Vale of White Horse District Council

Leisure Facilities Strategy

Annual Review

2026

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1. Introduction

1.1. This is the Council's first annual update of the Vale of White Horse Leisure Facilities Strategy 2024 (LFAS). As well as setting a strategy for leisure provision across the district, these reports also form part of the Council's technical evidence base for the emerging Joint Local Plan and were developed in accordance with Sport England guidance. We have prepared an equivalent report for the South Oxfordshire LFAS.

1.2. This report provides updates to the Council's existing evidence base regarding leisure facilities. This report has several background documents which are listed below:

- Vale of White Horse Leisure Facilities Strategy, 2024
- Vale of White Horse Leisure Facilities Assessment Report
- Leisure Facilities Supporting Documents

1.3. The Council used Sport England's Assessing needs and opportunities guide for indoor and outdoor sports facilities guidance for the creation of the LFAS documents. For this annual update, we have used Sport England's Playing Pitch Strategy Guidance - An approach to developing and delivering a playing pitch strategy to help us undertake this review.

1.4. Sport England identifies that an annual review should highlight:

- How the delivery of the recommendations and action plan has progressed, and any changes required to the priority afforded to each action (e.g. the priority of some may increase following the delivery of others)
- How the Playing Pitch Strategy (PPS) has been applied and the lessons learnt
- Any changes to particularly important sites and/or clubs in the area (e.g. the most used or high-quality sites for a particular sport) and other supply and demand information, what this may mean for the overall assessment work and the key findings and issues
- Any development of a specific sport or particular format of a sport
- Any new or emerging issues and opportunities.

1.5. This update follows this approach. For completeness of understanding, it should be read alongside the documents outlined in paragraph 1.2.

1.6. It is important to recognise that the Council is not the only organisation responsible for delivering and maintaining playing pitches and leisure facilities across our district. We work with partners such as sports organisations, education establishments, community sports networks and other stakeholders who are interested in protecting and enhancing playing fields, pitches and ancillary facilities. As such, we will need to work with these partners to deliver many of the objectives and actions within this document.

2. Methodology

2.1. The 2024 Leisure Facilities Strategy focused on the following types of sports facilities:

- Archery ranges
- Athletics 'track & field' facilities
- Basketball courts
- Badminton courts
- Bowls facilities
- Boxing gyms
- Climbing walls
- Croquet lawns
- Cycling facilities
- Dance halls and studios
- Golf facilities
- Gymnastics halls
- Health and fitness suites (gyms & fitness studios)
- Martial arts halls and studios
- Multi Use Games Areas (MUGAs)
- Netball courts
- Parkour provision
- Polo pitches and horse-riding centres
- Skate Parks
- Sports halls (including community and village halls with sports facilities)
- Squash courts
- Swimming pools
- Table tennis provision
- Tennis courts
- Volleyball courts
- Water sports (rowing, sailing and canoeing)

2.2. For this annual update, korfball, padel tennis and pickleball have been included in this report due to their increasing popularity.

2.3. To align with the structure of the assessment report, basketball, boxing and martial arts, dance and table tennis are reported under sports halls.

2.4. There are no publicly available climbing walls (indoor or outdoor) in the Vale of White Horse, therefore climbing walls have not been included in this report update.

2.5. No updates were identified for volleyball or badminton; therefore, these have not been included in the update.

2.6. To identify any changes implemented since the 2024 LFAS, we asked national governing bodies (NGBs), clubs and other key stakeholders for information or to complete a survey explaining any changes to demand and supply. We have also held steering group meetings (comprised of VoWH officers, Sport England and NGBs). The following sports/organisations were contacted:

Table 2.6 Stakeholder engagement per sport

Sport/Sports Provision	Organisation	Sport/Sports Provision	Organisation
Archery	Archery GB	Martial Arts	BMABA British Martial Arts and Boxing Association
Athletics	England Athletics	Netball courts	England Netball
Basketball	Basketball England	Parkour	Parkour UK
Badminton	Badminton England	Horse Riding	British Equestrian
Bowls Facilities	Bowls England	Skate Parks	Skateboarding GB
Boxing Gyms	England Boxing	Squash	England Squash
Croquet Lawns	Croquet England	Swimming Pools	Swim England
Golf Facilities	England Golf	Table Tennis	Table Tennis England
Gymnastics halls	British Gymnastics	Tennis (including padel)	Lawn Tennis Association
Korfball	Korfball Oxfordshire	Volleyball courts	Volleyball England
Pickleball	Pickleball England (Oxfordshire)	Water sports	British Canoeing
All	Sport England, SODC and VoWH Officers, Town and Parish Councils		

2.7. We contacted all town and parish councils across South Oxfordshire during the data gathering process, of which 20 responded to the request for information.

2.8. Sports clubs identified in the 2024 assessment report were contacted, of which 40 clubs that use facilities across the Vale of White Horse responded to the request for information.

2.9. For each sport the following approach was taken:

- Supply update – we asked stakeholders to identify the key changes in pitch supply against the original LFAS recommendations (linking back to the three aims set out by Sport England to protect, enhance and provide).
- Demand update – this compares participation data of the number of members/players from 2023/24 and 2024/25. Where a direct comparison is not possible, this report will present the data that is available.
- Key updates – we asked each sport stakeholder to identify any significant changes or issues from their perspective and if there had been any further changes to the information presented in the 2024 documents. This section summarises the feedback that we have had throughout the year from sports clubs, national governing bodies town and parish councils and the Council's own officers. It also records any updates we are aware of from our own records, for example – planning applications for sport and leisure facilities.

- Summary – we reviewed the information and summarised changes in participation data, together with any recurring themes identified through the key updates.
- Recommendations – we reviewed the information to determine if any changes were needed to the recommendations for each sport in the respective action plan.

2.10. The sub-area maps are shown in appendix 1.

2.11. A summary of the town and parish council responses can be found in Appendix 2.

3. Archery Ranges

Supply update

3.1. Following our engagement with clubs, facility operators, parish and town councils, and a review of planning applications, we have not identified any new or upgraded archery facilities or provision across the district.

Demand update

3.2. Table 3.2 below sets out the changes in archery club membership across the Vale of White Horse between 2023/24 and 2024/25. It was challenging for us to get some of the club membership data when preparing the original LFAS in 2023/24 and during the update, the data below reflects that.

Table 3.2 Comparison of number of archery players between 2023/24 and 2024/25

Archery Demand Data				
Sub Area	**Club**	**Members**	**2023/24**	**2024/25**
North	Harlequin Bowmen (Harwell Campus)	Juniors	Unknown	Unknown
		Adult (16+)	Unknown	Unknown
		Total	Unknown	129
	Oxford Archers	Juniors	Unknown	Unknown
		Adult (16+)	Unknown	Unknown
		Total	Unknown	70
West	Buscot Park Archers	Juniors	8	Unknown
		Adult (16+)	43	Unknown
		Total	51	65

Key updates

3.3. The following section sets out the key issues and updates identified through stakeholder engagement:

a. Archery clubs across the district rely on several indoor and outdoor venues:

I. Buscot Park, Faringdon
II. Faringdon Leisure Centre
III. Oxford RFC Ground
IV. John Mason School, Abingdon (used by two clubs)
V. Calcroft Lane
VI. Harwell Laboratories Recreational Facility
VII. St Birinus School, Didcot
VIII. Didcot Girls School.

b. Archery GB's main feedback was that clubs have issues with some of these facilities, including: (a) securing long-term leases, (b) sharing facilities with other sports, limiting shooting time, and (c) when school staff change, clubs often require support from Archery GB to reassure the school about the safety measures in place.

Archery summary

3.4. Our data on archery club membership is incomplete as we did not have membership numbers for the Harlequin Bowmen or the Oxford Archers in 2023/24. However, the data shows that the Buscot Park archers club has grown its membership by around 28%.

3.5. The main challenges clubs fed back to us related to having appropriate facilities with long term guarantees for being able to use them.

Archery recommendations

3.6. Based on the information above, we don't believe there is a need for any new or updated recommendations for archery. Any recommendations within the 2024 LFAS and action plan will remain valid.

4. Athletics

Supply update

4.1. Following our engagement with clubs, facility operators, parish and town councils, and a review of planning applications, we have not identified any new or upgraded athletics facilities or provision across the district.

Demand update

4.2. Table 4.2 below sets out the changes in athletics club membership the Vale of White Horse between 2023/24 and 2024/25.

Table 4.2 Comparison of athletics club members between 2023/24 and 2024/25

Athletics Demand Data				
Sub Area	**Club**	**Members**	**2023/24**	**2024/25**
North	Radley Athletics Club (Tilsley Park)	Junior	200	95
		Adult	75	90
		Total	275	185
	Abingdon & Vale Triathlon Club*	Junior	0	Unknown
		Adult	115	Unknown
		Total	115	Unknown
	Abingdon Athletics Club (Tilsley Park)	Junior	Uknown	150
		Adult	Unknown	239
		Total	Unknown	389
	Abbey Running Club (Abingdon)	Junior	1	2
		Adult	80	91
		Total	81	93
South	White Horse Harriers	Junior	60	64
		Adult	181	194
		Total	241	258
	Harwell Harriers Running Club	Junior	0	0
		Adult	120	175
		Total	120	175
West	Vale Tridents Junior Triathlon Club*	Junior	51	50
		Adult	N/A	N/A
		Total	51	50
	Far Runners Faringdon	Adults	12	53
	Highworth Running Club (Shrivenham)	Junior	1	1
		Adult	86	82
		Total	87	83

4.3. **Abingdon & Vale Triathlon Club and Vale Tridents Junior Triathlon Club are not affiliated with England Athletics.*

Key updates

4.4. The following section sets out the key issues and updates identified through stakeholder engagement:

South sub-area

c. White Horse Harriers uses facilities at King Alfred's Academy (Wantage), St Johns Academy (Grove) and Radley College and Tilsley Park (Abingdon). They are currently exploring options to provide a compact athletics track in the Wantage and Grove area. The club includes 46 junior members (14 females and 32 males), and 194 adults (113 females and 81 males).
d. Harwell Harriers based at boundary park (Didcot) has approximately a 50/50 split of male and female participants. The club would like to see an athletics track, similar to that of Tilsley Park planned for the Didcot area. The club feels the sports facilities in the town are too small and over-subscribed.
e. Harwell Parish Council has highlighted an Active Aging Loop as a key priority for the area.

West sub-area

f. The Vale Tridents Triathlon club, based at Faringdon Leisure Centre, currently comprises approximately 35 female and 15 male members. With a maximum capacity of 50, the club occasionally operates a waiting list to manage demand. In addition to sessions at Faringdon, the club also makes use of training facilities at Moredon Sporting Hub in Swindon and Tilsley Park in Abingdon.

Athletics summary

4.5. While Vale Tridents has remained at capacity, clubs have seen an average of a 62% increase in participation between 2023/24 and 2024/25.

Athletics recommendations

4.6. Continue to support White Horse Harriers with the development of compact athletics track.

4.7. The following recommendations in table 4.7 have been added or updated in the action plan:

Table 4.7 Changes to the action plan recommendations

Facility /Club	LFAS recommendation	New / Updated Aim
South sub-area		
Harwell	**VS12:** Support Harwell Parish Council to explore the opportunity for an Active Aging Loop.	New - Provide
Harwell Harriers/ Didcot	**VS28:** Explore the need and demand for additional athletics facilities in the Didcot area.	New - Provide

4.8. It is important to note that these are just new or updated actions from this annual update. The council will also continue to progress the other recommendations from the 2024 strategy and action plan.

5. Bowls Facilities

Supply update

5.1. Table 5.1 below shows the key updates against the LFAS recommendations for bowls provision in Vale of White Horse.

Table 5.1 – Changes in bowls facilities supply and quality

Site	LFAS Recommendation	Update	Aim (protect, enhance or provide)
South sub-area			
Wantage Bowling Club	**VS21:** Maximise the use of existing assets by improving the quality of the facility to meet consumer expectations at Wantage Bowling Club.	Improvements to the green edges, repairs to the machinery shed and the roof of the main building.	Enhance

Demand update

5.2. Table 5.2 below sets out the changes in bowls club membership across the Vale of White Horse between 2023/24 and 2024/25.

Table 5.2 Comparison of number of bowls members

Bowls Demand Data					
Sub Area	**Club**	**Members**	**2023/24**	**Members**	**2024/25**
North	Abingdon Bowling Club	Total	Unknown	Male	82
				Female	35
				Total	117
	Milton Hill Bowling Club	Total	30	Male	15
				Female	5
				Total	20
	Drayton Short Mat Bowls Club	Total	50	All	Unknown
	Wootton Short Mat Bowls Club	Total	16	Male	18
				Female	5
				Total	23
South	Hanney Short Mat Bowls Club	Total	24	All	Unknown
	Harwell Bowls Club	Total	30	All	Unknown
	Wantage Bowling Club	Total	70	Male	41
				Female	13
				Total	44
West	Faringdon Bowling Club	Total	75	Male	40
				Female	20
				Social	6
				Total	66
	Kingston Bagpuize & Southmoor Bowls Club	Total	77	Male	52
				Female	28
				Junior	3
				Total	108
	Letcombe Bowls Club	Total	Unknown	Total	Unknown
	Shrivenham Bowls Club	Total	Unknown	Male	76
				Female	44
				Junior	2
				Total	122
	Stanford in the Vale Bowls club	Total	Unknown	Male	9
				Female	10
				Total	19

Key updates

5.3. The following section sets out the key issues and updates identified through stakeholder engagement.

South sub-area

a. Wantage Bowling Club has delivered several improvements, including enhancements to the green edges and repairs to the machinery shed and the roof of the main building. The club has identified the following development priorities:

   i. Improving the green surroundings

   ii. Providing additional changing facilities and a large garden shed for visiting players

   iii. Replacing the equipment shed and reinforcing the machine shed

   iv. Extending the kitchen facilities

   In line with its lease obligations, the club maintains the rinks for play. However, two overhanging trees outside the club's responsibility are affecting the playing surface and creating a safety risk due to falling branches. Addressing this issue would improve playing conditions and enable the club to host higher-level matches.

   The club is also taking proactive steps to grow its membership, with a particular focus on increasing female participation.

b. Harwell Bowls Club requires a new or upgraded clubhouse to meet the needs of its current users (in line with existing recommendation VS6). Upgrading the clubhouse is estimated to cost between £250,00 - £300,000.

West sub-area

c. Kingston Bagpuize and Southmoor Bowls Club plans to replace its existing bowls carpet and, in the longer term, build a new clubhouse (in line with existing recommendation VW11).

Bowls summary

5.4. Three of the five comparable bowls clubs have experienced an average of 27% reduction in membership numbers between 2023/4 and 2024/25, while the remaining two club have seen a 42% increase in membership.

5.5. All clubs have notes required for facility improvements.

Bowls recommendations

5.6. Work with bowls clubs to strengthen retention of new members.

5.7. Continue to support Harwell Bowls Club and Kingston Bagpuize and Southmoor Bowls Club with their facility improvements.

5.8. Table 5.8 sets out the recommendations that this annual update has added or updated within the action plan:

Table 5.8 Changes to the action plan recommendations

Facility / Club	LFAS recommendation	New / Updated Aim
South sub-area		
Wantage Bowling Club	**VS21:** Maximise the use of existing assets by improving the quality of the facility to meet consumer expectations at Wantage Bowling Club.	New – Enhance
West sub-area		
Site yet to be identified	**VW21:** Explore the opportunity for the provision of a short mat bowls facility in the West sub area that would cater for a minimum of a 4-rink facility	New – Provide

5.9. It is important to note that these are just new or updated actions from this annual update. The council will also continue to progress the other recommendations from the 2024 strategy and action plan.

6. Croquet Lawns

Supply update

6.1. Following our engagement with clubs, facility operators, parish and town councils, and a review of planning applications, we have not identified any new or upgraded croquet facilities or provision across the district.

Demand update

6.2. Table 6.2 below sets out the changes in croquet club membership across the Vale of White Horse between 2023/24 and 2024/25.

Table 6.2 Comparison of number of croquet players between 2023/24 and 2024/25

Croquet Lawns Demand Data					
Sub Area	**Club**	**Members**	**2023/24**	**Members**	**2024/25**
North	Thames Valley Croquet Club	Total	24	Male	11
				Female	21
				Total	32
South	Blewbury Croquet Club	Total	48	Male	Unknown
				Female	Unknown
				Total	69
	Harwell Croquet Club	Total	40	Male	14
				Female	16
				Total	30

Key updates

6.3. No updates have been identified during the stakeholder engagement.

Croquet lawns summary

6.4. There is no major consistent picture of changes in croquet club membership, with clubs seeing both an increase and decrease in participation.

Croquet lawns recommendation

6.5. Continue to support the croquet clubs across the district to enhance provision for users.

6.6. Based on the information above, we don’t believe there is a need for any new or updated recommendations for coquet lawns. Any recommendations within the 2024 LFAS and action plan will remain valid.

7. Cycling

Supply update

7.1. Following our engagement with clubs, facility operators, parish and town councils, and a review of planning applications, we have not identified any new or upgraded cycling facilities or provision across the district.

Demand update

7.2. Table 7.2 below sets out the changes in cycling members across the different sub areas in Vale of White Horse between 2023/24 and 2024/25. Unfortunately, we were unable to gain an 2024/25 figures.

Table 7.2 Comparison of number of cycling members

Cycling Demand Data				
Sub Area	**Club**	**Members**	**2023/24**	**2024/25**
North	Abingdon Race Team	Entrants	16,000*	Unknown
South	Didcot Phoenix Cycling Club	All	150	Unknown
West	Defence Academy Velo Club	All	Unknown	Unknown

*This figure is entrants between 2016 and 21.

7.3. During the data gather stage for the LFAS in 2023, Corallian Cycling Club (South sub-area) and Abingdon Cycling Club (North sub-area) responded to requests for information. However, clubs acknowledged that this study is not relevant to them because they use cycle pathways and roads rather than any sports facilities.

Key updates

7.4. The following section sets out the key issues and updates identified through stakeholder engagement:

South sub-area

a. Harwell Parish Council is seeking S106 funding to support the delivery of a new pump track at Harwell Recreation Ground. They have identified the pump track and a teen shelter as priority leisure projects for the area.

West sub-area

b. Faringdon Town Council expresses the need for dedicated space to accommodate urban movement activities (this normally covers activities like BMX, skateboarding, parkour etc.)

Cycling summary

7.5. No demand data was identified during stakeholder engagement for the 2025/26 season.

Cycling recommendations

7.6. Continue to support the provision of cycling facilities across the district.

7.7. Based on the information above, we don't believe there is a need for any new or updated recommendations for cycling. Any recommendations within the 2024 LFAS and action plan will remain valid.

8. Golf

Supply update

8.1. Following our engagement with clubs, facility operators, parish and town councils, and a review of planning applications, we have not identified any new or upgraded golf facilities or provision across the district.

Demand update

8.2. The average membership for England Golf affiliated clubs has increased by around 4%:

a. In 2024 the average membership for England Golf affiliated clubs in the Vale of White Horse was 507. This includes: Drayton Park, Frilford Heath, Hinksey Heights, Radley, Shrivenham Park, and The Defence Academy.

b. In 2025 the average membership for England Golf affiliated clubs in the Vale of White Horse was 529. There was no change in the number of affiliated clubs; the change has been driven purely by member growth at: Drayton Park, Frilford Heath, Hinksey Heights, Radley, Shrivenham Park, and The Defence Academy.

c. The national average of affiliated membership was 407 members per club in 2025, meaning affiliated golf clubs in the Vale of White Horse have above-average membership numbers. This shows that affiliated golf clubs in the Vale of White Horse have above-average membership numbers.

Key updates

8.3. The following section sets out the key issues and updates identified through stakeholder engagement.:

a. 17,100 people in Vale of White Horse participated in golf in 2024, an 86% increase since 2021.

b. England Gold reports that all 1,730 affiliated clubs in England have achieved their Respect in Golf accreditation. This means that all accredited clubs have an Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Policy and Disciplinary Procedures.

c. England Golf affiliation is now available to golf facilities such as driving ranges, short courses, simulator and adventure golf venues.

Golf summary

8.4. There is a 4% increase in membership at affiliated clubs across the authority, paralleled by an increase in participation more generally in the sport since 2021.

8.5. There is a reasonable quantity of golfing facilities in the Vale of White Horse that offer a variety of amenities to ensure that all golfers can be catered for. However, demand is also high, which means that all existing provisions need to be protected and potentially expanded to meet latent demand.

Golf recommendations

8.6. Based on the information above, we don't believe there is a need for any new or updated recommendations for golf facilitates. Any recommendations within the 2024 LFAS and action plan will remain valid.

9. Gymnastics Facilities

Supply update

9.1. Following our engagement with clubs, facility operators, parish and town councils, and a review of planning applications, we have not identified any new or upgraded gymnastics facilities or provision across the district.

Demand update

9.2. Table 9.2 below sets out the changes in gymnastics club membership across the Vale of White Horse between 2023/24 and 2024/25. It was challenging for us to get some of the club membership data during the update, and the data below reflects that.

Table 9.2 Comparison of number of gymnastics members

Gymnastics Demand Data				
Sub Area	**Club**	**Members**	**2023/24**	**2024/25**
North	K-Squared Gymnastics	All	39	Unknown
North	Heights Trampoline & Gymnastics Club	All	201	326
South	Didcot & Grove Gym Club	All	12	Unknown
South	Kinetics Gymnastics	All	153	Unknown
West	Didcot & Grove Gym Club	All	12	Unknown
West	Wantage Gymnastics Centre	All	217	500

Key updates

9.3. The following section sets out the key issues and updates identified through stakeholder engagement.

North sub-area

a. Heights Club LTD, based at White Horse Leisure Centre, has 326 members split across the following age groups:

   i. Pre-school (ages 3-5 years): 25
   ii. Ages 6-12 years: 222
   iii. Ages 13 -17 years: 55
   iv. Age 18+ years: 24)

   There are currently 300 people on the club's waiting list and membership has increased significantly since the pandemic. The club believes they would benefit from a permanent facility, allowing them to offer more daytime gymnastics and dance classes to schools and other groups along with the introduction of tumbling and Double Mini Trampoline (DMT). A dedicated facility

would also help prevent the wear and tear of equipment and help maintain affordable pricing for all members.

West sub-area

b. Wantage Gymnastics Centre has 500 members per week and currently has waiting lists across all sections. The club is looking at moving to a larger facility this year (in line with existing recommendation VS22).

Gymnastics summary

9.4. There was an average of an 85% increase in gymnastics members between 2023/24 and 2024/25.

Gymnastics recommendations

9.5. Continue to support Wantage Gymnastics Centre with facility improvements or securing a larger facility to cater for the growing demand of gymnasts in the area.

9.6. The following recommendations in table 9.6 have been added or updated in the action plan:

Table 9.6 Changes to the action plan recommendations

Facility /Club	LFAS recommendation	New / Updated Aim
North sub-area		
Heights Gymnastics Club (Abingdon)	**VN10:** Support Heights Gymnastics Club explore aspirations for a dedicated facility.	New - Enhance

9.7. It is important to note that these are just new or updated actions from this annual update. The council will also continue to progress the other recommendations from the 2024 strategy and action plan.

10. Health & Fitness Suites

Supply update

10.1. Table 10.1 below shows the key updates against the LFAS recommendations for health and fitness suites provision in Vale of White Horse.

Table 10.1 – Changes in health and fitness suites facilities supply and quality

Site	LFAS Recommendation	Update	Aim (protect, enhance or provide)
North sub-area			
White Horse Tennis and Leisure Centre	**VN28:** Maximise the use of existing assets by improving the quality of the facility to meet consumer expectations	Upgrades to the fitness equipment.	Enhance
West sub-area			
Faringdon Leisure Centre	**VW4:** Maximise the use of existing assets by improving the quality of the facility to meet consumer expectations	Upgrades to the fitness equipment.	Enhance

Demand update

10.2. Due to the commercial sensitivity of membership data, health and fitness membership numbers were not collected.

Key updates

10.3. The following section sets out the key issues and updates identified through stakeholder engagement:

North sub-area

a. Oxford Brookes University has confirmed that it will close the Harcourt Hill gym in April 2026 as part of its plans to consolidate onto a single campus. Botley and North Hinksey Parish Council has requested that the district council prioritises consideration of providing an equivalent gym facility to replace this loss of provision.

South sub-area

b. Wantage Leisure Centre is progressing plans to extend its gym to provide up to 70 workstations, with completion targeted for early 2026.

Health and fitness suites summary

10.4. No comparable data was available for health and fitness suites.

Health and fitness suites recommendations

10.5. Continue to retain the attractiveness and availability of facilities to residents.

10.6. The following recommendations in table 10.6 have been added or updated in the action plan:

Table 10.6 Changes to the action plan recommendations

Facility / Club	LFAS recommendation	New / Updated Aim
North sub-area		
Site yet to be identified	**VN36:** Explore the opportunity to provide a health and fitness facility to replace the lost facility at Harcourt Hill, if there is still demand for this facility.	New – Provide

10.7. It is important to note that these are just new or updated actions from this annual update. The council will also continue to progress the other recommendations from the 2024 strategy and action plan.

11. Horse Riding Centres

Supply update

11.1. Following our engagement with clubs, facility operators, parish and town councils, and a review of planning applications, we have not identified any new or upgraded horse riding centres across the district.

Demand update

11.2. Due to the fact all horse-riding centres are privately owned, membership numbers are not collected.

Key updates

11.3. The following section sets out the key issues and updates identified through stakeholder engagement:

a. British Equestrian has published its British Equestrian Strategy 2025–2030, setting out national priorities for the sport over the next five years.

North sub-area

b. Stonehill Farm currently operates without affiliation to a recognised member body.

South sub-area

c. Bessel's Way, Blewbury (also known as Blewbury Riding and Training Centre) and has started the process of British Horse Society (BHS) affiliation.

West sub-area

d. Lower Lodge Riding Centre, Southmoor also known as Abingdon Group RDA. Future council documents ill reference both names to ensure clarity.

e. Millaway Farm is also known as Asti Equestrian. Future council documents ill reference both names to ensure clarity.

f. British Equestrian has also identified Baulking Grange as a listed equestrian facility.

Horse riding summary

11.4. No comparable data was available for health and fitness suites.

Horse riding recommendations

11.5. Based on the information above, we don't believe there is a need for any new or updated recommendations for horse riding. Any recommendations within the 2024 LFAS and action plan will remain valid.

12. Multi Use Games Areas (MUGA)

Supply Update

12.1. Table 12.1 below shows the key updates against the LFAS recommendations for MUGA provision in Vale of White Horse.

Table 12.1 – Changes in MUGA supply and quality

Site	LFAS Recommendation	Update	Aim (protect, enhance or provide)
North sub-area			
Walnut Meadows, Drayton	**VN13:** Support the development of a new MUGA at this site for public / community sports club use.	New two court MUGA at Walnut Meadows, Drayton.	Provide
South sub-area			
Crabb Hill, Wantage	**VS3 -** Continue to support the development of a new skatepark and a multi-use games area that can be made available for extensive public use.	New MUGA with sports lighting delivered and handed over to Wantage Town FC to manage.	Provide
West sub-area			
East Challow Recreation Ground	N/A	Refurbishment of the MUGA.	Enhance

Demand update

12.2. We were unable to collect data on MUGA users due to a lack of available information.

Key updates

12.3. The following section sets out the key issues and updates identified through stakeholder engagement:

a. Pickleball England has advised that adding pickleball court markings to Multi-Use Games Areas, where feasible, would support growing demand for the sport. In locations where MUGAs are not close to residential properties (due to potential noise impacts), MUGAs could also accommodate dedicated pickleball courts.

South sub-area

b. The recently delivered MUGA at St John's School, Grove is scheduled to become available for community use in Spring 2026, in line with recommendation VS5.
c. Harwell Parish Council has identified the provision of a small MUGA as a priority need for the village.

West sub-area

d. In 2024, Council officers engaged with Faringdon Town Council to explore potential upgrades at Folly Sports Park. These discussions included the possible delivery of a Multi-Use Games Area, along with associated changing facilities and a community hall. Faringdon Town Council has identified this as a key leisure priority for the area.

MUGAs summary

12.4. We were unable to gather any comparable data for MUGAs.

MUGAs recommendation

12.5. Continue to support improvements to Multi-Use Games Areas across the district where opportunities arise.

12.6. The following recommendations in table 12.6 have been added or updated in the action plan:

Table 12.6 Changes to the action plan recommendations

Facility /Club	LFAS recommendation	New / Updated Aim
South sub-area		
Harwell	**VS9:** Explore the opportunity to support Harwell Parish Council with a MUGA for the village.	New - Provide

12.7. It is important to note that these are just new or updated actions from this annual update. The council will also continue to progress the other recommendations from the 2024 strategy and action plan.

13. Netball

Supply update

13.1. Table 13.1 below shows the key updates against the LFAS recommendations for netball provision in Vale of White Horse.

Table 13.1 – Changes in netball supply and quality

Site	LFAS Recommendation	Update	Aim (protect, enhance or provide)
North sub-area			
Walnut Meadows, Drayton	**VN13:** Support the development of a new MUGA at this site for public / community sports club use.	New two court MUGA at Walnut Meadows, Drayton.	Provide
West sub-area			
East Challow Recreation Ground	N/A	Refurbishment of the MUGA.	Enhance

Demand update

13.2. Table 13.2 below sets out the changes in netball club members across the Vale of White Horse between 2023/24 and 2024/25.

Table 13.2 Comparison of number of netball members between 2023/24 and 2024/25

Netball Demand Data				
Sub-Area	**Club**	**Members**	**2023/24**	**2024/25**
North	Abingdon Centre Netball Club	All	226	Unknown
North	Abingdon Vale Netball Club	All	29	30
North	Comets Netball Club	All	44	Unknown
North	Team Matrix Netball Club	All	100	120
South	Challow Netball Club	All	90	75
West	Didcot Netball Club	All	125	129
West	Faringdon Netball Club	All	104	Unknown

Key updates

13.3. The following section sets out the key issues and updates identified through stakeholder engagement.

North sub-area

a. Team Matrix trains at The Manor Prep School Sports Hall (Abingdon) and Headington Rye School Franklin Road Site Sports Hall (Oxford). The club has identified a shortage of suitable indoor netball venues across Oxfordshire, which continues to limit its ability to secure consistent, high-quality training space.

b. Vale Netball Club previously trained at Our Lady's School (Abingdon); however, the school closed in August 2025, resulting in the loss of this venue. Since then, the club has struggled to secure an alternative training location and has highlighted a lack of available and affordable indoor netball venues. The club also reports that the central venue currently used for matches in Oxford (Court Place Farm, Marston) offers poor court quality and presents an increased risk of injury, particularly during adverse weather. In response to these challenges, the club has identified the provision of an indoor netball centre as a priority need.

South sub-area

c. Challow Netball Club operates from King Alfred's Sports Hall (Wantage). The club manages a waiting list, particularly for senior players, and has recently experienced a 20% increase in training costs. Access to the venue is occasionally restricted due to school events, and the court surface is often slippery, creating less-than-ideal conditions for safe netball activity. The club would benefit from access to an additional training venue to meet demand and provide consistent, safe playing conditions.

d. The newly delivered MUGA at St Johns School (Grove) is due to be available for community use in Spring 2026 (in line with recommendation VS5).

West sub-area

e. Didcot Netball Club uses Boundary Park tennis courts and currently supports 82 female junior members and 47 senior members (including one male adult). The club has access to two courts at Boundary Park; however, participation levels mean the club requires three courts at peak times to accommodate demand.

Netball summary

13.4. Challow netball club has seen a 16% decrease in participation numbers between 2024/25 and 2025/26. The remaining comparable clubs have seen no major participation changes.

13.5. There is a common theme of lack of availably of facilities for clubs.

Netball recommendations

13.6. Support the improvement and enhancement of netball facilities across the district to provide safe and suitable playing environments.

13.7. The following recommendations in table 13.7 have been added or updated in the action plan:

Table 13.7 Changes to the action plan recommendations

Facility /Club	LFAS recommendation	New / Updated Aim
District wide		
District Wide	**VA1:** Explore the opportunity to support the development of both indoor and outdoor (sports-lit) netball courts across the district.	New – Provide
North sub-area		
Site yet to be identified	**VN33:** Due to the closure of Our Lady's School, support Vale Netball club to find a new training venue.	New – Protect

13.8. It is important to note that these are just new or updated actions from this annual update. The council will also continue to progress the other recommendations from the 2024 strategy and action plan.

14. Parkour

Supply update

14.1. Following our engagement with clubs, facility operators, parish and town councils, and a review of planning applications, we have not identified any new or upgraded parkour facilities or provision across the district.

Demand update

14.2. Due to the informal nature of the sport, it has not been possible to collect demand data of parkour users.

Key updates

14.3. The following section sets out the key issues and updates identified through stakeholder engagement:

West sub-area

a. Faringdon Town Council has identified a need for dedicated space to accommodate urban movement activities, including BMX, skateboarding and parkour. In response, recommendation VW16 supports the existing Urban Movement Academy in Faringdon to progress the search for a new facility.

Parkour summary

14.4. We were unable to gather any comparable data for parkour facilities.

Parkour recommendations

14.5. Based on the information above, we don't believe there is a need for any new or updated recommendations for parkour. Any recommendations within the 2024 LFAS and action plan will remain valid.

15. Skateparks

Supply update

15.1. Table 15.1 below shows the key updates against the LFAS recommendations for skatepark provision in Vale of White Horse.

Table 15.1 – Changes in netball supply and quality

Site	LFAS Recommendation	Update	Aim (protect, enhance or provide)
North sub-area			
Louie Memorial Playing Field	**VN32:** Support the development of a new skatepark to meet demand for a skatepark in Botley.	Delivery of a concrete skatepark in Botley completed in 2025.	Provide

Demand update

15.2. Due to the informal nature of skateboarding, Skateboarding GB do not have a formalised club or team structure. We cannot therefore use local club membership to determine demand data in our district.

Key updates

15.3. The following section sets out the key issues and updates identified through stakeholder engagement:

South sub-area

a. Grove Parish Council has identified the enhancements of the existing skatepark as a priority project.

b. Blewbury Parish Council states the skatepark needs to be replaced.

West sub-area

c. Faringdon Town Council has identified a need for dedicated space to accommodate urban movement activities, including BMX, skateboarding and parkour. In response, recommendation VW16 supports the existing Urban Movement Academy in Faringdon to progress the search for a new facility.

d. Stanford in the Vale Parish Council highlights that the provision of a new skatepark is a priority project for the council (in line with existing recommendation VW14).

Skateparks summary

15.4. We were unable to gather comparable data for skateboarding.

Skatepark recommendations

15.5. Continue to support the delivery and enhancements skateparks across the district.

15.6. The following recommendations in table 15.6 have been added or updated in the action plan:

Table 15.6 Changes to the action plan recommendations

Facility / Club	LFAS recommendation	New / Updated Aim
South sub-area		
Grove Skatepark	**VS27:** Support enhancements to Grove skatepark.	New – Enhance
Blewbury Skatepark	**VS2**: Support Blewbury Parish Council with aspirations to enhance their skatepark.	New – Enhance

15.7. It is important to note that these are just new or updated actions from this annual update. The council will also continue to progress the other recommendations from the 2024 strategy and action plan.

16. Sports Halls (Village Halls and Community Centres)

Supply update

16.1. Table 16.1 overleaf shows the key updates against the LFAS recommendations for sports hall provision in Vale of White Horse.

Demand update

16.2. Table 15.2 below sets out the number of sports hall users between 2023/24 and 2024/25 across facilities owned by the Vale of White Horse.

Table 16.2 Comparison *of sports hall users for sports halls owned by Vale of White Horse District Council*

Sport Hall Demand Data			
Sub-Area	**Sports Hall**	**2023/24**	**2024/25**
North	White Horse Leisure and Tennis Centre	275,570	288,797
South	Wantage Leisure Centre	100,935	106,185
West	Faringdon Leisure Centre	127,102	134,855

Key updates

16.3. The following section sets out the key issues and updates identified through stakeholder engagement.

North sub-area

a. Brookes Sports Botley (Harcourt Hill Campus) has announced that the sports hall closed from the 1 April 2026.
b. Our Lady's School, Abingdon closed in August 2025, resulting in the loss of a sports hall that previously supported community hire.
c. Botley and North Hinksey Parish Council has identified the replacement of Louie Memorial Pavilion as a key priority. This is reflected in the existing action plan under recommendation VN31.
d. Wootton Parish Council has identified working with the community centre to improve facilities at the community field as a priority.

South sub-area

e. The new sports hall at St John's Academy, Grove is scheduled to open in Spring 2026.

Table 16.1 – Changes in sports halls supply and quality

Site	LFAS Recommendation	Update	Aim (protect, enhance or provide)
North sub-area			
White Horse Leisure and Tennis Centre	N/A	Reception refurbishment and fitness equipment upgrades	Enhance
Drayton Village Hall	N/A	Replacing lights to LED, wall and ceiling refurbishment	Enhance
Sutton Courtenay Village Hall	N/A	Improved lighting	Enhance
South sub-area			
Blewbury Clubhouse	N/A	Improvements to solar PV	Enhance
Wantage Leisure Centre	**VS23:** Maximise the use of existing assets by improving the quality of the facility to meet consumer expectations and expanding the gym offering. Wantage LC sports hall: diversifying the sporting offering and modernising the sports hall and swimming pool is recommended.	Refurbishment of the sports hall floor along with replacement of roofing and instillation of solar PV.	Enhance
West sub-area			
Faringdon Leisure Centre	N/A	New gym equipment	Enhance
Corn Exchange (Faringdon)	N/A	New commercial dishwasher and replacement stage with storage	Enhance
Hanney War Memorial Hall	N/A	Upgrades to shower facilities in changing rooms	Enhance

Sport halls summary

16.4. The sports halls across South Oxfordshire have seen an average increase of 6.2%

Sports halls recommendations

16.5. Continue to work with schools to secure and maintain Community Use Agreements, ensuring ongoing access to sports hall provision.

16.6. Support sports clubs previously using Our Lady's School to secure suitable alternative training facilities following the school's closure.

16.7. The recommendations in table 16.7 overleaf have been added or updated in the action plan

16.8. It is important to note that these are just new or updated actions from this annual update. The council will also continue to progress the other recommendations from the 2024 strategy and action plan.

16.9. For each sport that uses a sports hall, NGB consultation and club survey responses are shown in sections below.

Table 16.7 Changes to the action plan recommendations

Facility / Club	LFAS recommendation	New / Updated Aim
North sub-area		
Brookes Sport Botley (Harcourt Hill)	**VN6:** ~~This facility should be retained or enhanced as part of redevelopment unless an assessment has demonstrated that there is an excess of provision and they are surplus to requirements or clear evidence supports their relocation.~~	Update: All facilities are available for community use during extensive open hours (apart from those that have closed). This facility should be retained, enhanced, or reopened as part of redevelopment, unless an assessment has demonstrated that there is an excess of provision and they are surplus to requirements or clear evidence supports their relocation.
Our Lady's School	**VN34**: Protect the leisure facilities at Our Lady School, Abingdon	New - Protect
Our Lady's School	**VN40:** Support clubs that used Our Lady School to find an appropriate venue	New - Protect
White Horse Leisure and Tennis Centre	**VN28:** Maximise the use of existing assets by improving the quality of the facility to meet consumer expectations	New - Enhance
Wootton and Dry Sandford Community Centre	**VN37:** Support facility improvements at Wooton and Dry Sandford Community centre and field	New- Enhance
West sub-area		
Faringdon Leisure Centre	**VW4:** Maximise the use of existing assets by improving the quality of the facility to meet consumer expectations	New - Enhance

17. Basketball

Demand update

17.1. Table 16.10 below sets out the changes in basketball club members across the Vale of White Horse between 2023/24 and 2024/25.

Table 17.1 Comparison of number of basketball players between 2023/24 and 2024/25.

Demand Data				
Sub-Area	**Club**	**Members**	**2023/24**	**2024/25**
North	Abingdon Eagles Basketball Ball Club	Junior	19	431
		Adult	60	150
		Total	79	581
	Jets Badminton Club	Junior	Unknown	0
		Adult	Unknown	20
		Total	Unknown	20
West	Wantage & Faringdon Basketball Club	Junior	Unknown	Unknown
		Adult	Unknown	Unknown
		Total	Unknown	Unknown

Key updates

17.2. The following section sets out the key issues and updates identified through stakeholder engagement:

North sub-area

a. Abingdon Eagles Basketball Club uses multiple venues across the region and has expanded activity at all sites except the Kings Academy West site, where poor flooring restricts use. All boys' teams from U8 to U18 currently operate with waiting lists due to a shortage of available facilities

   The club previously reviewed basketball venues across South Oxfordshire and the Vale of White Horse and found no courts that meet Basketball England standards. The club identified White Horse Leisure and Tennis Centre as the most suitable option; however, Saturday party bookings prevent the centre from accommodating girls' matches. This capacity constraint has forced the club to withdraw one boys' team and restrict new memberships.

   The club has highlighted the need for support from South and Vale District Councils to help secure appropriate facilities. It now aims to expand its women's programme by increasing hire time at White Horse, Didcot, and Wantage Leisure Centres.

b. Jets Basketball Club use Abingdon College and reports a severe shortage of alternative facilities venues to hire when the college is unavailable.

Basketball summary

17.3. Abingdon Eagles Basketball Club experienced a 635% increase in membership between 2023/24 and 2024/25.

Basketball recommendations

17.4. The following recommendations in table 16.13 have been added or updated in the action plan:

Table 17.4 Changes to the action plan recommendations

Facility / Club	LFAS recommendation	New / Updated Aim
District Wide		
Site yet to be identified	**VA2:** Explore the opportunity for the development of a Basketball England standard court in the district to help accommodate the growing demand for basketball.	New – Provide/Enhance

18. Boxing and Marital Arts

Demand update

18.1. Table 18.1 below sets out the changes in boxing and martial arts members across the Vale of White Horse between 2023/24 and 2024/25. It was challenging for us to get some of the club membership data when preparing the original LFAS in 2023/24 along with the update, and the data below reflects that.

Table 18.1 Comparison of number of boxing and martial arts participants

Demand Data				
Sub-Area	**Club**	**Members**	**2023/24**	**2024/25**
North	Abingdon Town Amateur Boxing Club	Adult	Unknown	50
		Junior	Unknown	40
		Total	Unknown	90
	Abingdon Judo Club	Adult	40	38
		Junior	40	44
		Total	80	82
	4 Real Freestyle Kickboxing Academy	Adult	Unknown	Unknown
		Junior	Unknown	Unknown
		Total	Unknown	Unknown
	Vale of the White Horse - School of Boxing	Adult	-	Unknown
		Junior	52	Unknown
		Total	52	Unknown
	Spartans Elite Amateur Boxing Club	Adult	Unknown	Unknown
		Junior	Unknown	Unknown
		Total	Unknown	Unknown
	Tiska Abingdon Club	Adult	Unknown	Unknown
		Junior	Unknown	Unknown
		Total	Unknown	Unknown
South	Grove Martial Arts (GMA)	Adult	48	75
		Junior	71	50
		Total	119	125
	Oxfordshire Taekwon-Do (Wantage)	Adult	Unknown	Unknown
		Junior	Unknown	Unknown
		Total	Unknown	Unknown
	Mpowered Martial Arts	Adult	Unknown	Unknown
		Junior	Unknown	Unknown
		Total	Unknown	Unknown
	Wantage & Vale Shotokan Karate Club	Adult	30	Unknown
		Junior	70	Unknown
		Total	100	Unknown
West	Faringdon Judo Club	Adult	Unknown	35
		Junior	Unknown	10
		Total	Unknown	45

Key updates

18.2. The following section sets out the key issues and updates identified through stakeholder engagement:

North sub-area

a. Abingdon Judo Club currently has 82 members, comprising:

   i. Age 5-10 years: 21
   ii. Age 10-14 years: 17
   iii. Age 15-17 years: 6
   iv. Age 18+: 38

   The club does not currently operate from a permanent facility and has identified this a key challenge. The club advises that securing a dedicated venue, alongside funding support, would:

   v. enable the purchase of higher quality, longer-lasting equipment,
   vi. Allow the delivery of larger and more frequent classes,
   vii. reduce risk of injury: and
   viii. improve the overall quality of training provision.

b. Abingdon Town Amateur Boxing Club currently uses facilities at Abingdon United Football Club (the facility is undergoing refurbishment works).

c. Spartan Elite Armature Boxing Club based at Dalton Barrack, Abingdon is seeking to develop a purpose-built community boxing venue or identify and repropose an existing building into a fully functional boxing gym and community hub.

South sub-area

d. Grove Martial Arts uses facilities at Old Mill Hall (Grove) and Aureus Secondary School (Didcot) and have and equal split of male and female adults in Grove and 80% male in Didcot. The club commented that Aureus school no longer has a dedicated lettings manager and they now enter via key card which has worked intermittently.

Boxing and martial arts summary

18.3. There are no major consistent changes in boxing and martial arts participants.

Boxing and martial arts recommendations

18.4. Continue to support the judo clubs and facilities they use across the district.

18.5. The following recommendations in table 18.5 have been added or updated in the action plan:

Table 18.5 Changes to the action plan recommendations

Facility / Club	LFAS recommendation	New / Updated Aim
North sub-area		
Abingdon Judo Club	**VN4:** Where possible, support Abingdon Judo Club with a dedicated facility.	New - Provide
Spartans Elite Amateur Boxing Club	**VN40:** Where possible, support Spartans Elite ABC with a dedicated facility.	New - Provide

19. Dance

Demand update

19.1. Table 19.1 overleaf sets out the changes in dance participant across the Vale of White Horse between 2023/24 and 2024/25. It was challenging for us to get some of the club membership data when preparing the original LFAS in 2023/24 along with the update, and the data below reflects that.

Key updates

19.2. The following section sets out the key issues and updates identified through stakeholder engagement:

North sub-area

a. Amanda Alder Dance Academy has approximately 400 students ranging from 2.5 years old to adults. The academy operates a waiting list for junior street dance sessions for children aged 9-11yrs.

   The academy has created a smaller studio to offer private lessons. The academy wishes to offer more daytime classes for adults, home-educated children, and pre-school aged children however, their current venue doesn't have capacity to do so. They are therefore exploring options to purchase a new building but would need funding support to do so.

Dance summary

19.3. The only comparable dance club saw a 20% decrease in participation numbers from 2023/24 to 2024/25.

Dance recommendations

19.4. The following recommendations in table 19.4 have been added or updated in the action plan:

Table 19.4 Changes to the action plan recommendations

Facility / Club	LFAS recommendation	New / Updated Aim
North sub-area		
Amanda Alder Dance	**VN5:** Support Amanda Alder Dance Academy in pursuing funding options to enhance their facility.	New – Enhance

Table 19.1 Comparison of number of dance participants

Demand Data				
Sub Area	**Club**	**Members**	**2023/24**	**2024/25**
North	Betty Bloom Dance Clubs (across South and Vale)	Junior	280	Unknown
		Adult	20	Unknown
		Total	300	Unknown
	Abingdon Dance & Fitness Studio	Junior	130	Unknown
		Adult	60	Unknown
		Total	190	Unknown
	Alpha Academy	Junior	Unknown	Unknown
		Adult	Unknown	Unknown
		Total	Unknown	Unknown
	Amanda Alder Dance Academy	Junior	450	Unknown
		Adult	50	Unknown
		Total	500	400
	Attitude Dance School	Junior	Unknown	Unknown
		Adult	Unknown	Unknown
		Total	Unknown	Unknown
	Swinburne Road Dance Club	Junior	Unknown	Unknown
		Adult	Unknown	Unknown
		Total	Unknown	Unknown
	Stagecoach Performing arts	Junior	Unknown	Unknown
		Adult	Unknown	Unknown
		Total	Unknown	Unknown
South	Cheek2Cheek Dance	Junior	Unknown	Unknown
		Adult	Unknown	Unknown
		Total	Unknown	Unknown
	Cornucopia	Junior	0	Unknown
		Adult	20	Unknown

Demand Data				
Sub Area	**Club**	**Members**	**2023/24**	**2024/25**
		Total	20	Unknown
	Karen Brind School of Dance	Junior	Unknown	Unknown
		Adult	Unknown	Unknown
		Total	Unknown	Unknown
	Loreley Rice Belly Dancing	Junior	Unknown	Unknown
		Adult	Unknown	Unknown
		Total	Unknown	Unknown
	Vale Islanders	Junior	1	Unknown
		Adult	13	Unknown
		Total	14	Unknown
	Wantage Folk Dance Club	Junior	0	Unknown
		Adult	53	Unknown
		Total	53	Unknown
	White Horse Ceilidhs Club	Junior	Unknown	Unknown
		Adult	Unknown	Unknown
		Total	Unknown	Unknown

20. Table Tennis

Demand update

20.1. Table 20.1 below sets out the changes in table tennis players across the Vale of White Horse between 2023/24 and 2024/25. It was challenging for us to get some of the club membership data when preparing the update, and the data below reflects that.

Table 20.1 Comparison of number of table tennis players

Table Tennis Demand Data				
Sub-Area	**Club**	**Member**	**2023/24**	**2024/25**
North	Abingdon Riverside Table Tennis Club	Junior	0	Unknown
		Adult	25	Unknown
		Total	25	Unknown
	Drayton Table Tennis Club	Junior	11	Unknown
		Adult	23	Unknown
		Total	34	Unknown
	Moreton Table Tennis Club	Junior	10	6
		Adult	46	40
		Total	56	46
	Sutton Courtenay Table Tennis Club	Junior	0	0
		Adult	8	10
		Total	8	10
South	Grove Table Tennis Club	Junior	2	Unknown
		Adult	16	Unknown
		Total	18	Unknown
	Letcombe Table Tennis Club	Junior	0	Unknown
		Adult	8	Unknown
		Total	8	Unknown
	Grove Table Tennis Club	Junior	Unknown	0
		Adult	Unknown	15
		Total	Unknown	15
West	Faringdon Table Tennis Club	Junior	Unknown	Unknown
		Adult	Unknown	Unknown
		Total	Unknown	Unknown

20.2. Table Tennis England reported 192 affiliated members across the Vale of White Horse District.

Key updates

20.3. The following section sets out the key issues and updates identified through stakeholder engagement:

North sub-area

a. Moreton Table Tennis Club currently operates across two venues: Didcot University Technical College (UTC) and Sutton Courtenay Village Hall. Recent lighting improvement at both venues (installed by the school at Didcot UTC and funded by Moreton and Sutton Courtenay Table Tennis Clubs at the village hall) have enhanced playing conditions. While the club identifies a single dedicated venue as the preferred long-term solution, high costs and limited opening hours at Didcot UTC currently make the facility unsuitable for hosting league matches.

b. Sutton Courtenay Table Tennis Club plays at Sutton Courtney Village Hall and currently has nine male members and one female member. The club supports a new facility for table tennis, for multiple clubs to use. They raised concerns that it is getting harder to find an affordable venue that is suitable for use.

Table tennis summary

20.4. There are no major consistent changes in table tennis membership between 2023/24 and 2024/25.

Table tennis recommendations

20.5. The following recommendations in table 16.27 have been added or updated in the action plan:

Table 20.5 Changes to the action plan recommendations

Facility /Club	LFAS recommendation	New / Updated Aim
North sub-area		
Moreton Table Tennis Club	**VN16:** Support Moreton Table Tennis Club to find a venue that would be suitable for hosting league matches (new recommendation added to the action plan).	New - Provide
District wide		
Site yet to be identified	**VA3:** Explore the opportunity for there to be a dedicated table tennis venue within the district that could cater for multiple clubs.	New - Provide

21. Swimming

Supply update

21.1. Table 21.1 below shows the key updates against the LFAS recommendations for swimming provision in Vale of White Horse.

Table 21.1 – Changes in swimming pool supply and quality

Site	LFAS Recommendation	Update	Aim (protect, enhance or provide)
South sub-area			
Wantage Leisure Centre	VS23: Enhance – Maximise the use of existing assets by improving the quality of the facility to meet consumer expectations, and expectations and expanding the gym offering. Wantage LC sports hall: diversifying the sporting offering and modernising the sports hall and swimming pool is recommended.	Wet side changing room refurbishment completed.	Enhance
West sub-area			
Faringdon Leisure Centre	N/A	The swimming pool filters have been refurbished.	Enhance

Demand update

21.2. Table 21.2 below sets out the changes in swimming members across the Vale of White Horse between 2023/24 and 2024/25. It was challenging for us to get some of the club membership data when the update, and the data below reflects that.

Table 21.2 Comparison of number of swimming members

Swimming Demand Data				
Sub-Area	**Club**	**Member**	**2023/24**	**2024/5**
North	Abingdon Vale Swimming Club	Junior	180	Unknown
		Adult	5	Unknown
		Total	185	Unknown
	Abingdon Swimming Club	Junior	Unknown	Unknown
		Adult	Unknown	Unknown
		Total	Unknown	Unknown
	Didcot Barramundi Swim Club	Junior	76	Unknown
		Adult	35	Unknown
		Total	111	Unknown
South	Wantage White Horse Swimming Club	Junior	80	65
		Adult	13	15
		Total	93	80
West	Swindon Dolphins Swimming Clubs	Junior	Unknown	Unknown
		Adult	Unknown	Unknown
		Total	Unknown	Unknown

Key updates

21.3. The following section sets out the key issues and updates identified through stakeholder engagement:

North sub-area

a. Our Lady School, Abingdon closed in August 2025. Following the closure of Our Lady's School, Abingdon Swimming Club has ceased delivering swimming lessons, as it has been unable to secure additional pool time at an alternative venue.

b. Oxford Brookes, Harcourt Hill swimming pool closed in June 2025. The reopening of the pool is highlighted as a priority for Botley and North Hinksey Parish Council.

South sub-area

c. Wantage White Horse Swimming Club based at Wantage Leisure Centre, currently has a waiting list of five people for their adult sessions. The club reports increased hire costs and limited pool availability, which are preventing

them from expanding. They comment the cleanliness of the facilities needs improvement on occasions.

d. Wantage Town Council notes that a learner pool at Wantage Leisure Centre is a priority project (in line with current recommendation VS24).

Swimming pools summary

21.4. There is no major consistent picture of changes in swimming club membership between 2023/24 and 2024/2025.

Swimming pool recommendations

21.5. Continue to improve swimming facilities across the district to maintain quality, meet demand, and support participation.

21.6. The recommendations in table 21.6 overleaf have been added or updated in the action plan.

21.7. It is important to note that these are just new or updated actions from this annual update. The council will also continue to progress the other recommendations from the 2024 strategy and action plan.

Table 21.6 Changes to the action plan recommendations

Facility / Club	LFAS recommendation	New / Updated Aim
North sub-area		
White Horse Leisure and Tennis Centre	**VN28:** Maximise the use of existing assets by improving the quality of the facility to meet consumer expectations.	New - Enhance
Brookes Sport Botley (Harcourt Hill)	**VN6:** This facility should be retained or enhanced as part of redevelopment unless an assessment has demonstrated that there is an excess of provision and they are surplus to requirements or clear evidence supports their relocation.	Update: All facilities are available for community use during extensive open hours (apart from those that have closed). This facility should be retained, enhanced, or reopened as part of redevelopment, unless an assessment has demonstrated that there is an excess of provision and they are surplus to requirements or clear evidence supports their relocation.
Our Lady's School	**VN34:** Protect the leisure facilities at Our Lady School, Abingdon	New - Protect
Our Lady's School	**VN40:** Support clubs that used Our Lady School to find an appropriate venue	New - Protect
West sub-area		
Faringdon Leisure Centre	**VW4:** Maximise the use of existing assets by improving the quality of the facility to meet consumer expectations	New - Enhance
District Wide		
Site yet to be identified	VA5: Explore the opportunity to provide additional swimming pools/ water space to cater for growing demand in the district.	New - Provide

22. Squash Courts

Supply update

22.1. Table 22.1 below shows the key updates against the LFAS recommendations for squash court provision in Vale of White Horse.

Table 22.1 – Changes in squash supply and quality

Site	LFAS Recommendation	Update	Aim (protect, enhance or provide)
South sub-area			
Wantage Leisure Centre	**VS25:** Squash courts should be retained and the quality enhanced to meet the demand for 'pay and play' squash in the South sub area. Both courts should be retained to meet future demand for squash.	Part of the decarbonisation project has replaced the redundant heating to the courts	Enhance

Demand update

22.2. We were unable to gather any data for specific squash clubs however England Squash has confirmed that squash players have the option in their England Squash profiles to select clubs where they play. There are 184 players linked to Hithercroft Squash Club (South Oxfordshire) and Abingdon Squash and Racketball Club.

Key updates

22.3. The following section sets out the key issues and updates identified through stakeholder engagement.

North sub-area

a. GLL (the leisure operator) and Vale of White Horse District Council are reviewing court usage at Whit Horse Tennis and Leisure Centre, and are considering changing the use of one of the courts.

Squash summary

22.4. There is no comparable data for squash provision across the district.

Squash recommendations

22.5. Continue to enhance and protect squash facilities across the district to support current and future demand.

22.6. Based on the information above, we don’t believe there is a need for any new or updated recommendations for parkour. Any recommendations within the 2024 LFAS and action plan will remain valid.

23. Tennis

Supply update

23.1. Table 23.1 below shows the key updates against the LFAS recommendations for tennis court provision in Vale of White Horse.

Table 23.1 – Changes in tennis courts supply and quality

Site	LFAS Recommendation	Update	Aim (protect, enhance or provide)
North sub-area			
White Horse Leisure and Tennis Centre	**VN29:** Explore the opportunity for the refurbishment of existing outdoor tennis courts. Consideration should also be given to the need for Padel tennis courts, netball courts / a MUGA.	4 astro sand-based courts have been resurfaced.	Enhance
South sub-area			
Hendred Sports Club	**VS13:** Continue to support the Sports Club with its development plans for new facilities (subject to the outcome of any options appraisal and feasibility study required for the development).	Replacement of fencing for tennis courts.	Enhance
West sub-area			
Hanney Tennis Club	**VW19:** To increase club capacities, sports lighting should be installed at Hanney TC	New sports lighting installed.	Enhance
Faringdon Tennis Club	N/A	Repainting and resurfacing of two tennis courts	Enhance

Demand update

23.2. Table 23.2 below sets out the changes in tennis players across the Vale of White Horse between 2023/24 and 2024/25.

Table 23.2 Comparison of number of tennis players between 2023/24 and 2024/25

Tennis Demand Data					
Sub-Area	**Club**	**Member**	**2023/24**	**2024/25**	**2024/25**
North	Abingdon Lawn Tennis Club	Total	376	Junior	63
				Adults	299
				Total	362
	Appleton with Eaton Tennis Club	Total	150	Total	264
	Oxford Sports Lawn Tennis Club	Total	350	Total	332
	White Horse Leisure & Tennis Centre	Total	NA	Total	Unknown
South	Ardington and Lockinge Tennis Club	Total	30	Total	32
	Blewbury Tennis Club	Total	277	Total	256
	Hendred Sports Club	Total	-	Total	84
	Harwell Village Tennis Club	Total	92	Junior	4
				Adults	34
				Total	38
	Letcombe Tennis Club	Total	161	Junior	30
				Adults	121
				Total	151
	Wantage Lawn Tennis Club	Total	207	Total	260
West	Elms Tennis Court	Total	-	Total	Unknown
	Faringdon Tennis Club	Total	300	Total	297
	Hanney Tennis Club	Total	134	Junior	30
				Adults	80
				Total	110
	Kingston Bagpuize with Southmoor	Total	200	Total	221
	Shrivenham Lawn Tennis Club	Total	150	Total	140
	Uffington Lawn Tennis Club	Total	90	Total	71

Key updates

23.3. The following section sets out the key issues and updates identified through stakeholder engagement:

North sub-area

a. The LTA has identified improvements to the remaining courts at White Horse Leisure Centre, Abingdon as a priority project (recommendation VN29). The

Oxfordshire Lawn Tennis Association is seeking to extend its lease and continue operating on site.

b. Abingdon Lawn and Tennis Club (ALTC) consists of 127 adult females, 172 adult males, 25 junior females and 38 junior males. A group of club members is preparing a proposal for the club's consideration to independently operate padel courts on land currently leased by ALTC from the district council.

South sub-area

c. Harwell Village Tennis Club is in the process of replacing its open-sided breeze block shelter with a more suitable and better-positioned small pavilion. Future development plans include installing floodlights and adding at least one more court. Currently, the club operates with just two courts, which presents challenges for league play, as each of the club's three teams in the Newbury District League requires three doubles pairs per match. The club is also working to improve junior and female member recruitment, which remains a challenge.

d. Wantage Tennis Club is currently in the process of converting one of the two public tennis courts to provide two padel courts and a pickleball court. The club has secured planning permission and the support of the LTA, Wantage Town Council and the district council. They are receiving tenders for the work. The club has applied to the district council to access Section 106 funding[1] for preliminary costs and will submit an additional application for implementation costs. The club has advised that without this funding they will not be able to proceed.

e. Similarly, Wantage Town Council notes that enhanced tennis facilities are a priority for their area.

f. Provision of tennis, padel or pickleball courts have been noted as a priority project for Grove Parish Council.

West sub-area

g. Stanford in the Vale Parish Council notes that there are no racquet sports facilities in the area and has aspiration for new courts (in line with existing recommendation VW15). Delivery of new courts is a priority for the council along with changing facilities for sports.

h. Hanney Tennis Club has 30 junior members, comprising 12 females and 18 males. The club has 80 adult members, comprising 35 females and 45 males.

i. Faringdon Tennis Club has plans to resurface the courts and increase floodlighting coverage for two further courts (in line with existing recommendation VW7).

[1] Funding from (mostly) housing developments in the area to mitigate their impact on local infrastructure

Tennis summary

23.4. Most tennis clubs experienced an average of 14% decrease in participation numbers between 2023/24 to 2024/25. The remaining clubs experienced an average increase of 30% in participation numbers.

23.5. Clubs and stakeholders identify the need to upgrade ageing courts and ancillary facilities to maintain quality and usability.

23.6. Tennis clubs across the district place strong emphasis on expanding padel and pickleball provision to meet growing demand.

Tennis recommendations

23.7. The following recommendations in table 23.7 have been added or updated in the action plan:

Table 23.7 Changes to the action plan recommendations

Facility / Club	LFAS recommendation	New / Updated Aim
South sub-area		
Harwell Tennis Club	**VS11:** Support the enhancements of tennis facilities at Harwell Tennis Club.	New – Enhance
Wantage Tennis Club	**VS30:** Continue to support the development and improvements to Wantage Tennis Club facilities.	New – Enhance
Grove	**VS29:** Explore the opportunity to provide racket sport facilities in Grove.	New – Provide
North sub-area		
White Horse Leisure and Tennis Centre	**VN35:** Support the Oxfordshire Lawn Tennis Association to extend their lease at White Horse Leisure and Tennis Centre.	New - Protect

23.8. It is important to note that these are just new or updated actions from this annual update. The council will also continue to progress the other recommendations from the 2024 strategy and action plan.

24. Padel Tennis

Introduction

24.1. Padel tennis courts were not included in the 2024 assessment and strategy; however, due to the sport's growing popularity, the steering group has decided to incorporate it into this update with the following information provided from the NGB, the Lawn Tennis Association (LTA).

24.2. Padel is one of the fastest growing sports in Great Britain (GB) and there has been significant investment in the sport since the LTA became the national governing body in 2019. It is played on an enclosed court that is around a third of a size of a tennis court, in a doubles format, and can be played in groups of mixed ages and abilities.

24.3. The LTA recently launched an updated LTA Padel Strategy to outline their plans for 2024 – 2029 (LTA Padel Strategy). The vision and mission align to the LTA's Tennis Strategy and the focus is on growing the infrastructure, increasing and diversifying the coaching workforce and building on the performance pathway as well as increasing visibility and driving participation.

24.4. There are currently over 1000 courts in GB of which 60% are indoor (July 2025) and a recent survey reported the following findings:

a. An estimated 400,000 people have played padel in British venues in the past year with around half this number playing regularly / monthly.

b. At present, most players are adults, with juniors accounting for less than 1 in 10 of the total.

c. Most venues reported strong growth, with high interest in taster sessions, and players enjoying the fun / sociability offered by the sport.

d. Currently demand is outstripping supply, with many venues keen to add courts, or convert existing facilities, though costs, and the complexity of local planning rules, can be prohibitive.

Supply update

24.5. Table 24.5 below shows the changes in padel court provision across the Vale of White Horse:

Table 24.5 – Changes in padel tennis courts supply and quality

Site	Sub-area	Community access?	Number of courts	Ownership type	Management type
Smash Padel Oxford	North	Yes	3	Local authority	Commercial

24.6. In terms of future supply, a variety of environments can be considered. Padel courts are often situated next to or managed by those running existing tennis facilities (tennis clubs, parks, indoor tennis centres). In addition, padel court development at leisure centre sites, golf clubs and rugby/football sites can be particularly beneficial as provision can be tied into other sports facilities and profit from an already established operating model.

24.7. Commercial investment in padel facilities is also encouraged, particularly in areas with evidenced unmet demand and where community use can be demonstrated by accessible pricing models and community-focused initiatives. A community use agreement may be recommended as a condition for gaining planning permission.

24.8. The LTA are not encouraging clubs or local authorities to convert existing tennis courts to padel courts, unless it can be shown that they have the capacity to support this. This is to ensure that the provision of traditional courts remains sufficient.

Demand update

24.9. The population of VoWH is 120,988 with a padel demand of 24,198 and penetration/player base of 1,936. The LTA demand calculator identifies a need for a minimum of 10 padel courts to sustain this demand in Vale. There are currently three padel courts in VoWH based at Smash Padel Oxford in North Hinksey. The council will:

- Consider opportunities for providing padel courts at council owned leisure centres and facilities;
- Work with private / market operators of padel courts to explore opportunities for new courts across the district, and
- Work with developers of strategic housing sites in our local plan to consider opportunities for new padel provision as part of their development.

24.10. Table 24.10 shows LTA population and demand data and outlines potential locations where this demand could be met.

Table 24.10 Padel demand by sub-area and potential opportunities in Vale of White Horse

Sub-Area	Population (2021)	Padel court demand (minimum player base)	Possible sites	Site specific demand within 20-minute drive time	Opportunity for padel
North	73,129	1,170 Could sustain 6 courts	Dalton Barracks (Strategic Site)	2,385	Explore padel for strategic site's leisure provision
			White Horse Leisure & Tennis Centre	2,817	Opportunity to use some of the unplayable outdoor tennis court space for six covered padel courts
South	33,085	529 Could sustain 3 courts	Wantage Tennis Club		Planning permission has been approved for two padel courts
			Valley Park, Didcot (Strategic Site)	2,385	Explore padel for strategic site's leisure provision
West	32,691	523 Could sustain 3 courts	No sites yet identified		

Key updates

24.11. The following section sets out the key issues and updates identified through stakeholder engagement:

a. Planning permission has been granted for two padel tennis courts at Wantage Tennis Club.

b. St Hughs School, Faringdon has put in a planning application for three padel tennis courts on site.

c. New padel courts have been identified as a priority project for White Horse Tennis and Leisure Centre.

Padel summary

24.12. Evidence identifies demand for padel courts across all sub-areas of the Vale of White Horse.

Padel recommendation

24.13. Support the delivery of padel tennis across Vale of White Horse to meet current and future demand.

24.14. Discussions should be held at strategically appropriate sites to determine whether they can assist in meeting demand, without adversely impacting other sports or facilities.

24.15. The recommendations in table below 24.15 have been added to the action plan:

Table 24.15 Changes to the action plan recommendations

Facility / Club	LFAS recommendation	New / Updated Aim
North sub-area		
Site yet to be identified	**VN38:** Explore the opportunity to provide a minimum of 6 padel courts in the North sub area.	New – Provide
South sub-area		
Site yet to be identified	**VS31:** Explore the opportunity to provide a minimum of 3 padel courts in the South sub area.	New – Provide
West sub-area		
Site yet to be identified	**VW22:** Explore the opportunity to provide a minimum of 3 padel courts in the West sub area.	New – Provide

25. Pickleball

Introduction

25.1. Pickleball courts were not included in the 2024 assessment and strategy; however, due to the sport's growing popularity, the steering group has decided to incorporate it into this update. Information has been provided by Pickleball England (PbE) Oxfordshire representative.

25.2. Pickleball combines the elements of badminton, tennis, and table tennis into a single sport, although no experience in these is required to play. The sport is designed to be played across different age groups and demographics making it a socially inclusive and accessible sport. Adaptive pickleball is also a recognised category within the sport, providing for those who have movement difficulties or use wheelchair assistance.

25.3. Pickleball can be played both inside and outside with most clubs using indoor badminton court markings. Dimensions match those of a standard badminton court with one exception, the end of the service court line, near the net, is positioned 6 inches further back on each side. This difference creates a 14 foot zone, 7 feet on either side of the net, known as the No Volley Zone (NVZ), which is fundamental to the game. It should be noted, however, that badminton courts are not the ideal layout for pickleball; they are simply the most widely available option. Badminton requires far less surrounding space because the shuttle does not bounce out of bounds, whereas a pickleball will bounce in court (lines included) and can be played as much as a metre beyond the court lines. As a result, the spatial demands of pickleball are greater than what a standard badminton hall typically provides. Additionally, there is an absence of the No Volley Zone lines.

25.4. There are a number of village tennis clubs in the region who have adopted pickleball at their facilities, this is proving popular and participation is growing at these clubs. The introduction is helping to grow clubs' membership, and increase village activity.

25.5. Pickleball England's role as a not-for-profit national governing body is to aid the growth of pickleball across the country. Operating for over 5 years Pickleball England has been focused on growing the game at grass root level whilst offering competition and events for players at all levels.

Supply update

25.6. The growth of pickleball in the region has been accelerating, supported by the introduction of additional coaching opportunities and competitive league events. Daytime sessions aimed at the retired demographic have expanded successfully. However, for the working demographic, progress is being constrained by competition with established sports and the limited availability

of sports halls and badminton courts, making convenient court time difficult to secure.

25.7. Introducing younger age groups and children is also proving challenging, as evening and weekend court access is particularly scarce. Without reliable access to these peak times, it becomes difficult to build sustainable junior pathways and broaden participation.

25.8. Many players travel from neighbouring districts—including Oxford, West Oxfordshire, and South Oxfordshire, to WHLTC to attend coached sessions, social play, and the competitive league. The league is regularly oversubscribed. Although the venue has a maximum capacity of 48 players, league days compete for sports hall space. As a result, most league dates are restricted to just 36 players, limiting participation and reducing opportunities for competitive play.

25.9. There are currently 13 known dedicated pickleball facilities either open or in development across England. This rapid expansion highlights a clear and growing demand for purpose-built venues. Within the district, there is a strong commercial opportunity for establishing a dedicated pickleball centre, particularly given the limited availability of suitable indoor court space and the sport's accelerating participation.

25.10. There are no dedicated pickleball courts across the Vale of White Horse.

25.11. Whilst there are no dedicated pickleball courts, where there are badminton courts in Leisure centres, pickleball is likely being played, and if it is not then it could be. Taking note of the increased space demands of pickleball do make some sports halls & badminton halls more unsuitable than others. A list of sports halls and villages halls can be found in the Assessment Report.

Demand update

25.12. From 2019 to 2024 there was an estimated 10,498 members of Pickleball England, by the end of 2025 there were 16,000 members, a 56% increase in one year. The Sport England Active Lives Survey 2023-2024 reported that 41,500 responded that they had taken part in the last 28 days - 52% female and 48% Male.

25.13. Demand for indoor facilities peaks in the Winter months when outdoor play becomes less pleasant. Making outdoor play more accessible would relieve pressure on indoor courts during warmer months and spread the player base across the district. The inclusion of pickleball court lines on MUGA's and out of use tennis courts would be a positive step.

25.14. The following table presents the number of pickleball players across the Vale of White Horse in 2024/25.

Table 25.14 Number of pickleball players

Sub-Area	Club	Members	2024/25
North	Oxon Pickleball	All	452
North	Wootton Pickleball	All	13
North	Appleton Pickleball Club	All	35
South	Hendreds Tennis Club	All	32
South	Wantage Leisure Centre, GLL	All	22
West	White Horse Pickleball (St Hughs School)	All	20
West	Faringdon Leisure Centre, GLL Better	All	32
West	Stanford in the Vale Pickleball Group	All	Unknown

Key updates

25.15. The following section sets out the key issues and updates identified through stakeholder engagement:

a. Oxon Pickleball operates across both districts using facilities at Didcot LC, WHLTC and Wantage LC. There are currently approximately 452 members with no waiting lists and there are no membership fees. Oxon Pickleball have raised the following:

i. Pickleball No Volley Zone lines, whether temporary or permanent, could be applied to all badminton courts making them multi use courts.

ii. Permanent pickleball No Volley Zone lines could be added to the badminton courts at the WHLTC when the Sports Hall floor is next refurbished.

iii. Pickleball court markings could be added to the non-LTA tennis courts at the WHLTC making them multi-purpose.

iv. It would be beneficial if pickleball court lines were added to the Multi Use Games Areas (MUGA) (if possible). Where MUGA's are not near housing (due to noise), pickleball courts could be included as part of them.

v. Out of use tennis courts are an ideal location for pickleball courts, providing that they are not near housing. 2 - 4 pickleball courts can be drawn on each tennis court making them multi use.

vi. There is competition for sports hall space, not always from sporting activities, especially at the weekends.

vii. Inclusion of pickleball courts on the outdoor courts due to be repurposed at WHLTC would be beneficial as outdoor play is very popular.

viii. A strategically placed 8 court indoor pickleball centre would serve most of Oxfordshire.

ix. GLL currently run a 6-court league once a month at the weekend which Oxon would like to be expanded to 8 courts (this is not possible at the moment in Abingdon due to conflicts in the sports hall).

x. They would like to make use of the indoor tennis courts at the WHLTC, Abingdon, at times when the courts are not in use for tennis.

xi. A strategically placed 8 court indoor pickleball centre would serve most of Oxfordshire.

North sub-area

b. Planning permission has been granted at Wantage Tennis Club for the change of one tennis court into two padel tennis and one pickleball court.

c. Appleton Pickleball Club currently play at Appleton Village Hall (use of one badminton court). They have 35 members and run three 1.5-hour sessions. They would like to have permanent No Volley Zone line put onto the court they use, this is currently prohibited by lack of funds for the purpose. They are also looking to expand the number of sessions.

d. Wootton Pickleball Club currently play at Wootton Community Centre (use of one badminton court) and consist of 5 male and 8 female. They have no open access for new players currently.

e. An agreement has been reached with the WHLTC, and temporary lines have been added to all sports hall courts.

South sub-area

f. Provision of tennis, padel or pickleball courts have been noted as a priority project for Grove Parish Council.

Pickleball summary

25.16. The inclusion of pickleball within this update means that no comparable data is currently available.

25.17. There is demand across all sub-areas to explore incorporating pickleball lines on existing courts.

Pickleball recommendations

25.18. Support the growth of pickleball across the district where opportunities arise.

25.19. Ensure any new or enhanced pickleball courts are accessible, suitable for wheelchair users and follow the court and equipment section of Pickleball England Rule Book.

25.20. The recommendations in table 25.20 have been added or updated in the action plan:

Table 25.20 Changes to the action plan recommendations

Facility / Club	LFAS recommendation	New / Updated Aim
North sub-area		
White Horse Leisure and Tennis Centre	**VN39:** Explore the opportunity to include outside pickleball courts at WHLTC.	New – Enhance
White Horse Leisure and Tennis Centre	**VN41**: Explore the opportunity to add permanent pickleball lines to the indoor tennis courts at WHLTC.	New – Enhance
Appleton Village Hall	**VN42:** Explore the opportunity to support Appleton Pickleball Club provide permanent No Volley Zone put onto the badminton court at Appleton Village Hall.	New – Enhance
South sub-area		
North-West Valley Park, Didcot (Strategic site)	**VS18:** Explore the opportunity to provide pickleball courts at North-West Valley Park	Update – Provide
District wide		
Site yet to be Identified.	**VA6:** Explore the opportunity to support a dedicated pickleball centre within Oxfordshire.	New – Provide
District wide	**VA7:** Explore opportunities to add Pickleball 'No Volley Zone' lines, whether temporary or permanent, to all badminton courts at district owned leisure facilities.	New – Enhance
District wide	**VA8:** Explore the opportunity of adding pickleball court lines to Multi Use Games Areas (MUGAs) where feasible, particularly in locations not close to housing.	New – Enhance
District wide	**VA4:** Explore the opportunity to include pickleball courts on any out of use tennis courts if there is demand.	New – Enhance

26. Watersports (including Rowing, Sailing and Canoeing)

Supply update

26.1. Following our engagement with clubs, facility operators, parish and town councils, and a review of planning applications, we have not identified any new or upgraded water sport facilities or provision across the district.

Demand update

26.2. Table 20.2 below sets out the changes in water sports participants across the Vale of White Horse between 2023/24 and 2024/25. It was challenging for us to get some of the club membership data when preparing the original LFAS in 2023/24 and during the update, the data below reflects that.

Table 20.2 Comparison of number of water sports participants

Water sports Demand Data					
Sub-Area	**Club**	**Members**	**2023/24**	**2024/25**	**2024/25**
North	Abbey Sailing Club	Total	Unknown	Total	Unknown
	Abingdon Rowing Club	Total	130	Total	Unknown
	Oxford Sailing Club/ SUP Club	Total	Unknown	Total	Unknown
	Kingfisher Canoe Club	Total	96	Total	Unknown
South	Wantage and Grove Angling Club	Total	225	Adult	208
				Junior	26
				Total	234

Key updates

26.3. The following section sets out the key issues and updates identified through stakeholder engagement:

South sub-area

a. Wantage and Grove Angling Club - The club has plans to start running open days, once one of the committees to gain formal coaching qualifications. The club experiences predation from otters and cormorants. The have a desire to adopt measures to minimise predation but currently have neither the funds nor the requisite permission from the landowner.

Water sports summary

26.4. Wantage and Grove Angling Club have seen a 4% increase between 2023/24 and 2024/25.

Water sport recommendations

26.5. Based on the information above, we don't believe there is a need for any new or updated recommendations for water sports facilities. Any recommendations within the 2024 LFAS and action plan will remain valid.

APPENDIX 1: SUB AREA MAPS



APPENDIX 2: Parish and Town Council Consultation and Feeback

District Sub Area	Town / parish council	Issues and concerns with current leisure facilities in the area	Top priorities for protecting, enhancing and providing leisure facilities / playing pitches	Additional comments
North	Botley & North Hinksey Parish Council	In addition to the need to build the new Pavilion that we were granted planning permission for in 2023; there are additional needs in the Parish. Brookes University is exiting from their Harcourt Hill site in 2026. The swimming pool closed in June 2025. They recently announced the Sports Centre will close in April 2026 so indoor gym and exercise classes will cease at that time. Outdoor pitches will still be available to book after April, but long-term access is uncertain. These pitches and fields are used by the local community and Matthew Arnold secondary school.	Leisure facilities: 1: Replacing what we lose with Brookes leaving in April 2026 - gym, exercise classes going April 2026, playing fields provision uncertain. 2: Closure of the Swimming Pool at Brookes in June 2025 has been a big blow - we want to see it brought back into use Replacing the Louie Memorial Pavilion to serve the playing fields and community hall uses is essential to accommodate our needs as a growing community Playing pitches: 1: Provision of Louie Memorial Pavilion as the changing rooms are unusable in the current building limiting possibilities for teams using the pitches 2: Securing the Brookes Playing Fields for community use when Brookes leave the facility	Brookes Harcourt Hill sports centre, pool and pitches have for many years been accessible to our community with local resident discounts and many clubs and individuals using the pool as well as the gym, classes, pitches and fields. The existence of those facilities has meant the Vale has not needed to provide a leisure centre for Botley. But now these facilities are closed or closing soon. It's a huge loss for residents of all ages. The lack of investment by the Vale here in Botley is now very clear to see. We would like to see serious consideration and support given into how to enable the pool to be reopened and the Brookes gym and fields and pitches kept open or reopened to the community after Brookes leave.

District Sub Area	Town / parish council	Issues and concerns with current leisure facilities in the area	Top priorities for protecting, enhancing and providing leisure facilities / playing pitches	Additional comments
North	Kennington Parish Council	N/A	1: Building costs 2: Running costs 3: Obtaining grant funding for large projects	N/A
North	Sutton Courtenay Parish Council	1. The public has frequently complained about the lack of toilet facilities at the Recreation Ground. 2. Through Sutton Courtenay Neighbourhood Plan, parishioners expressed a wish to see cricket return to Sutton Courtenay. With extent of ground given over to football but not all used for football, the parish council's options for development are very limited.	Leisure facilities: 1: The hierarchy of Sports England's role in the planning process and the Vale's Pitch Playing Strategy needs to be flexible so that it empowers parish councils to deliver a variety of sporting and leisure facilities to meet the needs of its parishioners with particular regard to their health and wellbeing. Currently, the process requires preservation of football pitches which are not even used any longer to take precedent over new leisure facilities requested by parishioners in their own parish and on Parish Council land. 2: Where a Parish Council's play and leisure facilities are being used by residents of wider Oxfordshire living	Producing pitch playing strategy documents that have a lifetime of a period of 20 years seems to sit at odds with the reality - as housing development in villages increase with a concomitant demand for various activities and, as new sports/leisure activities come in to vogue, villages with limited open space find they are unable to deliver their best for the parishioners as they are bound by remote bodies who have a right to object to modification of existing facilities to allow provision of new facilities. This feels to be in direct contradiction to the Localism Act of 2011.

District Sub Area	Town / parish council	Issues and concerns with current leisure facilities in the area	Top priorities for protecting, enhancing and providing leisure facilities / playing pitches	Additional comments
			outside of Sutton Courtenay, there should be some direct funding made available to the Parish Council to support the heavy-duty use of those activities. We have some activities such as Nordic Walking where the participants come from as far as Banbury. Fencing around the play area and field is constantly being damaged by cars parking in the limited space available in the Parish Council's car park adjoining the facilities. Parish Councils have a limited budget. 3: Providing toilets for users of the recreation ground leisure facilities. Playing pitches: 1: Cricket practice nets to support the cricket team coming back to Sutton Courtenay and children and young people have the opportunity to experience cricket from an early age and develop their talent. 2: Providing changing facilities for teams to book alongside booking the cricket pitch or football pitches.	Clear lines of accountability for health and safety where Sport England insists on retaining a pitch configuration which puts users of other leisure facilities in a multi sports/leisure ground at risk.

District Sub Area	Town / parish council	Issues and concerns with current leisure facilities in the area	Top priorities for protecting, enhancing and providing leisure facilities / playing pitches	Additional comments
			3: Overcoming an insistence by Football Foundation through Sport England, to refuse modifications that involve moving pitches or altering pitches despite the pitches not being in current use and thereby restricting options for sustainable cricket nets and square as well as other leisure facilities.	
North	Wootton (Abingdon) Parish Council	N/A	Leisure facilities: 1: Working with the Community Centre to improve facilities at the Community Field Playing pitches: 1: Maintaining the cricket pavilion 2: Expanding use of the village cricket pavilion/pitch	N/A
West	Charney Bassett Parish Council	N/A	1: Replacing and keeping up to date our children's playground facility	N/A
West	Faringdon Town Council	Southampton Street Public Toilets needs flooring upgraded (icy/slippery in winter months). Insufficient recreation space (indoor and outdoor) and sports pitches for the size of	1: MUGA & changing facilities/hall at Folly Sports Park 2: Boules 3: Hockey	We don't have enough facilities for the size of the existing population because Faringdon is built out.

District Sub Area	Town / parish council	Issues and concerns with current leisure facilities in the area	Top priorities for protecting, enhancing and providing leisure facilities / playing pitches	Additional comments
		the population. A learner pool is required for Faringdon Leisure Centre. More space is required for Urban Movement activities.		
West	Frilford Parish Meeting	NA	N/A	N/A
West	Great Coxwell Parish Council	N/A	N/A	N/A
West	Kingston Bagpuize with Southmoor	The pavilion/sports field at Kingston Bagpuize has flooding issues around the pavilion, a driveway that needs proper surfacing, the pavilion foul water is currently attached to a cesspit and needs a Klargester or attaching to the mains (see Thames Water). The pavilion needs a veranda. For other areas such as tennis and bowls, and regarding pitches you would need to ask the sports clubs.	N/A	N/A
West	Letcombe Bassett Parish Council	N/A	1: The children's play area needs maintenance	We are too small for anything other than children's play area

District Sub Area	Town / parish council	Issues and concerns with current leisure facilities in the area	Top priorities for protecting, enhancing and providing leisure facilities / playing pitches	Additional comments
West	Little Coxwell	We are wait for the District Council to provide us with a lease for our playing field. Without this we cannot provide or improve any leisure facilities.	1: Secure the land long term	N/A
West	Uffington Parish Council	The main playing field in the parish is the Jubilee Field which is owned and managed by the parish council.	N/A	N/A
West	Shrivenham Parish Council	N/A	Leisure facilities: 1: To perhaps increase letting fees so the facilities can be maintained properly. 2: Better marketing Playing pitches: 1: To review fees	N/A
West	Stanford in the Vale Parish Council	Insufficient football pitches for adults Insufficient football pitches children Unsafe skate park Grossly inadequate changing rooms No racquet sports courts No fitness trail	Leisure facilities: 1: 4 x New Racquet Courts 2: New Skate Park 3: New Changing facilities for sports Playing pitches: 1: 2 x new adult football pitches & up to 4 (depending on age of child) children's football pitches	*Stanford in the Vale PC also included their response to the 2024 PPS and LFAS consultation.*

District Sub Area	Town / parish council	Issues and concerns with current leisure facilities in the area	Top priorities for protecting, enhancing and providing leisure facilities / playing pitches	Additional comments
			2: 1 x Village cricket pitch 3: New Changing facilities for sports	
South	Blewbury Parish Council	Skatepark needs to be replaced and play areas replaced too due to coming to the end of the useful economic lives.	Leisure facilities: 1: Replacement 2: Improvements 3: Upgrades Playing pitches: 1: Upgrading conditions 2: Improvements	N/A
South	Chilton Parish Council	N/A	1: More pitches are needed for children's teams to use - see comments at end of survey	Generally, there seem to be a lack of pitches available for children's football clubs. Although Chilton does not have formal pitches, we allow one or 2 local groups to use part of our recreation area for their games. The grass is not cut to football pitch standard, but I understand is OK. Similarly, there are no toilet facilities available unless the Village Hall is opened and we tend not to want muddy boots in the hall anyway.

District Sub Area	Town / parish council	Issues and concerns with current leisure facilities in the area	Top priorities for protecting, enhancing and providing leisure facilities / playing pitches	Additional comments
				However, we have received a number of enquiries from teams outside the village looking for pitches suggesting this is a wider issue.
South	Grove Parish Council	N/A	1: 3G sports pitch 2: Tennis, Padel and or Pickle tennis 3: Updating skatepark	N/A
South	Harwell Parish Council	We have no toilets or changing areas, which is a reason that many clubs choose to go elsewhere rather than use our recreation ground.	Leisure facilities: 1: Provide a pump track and teen shelter 2: Provide an 'Active Ageing Loop' 3: Provide a small MUGA area Playing pitches: 1: Explore creation of public toilets and changing rooms 2: Support local bowls and tennis clubs	N/A

District Sub Area	Town / parish council	Issues and concerns with current leisure facilities in the area	Top priorities for protecting, enhancing and providing leisure facilities / playing pitches	Additional comments
South	Wantage Town Council	Wantage Town Council would like the Learner Pool at Wantage Leisure Centre to be completed as soon as possible. We are aware that there are S106 funds for this and are frustrated at the lack of progress.	Leisure facilities: 1: Learner Pool at Wantage Leisure Centre 2: Retention and improvement of existing leisure facilities 3: New leisure facilities where appropriate and where funds are available Playing pitches: 1: Enhance football pitches 2: Enhance tennis facilities	N/A
South	West Hendred Parish Council	We need new football goal posts in the playing field.	1: Football goals need replacing	N/A