ward
		0
	<b>Total</b>	<b>0</b>

**Comment:** The Borough has no Athletics facility, although an Athletics Club exists (operating from Witton Park Track, Blackburn) The ratio of these facilities per 1000 population is modelled by Sport England at 0.05 facilities per 1000 population, with the Ribble Valley currently having 0.00 facilities per 1000 (NW average 0.05 /1000).

### Summary of current provision in meeting future need

Based on Sport England’s national ratio / 1000, if the Borough were to have facilities of this type in line with the national and regionally average ratio, 2.7 facilities would need to be considered against the current level of no facilities. The options for this facility need to be examined, however the Whalley area

(site availability) and a possible linkage with an educational provider (to ensure high usage levels) need to be considered.

Facility Type : **Indoor Tennis Centre**

Facility Sub Type : **Airhall**

SNO.	Name of Ward	Count in Ward
10	Edisford and Low Moor Ward	1
<b>Total</b>		<b>1</b>

**Condition:** The condition of the indoor tennis facility offering Health and Fitness provision across the Borough is good; the oldest facility having been refurbished less than 10 years ago.

**Access:** The facilities are generally available through a pay and play and membership model. Only the Ribblesdale High School and Stonyhurst College facilities are identified as being solely private use.

**Comment:** The distribution of this relatively specialised facility (1 Council owned facility in total; providing 2 courts) serves the population well in the wider Borough and potentially beyond its boundaries, but again is limited for rural communities outside Clitheroe. The ratio of these facilities per 1000 population is modelled by Sport England at 0.03 facilities per 1000 population, with the Ribble Valley currently having 0.04 facilities per 1000 (NW average 0.02 /1000).

### Summary of current provision in meeting future need

Based on Sport Englands national ratio / 1000, the Borough has adequate if not a slight oversupply of provision which may allow it to serve a market beyond the Boundaries of the Borough with this relatively specialised provision.

Facility Type : **Grass Pitches**

Facility Sub Type : **Full sized Football**

SNO.	Name of Ward	Count in Ward
11	Aighton, Bailey and Chaigley Ward	5
12	Alston and Hothersall Ward	3
13	Billington and Old Langho Ward	5
14	Chatburn Ward	1
15	Chipping Ward	3
16	Derby and Thornley Ward	1
17	Edisford and Low Moor Ward	4

18	Langho Ward	2
19	Mellor Ward	1
20	Read and Simonstone Ward	1
21	Ribchester Ward	1
22	Sabden Ward	2
23	Salthill Ward	3
24	St. Mary's Ward	2
25	Waddington and West Bradford Ward	3
26	Whalley Ward	6
<b>Total</b>		<b>43</b>

**Comment:** The distribution of these facilities (43 pitches in total – high proportion Educational facility owned and managed and 6 are private use only), serves the deprived populations well in the Borough and the majority of rural communities outside the main townships. Only 8 of the 24 wards have no direct access to these facilities.

### Summary of current provision in meeting future need

There are no modelled facility numbers of this type by Sport England, however evidence of use from the Lancashire Football Association indicates that there is latent demand and a shortage of access to full sized, high quality grass pitches for Youth and Adult games which will need further investigation and continued investment from the operators to maintain standards of provision (Including associated parking, access and changing facilities). It is recommended that consideration be given to expanding the availability of pitches in the Clitheroe area given the expanding population.

Facility Type : **Grass Pitches**

Facility Sub Type : **Junior Football**

SNO.	Name of Ward	Count in Ward
27	Alston and Hothersall Ward	5
28	Billington and Old Langho Ward	3
29	Bowland, Newton and Slaidburn Ward	1
30	Chipping Ward	2
31	Clayton-le-Dale with Ramsgreave Ward	1
32	Derby and Thornley Ward	3
33	Edisford and Low Moor Ward	8
34	Gisburn, Rimington Ward	1
35	Langho Ward	4
36	Littlemoor Ward	4

37	Mellor Ward	4
38	Primrose Ward	3
39	Read and Simonstone Ward	3
40	Sabden Ward	1
41	Salthill Ward	3
42	Waddington and West Bradford Ward	2
43	Whalley Ward	4
44	Wiswell and Pendleton Ward	2
<b>Total</b>		<b>54</b>

**Comment:** The distribution of these facilities (54 pitches in total – of which a high proportion are Educational facility owned and managed and 17 are private use only) serves the deprived populations well in the Borough and the majority of rural communities outside the main townships. Only 6 of the 24 wards have no direct access to these facilities. There are no modelled facility numbers of this type by Sport England, however evidence of use from the Lancashire Football Association indicates that there a thriving community of regular users for this type of facility in the Borough, however there are concerns that some of the facilities are over played and in some cases are in need of investment to maintain their current and future condition.

#### **Summary of current provision in meeting future need**

There are no modelled facility numbers of this type by Sport England, however evidence of use from the Lancashire Football Association indicates that there a thriving community of regular users for this type of facility in the Borough, however there are concerns that some of the facilities are over played and in some cases are in need of significant investment to maintain their current and future condition. It is suggested that consideration be given to upgrading and maintaining the existing stock and ensuring access arrangements are secured with Educational partners.

Facility Type : **Grass Pitches**

Facility Sub Type : **Mini Soccer**

<b>SNO.</b>	<b>Name of Ward</b>	<b>Count in Ward</b>
45	Mellor Ward	4
46	Langho	1
<b>Total</b>		<b>5</b>

**Comment:** The distribution of this specialised facility (5 pitches in total – none of which are private use only) serves the deprived populations well in the Borough yet is somewhat lacking for more rural communities outside the main townships. Only 2 out of the 24 wards have direct access to this type of

facility. There are no modelled facility numbers of this type by Sport England, however evidence of use from the Lancashire Football Association indicates that there a Community of regular users for this type of facility in the Borough.

### Summary of current provision in meeting future need

There are no modelled facility numbers of this type by Sport England, however evidence of use from the Lancashire Football Association indicates that there a thriving community of regular users for this type of facility in the Borough. The oldest mini soccer pitch was built in 2002 and refurbished in 2003; it is therefore believed that such facilities will be presently in relatively good condition for users. It is suggested that consideration be given to consistently maintaining the existing stock and developing new facilities of this type in the Clitheroe area.

Facility Type : **Grass Pitches**

Facility Sub Type : **Cricket**

SNO.	Name of Ward	Count in Ward
45	Aighton, Bailey and Chaigley Ward	4
46	Bowland, Newton and Slaidburn Ward	1
47	Chatburn Ward	1
48	Clayton-le-Dale with Ramsgreave Ward	1
49	Derby and Thornley Ward	2
50	Littlemoor Ward	1
51	Read and Simonstone Ward	1
52	Salthill Ward	3
53	Waddington and West Bradford Ward	2
54	Whalley Ward	2
<b>Total</b>		<b>19</b>

**Comment:** The distribution of these facilities (19 pitches in total – all are club and educational facility owned and managed and 1 is private use only) serves the deprived populations well in the Borough and the key townships. In total 14 of the 24 wards have no direct access to these facilities, however access and travel times appear to be manageable.

### Summary of current provision in meeting future need:

There are no modelled facility numbers of this type by Sport England, however the English Cricket Board indicate a thriving community of regular users for this type of facility across the Borough with provision appearing to be stable and meeting current local demand.

Facility Type : **Grass Pitches**  
 Facility Sub Type : **Senior Rugby League**

SNO.	Name of Ward	Count in Ward
55	Littlemoor Ward	1
<b>Total</b>		<b>1</b>

**Comment:** The distribution of this relatively specialised facility for Lancashire (1 Club owned facility in total) serves the population well in the wider Borough and potentially beyond its boundaries, but again is limited for rural communities outside Clitheroe.

**Summary of current provision in meeting future need:**

There is no Sport England ratio for this facility type, however given the emerging nature of Rugby League this level of facility may be considered a little low; consideration should be given to developing a similar facility elsewhere in the Borough; potentially linking with an educational partner.

Facility Type : **Grass Pitches**  
 Facility Sub Type : **Senior Rugby Union**

SNO.	Name of Ward	Count in Ward
56	Aighton, Bailey and Chaigley Ward	9
57	Billington and Old Langho Ward	1
58	Littlemoor Ward	1
59	Salthill Ward	1
<b>Total</b>		<b>12</b>

**Comment:** The distribution of these facilities (12 facilities in total mainly educationally based and 11 are private use only) has the potential to serve the population well in the wider Borough, but again is limited for rural communities outside Clitheroe. Access to these facilities particularly in the educational setting needs to be confirmed for the wider population.

**Summary of current provision in meeting future need:**

There are no Sport England ratios for these facilities however feedback from the RFU indicates that the provision is adequate for local need and development at present.

Facility **Grass Pitches**

Type :  
 Facility  
 Sub Type : **Rounders**

SNO.	Name of Ward	Count in Ward
60	Aighton, Bailey and Chaigley Ward	6
61	Alston and Hothersall Ward	6
62	Chatburn Ward	1
63	Chipping Ward	1
64	Derby and Thornley Ward	3
65	Edisford and Low Moor Ward	3
66	Littlemoor Ward	3
67	Mellor Ward	1
68	Read and Simonstone Ward	2
69	Sabden Ward	1
70	Waddington and West Bradford Ward	1
71	Whalley Ward	1
<b>Total</b>		<b>29</b>

**Comment:** The distribution of these facilities (29 all educational facility owned in total and 26 are private use only) serves the population well in the wider Borough.

**Summary of current provision in meeting future need:**

There are no facilities profiles provided for this facility type by Sport England, however based upon what information we have access to, the provision appears to be adequate for the Boroughs population.

Facility  
 Type : **Sports Hall**  
 Facility  
 Sub Type : **Main**

SNO.	Name of Ward	Count in Ward
72	Aighton, Bailey and Chaigley Ward	1
73	Alston and Hothersall Ward	2
74	Billington and Old Langho Ward	1
75	Chipping Ward	0
76	Edisford and Low Moor Ward	1
77	Littlemoor Ward	1
78	Salthill Ward	0



79	St. Mary's Ward	1
80	Waddington and West Bradford Ward	1
81	Whalley Ward	1
<b>Total</b>		<b>9</b>

**Comment:** The distribution of these facilities (1 Council owned, remainder in educational ownership and 2 are private use only) serves the population well in the wider Borough, but again is limited for more isolated rural communities outside key townships (14 of the 24 wards do not have direct access to these facilities). The ratio of these facilities per 1000 population is modelled by Sport England at 80.71m<sup>2</sup> of facility per 1000 population, with the Ribble Valley currently having 95.80m<sup>2</sup> facility per 1000 (NW average 80.18m<sup>2</sup> /1000). It must be underlined that these facilities are mainly in educational settings and access to the facilities is variable to say the least.

#### **Summary of current provision in meeting future need:**

As access to many of the facilities is restricted due to Curriculum provision and school management Committee requirements, the apparent over provision we believe in fact masks considerable low levels of provision; particularly in rural areas. A full and detailed analysis of the available provision for the Borough needs to be undertaken to determine the true level of Community access to school based sports provision, together with consideration of future access and management arrangements which maximise Community need.

Facility Type : **Sports Hall**

Facility Sub Type : **Activity Hall**

<b>SNO.</b>	<b>Name of Ward</b>	<b>Count in Ward</b>
82	Alston and Hothersall Ward	1
83	Whalley Ward	2
84	Chipping	1
85	Salthill	1
86	Edisford and Low Moor	1
87	Littlemoor	1
<b>Total</b>		<b>7</b>

**Comment:** The distribution of these facilities (4 educational and 3 community based facilities owned in total, only 1 is private use only) provides limited value and opportunity to the population of the wider Borough, but serves local communities well.

**Summary of current provision in meeting future need:**

There are no facilities guidance levels provided for this facility by Sport England, however this provision which is complimentary to the main sports hall provision, should be examined to provide additional provision, particularly in more rural areas. Additionally there may also be alternative provision not identified here which may serve as a quasi Sports Hall function e.g. Salesbury Memorial Hall which are not formally recorded in the survey.

Facility Type : **Swimming Pool**

Facility Sub Type : **Main/General**

SNO.	Name of Ward	Count in Ward
88	Aighton, Bailey and Chaigley Ward	1
89	Edisford and Low Moor Ward	1
<b>Total</b>		<b>2</b>

**Condition:** The Ribblesdale main pool (Council owned) was built in 1972 and refurbished in 2005. The Stonyhurst College pool was built in 1980.

**Comment:** These facilities (1 Council owned, 1 in educational ownership) are limited in their capacity and access by the Borough population, particularly for more isolated rural communities outside key townships. The ratio of these facilities per 1000 population is modelled by Sport England at 13.07m2 of facility per 1000 population, with the Ribble Valley currently having 11.41m2 facility per 1000 (NW average 11.79m2 /1000). It must be underlined that half of these facilities are in an educational setting and access to the facilities is very restricted for the local population. Ribble Valley residents do access facilities in neighbouring Authority areas which supplements the need for a further Ribble Valley facility.

**Summary of current provision in meeting future need:** In our assessment, we believe that the Borough has realistically (see above) 1 main swimming pool to service its population. This level of provision falls well short of the national average for the Borough and what can be considered realistic travel times for the rural populations. It should be noted that the Boroughs population can access within a 30 minute travel time neighbouring Boroughs facilities in Lancaster (Hornby and Salt Ayre), Hyndburn (Great Harwood and Accrington), Preston (West View and Fulwood) and Craven (Skipton) in our opinion these meet the Boroughs overall needs.

Facility  
Type : **Swimming Pool**

Facility  
Sub Type : **Learner/Teaching/Training**

SNO.	Name of Ward	Count in Ward
90	Billington and Old Langho Ward	1
91	Edisford and Low Moor Ward	1
92	Gisburn, Rimington Ward	1
<b>Total</b>		<b>3</b>

**Condition:** The Ribblesdale main pool (Council owned) was built in 1972 and refurbished in 2005. The Gisburn Maree Leisure pool was built in 1997 and refurbished in 2005. The Foxfields Hotel (Langho) was built in 1997.

**Comment:** These facilities (1 Council owned, 2 in private ownership) are limited in their capacity and access by the Borough population, particularly for more isolated rural communities outside key townships. The ratio of these facilities per 1000 population is modelled by Sport England combined with the main swimming provision (above) at 18.92m<sup>2</sup> of facility per 1000 population, with the Ribble Valley currently having 04.08m<sup>2</sup> facility per 1000 (NW average 16.61m<sup>2</sup> /1000). This secondary provision provides an additional 2 locations to the main pools but are relatively small facilities (40m<sup>2</sup> and 48m<sup>2</sup>). We understand that a planning application has recently been submitted for a small pool in Longridge which would serve the local population.

**Summary of current provision in meeting future need:** If and when the proposed Longridge small pool were to come on line, this would provide a base of provision which would meet the Boroughs needs, bringing the provision up to the Sport England national average.

Facility  
Type : **Synthetic Turf Pitch**

Facility  
Sub Type : **Sand Based**

SNO.	Name of Ward	Count in Ward
93	Alston and Hothersall Ward	1
94	Littlemoor Ward	1
	Chipping	1
	Salthill	1
	Edisford and Lowmoor	1
<b>Total</b>		<b>5</b>

**Comment:** The distribution of this relatively specialised facility (mainly Football and Hockey, option for Handball), (2 education facilities in total) serves the population poorly in the wider Borough having a limited for rural communities offer outside Clitheroe. We understand that in reality there is only 1 facility that is available for Community use (Longridge High School). The ratio of these facilities per 1000 population is modelled by Sport England at 0.03 facilities per 1000 population, with the Ribble Valley currently having 0.09 facilities per 1000 (NW average 0.03 /1000). There has been a significant increase in these facilities across the Country in recent years due their longevity and versatility, particularly in poor weather conditions.

**Summary of current provision in meeting future need:** Under current access arrangements there is sufficient provision for the local community of this type in Ribble Valley to meet the local population need.

Facility Type : **Synthetic Turf Pitch**

Facility Sub Type : **Water Based**

SNO.	Name of Ward	Count in Ward
95	Aighton, Bailey and Chaigley Ward	1
<b>Total</b>		<b>1</b>

**Comment:** The distribution of this relatively specialised (largely Hockey based) facility (1 education owned facility in total) serves the population of the southern Borough well, but again is limited for rural communities. The ratio of these facilities per 1000 population is modelled by Sport England at 0.00 facilities per 1000 population, with the Ribble Valley currently having 0.01 facilities per 1000 (NW average 0.00 /1000).

**Summary of current provision in meeting future need:** There are sufficient facilities of this type in Ribble Valley to meet the local population need and potentially outside the Borough to a limited degree.

Facility Type : **Synthetic Turf Pitch**

Facility Sub Type : **Rubber crumb pile (3G)**

SNO.	Name of Ward	Count in Ward
96	Salthill Ward	1
97	Whalley Ward	1
<b>Total</b>		<b>2</b>

**Comment:** The distribution of this relatively specialised facility (mainly Football, option for Handball), (2 education facilities in total) serves the population poorly in the wider Borough, having a limited for rural communities offer outside Clitheroe. The ratio of these facilities per 1000 population is modelled by Sport England at 0.01 facilities per 1000 population, with the Ribble Valley currently having 0.03 facilities per 1000 (NW average 0.01 /1000). There has been a significant increase in these facilities across the Country in years due their longevity and versatility, particularly in poor weather conditions; many facilities have received private and educational investment.

**Summary of current provision in meeting future need:** There are sufficient facilities of this type in Ribble Valley to meet the local population need although these are poorly distributed.

Facility Type : **Golf**  
 Facility Sub Type : **Standard**

SNO.	Name of Ward	Count in Ward
98	Aighton, Bailey and Chaigley Ward	1
99	Derby and Thornley Ward	1
100	Langho Ward	1
101	Whalley Ward	1
102	Wilpshire Ward	1
103	Wiswell and Pendleton Ward	1
<b>Total</b>		<b>6</b>

**Comment:** The distribution of this popular specialist facility within the Ribble Valley, (6 private facility sites in total) serves the population of the wider Borough well. The ratio of these facilities per 1000 population is modelled by Sport England at 0.67 facilities per 1000 population, with the Ribble Valley currently having 1.11 facilities per 1000 (NW average 0.67 /1000). These facilities must be recognised as being a considerable strength for the Ribble Valley.

**Summary of current provision in meeting future need:** There are sufficient facilities of this type in Ribble Valley to meet the local population need and that of the wider sub region, with some of the facilities being of an exceptional quality and offer.

Facility Type : **Ski Slopes**  
 Facility Sub Type : **Outdoor Artificial**

SNO.	Name of Ward	Count in Ward
104	Wiswell and Pendleton Ward	2
	<b>Total</b>	<b>2</b>
	<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>199</b>

**Comment:** The distribution of this very specialised facility (1 private club facility site in total) serves the population well in the wider Borough and has a wider draw outside the Borough. The ratio of these facilities per 1000 population is modelled by Sport England at 0.00 facilities per 1000 population, with the Ribble Valley currently having 0.03 facilities per 1000 (NW average 0.00 /1000). These facilities are very cost intensive and although a strong club, tough indoor provision has weakened the long term future of outdoor artificial ski slopes.

**Summary of current provision in meeting future need:** There are sufficient facilities of this type in Ribble Valley to meet the local population need and serve some sub regional need.

### **Changing rooms**

The Borough has 100 separate locations for changing facilities across the Borough. These facilities are split approximately 60% Schools, 20% Clubs and commercial Clubs, 10% Private business operations and 10% Local Authority.

The poorest provision according to age of stock associated with facility refurbishment is to be found in the Sport Clubs and Commercial Clubs.

As an overview there are 9 Sports Clubs which operate changing facilities with Cricket pitches across the Borough and 9 Sports Clubs that operate changing facilities with Football pitches across the Borough.

Ribble Valley BC owns two cricket venues with changing facilities (Waddington and Chatburn) and seven football venues with changing facilities (Conway Dr, Kestor Ln, Mardale, Roefield, Sabden, Valley Field and Waddington).

### **Managing body**

The management of the facilities across the Borough is diverse and balanced showing a mature and positive level of Community support and ownership for the operation of Sports Facilities in the Borough. Several collocated facilities may be operated by one managing body.

Management of facility	Number
Local Authority	11
Schools and Colleges	44
Sports Clubs	32
Community Organisations	4
Trust	1

### Access and travel times

According to the Sport England mapping tool, only 28 of the total 199 facilities are located in Village / hamlet and Isolated dwelling areas (in excess of 75% of Ribble Valley geographical area).

Based upon a car journey travel time which exceeds 15 minutes (Sport Englands maximum advisory).

It is important to note that this time is to the nearest facility – a number of which will fall outside the Borough.

Facility type	Super Output areas not able to achieve travel time target (193 Super Output areas in Ribble Valley BC)
Athletics track	14
Golf	6
Health & Fitness suites	9
Sports Halls	6
Swimming pools	19
Synthetic pitches	10

Based upon this study, there are considerable areas of the Borough (10%) where swimming pool access is a major concern, although this may be relieved by the introduction of the proposed Longridge pool.

The next major concern is the travel time to the Athletics facility for around 6% of the Boroughs Communities.

### 3. Current population provision summary

The following data in this section has been sourced from Sport Englands demographic profiling toolkit. The data has been taken from the 2011 ONS dataset.

#### a. Size and distribution / population demand

**Summary:** The age 16+ population of the Ribble Valley has fallen by around 2000 individuals over the past 5 years to a low of 44 700 in 2011(actual and not projected figures). This figure represents a 4.1% reduction in the 16+ population over 3 years. These figures are set against a rise in local populations in East Lancashire and the NW region. The Ribble Valley also has a markedly older population compared to its immediate neighbours and the NW and national profiles. The population of the Ribble Valley is economically active with relatively low levels of unemployment and worklessness.

Demographic characteristic count - Age 16+ (000s)

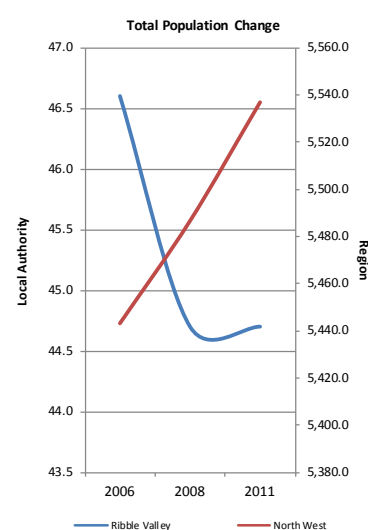
Indicator	Ribble Valley			North West			England		
	2006	2008	2011	2006	2008	2011	2006	2008	2011
Male	23.1	22.9	20.9	2,639.2	2,672.2	2,704.3	19,667.9	20,056.9	20,468.3
Female	23.6	21.8	23.8	2,803.9	2,814.4	2,832.5	20,743.9	21,028.4	21,365.1
Total	46.6	44.7	44.7	5,443.1	5,486.5	5,536.8	40,411.0	41,083.8	41,833.5
16 to 19	1.9	4.2	2.4	374.3	375.0	361.3	2,618.5	2,647.5	2,581.5
20 to 24	2.8	2.8	3.4	464.1	485.2	500.4	3,284.2	3,449.5	3,554.3
25 to 34	2.9	2.8	7.0	825.2	815.5	850.1	6,637.7	6,630.4	6,912.2
35 to 49	14.8	14.5	10.2	1,492.6	1,486.5	1,447.0	11,185.9	11,283.4	11,195.4
50 to 64	13.9	11.8	12.7	1,235.7	1,254.5	1,276.0	8,967.7	9,166.7	9,356.8
65+	10.3	8.6	9.0	1,052.2	1,070.2	1,102.2	7,714.2	7,904.1	8,233.4
White	46.6	44.4	44.7	5,103.0	5,108.0	5,117.0	36,335.5	36,599.9	37,052.0
Non-White	*	*	*	338.8	376.9	419.8	4,046.8	4,457.6	4,781.5
Both DDA & worklimiting	2.2	2.9	3.5	543.9	544.4	608.8	3,459.3	3,460.7	3,955.1
DDA only disabled	1.4	2.0	2.3	213.7	211.4	242.6	1,568.5	1,649.4	1,779.6
Work-limiting only	1.2	0.9	*	128.8	125.8	147.7	1,027.5	1,014.2	1,133.9
Not disabled	31.5	30.3	29.2	3,503.1	3,532.5	3,435.5	26,628.7	27,043.9	26,731.5
Total	46.6	44.7	44.7	5,443.1	5,486.5	5,536.8	40,411.0	41,083.8	41,833.5

Source: Annual Population Survey Year: 2006, 2008 & 2011

Measure: Number of adult population broken down by gender, age, ethnicity and disability

[For more information click here](#)

NB: \* signifies that the entry has been suppressed due to confidentiality or because of sample size and this is the case throughout the spreadsheet





### Demographic characteristic proportions - Age 16+

Indicator	Ribble Valley			North West			England		
	2006	2008	2011	2006	2008	2011	2006	2008	2011
Male	49.6%	51.2%	46.8%	48.5%	48.7%	48.8%	48.7%	48.8%	48.9%
Female	50.6%	48.8%	53.2%	51.5%	51.3%	51.2%	51.3%	51.2%	51.1%
16 to 19	4.1%	9.4%	5.4%	6.9%	6.8%	6.5%	6.5%	6.4%	6.2%
20 to 24	6.0%	6.3%	7.6%	8.5%	8.8%	9.0%	8.1%	8.4%	8.5%
25 to 34	6.2%	6.3%	15.7%	15.2%	14.9%	15.4%	16.4%	16.1%	16.5%
35 to 49	31.8%	32.4%	22.8%	27.4%	27.1%	26.1%	27.7%	27.5%	26.8%
50 to 64	29.8%	26.4%	28.4%	22.7%	22.9%	23.0%	22.2%	22.3%	22.4%
65+	22.1%	19.2%	20.1%	19.3%	19.5%	19.9%	19.1%	19.2%	19.7%
White	100.0%	99.3%	100.0%	93.8%	93.1%	92.4%	89.9%	89.1%	88.6%
Non-White	*	*	*	6.2%	6.9%	7.6%	10.0%	10.9%	11.4%
Both DDA & work limiting	4.7%	6.5%	7.8%	10.0%	9.9%	11.0%	8.6%	8.4%	9.5%
DDA only disabled	3.0%	4.5%	5.1%	3.9%	3.9%	4.4%	3.9%	4.0%	4.3%
Work-limiting only	2.6%	2.0%	*	2.4%	2.3%	2.7%	2.5%	2.5%	2.7%
Not disabled	67.6%	67.8%	65.3%	64.4%	64.4%	62.0%	65.9%	65.8%	63.9%
<b>Total</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>

Source: Annual Population Survey Year: 2006, 2008 & 2011

Measure: Proportion of adult population broken down by gender, age, ethnicity and disability

### Unemployment as a proportion of economically active (000s)

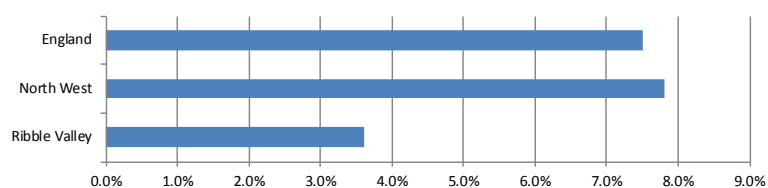
Geography	Unemployed	Economically Active	Rate
Ribble Valley	1.0	29.1	3.6%
North West	262.2	3,382.7	7.8%
England	1,989.5	26,360.8	7.5%

Source: Annual Population Survey Year: 2011

Measure: Number and proportion of adult population that are unemployed and number that are economically active.

[For more information click here](#)

Unemployment Rate as a proportion of Economically Active Pop



## b. Levels of participation

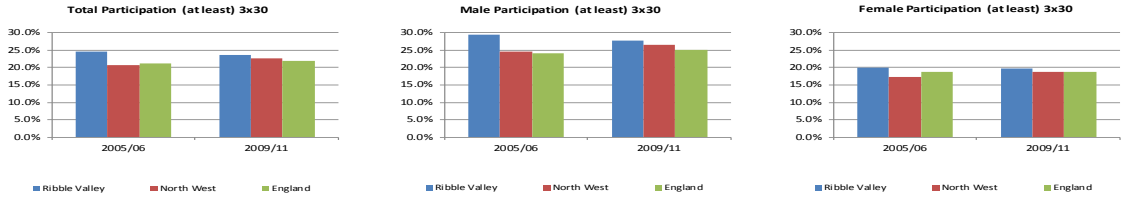
Ribble Valley residents are typically physically active and engaged in sport on a regular basis. The most useful measure for this (NI8) indicates that residents of the Borough participate 3 times or more per week above the NW and national average and that the Borough has lower than average levels of inactivity.

As participation is typically linked with income profile this level of participation is to be anticipated in the Borough.

**Adult (16+) Participation in Sport & Active Recreation (formerly NIB) by year, frequency and gender**

Indicator	Year	Ribble Valley			North West			England		
		All	Male	Female	All	Male	Female	All	Male	Female
0 days /	2005/06	45.6%	42.6%	48.3%	51.9%	46.1%	57.2%	50.0%	45.1%	54.6%
0x30	2009/11	45.2%	40.2%	49.9%	49.5%	42.9%	55.7%	48.2%	42.2%	54.0%
1-3 days	2005/06	7.3%	-	8.7%	8.0%	8.5%	7.6%	8.8%	9.5%	8.1%
	2009/11	9.2%	9.4%	9.0%	8.1%	8.6%	7.5%	9.1%	9.9%	8.4%
4-7 days /	2005/06	14.3%	15.0%	13.6%	11.4%	12.0%	10.9%	12.0%	12.8%	11.3%
1x30	2009/11	13.3%	13.9%	12.8%	11.9%	12.9%	10.9%	12.4%	13.5%	11.4%
8-11 days /	2005/06	8.5%	7.4%	9.5%	7.9%	8.7%	7.1%	8.0%	8.7%	7.3%
2x30	2009/11	8.7%	8.8%	8.5%	8.1%	9.1%	7.1%	8.3%	9.3%	7.4%
12-19 days	2005/06	11.3%	15.0%	7.9%	9.6%	10.9%	8.4%	9.6%	10.9%	8.4%
/ 3x30	2009/11	10.8%	12.4%	9.3%	11.1%	12.8%	9.4%	10.6%	12.1%	9.2%
12+ days /	2005/06	24.4%	29.3%	20.0%	20.8%	24.6%	17.2%	21.3%	24.0%	18.7%
3x30 - NIB	2009/11	23.7%	27.7%	19.8%	22.5%	26.4%	18.8%	21.9%	25.2%	18.9%
20+ days /	2005/06	13.1%	14.3%	12.0%	11.2%	13.7%	8.9%	11.7%	13.1%	10.3%
5x30	2009/11	12.9%	15.4%	10.5%	11.5%	13.6%	9.5%	11.3%	13.1%	9.7%

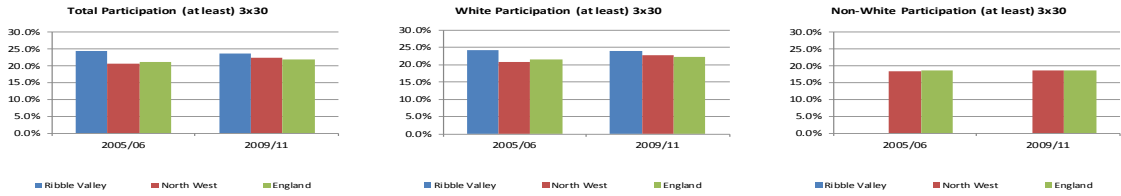
Source: Active People Survey, Year: 2005/06 (APS1), 2009/11 (APS4/5) or 2010/11 (APS5) if LA sample is boosted, Measure: Adult participation  
[For more information click here](#) NB - The most recent data for this local authority is from the APS4/5 Dataset  
 NB - Former NIB Key Indicator has been highlighted (i.e. 3x30 min sessions or more of moderate intensity activity a week)



**Adult (16+) Participation in Sport & Active Recreation (formerly NIB) by year, frequency and ethnicity**

Indicator	Year	Ribble Valley			North West			England		
		All	White	Non white	All	White	Non white	All	White	Non white
0 days /	2005/06	45.6%	45.5%	*	51.9%	51.6%	57.4%	50.0%	49.6%	54.3%
0x30	2009/11	45.2%	44.7%	*	49.5%	49.0%	52.9%	48.2%	47.6%	51.8%
1-3 days	2005/06	7.3%	7.3%	*	8.0%	8.1%	7.7%	8.8%	8.8%	9.0%
	2009/11	9.2%	9.3%	*	8.1%	8.0%	9.1%	9.1%	9.1%	9.7%
4-7 days /	2005/06	14.3%	14.4%	*	11.4%	11.6%	8.6%	12.0%	12.1%	11.2%
1x30	2009/11	13.3%	13.5%	*	11.9%	11.9%	13.0%	12.4%	12.5%	12.0%
8-11 days /	2005/06	8.5%	8.7%	*	7.9%	7.9%	7.8%	8.0%	8.1%	6.8%
2x30	2009/11	8.7%	8.5%	*	8.1%	8.2%	6.3%	8.3%	8.4%	7.7%
12-19 days	2005/06	11.3%	11.3%	*	9.6%	9.6%	9.0%	9.6%	9.6%	9.0%
/ 3x30	2009/11	10.8%	11.0%	*	11.1%	11.2%	9.3%	10.6%	10.8%	9.7%
12+ days /	2005/06	24.4%	24.2%	*	20.8%	20.9%	18.5%	21.3%	21.5%	18.7%
3x30 - NIB	2009/11	23.7%	24.1%	*	22.5%	22.9%	18.7%	21.9%	22.4%	18.8%
20+ days /	2005/06	13.1%	12.9%	*	11.2%	11.3%	9.5%	11.7%	11.9%	9.7%
5x30	2009/11	12.9%	13.0%	*	11.5%	11.6%	9.4%	11.3%	11.7%	9.1%

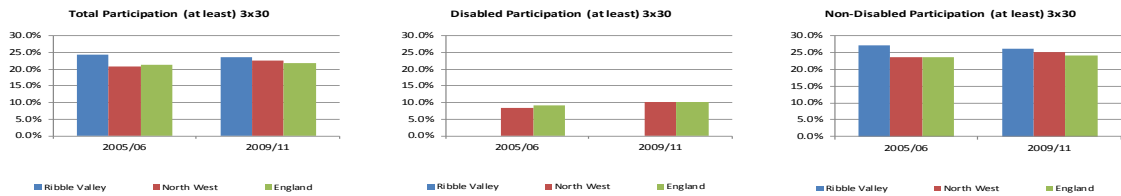
Source: Active People Survey, Year: 2005/06 (APS1), 2009/11 (APS4/5) or 2010/11 (APS5) if LA sample is boosted, Measure: Adult participation  
[For more information click here](#) NB - The most recent data for this local authority is from the APS4/5 Dataset



**Adult (16+) Participation in Sport & Active Recreation (formerly NIB) by year, frequency and disability**

Indicator	Year	Ribble Valley			North West			England		
		All	Limiting disability	No limiting disability	All	Limiting disability	No limiting disability	All	Limiting disability	No limiting disability
0 days /	2005/06	45.6%	73.5%	40.4%	51.9%	77.6%	46.1%	50.0%	75.7%	45.1%
0x30	2009/11	45.2%	71.0%	41.2%	49.5%	74.8%	44.1%	48.2%	73.0%	43.6%
1-3 days	2005/06	7.3%	-	7.4%	8.0%	4.7%	8.8%	8.8%	5.4%	9.4%
	2009/11	9.2%	-	9.9%	8.1%	4.8%	8.8%	9.1%	5.8%	9.7%
4-7 days /	2005/06	14.3%	-	15.9%	11.4%	5.6%	12.7%	12.0%	6.2%	13.1%
1x30	2009/11	13.3%	-	13.7%	11.9%	6.2%	13.1%	12.4%	6.9%	13.4%
8-11 days /	2005/06	8.5%	-	9.1%	7.9%	3.8%	8.8%	8.0%	3.7%	8.7%
2x30	2009/11	8.7%	-	9.1%	8.1%	4.1%	8.9%	8.3%	4.3%	9.1%
12-19 days	2005/06	11.3%	-	12.8%	9.6%	3.5%	11.0%	9.6%	3.9%	10.6%
/ 3x30	2009/11	10.8%	-	11.8%	11.1%	5.2%	12.3%	10.6%	4.9%	11.6%
12+ days /	2005/06	24.4%	-	27.3%	20.8%	8.3%	23.6%	21.3%	9.0%	23.6%
3x30 - NIB	2009/11	23.7%	-	26.0%	22.5%	10.2%	25.1%	21.9%	10.1%	24.1%
20+ days /	2005/06	13.1%	-	14.4%	11.2%	4.8%	12.6%	11.7%	5.1%	12.9%
5x30	2009/11	12.9%	-	14.3%	11.5%	4.9%	12.8%	11.3%	5.2%	12.5%

Source: Active People Survey, Year: 2005/06 (APS1), 2009/11 (APS4/5) or 2010/11 (APS5) if LA sample is boosted, Measure: Adult participation  
[For more information click here](#) NB - The most recent data for this local authority is from the APS4/5 Dataset



**Adult (16+) Participation in Sport & Active Recreation (formerly NIB) by year, frequency, age band and socio-economic class**

Indicator	Year	All	Ribble Valley					NS SEC 1-2	NS SEC 3	NS SEC 4	NS SEC 5-8
			16-25	26-34	35-54	55+	NS SEC 1-2				
0 days /	2005/06	45.6%	-	-	40.5%	63.1%	37.3%	46.7%	56.2%	52.6%	
0x30	2009/11	45.2%	27.1%	-	33.3%	65.1%	44.1%	43.9%	55.7%	48.8%	
1-3 days	2005/06	7.3%	-	-	9.1%	-	8.8%	-	-	-	
	2009/11	9.2%	-	-	11.4%	-	-	-	-	-	
4-7 days /	2005/06	14.3%	-	-	14.9%	11.5%	16.3%	-	-	12.4%	
1x30	2009/11	13.3%	24.5%	-	14.0%	10.8%	12.7%	-	-	14.7%	
8-11 days /	2005/06	8.5%	-	-	10.1%	-	9.6%	-	-	-	
2x30	2009/11	8.7%	-	-	11.3%	-	10.3%	-	-	-	
12-19 days	2005/06	11.3%	-	-	12.0%	-	14.9%	-	-	-	
/ 3x30	2009/11	10.8%	-	-	13.5%	-	10.9%	-	-	-	
12+ days /	2005/06	24.4%	41.3%	39.7%	25.3%	14.4%	28.3%	-	-	24.8%	
3x30 - NIB	2009/11	23.7%	28.5%	27.9%	30.0%	13.5%	25.7%	-	-	24.0%	
20+ days /	2005/06	13.1%	-	-	13.3%	8.2%	13.3%	-	-	15.4%	
5x30	2009/11	12.9%	-	-	16.6%	-	14.8%	-	-	14.9%	

Source: Active People Survey, Year: 2005/06 (APS1), 2009/11 (APS4/5) or 2010/11 (APS5) if LA sample is boosted, Measure: Adult participation  
[For more information click here](#) NB - The most recent data for this local authority is from the APS4/5 Dataset

## c. Health profile

Ribble Valley out performs it national peers as well as the NW and the national average in terms of obesity and costs to Health services as a result of its active and participative population profile. This level of health profile and activity is strongly linked to deprivation, an area in which the Borough with its high income levels has a relatively limited profile; however in this study we are not able to account for rural deprivation and access.

### Obesity levels in adults and children (000s)

Geography	Adult Obesity		Childhood Obesity	
	Number	Rate	Number	Rate
Ribble Valley	9.2	20.5%	71.0	12.7%
North West	1,292.9	23.4%	13,773.0	19.3%
England	10,106.3	24.2%	93,695.0	18.7%

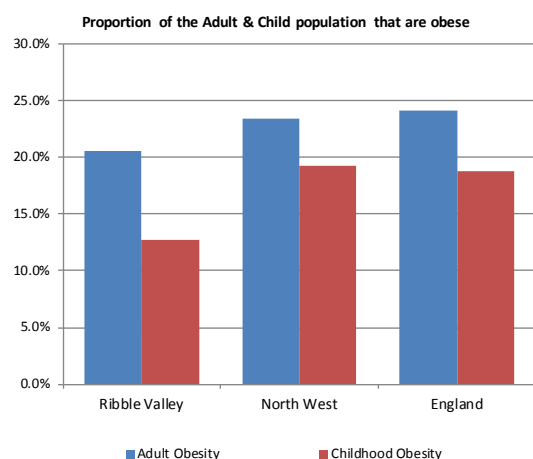
Source: Department of Health: Year: 2006-2008 (Adults) 2009/10 (Children)

Measure: Number of people & proportion of the adult population and child population that are obese  
[For more information click here](#)

### Mapping participation and obesity

Maps of modelled medium super output area data for participation in sport and active recreation (3x30) and obesity for the local authority area can be accessed at:

<https://public.sportengland.org>



### Life expectancy by gender

Geography	Life Expectancy	
	Male	Female
Ribble Valley	79.2	82.8
North West	76.6	80.8
England	78.3	82.3

Source: Department of Health: Year: 2007-2009 Measure: Life expectancy in years

[For more information click here](#)

### Deprivation levels as measured by the Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD)

Geography	Deprivation 2010
Score in Ribble Valley	9.88

Rank in North West (out of 46)

41

Rank in England (out of 353)

316

Source: Department for Communities and Local Government Year: 2010

Measure: Index of multiple deprivation and rank in region and nation

[For more information click here](#)

### Health costs of physical inactivity

Geography	The Health Costs of Physical Inactivity	
	Cost	Cost per 100,000 pop
Ribble Valley	£937,742	£1,632,170
North West	£127,908,653	£1,871,009
England	£764,661,980	£1,531,401

Source: Department of Health - Be Active Be Healthy, Year: 2006/7

Measure: Health costs of physical inactivity

[For more information click here](#)

[For more detailed data on illness types pertaining to physical inactivity please click here](#)

Please note that the information at the above link is based on PCT boundaries rather than LA boundaries

### Obesity levels\* in adults and children by local authority area

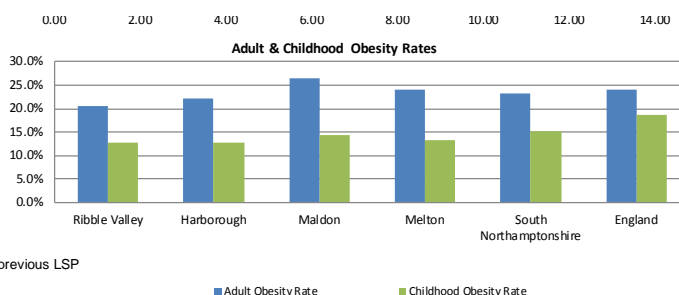
Geography	Adult Obesity Rate	Childhood Obesity Rate
Ribble Valley	20.5%	12.7%
Harborough	22.1%	12.8%
Maldon	26.5%	14.4%
Melton	24.1%	13.4%
South Northamptonshire	23.3%	15.0%
England	24.2%	18.7%

Source: Department of Health, Year: 2006-2008 (adults) and 2009-2010 (children),

Measure: Proportion of the adult and child population that are obese

\* The measurement employed for Childhood Obesity has changed from that used in previous LSP

[For more information click here](#)



## d. Supply and demand balance

In terms of anticipated performance, the Ribble Valley population is performing slightly above where it would be anticipated to be in terms of its

levels of participation in sport and physical activity. There is no under performance for either men or women.

The key market segments Ralph & Phyllis, Roger & Joy, Philips, Elaines and Tims are considerably over represented in the Borough, showing a considerable skewing to the older age range. Increases in affordable housing should start to rebalance the age profile significantly with an associated higher demand for facilities generally associated with younger people – this would be particularly the case for specialist facilities such as a running track.

The key sports that are undertaken in the Borough: Swimming, Gym, Cycling, Athletics and Football strongly correlate to the high market segments identified. The Athletics profile and recent Olympic medal success is interesting given the lack of community focus for this activity with a lack of specialist facility in the Borough.

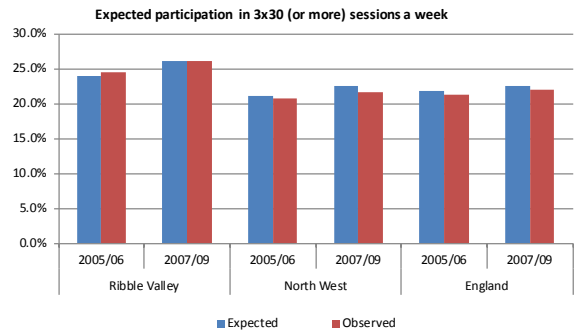
**Expected participation in 3x30 (or more) sessions a week**

Expected Participation	Ribble Valley		North West		England	
	2005/06	2007/09	2005/06	2007/09	2005/06	2007/09
Expected	24.0%	26.1%	21.0%	22.5%	21.9%	22.5%
Observed	24.4%	26.1%	20.8%	21.7%	21.3%	21.9%
Difference	0.5%	0.0%	-0.2%	-0.8%	-0.6%	-0.5%

Source: Mindshare, Year 2005/06-2007/9, Measure: 3x30 minute sport sessions a week

[For more information click here](#)

NB: 2007/09 refers to the combined APS2-APS3 sample

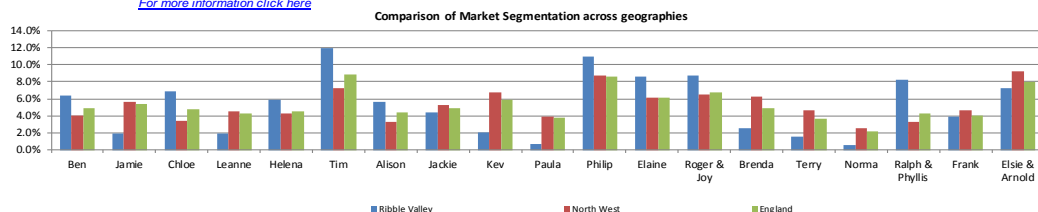


**Market segmentation**

Code	Name	Description	Ribble Valley		North West		England	
			Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate
A01	Ben	Competitive Male Urbanites	2.9	6.3%	216.9	4.0%	1,989.1	4.9%
A02	Jamie	Sports Team Drinkers	0.9	1.9%	301.6	5.6%	2,162.9	5.4%
A03	Chloe	Fitness Class Friends	3.2	6.9%	186.6	3.5%	1,896.5	4.7%
A04	Leanne	Supportive Singles	0.9	1.9%	243.9	4.5%	1,711.6	4.3%
B05	Helena	Career Focused Females	2.7	5.8%	232.7	4.3%	1,829.8	4.5%
B06	Tim	Settling Down Males	5.5	12.0%	389.0	7.2%	3,554.0	8.8%
B07	Alison	Stay at Home Mums	2.6	5.7%	175.2	3.2%	1,766.4	4.4%
B08	Jackie	Middle England Mums	2.0	4.4%	285.1	5.3%	1,965.0	4.9%
B09	Kev	Pub League Team Mates	1.0	2.1%	366.6	6.8%	2,386.6	5.9%
B10	Paula	Stretched Single Mums	0.3	0.7%	207.2	3.8%	1,507.3	3.7%
C11	Philip	Comfortable Mid-Life Males	5.1	11.0%	467.5	8.7%	3,480.0	8.6%
C12	Elaine	Empty Nest Career Ladies	3.9	8.6%	327.8	6.1%	2,443.9	6.1%
C13	Roger & Joy	Early Retirement Couples	4.0	8.7%	350.6	6.5%	2,723.7	6.8%
C14	Brenda	Older Working Women	1.2	2.5%	337.2	6.3%	1,976.8	4.9%
C15	Terry	Local 'Old Boys'	0.7	1.5%	248.5	4.6%	1,484.5	3.7%
C16	Norma	Later Life Ladies	0.3	0.6%	135.0	2.5%	855.0	2.1%
D17	Ralph & Phyllis	Comfortable Retired Couples	3.8	8.3%	174.7	3.2%	1,700.2	4.2%
D18	Frank	Twilight Year Gents	1.8	4.0%	248.7	4.6%	1,612.9	4.0%
D19	Elsie & Arnold	Retirement Home Singles	3.3	7.2%	497.3	9.2%	3,206.3	8.0%
Total			46.1	100.0%	5,392.1	100.0%	40,252.4	100.0%

Source: Sport England and Experian Ltd, Year: 2010, Measure: Sport Market Segmentation

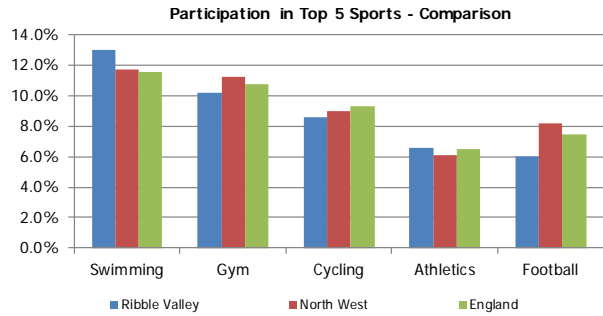
[For more information click here](#)



**Top 5 sports in local authority with regional and England comparison**

Sport	Ribble Valley		North West		England	
	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate
Swimming	5.8	13.0%	647.9	11.7%	4,838.8	11.6%
Gym	4.6	10.2%	622.6	11.2%	4,494.2	10.7%
Cycling	3.8	8.6%	498.8	9.0%	3,875.0	9.3%
Athletics	2.9	6.6%	336.4	6.1%	2,698.5	6.5%
Football	2.7	6.0%	452.0	8.2%	3,103.1	7.4%

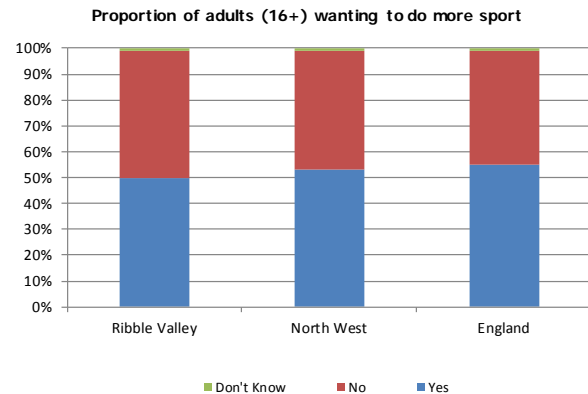
Source: Active People Survey 5, Population data: ONS Annual Population Survey 2011  
 Measure: Participation rate of the top 5 sports and the number of people that participate at least once per month  
[For more information click here](#)



**Number of adults (16+) wanting to do more sport**

	Ribble Valley		North West		England	
	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate
Yes	22.3	49.8%	2,941.2	53.1%	22,974.4	54.9%
No	22.0	49.2%	2,539.7	45.9%	18,431.1	44.1%
Don't Know	0.5	1.0%	55.9	1.0%	427.9	1.0%

Source: Active People Survey 5, Population data: ONS Annual Population Survey 2011  
 Measure: Proportion and number of adults (16+) wanting to do more sport  
[For more information click here](#)



**Specific Sport(s) that adults want to do most**

Sport	Ribble Valley	
	Number	Rate
Cycling	3.6	8.1%
Swimming	2.7	6.0%

Source: Active People Survey 5  
 Population data: ONS Annual Population Survey 2011  
 Measure: Top sport(s) in latent demand by adults based on proportion  
[For more information click here](#)

## 4. Projected population provision summary

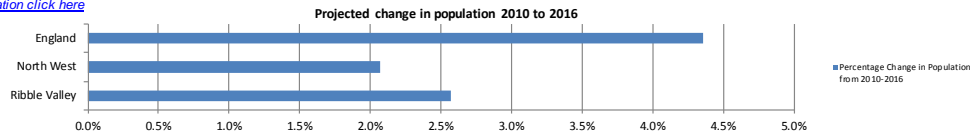
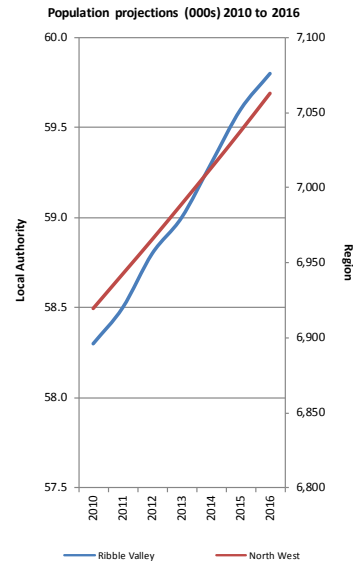
### a. Size and distribution / population demand

The all age (previous slides 16+ ) population in the Ribble Valley is due to increase markedly over the next 4 to 5 years according to national trends, local data and the potential for increased access to Housing in the Borough. The ONS predicts that the Boroughs population will rise by 2.5% by 2016 (up 1500 individual from 2010). This increase in population will place the population back to where it was in 2006 (see section 3). The proposed 4000 additional households 2008 -2028 will increase the population overall by potentially some 11,000 individuals during the period. This proposed increase has not been calculated into this study at this stage.

Population projections by local authority area (2010-2016) (000s)

Indicator	Ribble Valley								
	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	Chg 10 - 16	% Chg
Male	28.6	28.7	28.9	29.0	29.1	29.3	29.4	0.8	2.8%
Female	29.7	29.8	29.9	30.0	30.2	30.3	30.4	0.7	2.4%
0-4	2.8	2.8	2.8	2.7	2.7	2.7	2.7	-0.1	-3.6%
5-9	3.3	3.2	3.3	3.3	3.3	3.3	3.3	0.0	0.0%
10-14	3.8	3.9	3.7	3.7	3.7	3.7	3.6	-0.2	-5.3%
15-19	3.7	3.6	3.6	3.6	3.6	3.5	3.5	-0.2	-5.4%
20-24	2.4	2.4	2.4	2.3	2.2	2.2	2.1	-0.3	-12.5%
25-29	2.4	2.5	2.5	2.7	2.7	2.7	2.7	0.3	12.5%
30-34	2.4	2.4	2.4	2.5	2.6	2.7	2.7	0.3	12.5%
35-39	3.6	3.3	3.1	3.0	2.9	2.9	2.9	-0.7	-19.4%
40-44	4.8	4.8	4.7	4.5	4.3	4.1	3.8	-1.0	-20.8%
45-49	5.0	5.1	5.1	5.1	5.1	5.0	5.0	0.0	0.0%
50-54	4.3	4.4	4.6	4.7	4.9	5.1	5.1	0.8	18.6%
55-59	3.9	4.0	4.0	4.1	4.2	4.3	4.4	0.5	12.8%
60-64	4.4	4.3	4.1	4.0	3.9	3.9	4.0	-0.4	-9.1%
65-69	3.5	3.7	4.0	4.2	4.3	4.3	4.2	0.7	20.0%
70-74	2.8	2.8	2.9	3.0	3.2	3.3	3.4	0.6	21.4%
75-79	2.3	2.3	2.3	2.4	2.5	2.5	2.6	0.3	13.0%
80-84	1.5	1.6	1.7	1.7	1.8	1.9	1.9	0.4	26.7%
85-89	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.1	1.1	0.1	10.0%
90+	0.4	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.6	0.6	0.2	50.0%
<b>Ribble Valley</b>	<b>58.3</b>	<b>58.5</b>	<b>58.8</b>	<b>59.0</b>	<b>59.3</b>	<b>59.6</b>	<b>59.8</b>	<b>1.5</b>	<b>2.6%</b>
North West	6,919.5	6,942.4	6,965.4	6,989.0	7,013.0	7,037.5	7,062.8	143.3	2.1%
England	52,196.7	52,577.1	52,953.9	53,332.0	53,710.0	54,087.8	54,471.6	2,274.9	4.4%

Source: Office of National Statistics, Sub National Population Projections: 2010-2016 Measure: Projected population and forecasted percentage change in time period.  
[For more information click here](#)



## 5. 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.

## APPENDIX 2

# Playground Evaluation Audit

### SCORING SYSTEM

The scoring range is between 0-7 with 7 being high and 0 low.

**Location- (0-7)** A facility scoring 7 will contain evidence of all the following;

- (1) Opportunities for informal oversight by passers-by or nearby
- (2) Properties such as houses or community centres
- (3) The extent to which the space or facility is used by children
- (4) How easy it is for children and young people to get there
- (5) Issues of personal safety, security and lighting
- (6) How those with impairments or with buggies and pushchairs will get there
- (7) How well the space is designed to complement the site.

**Play Value - (0-7)** A facility scoring 7 will contain evidence of all the following;

- (1) Entices children to play
- (2) Offers play opportunities for disabled children
- (3) Meets the play needs of different children and young people of differing ages provides opportunities for:
  - different types of movement



Venue Name	Address – If known	Provider (Council/Private/Parish)	Overview of Equipment	Location (0-7 on criteria matched)	Play Value (0-7 on criteria matched)	Care and Maintenance (0-7 on criteria matched)	Additional Comments
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- imaginative play
- ball games
- changing the environment or space

(4) Includes access to natural environments and materials

(5) Has places for children to sit

(6) Offers added play value – that is, not just a basic experience of sensation but also possibilities for children to take risks without undue hazard

(7) Encourages social interaction between children and between accompanying parents and carers.

**Care and Maintenance of the facility- (0-7)**

(1) How well the space is maintained

(2) Health and safety requirements

(3) Seating for adults

(4) Litter bins

(5) The possible need for dog-free zones

(6) The presence of supervisory adults (eg park keepers, street wardens, play

Edisford Play Area	Edisford Road BB7 3LA	Council	4 x Swings-(Older age) Medium sized play unit	3	6	4	Play unit is bright and appealing to users. Swing seats in poor condition and frames rusting.
Henthorn Play Area	Henthorn Road BB7 2QB	Council	2x 2 sets of swings Slide- large Climbing Unit Wood balance unit at low level	5	6	5	Rocking Elephant base needs repair Swing frames in need of painting
Salthill Playground	Salthill Road BB7 1PE	Council	0-5 yr childs unit Small climbing frame Climbing/slide for older children Balancing wood beam	4	5	5	Some creative use of sloping ground. Some fitness based equipment Football pitch goals in need of painting
Castle Grounds	Eshton Terrace, Clitheroe BB7 1BA	Council	Wide range of equipment for all ages- 12 swings and 22 items in total	6	6	6	Wooden climbing/ balance unit recently added. 3 items are inclusive- Roundabout, See saw and 10 seating benches.

<b>Venue Name</b>	<b>Address – If known</b>	<b>Provider (Council/ Private/Parish)</b>	<b>Overview of Equipment</b>	<b>Location (0-7 on criteria matched)</b>	<b>Play Value (0-7 on criteria matched)</b>	<b>Care and Maintenance (0-7 on criteria matched)</b>	<b>Additional Comments</b>
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Venue Name	Address – If known	Provider (Council/Private/Parish)	Overview of Equipment	Location (0-7 on criteria matched)	Play Value (0-7 on criteria matched)	Care and Maintenance (0-7 on criteria matched)	Additional Comments
Hurst Green	Avenue Road BB7 9QB	Parish Council	Swings x 4 (young to older) Slide with twist Imaginative/Learning Section	5	4	5	Compact Space – but well kept in good order and imaginative/learning equipment Low wooden balance section
John Smiths	Chaigley Road Longridge PR3 3TQ	RVBC	2x Play and slide units for early ages and older Low balance equipment See-Saw Rocking Equipment x 2	5	5	5	Limited Risk Play Equipment Cargo ladder Good Colourful Play decking Play boat in need of paint/repair
Kestor Lane Junior Play	Kestor Lane Recreation Ground PR3 3LD	RVBC	5 swings 1 Play unit – small 1 play unit – large 1 see saw	5	5	5	1 swing missing playspace with items been removed & new playspace provided adjacent.  Needs paintwork – swings/units
Kestor Lane	As above	Longridge Town Council	Zip line Rota play High climb unit 3 x	5	6	6	Challenging – older ages

Mardale Rd	Mardale Rd Longridge PR3	RVBC	4 x swings 1 play unit	5	5	5	Inclusive slide  Younger children focus
Redwood Drive	Redwood Drive PR3 3HA	RVBC	2 swings (early) 2 swings (older) Small Unit + Slide	4	2	4	Small Sized Area Limited for older children
Chester Avenue Tom Robinson Play Area	BB7 2AJ	RVBC	2 X2 Swings 4 items of balance rocker play	4	2	3	Markings on floor as street for play Very limited play area Small grass area available next to site.
Mearley Sykes	BB7 1JG	RVBC	Swings x 2 See-saw (spring) Slide and climbing unit	4	2	2	Flooring tiles are separating at joints Need of re-painting Swing gate entrance in need of oiling. Quite large sloping grass area for activities

<b>Venue Name</b>	<b>Address – If known</b>	<b>Provider</b> (Council/Private/Parish)	<b>Overview of Equipment</b>	<b>Location</b> (0-7 on criteria matched)	<b>Play Value</b> (0-7 on criteria matched)	<b>Care and Maintenance</b> (0-7 on criteria matched)	<b>Additional Comments</b>
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Proctor's Field, Whalley	George St	RVBC	Variety of equipment to suit ages up to 12 years and challenging aspects of play	6	5	4	Area of grass/ parkland adjacent to fenced play site. Well spaced out play equipment and appealing facility. Perimeter fencing and dog access control evident at entrance.
Langho	BB7 9NA	Parish/Other	Equipment area designed for up to 12 years. Unit with climbing frame	4	4	4	1 x swing damaged. Rota-play. Unit with slides and 2x climbing frame and rope climb. Football kick-about area adjacent. Seating and bins provided.
Mellor Brook	Fieldings Lane	Parish/Other	2 items of equipment- 1 x Toddler swing and 1 slide for young children	2	1	4	Located in a small space between housing. Enclosed by fencing and gate entrance. Bench and provision of 1 bin.
Mellor	St Mary's Garden's Mellor BB7 2JP	Parish	Low level balance/ continuous run crawl section, 2 person see-saw. 2x swings 1 x Rocker for Toddlers	5	3	4	No damage visible. Not very colourful or inspiring in appearance. Grass ball area next to play area. No fencing though partially surrounded so dog access. 6 benches. Scope for more improvement as space available.

Venue Name	Address – If known	Provider (Council/Private/Parish)	Overview of Equipment	Location (0-7 on criteria matched)	Play Value (0-7 on criteria matched)	Care and Maintenance (0-7 on criteria matched)	Additional Comments
Highfield Road Clitheroe	BB7 1LD	RVBC	Swings x 4 Young children's climbing frame and older aged unit. Rota Play unit Low level balance continuous play unit.	4	4	4	Rota unit set to be replaced and painting required to metal frames. Grass needs cutting Swing seats are damaged Ropes frayed at parts.



<b>Venue Name</b>	<b>Address – If known</b>	<b>Provider</b> (Council/Private/Parish)	<b>Overview of Equipment</b>	<b>Location</b> (0-7 on criteria matched)	<b>Play Value</b> (0-7 on criteria matched)	<b>Care and Maintenance</b> (0-7 on criteria matched)	<b>Additional Comments</b>
Colthirst Drive, Clitheroe	BB7 2EJ	RVBC	1 Pair swings for under 5's 1 climbing unit with slide 1 x balance rocker	3	1	3	Tiles near swings becoming separated Painting required Very small area
Hawthorn Place, Clitheroe	BB7 2HU	RVBC	3 items in total 2 x 2 swings 1 play unit for under 8's.	3	2	4	Disability friendly slide off climbing unit Well kept grounds Location poor 1 x seating bench not in good condition.
Barrow	Washbrook Close	RVBC	2 x 2 Swings See/Saw Climbing Unit and slide 1 x Rocker 1x Rota Play	5	3	4	Grass area and grounds well kept Equipment in good condition Dog protection at entrance

Dunsop Bridge	BB7 3BB	Parish	Large Wooden Area with swings Play Units and low level balance Fitness Trail Youth Shelter, Skate Park and Climbing Wall	5	6	5	Very varied site, Perimeter fencing Recently painted.
Chatburn	BB7 4AS	Parish	2 Play Units for children of younger and slightly older ages-up to 12 years. 2x swings –Toddler Round-about, Balance Rocker	4	4	4	Next to Chatburn School and Cricket Ground. Good use of area though limited equipment range. Perimeter fence to protect from dog access.
Rimmington	BB74AS	Parish	Top section- Older child play unit with balance/ climb and slide sections 2x 2 swings younger and older ages. See Saw. Seated Round a bout. Wooden balance unit	3	5	4	Appealing lay out and well-maintained grounds. Colourfully painted play unit. Artificial Football/ Tennis surface opposite. Changing pavilion and picnic area/ tables and Barbeque.
Gisburn	BB7 4ET Burnley Rd.	Parish	Smaller childs equipment on lower section. Swings x2. Challenging wooden adventure play section and upper level Zip wire over distance of approx	4	6	5	Very appealing to children and lay out is effective. Wooden animal sculptures and landscaping adds to experience. Surround bushes and fencing protects against dog access. Covered seating area. Ramped access from car park at bottom of site.

Venue Name	Address – If known	Provider (Council/Private/Parish)	Overview of Equipment	Location (0-7 on criteria matched)	Play Value (0-7 on criteria matched)	Care and Maintenance (0-7 on criteria matched)	Additional Comments
Waddington	BB7 3LF	Parish	4X Swings 2 Toddler and 2 Over 5's	3	4	5	Floor markings available for play Seats and 4 tables
			Climbing units- with climbing and slides. Balance low level unit with ropes.				Bike rack Car park available No surround barrier to protect from dogs

Venue Name	Address – If known	Provider (Council/Private/Parish)	Overview of Equipment	Location (0-7 on criteria matched)	Play Value (0-7 on criteria matched)	Care and Maintenance (0-7 on criteria matched)	Additional Comments
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West Bradford	BB7 4T	Parish	4X Swings 2 Toddler and 2 Over 5's Climbing frame with various types of climbing. Tunnel (3 sections) 1 X Round about Under 5's area 2x Rockers	4	4	5	Wooden benches Floor markings for play Wooden surround barrier in place Football area adjacent to site with goals
Grindleton	BB7 4QS	Parish	Continuous balance play-wood based equipment at low level Junior Under 5's unit with slide. 2x2 sets of swings for under and over 5's. Older age climbing unit of reasonable size	4	5	5	Good climbing ropes on older aged unit/ frame Continuous play located along grassed area. Well arranged across the site. MUGA available and accessible for Tennis/ Basketball/ Football and Cricket
Slaidburn	Village Green BB7 3ES	Parish	Wooden Fitness/ Trim Trail No children's play equipment	4	3	5	Toilets across main road. Fun Small area

Sawley	BB7 4LE	Parish	Good variety to suit up to 12 years. 2x climbing units 2x2 swings Wooden balance play section- continuous play	4	4	5	Well maintained equipment and grounds. Area of provision for ball activity- Basketball and Football goal with Artificial section and grass. Picnic benches and seating surround. So no dog access. No sign on gate but user advise on general use of area.
Woodlands	Whalley	RVBC	Equipment for up to 5yrs. 3 items including balance rocker, swings and small play unit.	2	1	4	Very Little Play Value. Not well located to attract residents/ passers-by.
Billington	Whalley Rd	Parish	Wooden climbing unit in the design of a castle. Swings and also a circular type swing. Low-level balance continuous play made from wood. Educational orientated play equipment x4 Climbing Wall.	5	5	5	Picnic Benches x2 Separate grass Football area and 2 goals. Games area and small Artificial surface. Basketball Hoop and board. Location off main road and visible to passers by. Very well used at time of visit and grass had recently been cut.



Venue Name	Address – If known	Provider (Council/Private/Parish)	Overview of Equipment	Location (0-7 on criteria matched)	Play Value (0-7 on criteria matched)	Care and Maintenance (0-7 on criteria matched)	Additional Comments
Sabden	The Holme Recreation Ground	Parish	2x2 sets of swings for older/ younger ages. 3x Balance Rockers, small play unit-slides and climbing. Larger-childs slide, continuous play-low balance, Climbing structure-roped unit, Rocket shaped see-saw, 2x Parrellel bars for dips	6	5	5	Equipment painted red and black and in good condition. Open access to play area so no protection from dog access. Open green expanse for play adjacent to play facility. Original design for a tyre swing-hanging from a wooden beam. Picnic tables/ bench seating. Good location surrounded by residential, terraced housing. Grass had been cut and inviting for play users.
Chipping	Chipping Village Hall	Parish	Small Wooden climbing frame. 2 x s sets of swings for different age ranges. 1 x play unit for under 12's and 1 junior / infant. Continuous low level balance equipment.	5	5	4	3 points of access- wooden fencing surround to protect against dog Access. No catch on 1 gate. 1 swing damaged and the other seat worn. The safety floor matting raised in areas and needs maintenance. 1x Picnic table and 3 x bench seating. Wide green space adjacent to V. Hall. Other older play provision- Skateboard area nearby.

Low Moor	St Annes Court BB7 2NN	Council	2 X Toddler aged swings 2 x Older child swings Small climbing/ slide unit which is disability friendly. 1x See Saw 2 x Rockers for young children	4	3	4	Perimeter fencing prevents dog access and defined play area. Bench seat and litter bin provision Grass not cut. 1 area with safety play surface which has had the equipment removed and so reduced provision and play value.
Whalley-Calderstones	Pendle Drive BB7 9RH	Parish/Other	3 items of equipment for toddlers;- 2 rockers and 1 very small slide. (LAP-Toddler/ Doorstep play)	3	2	4	Provision very limited and for young children. Enclosed with railings and protected from dog access. Bench seating available.
Whalley- Calderstones Whalley Moor- WOODLANDS	Off Beach Drive	Council	2x Swings High Level sit on see-saw equipment for older ages. Balance trail including 'cargo' type climbing netting. Covered sheltered 'Hammock' type area. Unit combining slide, climbing, in a woodland themed design.	2	6	4	Imaginative design of equipment which compliments the woodland setting. Very appealing play value; in a natural environment, though no lighting and open access to dogs. Whilst not easily accessible and no car park nearby, the trails are attractively made for leisure walking and woodland orientated carvings created by the side of the trails.

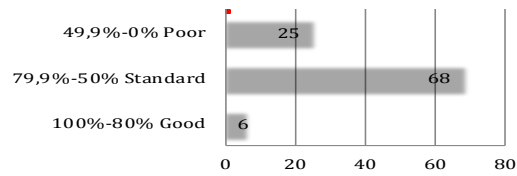


Ribchester	Off Church Street	Parish	Sand Pit and wooden play, Large and smaller	6	7	6	Flooring clean and bright and colourful equipment all working and in good condition.
Park Street-Clitheroe	Park Street/Littlemoor View	Clitheroe Parish Council	2x Swings (Toddler) and 2x swings, climbing apparatus-cargo net Wooden balance play area in a circuit. Picnic tables x 2 and 4 benches Grass playing space	4	3	3	Open access, no fence/surrounding. Limited parking and no lighting to play area. Full range of challenging, exciting, creative and imaginative play. Not suitable for children with a disability. Limited range of equipment. Surface to slide has moss growth and slippery when visited.

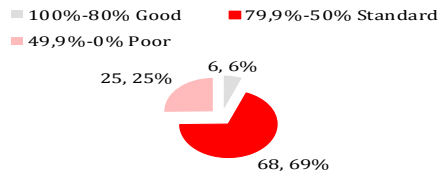
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Grass Cover	Number	Problem Areas: Evidence of poor drainage	Number	Length of grass	Number	Grass cutting	Number	Is there a set Number of changing rooms for the pitch?	Number	Are goalposts safe?	Number	Is the pitch flooded?	Number	Scoring:	Number
Good>80%	91	No evidence of standing water or poor drainage	38	Good	73	Yes, as required	75	Yes	53	Yes	76	Yes	0	100%-80% Good	6
Adequate 60-80%	3	Some evidence of poor drainage	31	Too long	20	Yes, but not frequent enough	20	No	41	No	2	No	95	79,9%-50% Standard	68
Poor<60%	2	Yes, poor drainage	27	Too short	0	No	1							49,9%-0% Poor	25
	96		96		93		96		94		78		95	Sum	99

**Scoring**



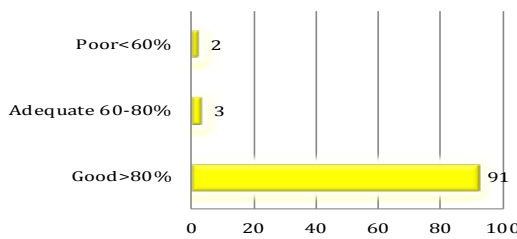
**Scoring**



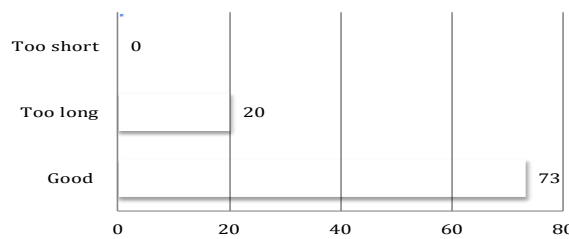
**Is there a set of changing rooms for the pitch?**



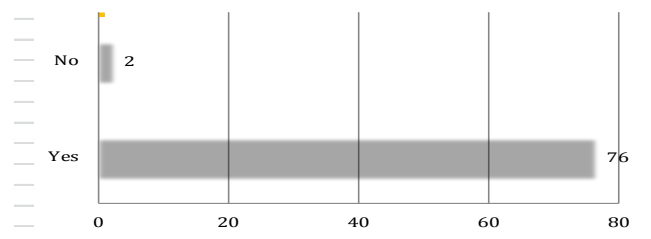
**Grass Cover**



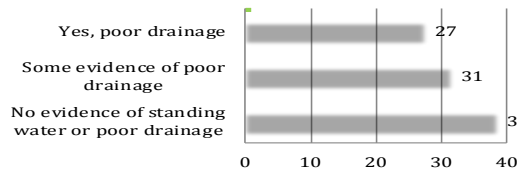
**Length of Grass**



**Are goalposts safe?**



**Problem Areas:  
Evidence of poor drainage**



**Grass Cutting**

