



# The Vale of White Horse District Council

---

Wantage, Faringdon and  
Grove Needs Assessment

A report by

Strategic Leisure Limited

June 2022



---

# Vale of White Horse District Council

## *Wantage, Faringdon and Grove Needs Assessment*

---

### Contents

<b>1.</b>	<b>Introduction and Scope of Work</b>	<b>1</b>
	Background to the Study	1
	Scope of Work	2
<b>2.</b>	<b>Local Context</b>	<b>4</b>
	Demographic and Health Profile	4
	Population Profile	4
	Deprivation	5
	Health Profile	5
	Child Health	5
	Adult Health	5
	Life Expectancy	6
	Life Expectancy Inequalities	6
	Physical Activity Levels	6
	Housing Growth	7
<b>3.</b>	<b>Existing Facility Provision</b>	<b>8</b>
	Leisure Centres and Swimming Pools in the Vale of White Horse	8
	Community Centres in Wantage, Grove and Faringdon	9
	Other Activities	10
	Leisure Facility Studies	10
	Wantage and Grove	11
	Faringdon	11
<b>4.</b>	<b>Stakeholder Engagement</b>	<b>14</b>
	Summary of independent observations from site visits	14
	Summary of Ward Councillor Workshops	16
	Summary of Town Council Meetings	16
	Summary of Further Feedback Received from Individual Councillors	21
	Summary of Online Survey (targeting town and parish councils, local clubs and councillors)	22
	Additional Club Feedback	27

---

Vale of White Horse District Council  
*Wantage, Faringdon and Grove Needs Assessment*

---

<b>5. Key Issues and Opportunities</b>	<b>35</b>
<b>6. Analysis and Conclusions</b>	<b>37</b>
<b>Disclaimer</b>	<b>39</b>

DRAFT

---

# Vale of White Horse District Council

## *Wantage, Faringdon and Grove Needs Assessment*

---

### 1. Introduction and Scope of Work

- 1.1. Strategic Leisure Limited (SLL) was appointed in January 2021 by Vale of White Horse District Council (VoWHDC) to undertake some needs assessment work to inform allocation of S106 monies in Wantage, Faringdon and Grove (all areas in the Vale of White Horse district).
- 1.2. It is important to highlight that the completion of this work has taken considerably longer than was expected by both the Councils and SLL for a number of reasons. Covid significantly impacted the ability to undertake face to face consultations with the respective Town Councils, as did the calling of local elections in 2021. Subsequent to these meetings, further feedback was received by councillors in both Wantage and Faringdon, which is reflected in this report.
- 1.3. SLL contacted the Rugby and Football National Governing Bodies (NGBs), to verify, from a county perspective, the needs identified in the clubs' responses. This approach was recommended by Sport England, and liaison with the NGBs was completed in February 2022.
- 1.4. Additional feedback was received from White Horse Harriers based in Wantage and from Faringdon Netball Club; telephone consultation was undertaken with both clubs and their feedback is reflected in this report.

#### Background to the Study

- 1.5. The proposal to develop a new Wessex Leisure Centre in Wantage is now no longer progressing, and as a result the S106 monies allocated to that project (£5.9m), need to be reviewed and re-allocated to other projects in the area that meet community needs whilst still being used in accordance with the S106 usage criteria. To ensure this money is invested appropriately, there is a need to understand the local need in the area for leisure and physical activity projects so that S106 funds from the former Wessex leisure centre project can be re-allocated to fund alternative projects in Wantage, Grove and Faringdon, for current and future growth.
- 1.6. For clarity, the S106 allocation is:

**Table 1.1: Summary of s106 Monies available**

<b>Summary of S106 funds allocated to the Wessex Leisure Centre Project</b>	<b>Overall Secured</b>
<b>Funds secured in the Wantage and Grove area</b>	<b>£5,169,503.00</b>
<b>Funds secured in the Faringdon area</b>	<b>£276,500.00</b>
<b>Funds secured in other areas</b>	<b>£482,916.02</b>

---

# Vale of White Horse District Council

## *Wantage, Faringdon and Grove Needs Assessment*

---

<b>Total</b>	<b>£5,928,919.02</b>
--------------	----------------------

- 1.7. Engagement with local stakeholders is essential to understand this local need.
- 1.8. This report reflects the stakeholder and community consultation undertaken and draws some conclusions on future need.

### Scope of Work

- 1.9. The scope of work agreed with the VWHDC comprises:
- **To target engagement with stakeholders within the Wantage and Grove areas, to understand the breadth of need to support active communities within the Vale;**
  - **To identify available S106 and other funding that can be allocated and spent on projects in order to benefit the Wantage and Grove communities; and**
  - **To undertake a smaller exercise to understand the local need within the Faringdon area.**
- 1.10. Originally the work was to be undertaken in full by end March 2021; however the calling of the local elections, Lockdown 3 and the gradual re-opening have all impacted on the ability to undertake the consultation for this study.
- 1.11. The Vale of the White Horse District Council (VWHDC) took the decision to progress with site visits, and consultation with town councillors, and then to resume the work for this study in the summer of 2021.
- 1.12. To address the requirements of this study, our approach has been as summarised in Table 1.2:

**Table 1.2: Summary Approach to Needs Assessment**

<b>Task</b>
Site Visits
Review of local context (current and future population growth, assessment of all key current intelligence to support the project)
Audit of local provision – indoor and outdoor

---

# Vale of White Horse District Council

## *Wantage, Faringdon and Grove Needs Assessment*

---

Task
Mapping of local provision
Stakeholder engagement- internal, external and Councillors
Needs Assessment (including analysis of impact and implications for Wantage Leisure Centre)
Key Issues and Opportunities
Draft and Final Report

DRAFT

---

# Vale of White Horse District Council

## *Wantage, Faringdon and Grove Needs Assessment*

---

## 2. Local Context

### Demographic and Health Profile

- 2.1. Understanding the socio demographic profile of an area is important when planning services. Different population groups may have different health and social care needs and are likely to interact with services in different ways. The demographic profile, employment status, health, employment, income levels, and current participation rates all provide opportunities and challenges for engagement in leisure opportunities.
- 2.2. The Vale of White Horse district comprises 24 wards. The Vale of White Horse has a mix of rural and urban conurbations with an increasing and ageing population growing exponentially as compared with both the rest of Oxfordshire and England. The Vale of White Horse is the 10<sup>th</sup> most rural district in the south east region (out of 67). The urban areas within the Vale of White Horse include Abingdon, Faringdon, Wantage and Grove.

### Population Profile

- 2.3. The total population of the Vale of the White Horse is increasing and recorded as 137,532 in 2019 (as compared with 133,732 in 2018) comprising the following age categories:
- **0-15yrs 29,639;**
  - **working age population 80,460; and**
  - **those aged 65+ 27,438.**
- 2.4. An ageing population will have an impact on the provision of health care, housing requirements, the labour market and economic growth. Between 2008 and 2018 the population in the Vale of White Horse increased by +12%, above the average of both Oxfordshire (+8%) and England (+8%) for the same period.
- 2.5. The gender percentage of the total population for Vale of White Horse is 49.86% male and 50.14% <sup>1</sup>. The projected population of Vale of White Horse for 2020 is estimated as 141,229 (figures still to be published).
- 2.6. There is expected to be a significant increase in the population of the Wantage and Grove area with developments at Grove airfield and north east Wantage. The area west of Didcot within the Vale of White Horse includes the major Valley Park development in the next 10 years.

---

<sup>1</sup> Female Source: Mid-Year Estimates (Office for National Statistics) 2019)

---

# Vale of White Horse District Council

## *Wantage, Faringdon and Grove Needs Assessment*

---

- 2.7. Notably, the population of Wantage and Grove is expected to grow from 17,300 to 27,000 (+56%) in the next 10 years. The area west of Didcot is also expected to double in population, from 11,500 to 23,000.

### Deprivation

- 2.8. The Vale of the White Horse district is ranked '305' out of 317 local authorities, where '1' is most deprived and '317' is least deprived<sup>2</sup>. The Lower Layer Super Output Areas (LSOAs) within the Vale of White Horse are relatively less deprived. A part of Abingdon Caldecott is amongst the 20% most deprived neighbourhoods. 8% of children (aged 0-15) are living in poverty in the Vale of the White Horse district compared with 17% across England. The most deprived areas in the Vale of the White Horse district are in parts of Abingdon Caldecott (in the 20% most deprived area) and in Faringdon and the Coxwells (in the 30% most deprived areas). The least deprived areas are located in parts of Radley, St. Helen Without and Marcham<sup>3</sup>.

### Health Profile

- 2.9. The health of people living in the Vale of the White Horse is generally better than the England average. The OCS local insight profile for the Vale of the White Horse shows that, the majority of indicators are significantly better than the national average. For example, healthy eating (30.2%) compared with England (28.7%), binge drinking (18.8%) compared with England (20.0%) and smoking (16.2%) compared with England (22.2%).

### Child Health

- 2.10. 15.6% of Year 6 aged children are considered obese as compared with 21% in England and 16.4% in Oxfordshire.

### Adult Health

- 2.11. Estimated levels of adult excess weight in the Vale of White Horse are lower than the England average with a rate of 58.4% compared with the England rate of 62.3%.
- 2.12. Depression, social isolation, and loneliness are concerns, as well as more complex physical health issues developing with age.
- 2.13. 14% of people had a limiting long-term illness in the Vale of White Horse which is in line with the whole of Oxfordshire but less than that across England (18%)<sup>4</sup>.

---

<sup>2</sup> Source: Indices of Multiple Deprivation 2019 mapped by District Data Analysis service

<sup>3</sup> Source JSNA 2020 Oxfordshire Report

<sup>4</sup> Source: Local insight profile local insight Oxford Consultants for Social Inclusion (OCSI)

---

# Vale of White Horse District Council

## *Wantage, Faringdon and Grove Needs Assessment*

---

### Life Expectancy

- 2.14. Life expectancy for men is 82.6yrs as compared with 79.8yrs in England and 81yrs in Oxfordshire respectively. For women the figure is 85.3yrs as compared with 83.4yrs in England and 84yrs in Oxfordshire <sup>5</sup>.

### Life Expectancy Inequalities

- 2.15. 2019 figures show life expectancy is 5.8 years lower for men and 1.7years lower for women in the most deprived areas compared with those living in the least deprived areas. This compares with an England average of 9.5 years and 7.5 years respectively <sup>6</sup>.

### Physical Activity Levels

- 2.16. Physical Activity has an important role to play in combating high levels of obesity linking services and programmes to a range of health-led initiatives targeted appropriately.
- 2.17. The Active Lives survey used data produced by Sport England using a Small Area Estimation technique-modelling down from a National Survey (Active Lives Survey (2019) to Middle Layer Super Output Area (MSOA) based on the local demographic characteristics of the local population. The categories of physical activity follow the guidelines set by the Chief Medical Officer and are defined as:
- **Physically active: undertaking at least 150 minutes per week in the past month excluding gardening;**
  - **Physically inactive: undertaking less than 30 minutes in the past month excluding gardening; and**
  - **Physical active at least twice a month: undertaking physical activity on at least two occasions in the past month.**

---

<sup>5</sup> Source: Office for National Statistics (2013-2017) and PHE

<sup>6</sup> PHE (based on Active Lives survey, Sport England 2018/19)

# Vale of White Horse District Council

## *Wantage, Faringdon and Grove Needs Assessment*

2.18. The Active Lives Survey April 2021 (November 2019-2020) for the Vale of the White Horse identifies:

Table 2.1:

	VWHDC	Oxfordshire	England
Adults aged 16+ 150+ minutes per week	69.2%	68.5%	61.4%
Adults aged 16+ 30-149 minutes per week	10.8%	10.3%	11.5%
Adults aged 16+ less than 30 minutes per week	20%	21.3%	27.1%

2.19. In summary, the Vale of the White Horse has a significantly lower proportion of inactive adults than the England average.

### Housing Growth

2.20. There is significant housing growth in the Wantage, Faringdon and Grove area.

2.21. A total of 5,585 new dwellings (excludes the application for 125 new homes at Land south of Coxwell Road, (Faringdon) which was refused, and the live application at Monks Farm Grove, where the number of new homes is not specified) are proposed across the Wantage, Faringdon and Grove area. The majority of these are in and around Grove. There remain two live planning applications which will see in excess of 400 new homes built on Monks Farm.

2.22. It is clear this scale of development will have a significant impact on the demand for a range of community services, including community sport and physical activity provision.

2.23. In summary, the scale of development in each of the three areas is:

Wantage	1,500
Grove	3,060
Faringdon	1,025
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>5,585 new homes</b>

2.24. Clearly the impact of this new demand will be particularly acute in Grove; however, what is also important to take into account is the scale and nature of existing provision in each area, as this is a key factor to take into account in planning for the future.

### 3. Existing Facility Provision

#### Leisure Centres and Swimming Pools in the Vale of White Horse

3.1. There are three leisure centres and one seasonal outdoor pool in Vale of White Horse managed by the Council's partners GLL:

- **Faringdon Leisure Centre;**
- **Wantage Leisure Centre;**
- **White Horse Leisure and Tennis Centre, Abingdon; and**
- **Abbey Meadow outdoor swimming pool (summer season only).**

3.2. Wantage and Faringdon Leisure Centres are the most relevant facilities to this specific needs assessment for Wantage, Grove and Faringdon.

**Table 3.1: Summary of Wantage and Faringdon Leisure Centres.**

Facility	Facility Mix	Commentary
<b>Faringdon Leisure Centre</b>	4 lane x 25m pool 35 station fitness suite 5 badminton court sports hall 2 squash courts 1 studio	The swimming pool was built in 2000 and the sports hall in 1990. The fitness suite operates close to capacity.  The 2020 Condition Survey identifies a requirement for investment of £892,013.53 by 2032 to address identified repairs and maintenance.
<b>Wantage Leisure Centre</b>	6 lane x 25m pool 33 station fitness suite 4 badminton court sports hall 2 squash courts 2 studios	Built in 1976, this facility is in need of investment. The dual-use facility was used extensively by King Alfred's School, but they have subsequently built their own sports facilities. However the leisure centre is on the site of the 6 <sup>th</sup> Form College, which means there is a perception that it is for the school, not the community.  There is limited on-site car parking. Portway Road becomes congested at either end of the school day making access challenging at these times.  The 2020 Condition Survey identifies a requirement for investment of £981,371.50 by 2035 to address identified repairs and maintenance.

# Vale of White Horse District Council

## *Wantage, Faringdon and Grove Needs Assessment*

### Community Centres in Wantage, Grove and Faringdon

3.3. The existing community centres in each of the areas covered by this assessment of need are:

**Table 3.2: Existing Community Centres**

<b>Community Centres in Wantage / Grove</b>	
<b>Name</b>	<b>Address</b>
<b>Grove Village Hall</b>	Main Street, Wantage, OX127JY, Oxfordshire
<b>Wantage Methodist Church Hall &amp; Chapel</b>	Newbury Street, Wantage, OX12 8DA, Oxfordshire
<b>Wantage Town Clubhouse</b>	Manor rd., Wantage, OX12 8DW, Oxfordshire
<b>The Beacon</b>	Portway, Wantage, OX12 9BX, Oxfordshire
<b>Grove Methodist Church</b>	Main Street, Grove, Wantage, OX12 7JY, Oxfordshire
<b>The Wantage Mix</b>	15 Mill Street, Wantage, OX12 9AB, Oxfordshire
<b>Old Mill Hall</b>	School Ln, Grove, Wantage OX12 7LB, Oxfordshire
<b>St John's Church</b>	Main Street, Grove, Wantage, OX12 7JY, Oxfordshire

<b>Community Centres in Faringdon</b>	
<b>Name</b>	<b>Address</b>
<b>The Old Town Hall</b>	Market Place, Faringdon, SN7 7HL, Oxfordshire
<b>Corn Exchange</b>	The Corn Exchange, Corn Market, Faringdon, SN7 7JA, Oxfordshire
<b>Jubilee Room, Pump House</b>	The Pump House, 5 Market Place, Faringdon, SN7 7HL, Oxfordshire
<b>Barber Rooms, All Saints Faringdon</b>	Church Street, Faringdon, SN7 7HW

3.4. Community centres are important because, depending on their programme and bookings do provide a place where a range of informal physical activities can take place, as opposed to having to travel to a leisure centre.

---

# Vale of White Horse District Council

## *Wantage, Faringdon and Grove Needs Assessment*

---

### Other Activities

3.5. South Oxfordshire District Council's and Vale of the White Horse District Council's Active Communities team works across the districts to encourage participation in sport and active recreation, improve community health and wellbeing (particularly in relation to Covid recovery, and to raise awareness of available funding and support for sports clubs.

3.6. Aligned to the two Corporate Plans 2020-2024, the Active Communities team has developed their own Delivery Plan 2021-2022 based on the following key themes:

**Vision:** 'More people, more active, more often'

- 1. Enable everyone to be active;**
- 2. Promote active travel;**
- 3. Use our green environment;**
- 4. Training and personal development;**
- 5. Effective communication.**

3.7. The Active Communities team focuses on specific sports, parishes, towns and priority groups e.g. young people, older people, those with physical and mental health challenges/long term health conditions, predominantly supporting those who are inactive or have difficulties in accessing physical activity, and those where external funding is available.

3.8. The team works extensively with health and well-being initiatives and also alongside Active Oxfordshire to reach out to those who would benefit from being more physically active, but for whatever reason struggle to do so and is currently supporting Covid recovery initiatives The team has an extensive network of partnerships across both districts.

### Leisure Facility Studies

3.9. The 2013-2031 Leisure and Sports Facilities Strategy – Part 1 (Nortoft Partnerships Limited) for the Vale of the White Horse District identifies (consultation in 2012):

# Vale of White Horse District Council

## *Wantage, Faringdon and Grove Needs Assessment*

82% of respondents agreed that sports facilities in the Vale were generally good. Those that did not agree mainly lived in smaller settlements in the rural areas where there are fewer facilities. These people usually have to travel to Abingdon, Faringdon or Wantage. The need for extra indoor tennis courts and indoor bowls was not seen as very important, with most people having no particular view on either of those facility types. More and better facilities for the local community, for example football at Shrivenham/Watchfield were highlighted in both this consultation and in feedback on the Participation Action Plan.

### Wantage and Grove

The facilities that were seen as very important for Wantage and Grove were swimming pools, sports halls, health and fitness gyms and artificial grass pitches. A teaching pool and activity hall were also seen as important.

The majority of people thought that new residents on the west of Didcot (Great Western Park/Valley Park) would mainly travel to Didcot for sports facilities rather than Wantage and Grove, or to Abingdon. However it was still expected that some people would travel to Wantage/Grove, to Abingdon, and also to Oxford.

It was felt that the standards for outdoor tennis, MUGAs and playing pitches needed to be reviewed, particularly for Wantage and Grove, due to the large housing growth proposed. There was general support for joint use sports facilities with schools.

### Faringdon

Well over half the people that responded to the question about the need for an artificial grass pitch in Faringdon said they did not know whether one was needed or not, with only a small number holding the view that a pitch was definitely needed.

- 3.10. The 2013-2031 Leisure and Sports Facilities Strategy – Part 2 identifies the future need for provision based on the housing growth across the district. Table 3.4 summarises the recommendations of that report in terms of new facility provision.

**Table 3.4: Summary of Identified Needs in Wantage Grove and Faringdon – Nortoft 2013-2031 Leisure and Sports Facilities Strategy**

Facility Type	Identified Need	Location
Swimming Pools	25m x 6 lane pool Teaching Pool 10m x 17m	Wantage/Grove
Sports Halls	4 Badminton Court sports hall	Grove

# Vale of White Horse District Council

## *Wantage, Faringdon and Grove Needs Assessment*

Facility Type	Identified Need	Location
<b>Fitness Suites/Studios</b>	There is a need for 341 additional stations up to 2031, or a rate of 5.64 stations per 1000 for the period up to 2031. The extra population in the Vale from the new housing developments will generate the demand for 156 of these additional stations.	100 stations in Wantage/Grove  Studios  Extension to Faringdon Leisure Centre provision
<b>Squash Courts</b>	Retain existing provision and maintain.	Wantage and Faringdon.
<b>Indoor Bowls</b>	Develop 6 rink indoor bowls centre adjacent to outdoor bowls greens. Subject to feasibility study.	Preferred area around Wantage/Grove.
<b>3G pitches</b>	The 2013 findings suggest that four additional pitches would be required in the period up to 2031 to allow for the increase in housing growth, an increase in participation, and to bring the authority into line with the southeast average level of provision which is currently 0.04 pitches per 1000. If the national average rate of provision of 0.03 pitches per 1000 was applied instead, then 3 additional pitches would appear to be justified by 2031.	A 3G AGP is proposed to be developed in Wantage (Wantage Town FC/King Alfred's Academy) and a second AGP is also planned for Faringdon.  If these 3G AGPs are developed it will meet the needs of both the existing and new communities in those areas.  The 2015 Vale Playing Pitch Strategy (PPS) identifies a site at Mably Way Grove for a new 3G pitch. The PPS also identifies the need for a stadia 3G pitch at the football club adjacent to the Wantage Leisure Centre.
<b>Grass Pitches</b>	To meet increased demand as a result of population growth due to new housing	<b>Grove Airfield</b> - Development of 11.25 ha of playing field for football with associated ancillary facilities. 1 <sup>st</sup> tranche of playing fields (3.35ha) available for use from 2019. This development will replace the existing provision at Grove Recreation Ground and clubs currently using these facilities will re-locate to the airfield.  <b>Crab Hill</b> - Development of 2.64ha of playing fields with pavilion  <b>Faringdon and Stanford in the Vale</b> - Development of minimum of 5 ha of playing field for football with associated ancillary facilities. Preferred sites: south of Faringdon and Stanford-in-the-Vale. 2 team changing rooms on each.
<b>Athletics Tracks</b>	Whilst the two existing athletics tracks provide for training and competition, there is a lack of access to training facilities in the east of the district.	There is justification for an athletics training facility to be considered at Faringdon.
<b>Outdoor Tennis</b>	All new courts should floodlit with a pavilion. The requirements are:	Wantage

# Vale of White Horse District Council

## *Wantage, Faringdon and Grove Needs Assessment*

Facility Type	Identified Need	Location
	4 court tennis facility is provided either the Crab Hill or the Monks Farm developments.	
<b>Golf Courses</b>	To meet increased demand as a result of population growth due to new housing	The priority is to encourage the existing golf sites to remain open in economically challenging times, and if possible enable the development of new courses and driving ranges in the Wantage/Grove area.
<b>Community Centres</b>	To meet increased demand as a result of population growth due to new housing	<b>Crab Hill (North East Wantage and South East Grove) - 430.20 sq. m</b> <b>Monks Farm (North Grove) – 215.10 sq. m</b> <b>Land South of Park Road, Faringdon 100.38 sq. m</b> <b>West of Stanford in the Vale 57.36 sq. m</b> <b>South of Faringdon 57.36 sq. m</b> <b>South-West of Faringdon 57.36 sq. m</b> <b>North of Shrivenham 143.40 sq. m</b> <b>East of Coxwell Road, Faringdon 57.36 sq. m</b>
<b>MUGAs</b>	To meet increased demand as a result of population growth due to new housing  New open access MUGA	Crab Hill Milton Heights Monks Farm

DRAFT

## 4. Stakeholder Engagement

4.1. The engagement and consultation was relative to the needs previously identified in the Nortoft report and associated clubs associated to those needs were consulted with:

- **Site visits to each of the three areas, Wantage, Grove and Faringdon. Shrivenham was also visited given its proximity to Faringdon.**
- **Workshop session with ward councillors of the three areas, plus a separate online consultation session with each of three the town councils.**
- **An online survey targeting town and parish councils, local clubs and councillors was undertaken and analysed by VWHDC**
- **The club survey was repeated by SLL, targeted at those clubs from whom no response had been received.**

4.2. The feedback from this consultation is summarised below.

### Summary of independent observations from site visits

4.3. Based on sites visits to all three parishes the following observations are made:

**Table 4.1: Summary of Site Visits**

Parish Area	Observations
<b>Faringdon</b>	<p>The majority of the new development is on the outskirts of the town, in the direction of Shrivenham. The existing leisure centre needs some investment but is in a reasonable condition. Specific additional provision would be a larger fitness suite and potentially a learner pool, given the main pool is only 4 lanes x 25m. However, land is owned by Faringdon Learning Trust and OCC who would need to support this.</p> <p>The leisure centre site would benefit for investment in outdoor provision – there is significant space available, even allowing for the education pitches</p> <p>Folly Park is a key asset for the town co-locating rugby, tennis and cricket clubs, a skatepark, a running route, cycling facilities, a fishing lake, walking trails and wildflower meadows. The rugby club has specific proposals for the development of a rugby compliant 3G which would also facilitate hockey and netball to be played on site. Investment in this site makes a lot of sense given the number of young people participating in physical activity on this one site.</p>

# Vale of White Horse District Council

## *Wantage, Faringdon and Grove Needs Assessment*

Parish Area	Observations
	<p>The football club is well-located but would benefit from investment in the clubhouse, access, and the pitch. There will be a need to ensure there is sufficient new provision of children's play areas, open access MUGAs etc to cater for the new communities.</p>
<b>Grove</b>	<p>There is very significant housing development in and around Grove; given this it is clear there will be substantial need for new provision.</p> <p>The existing community hall and ancillary facilities is too small to cater for the additional demand.</p> <p>Where possible, as already proposed, it makes sense to locate provision on the new secondary school site so that facilities (particularly indoor i.e. sports hall, fitness suite) benefit from both education and community use, underpinned by a formal community use agreement. An example would be the tennis courts proposed for a stand-alone site which would be better co-located with other facilities.</p> <p>Similarly, there is a need for natural turf pitches and a 3G. The existing co-located site at Grove Recreation Ground will be impacted by the new road so the opportunity to re-provide all pitches and a clubhouse on the airfield site is an opportunity. Safe access to this needs to be provided e.g. an over road bridge.</p> <p>There will also be a need to ensure there is sufficient new provision of children's play areas, open access MUGAs etc to cater for the new communities.</p>
<b>Wantage</b>	<p>There has been significant housing development in and around the Wantage area.</p> <p>The existing leisure centre needs significant investment to improve its quality. Specific additional provision would be a larger fitness suite and potentially a learner pool. There is sufficient adjacent land on which to develop a learner pool; this would enhance the existing provision and increase capacity. However, the land is owned by King Alfred Trust and OCC who would need to support this.</p>

# Vale of White Horse District Council

## *Wantage, Faringdon and Grove Needs Assessment*

### Summary of Ward Councillor Workshops

**Table 4.2: Summary of meeting with Ward Councillors**

Ward Councillors	Summary of Meeting Key Points
<b>Wantage, Faringdon, Grove</b>	<p>Population has doubled in Shrivenham; local facilities needed as people stay in the village for sport</p> <p>Faringdon has to share the leisure centre with the School; the facility needs updating</p> <p>There is an opportunity to look at sharing sports facilities with the new secondary school to be built on Grove airfield</p> <p>Wantage Leisure Centre needs improving</p> <p>There is a lack of infrastructure in Grove</p> <p><b>What about the needs of Great Coxwell parish?</b> Councillors expressed the need for the s106 monies allocated to the former Wessex Leisure Centre project to go back into the communities from whom it was allocated</p>

### Summary of Town Council Meetings

**Table 4.3: Summary of Meetings with Town Councils**

Town /Parish Council	Summary of Meeting Key Points
<b>Wantage TC</b>	<p>There is a need to improve the swimming facilities in Wantage and provide for younger children and learn to swim</p> <p>A second sports hall /sports barn would be ideal -Wantage Leisure Centre sports hall is only open during the day</p> <p>It is understood that s106 will fund new pitches at Crab Hill (6 pitches and sports pavilion) , Kings Grove and Grove Airfield</p> <p>Wantage needs an outdoor gym</p> <p>Cycling and walking routes needed - active travel</p> <p>It would be good to bring Wantage Clubs back into the town e.g. gymnastics who have to use facilities elsewhere</p>

# Vale of White Horse District Council

## *Wantage, Faringdon and Grove Needs Assessment*

Town /Parish Council	Summary of Meeting Key Points
	There are no hockey or basketball clubs in Wantage- all in Faringdon
<b>Faringdon TC</b>	<p>Population increase since 2011 is 4,000 + a 60% increase; overall there has been an 86% increase in population</p> <p>There is a lack of open space; Faringdon is also very hilly so it is hard to identify any sites where new provision could be developed</p> <p>Three new estates all have MUGAs;1 has gone to Great Coxwell</p> <p>The existing leisure centre is at capacity, particularly the sports hall; there is nowhere for hockey, netball and squash clubs. It is hard to book the sports hall. There is a lack of spectator seating. The gym is too small. There is only 1 studio and 1 squash court. There is a need for a wider range of facilities e.g. climbing</p> <p>Faringdon Community College is likely to expand further given there are lots of U5s in the area</p> <p>The football Club, based in Tucker's Park, is at capacity and cannot accommodate existing needs (2 x full size pitches and one half size); the Club wants to start a girls' team and is unable to do so</p> <p><b><i>Is there any potential to develop Folly Park?</i></b></p> <p>The rugby club is growing and also need more pitches; the club is unable to start girls' or women's rugby due to lack of capacity</p> <p>Existing facilities are full already with existing population; the fact that the population is growing means there is a need for additional facilities</p> <p>Applications for new housing development need to require that land is made available for sport and physical activity provision in the new estates</p> <p><b><i>Is there an opportunity to retain the primary school site when the school re-locates; this already has pitches on it</i></b> The former Youth Centre site, owned by the County Council is derelict -is there potential to develop this?</p> <p>There is a need for a safe crossing across the A420 where it has cut through a bridleway</p> <p>The Pumphouse project needs better facilities to train on for Parkour.</p> <p><b><i>Is there a need for a dog walking park?</i></b> Very hard to walk/run/train dogs.</p>

# Vale of White Horse District Council

## *Wantage, Faringdon and Grove Needs Assessment*

Town /Parish Council	Summary of Meeting Key Points
	<p><i>Is there an opportunity to use the perimeter of the park as a Trim Trail</i> – would need some outdoor gym equipment</p> <p>There are opportunities to improve walking routes e.g. gates and stiles</p> <p>Connectivity between the new and existing communities should be improved; it would benefit the community to have more active travel routes</p> <p>Leisure facilities need to be affordable to all; there are some areas of deprivation in the town</p> <p>Could access to Folly Park be improved i.e. access from Stanford Road roundabout</p> <p>There is a need for a Folly Park Masterplan; it is a huge resource for the town but space could be better planned</p> <p>As well as sports facilities there is also a need for more community space in Faringdon and some tiered performance space. Many community groups e.g. scouts, cubs, dance groups etc find it very hard to book space for their activities</p> <p>There are no local facilities where children can learn about animal care</p>
<p><b>Grove PC</b></p>	<p>The following feedback was subsequently received:</p> <p>The Council met last night and the following was agreed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <u>New Sports Hall</u>. Prior to the signing of the s106 agreement for the Grove Airfield Development, the parish council was informed that the developers would provide a sports hall (to be used by the whole community for badminton, basketball, 5 a side football etc). Discussions were held whereby the District Council agreed with the developers (and reluctantly agreed by the Parish Council) that a small sports hall was not required and that the District Council would seek contributions for a new Sports and Leisure Centre to be located to the North of the Mably Way Health Centre on land owned by the District Council. Following the District Council elections, the new administration agreed that there was a significant financial shortfall in funding the new Sports and Leisure Centre in Grove and cancelled the project. In the meantime a total of £3,474,384.80 s106 monies has been received or agreed from developers in the vicinity alone for the now defunct Sports and Leisure Centre. The sum received or agreed towards a new Sports Hall totals £2,778,654.30. The Parish Council is very aggrieved that some of this money could be spent on other Leisure Project around the Vale and not necessarily in Grove. The Parish Council insist that this money is spent in Grove.</li> </ul>

# Vale of White Horse District Council

## *Wantage, Faringdon and Grove Needs Assessment*

Town /Parish Council	Summary of Meeting Key Points
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Floodlit 4 G football/training pitch. The Parish Council have calculated that there is around £339,935.00 available or agreed by developers from s106 monies which was 'earmarked' for the now defunct Sports and Leisure Centre. Grove Challengers FC (the end users of the Grove Airfield Development sports pitches) have informed the Parish Council that it would like to see a Floodlit 4G pitch in lieu of one of the grass pitches. Both Rugby and Football clubs are currently taking their teams and travelling out of area to train.</li> <li>• Footpath/Cycling infrastructure. There needs to be better footpath and cycling connectivity between development sites and linking into the Sports and Recreation Areas in Grove. It is all a bit piecemeal at the moment.</li> <li>• Outdoor Gym/fitness trail. An outdoor Gym/Fitness trail needs to be established on or around the Public Open Spaces in Grove, especially the Community Park (Grove Airfield Development). S106 monies are available or have been agreed by developers contributing funds for gym equipment for the now defunct Sports and Leisure Centre.</li> <li>• Transfer of POS owned by the District Council to the Parish Council. The District Council is very reluctant to transfer it's POS at Mably Way and Westbrook to the Parish Council. With the funds available through s106, the Parish Council would like to develop these areas for sports and leisure and extend existing facilities on these parcels of land.</li> <li>• Tennis facilities. The Parish Council would like to develop some of the land (once transferred) for a 'pay as you play' tennis facility. There is currently £524,326.38 available or agreed by developers for tennis facilities in Grove or within the vicinity.</li> <li>• Skate Park. The parish council would like to see a new skatepark to the North of the parish within the Monks Farm development. The existing skatepark (owned by the Parish Council) is over 30 years old and is located on land which is leased by the Parish Council from a local landowner. Despite repeated requests the landowner is reluctant to allow the parish council to develop the existing skatepark.</li> </ul> <p>The parish council fully supports all of its sports clubs and sports clubs from further afield who provide much needed sports and recreation for the population of Grove. The projects outlined above are all affordable through s106 monies received by the District Council and or agreed by developers.</p>

4.4. The following feedback was also received from Great Coxwell Parish Council:

---

# Vale of White Horse District Council

## *Wantage, Faringdon and Grove Needs Assessment*

---

4.5. Our experience regarding leisure needs is that there is:

1. **A lack of free to access facilities for secondary school age children that permit self-directed play and exercise in the area. In addition to supporting the existing facilities of this kind such as the Great Coxwell MUGA and the Faringdon skate park, there is a need for additions on site, or at least close to, the new developments to ensure these existing facilities are not overburdened and that the young people through the area are properly served. Specific concerns have been raised by residents in past discussions that the existing facilities cannot cope and that lack of provision of such facilities and places to go will lead to increases in anti-social behaviour.**
2. **A lack of larger more exciting play spaces for primary age children. The new developments each included a small local play area, but the lack of something larger and more exciting serving the group of developments within easy distance leads to residents using cars to visit more distant facilities. Investment in larger more varied play spaces to serve the group of developments is needed to avoid increased traffic and parking issues around existing facilities of this type. Great Coxwell Parish Council has had residents raise issues regarding safety and obstruction due to parking by the Great Coxwell park, which is a larger mixed age play facility for example and express concerns that this will increase. We feel that Great Coxwell Park is a facility that provides an attractive out of town rural family environment that is a popular alternative to town parks but we'd like to encourage access of it on foot or cycle rather than car, the improvements in paths have helped in this regard I think but more incentives in this area is clearly needed.**
3. **I would also add that we believe it would very helpful if leisure could find a way to liaise with planning to encourage developers to facilitate the required space not just funds that are needed to provide facilities in the right place close to developments rather than duplicating smaller play facilities on neighbouring developments.**
4. **Finally as regards leisure facilities, previous consultations in the village raised the point that there are limited free to access or non-membership options for adult leisure. In these past surveys the desire for publicly available adult fitness equipment or trails and drop in tennis facilities were noted as lacking in the area. There was also a feeling that existing paid for leisure facilities in Faringdon were limited and thus not attractive to use, encouraging travel to more distant facilities in neighbouring towns.**
5. **We have not identified any specific groups that would take forward particular leisure projects in Great Coxwell.**

### Summary of Further Feedback Received from Individual Councillors

I do hope facilities in Faringdon will be improved.

You talked about 'intensification'- in my view that makes sense in a small town like Faringdon- though it's hard to see how say Rugby and football could use the same facility

I believe that the facilities in our two( soon to be 3) schools should be available to local clubs and people outside school times.

I've no idea how they are used outside school times, but it feels as if there could be some.

There has been talk of an AGP at the Community College for some years - for community use too. I don't know why that has not materialised.

It would be important that access for community groups would be as flexible as possible and at a reasonable cost.

I don't know what the Faringdon Learning Trust's policy is, but I'm sure you could find out.

Pits Estate Park -You may already know about this open space in Faringdon - currently a playpark and a grassed area with goalposts

I don't really think it's of use for serious sport- size and near houses, but I thought you should know of its existence

It's in the Pitts estate, off Ferndale St.

---

# Vale of White Horse District Council

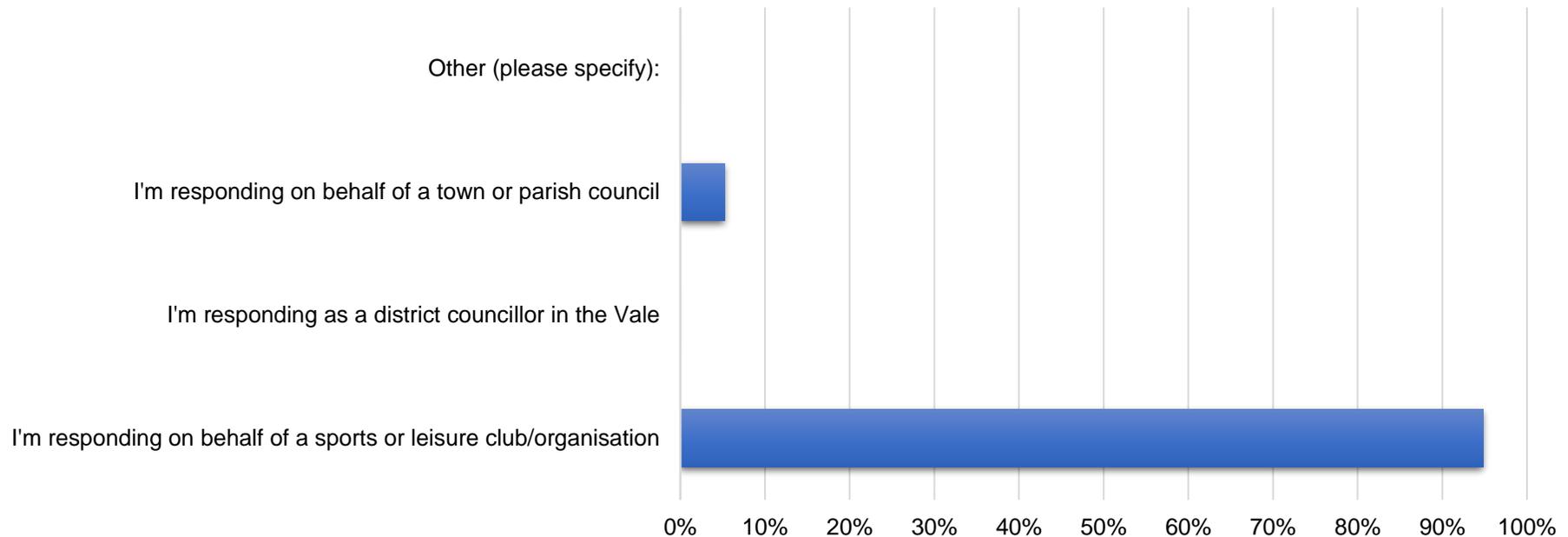
## *Wantage, Faringdon and Grove Needs Assessment*

---

Summary of Online Survey (targeting town and parish councils, local clubs and councillors)

- 4.6. This original survey was undertaken by VoWHDC in summer 2021. It was repeated by SLL, targeting those clubs who had not responded, in the autumn of 2021.

**Question 1: Before we begin, please let us know who you are or who you are representing**



# Vale of White Horse District Council

## *Wantage, Faringdon and Grove Needs Assessment*

### Question 2: What is the name of your club or organisation?

AmEgos Theatre	Ardington and Lockinge Tennis Club	Autotype Badminton Club	Grove Martial Arts
Challow & Childrey Cricket Club	Farcycles	Faringdon Artistic skating club	Kingston Bagpuize Cricket Club
Faringdon Bowling Club	Faringdon Dramatic Society	Faringdon Leisure Centre	Oxfordshire Squash
Faringdon Mini Rugby	Faringdon Roller Disco	Faringdon RUFC	Uffington Sports Club
Faringdon Rugby (RFC)	Faringdon skatepark	Faringdon Tennis Club	Wantage and Grove Cricket Club
Faringdon Town Football Club	Flying Solo Trampoline Club	Jespers Jumps	Wantage Tennis Club
Hanney Youth FC	Wantage Bowling Club	Matt Fiddes Martial Arts	Wantage White Horse Swimming Club
Letcombe Football Club	White Horse Harriers Running and Athletics Club	Skate park committee	Vale Tridents Junior Triathlon Club
Shrivenham FC	Vale of White Horse Schools Football Association		
<b>34 clubs in total responded</b>			

### Question 3: Which district ward, or which town/parish council do you represent?

Out of the 5 clubs that responded to this question, 4 were from Faringdon with one from East Hanney PC

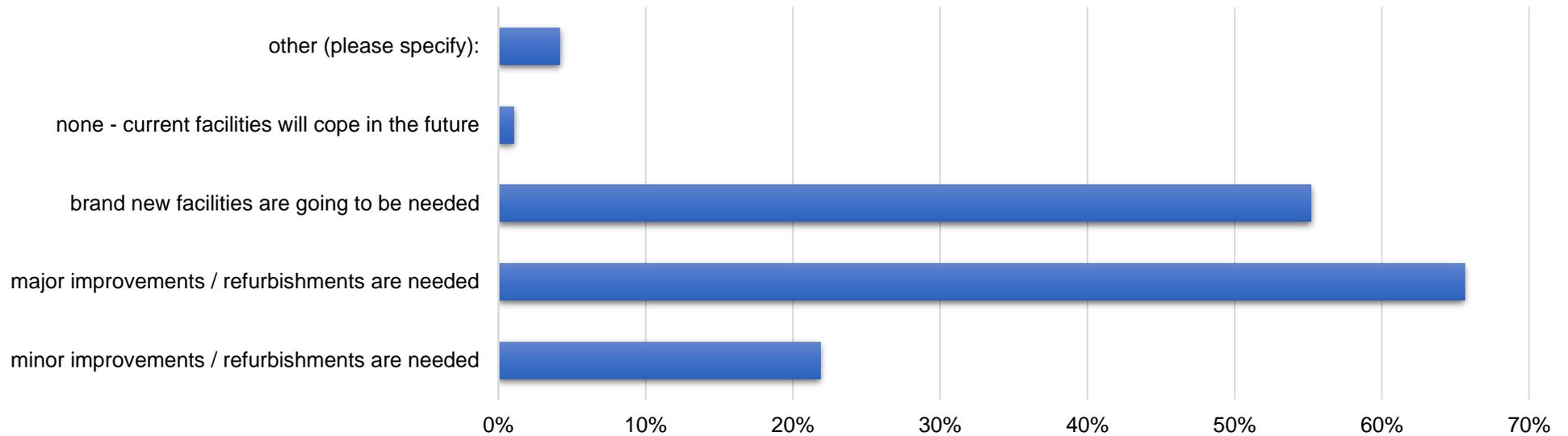
---

# Vale of White Horse District Council

## *Wantage, Faringdon and Grove Needs Assessment*

---

**Question 4: To help cope with increasing demand, do any of your existing local leisure facilities need improvements and/or refurbishments?**



Of the clubs that specified other the top 3 responses are:

- 1. All weather pitch, with changing a floodlights**
- 2. More facilities and extensions of older ones**
- 3. Bigger, better, modern facilities**

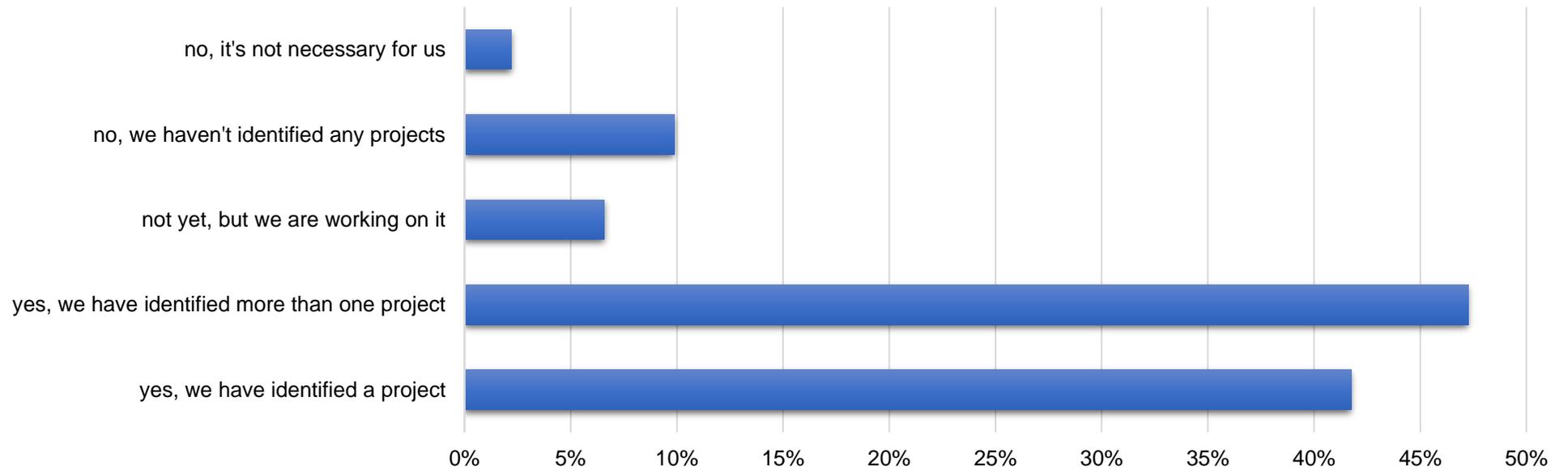
---

# Vale of White Horse District Council

## *Wantage, Faringdon and Grove Needs Assessment*

---

**Question 5: Has your club/organisation identified any projects for new/improved leisure facilities to help meet the future additional demand?**



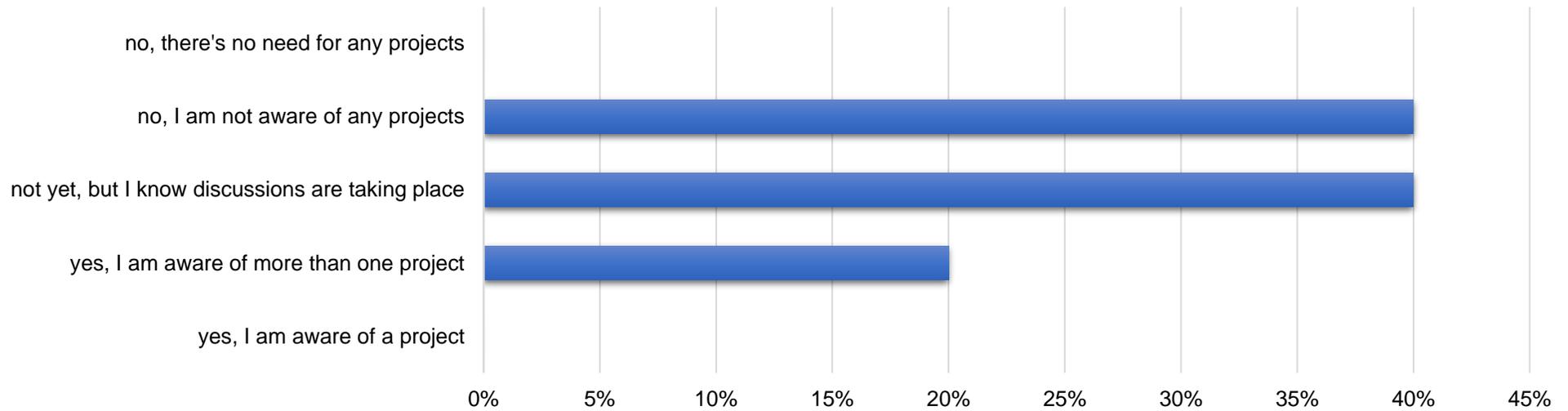
Of the responses that identifies a project the top 3 responses are:

- 1. Adding of floodlights**
- 2. Refurbishment of facilities / club house**
- 3. Increase playing and changing space**

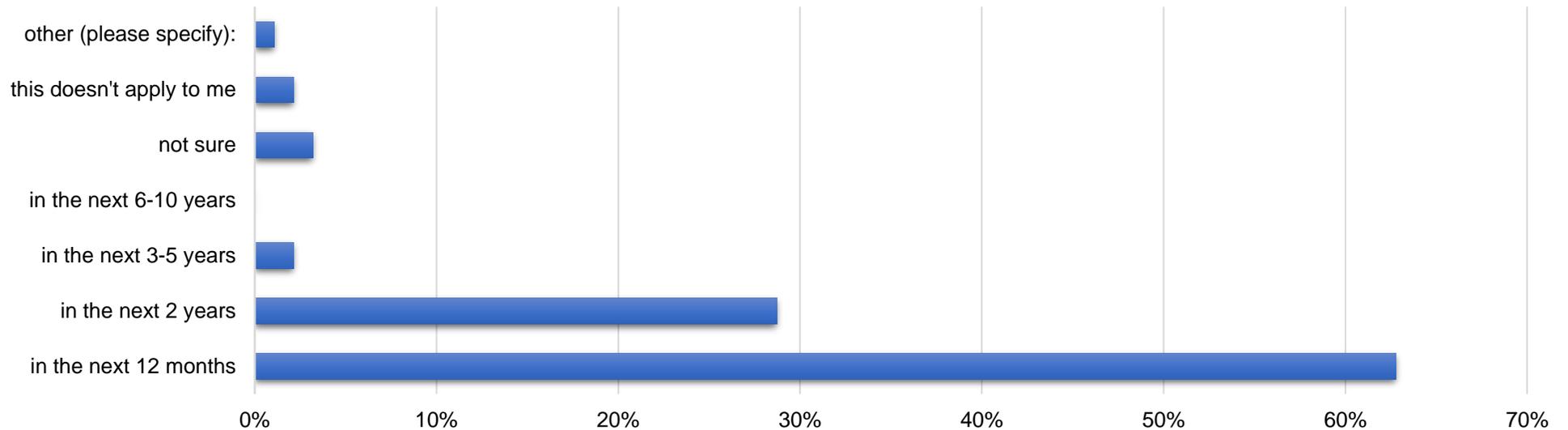
# Vale of White Horse District Council

## *Wantage, Faringdon and Grove Needs Assessment*

**Question 6: Are you aware of any projects for new/improved leisure facilities that have identified in your area to help meet the future additional demand?**



**Question 7: If you have identified any leisure improvement projects, when do you think they will be needed?**



---

# Vale of White Horse District Council

## *Wantage, Faringdon and Grove Needs Assessment*

---

4.7. Of the respondents that specified 'other', the top response is:

- **The sooner the better - We should move with pace to sustain momentum and support our growing community**

4.8. The key points coming out of the above online survey-based consultation are:

- **Responses are predominantly from local sports clubs as opposed to the wider community**
- **Of these club respondents, the majority are from Faringdon Rugby FC; other significant club responses are from cricket, tennis and football, plus indoor sports such as gymnastics and trampolining.**
- **Overwhelmingly, the feedback is that more facilities and increased capacity is needed to provide for the growing population in the area**
- **The point is also made that the quality of existing facilities, indoor and outdoor, needs to be improved**
- **It is felt that the majority of the improvements and new provision needs to be in place in 12-24 months**
- **The key needs identified across the area include:**
  - A 3G pitch
  - Floodlighting for pitches
  - A new leisure centre
  - Improved swimming provision, with more capacity
  - Improved tennis courts
  - Multi-purpose space for a range of activities
  - Squash courts (minimum of two in one location)
  - Performance space (arts and drama)
  - More cycling, walking and running routes

### Additional Club Feedback

4.9. Additional feedback was received from three clubs who contacted SLL direct. This is summarised in Table 4.4

# Vale of White Horse District Council

## *Wantage, Faringdon and Grove Needs Assessment*

**Table 4.4: Additional Club Feedback**

<b>Club</b>	<b>Feedback</b>
<b>Faringdon Netball Club</b>	<p>Faringdon Netball Club is based from Faringdon Leisure Centre. The Club has traditionally used the outdoor courts until October half term and then moved indoors until Easter, when they move back outdoors. Since Covid it has been very difficult for the Club to access their previous levels of court time, plus the cost of court hire has increased by 32% which has hit the club hard.</p> <p>Ideally the club needs access to two indoor/under-cover netball courts. Provision of three good quality outdoor floodlit courts at Faringdon Community College would be an initial improved position; this would enable the Club to facilitate the set-up of a league. The existing indoor netball court is poorly marked and run-offs are insufficient.</p> <p>The Faringdon Netball Club is the only club offering team sport for girls in the town. The Club has one senior team and circa 70 junior girls training on a weekly basis. The senior team has to train in due to lack of space in Faringdon Leisure Centre.</p> <p>The Club works with local primary schools, and take junior girls from academic year 5. The Club has a waiting list for membership and is unable to respond to requests from local schools to take on players due to lack of training venue capacity. Much of this is due to the re-location of studio classes to the sports hall.</p>
<b>White Star Harriers</b>	<p>White Star Harriers, based in Wantage is currently working with King Alfred's Academy to develop a UK Athletics Compact Track. The track would be based on the school site (where the new sports hall is, and home to academic years 7, 8, and 9) so it could be used for both curriculum and club use. A Compact Track is a minimum 60m in length, with a number of jumps. White Star Harriers aim to develop a 90m track, 25m in width. The Club already has mobile lighting so the track could be used in the evenings. The cost is estimated at £120k-£150k; the Club has already raised £20k towards the project. The School will contribute the land and will also do the track maintenance. It may also be possible for them to contribute some capital.</p> <p>The Club has applied for some funding to help them develop and submit a planning application.</p> <p>The Club has 245 members as at October 2021, 130 of which are junior members. The challenge for the club is that there is no track available for the running club to train on within 20 miles because the Abingdon Running Track and Complex is pretty much already booked full-time.</p>
<b>Wantage Squash Club</b>	<p>There used to be 10 squash courts in the area and now there are only 2, both in a private facility. Wantage Squash Club use both courts and they are fully booked in the evenings. A school uses them in the day. The squash club is now privately run. There is a need for more squash courts and ideally a minimum of 3 on one site</p>

- 4.10. Grove Parish Council sent the club/community survey to their local clubs who had not initially responded. The Parish Council also collated the responses they received.

# Vale of White Horse District Council

## *Wantage, Faringdon and Grove Needs Assessment*

Table 4.5: Grove Clubs (Grove Town Council Summary of responses to the targeted club survey)

Survey Question	Clubs					
	Cycling UK Wantage-Leisure Cycling Club	Grove Challengers FC	Grove Rugby Football Club Limited	Grove Short Mat Bowls and White horse Croquet Club	Oxfordshire Taekwon-Do	Wantage and Grove Cricket Club
1. Before we begin, please let us know who you are or who you are representing	Sports Club	Sports Club	Sports Club	Sports Club	Sports Club	Sports Club
2. What is the name of your club or organisation?	Cycling UK Wantage-Leisure Cycling Club	Grove Challengers FC	Grove Rugby Football Club Limited	Grove Short Mat Bowls and White horse Croquet Club	Oxfordshire Taekwon-Do	Wantage and Grove Cricket Club
3. Which district ward, or which town/parish council do you represent?	Grove and Wantage	Grove Parish Council	Grove and Wantage	Sports Club	Grove	Grove and Wantage
4. To help cope with increasing demand, do any of your existing local leisure facilities need improvements and/or refurbishments?	<p>Major improvements/refurbishments needed.</p> <p>The biggest need is to incorporate Active travel into all new infrastructure. We don't need special facilities, but we should facilitate cycling and walking into every piece of infrastructure.</p>	<p>Brand new facilities are going to be needed.</p> <p>An all-weather pitch is desperately needed as teams have to travel to other towns for winter training due to training pitches being out of bounds. This makes it difficult for parents, doesn't always fit with children time wise due to availability and is not good for the environment.</p>	<p>Major improvements/refurbishments needed.</p> <p>Brand new facilities are going to be needed.</p> <p>Minor improvements are needed</p>	<p>Funding and facilities are not the problem. Lack of interest and commitment appears to be the problem.</p>	<p>Minor improvements are needed.</p> <p>The floor is prone to being sticky and therefore needs re-surfacing.</p>	<p>Major improvements/refurbishments needed.</p> <p>Brand new facilities are going to be needed.</p> <p>Minor improvements are needed</p> <p>At Wantage we have an ageing clubhouse. We have invested significantly to maintain and improve the facilities in order to ensure the continued provision of cricket in the area.</p>

# Vale of White Horse District Council

## Wantage, Faringdon and Grove Needs Assessment

Survey Question	Clubs					
	Cycling UK Wantage-Leisure Cycling Club	Grove Challengers FC	Grove Rugby Football Club Limited	Grove Short Mat Bowls and White horse Croquet Club	Oxfordshire Taekwon-Do	Wantage and Grove Cricket Club
		We also need a sports hall to enable us to train in all weather conditions.				There are more improvements that can and will have to be made ranging from small scale refurbishments to major changes to the clubhouse and the facilities.
<b>5. Has your club/organisation identified any projects for new/improved leisure facilities to help meet the future additional demand?</b>	Not yet but we are working on it	No it's not necessary for us.  New playing fields and clubhouse are planned for the airfield development. This would be a prime opportunity to also include an all-weather pitch which the club and community really need, as well as a sports hall. We are really lacking facilities to enable children in the local community to play football and sports in all weathers.	Yes, we have identified more than one project.  We have identified some short term projects, adding side and rear extensions (assume to the clubhouse) to offer much needed expansion of catering and storage; mid-term we need to invest in pitches to get back to 3 pitches plus the floodlit area as we have lost a pitch due to the new road, and finally we have plans to grow the building to have a second floor as a long term plan.	N/A	No it's not necessary for us.	Yes, we have identified more than one project  Refurbishment of the changing rooms  Upgrade of the showers and changing rooms to allow the Club to introduce Ladies' cricket  Modernisation of the social areas of the clubhouse to increase the attraction of the club  Major refurbishment of the external cladding to the clubhouse  Major extensions to the clubhouse to remove the current flat roofs

# Vale of White Horse District Council

## Wantage, Faringdon and Grove Needs Assessment

Survey Question	Clubs					
	Cycling UK Wantage-Leisure Cycling Club	Grove Challengers FC	Grove Rugby Football Club Limited	Grove Short Mat Bowls and White horse Croquet Club	Oxfordshire Taekwon-Do	Wantage and Grove Cricket Club
6. Are you aware of any projects for new/improved leisure facilities that have identified in your area to help meet the future additional demand?	We are working with other interested stakeholders to produce specific plans- essentially a bottom-up LCWIP for the Wantage and Grove area.	We know discussions are taking place.	N/A	N/A	Not aware of any projects	Not aware of any projects  There are other clubs in the area providing cricket to the community. We are not aware of any plans to significantly increase the availability of cricket.
7. If you have identified any leisure improvement projects, when do you think they will be needed?	We know discussions are taking place.  Projects needed in next 12 months, 2 years, 3-5 years and 6-10 years.	Projects needed in next 12 months,	In the next 12 months, 2, years, 3-5 years and 6-10 years.  Different projects have different timescales	N/A	Not sure	In the next 12 months and 2 years.  For our club making these improvements is critical to be able to continue to provide men's and youth cricket.  Maintaining and improving the clubhouse is an ongoing challenge. Without improving the facility, the club will lose members and not be able to provide the leisure opportunity of social and competitive cricket.

# Vale of White Horse District Council

## *Wantage, Faringdon and Grove Needs Assessment*

Survey Question	Clubs					
	Cycling UK Wantage-Leisure Cycling Club	Grove Challengers FC	Grove Rugby Football Club Limited	Grove Short Mat Bowls and White horse Croquet Club	Oxfordshire Taekwon-Do	Wantage and Grove Cricket Club
<b>8. Anything else?</b>	We need to encourage and facilitate a change from a default car culture to it being normal to walk or cycle for local journeys. Not just normal but also safe, pleasant, fun!	The infrastructure needs to be pushed through quicker; we have all these additional houses and not enough for the families. We have waiting lists for players wanting to join but with struggling for training slots and having to travel away for winter training it makes it very hard to take on more teams which is ultimately what we as a club would like to do.		Croquet Club has folded due to lack of interest and Bowls Club heading the same way.	Facilities are great, management is great. It's lovely experience hiring from Old Mill Hall.	N/A

DRAFT

# Vale of White Horse District Council

## *Wantage, Faringdon and Grove Needs Assessment*

4.11. No response was received from the following Grove clubs:

- **Ridgeway Badminton – Grove based plays once a week in Old Mill Hall;**
- **Grove Badminton – Grove based plays once a week in Old Mill Hall;**
- **Grove Martial Arts – Uses Old Mill Hall several times a week; and**
- **Grove Walking Netball Club – Meets once a week and uses Old Mill Hall.**

4.12. In considering the above responses it is important to note that the Rugby Football Union confirmed that the needs identified by Grove Rugby Club are supported by the NGB; However, the NGB would prioritise the needs slightly differently. The NGB believes the priority is create a 1<sup>st</sup> Team Rugby pitch in front of the existing Clubhouse running east to west. The existing football pitch would need to be re-located to achieve this. The proposed masterplan for the existing site would be for three pitches on site and one through the hedge, together with improved changing and social facilities in a re-modelled clubhouse. Improving the changing and toilet facilities are particularly important to ensure they offer a compliant and functioning club house for all ages.

4.13. The Berks and Bucks FA has confirmed the need for a 3G pitch to support club needs, and also grass pitches (large site) in Grove. They also support the need for a 3G pitch in Wantage but are concerned about its location, given land access issues with King Alfred Academy on the leisure centre site.

4.14. Taking all the consultation feedback together, the key identified requirements are:

**Table 4.6 Summary of Identified Sport and Physical Activity Requirements from consultation feedback**

Identified Requirements - Sport and Physical Activity		
Wantage	Faringdon	Grove
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Floodlit 3G pitch (Football club and community)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Floodlit 3G pitch (Rugby compliant, Football club and community)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Floodlit 3G pitch (Football club and community)</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Learner pool</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Learner pool</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Large site for grass pitches</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Indoor multi-purpose space</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 3 floodlit outdoor netball courts</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Indoor multi-purpose space</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• More safe cycling, walking and running routes (active travel)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• More safe cycling, walking and running routes (active travel)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• More safe cycling, walking and running routes (active travel)</li> </ul>

Vale of White Horse District Council  
*Wantage, Faringdon and Grove Needs Assessment*

Identified Requirements - Sport and Physical Activity		
Wantage	Faringdon	Grove
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Squash courts -2 in one facility</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Indoor Community space for local groups and performance (arts, drama etc)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Improved tennis courts</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Compact Athletics Track</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Improved facilities to facilitate girls and women's football and rugby</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sports hall</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Outdoor gym</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sports hall</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Improved cricket club clubhouse</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sports hall</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Improved rugby club clubhouse</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Open access MUGAs</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>New football clubhouse</li> </ul>
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Swimming lessons and fitness facilities are the two best income generators in a leisure facility.</li> </ul>

DRAFT

# Vale of White Horse District Council

## *Wantage, Faringdon and Grove Needs Assessment*

### 5. Key Issues and Opportunities

5.1. Based on the work to date there are some very clear key issues, needs and opportunities to be considered. These include:

**Table 5.1: Key Issues**

<b>Key Issue</b>	<b>Commentary</b>	<b>Opportunity</b>
<b>Date of needs assessment</b>	It is now 6-7 years since the original needs assessments were undertaken; given they were based on population projections at the time and up to 2031 they should still be robust, but if housing numbers/locations have changed, the needs will need to be re-visited.	<p>Development of a full SOPG report which will assess district-wide needs.</p> <p>An assessment of both indoor facilities compliant with Assessing Needs and Opportunities Guidance (ANOG) and a Playing Pitch Strategy (PPS) developed in compliance with the Sport England methodology are also needed for both districts.</p>
<b>Learner pool provision</b>	Many of the new homes will provide for young families; new schools are being built so there will be a clear need for additional swimming lessons – both individual and at Key Stage 2. Swimming lessons are the second biggest income generator in a leisure centre, so not providing these facilities is in reality a lost opportunity.	<p>Providing a new learner pool as a minimum will increase the attractiveness of the leisure facility portfolio to an operator and would benefit the VoWHDC in terms of increased income generation and therefore a management fee.</p> <p>In reality there is an under-provision of water space given the population increase as a result of new housing development; ideally a learner pool is needed in both Faringdon and Wantage.</p>
<b>Need for additional fitness provision</b>	The existing fitness suites at Wantage and Faringdon Leisure Centres are relatively small; Faringdon Leisure Centre is already operating at capacity.	Increasing capacity will facilitate increased levels of physical activity, and generate increased revenue.
<b>Club or community needs?</b>	<p>Clearly additional pitches are needed to address a growth in demand; this will impact on both club and casual use. Based on need voiced through the consultation, as well as the needs assessment the emerging priority needs are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A 3G pitch in Grove - Grove Challengers Football Club</li> <li>• A 3G pitch in Wantage- Wantage Football Club</li> </ul>	In identifying club need it is really important to emphasise that investment benefitting clubs will also benefit the wider community, but it is crucial to protect wider community access to new facilities, so that they do not become fully booked with solely club training/competitive matches.

Vale of White Horse District Council  
*Wantage, Faringdon and Grove Needs Assessment*

Key Issue	Commentary	Opportunity
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A 3G pitch in Faringdon- football has identified a need, plus rugby has a need for training facilities. Surfaces are now available to meet the needs of both sports in one pitch surface, and are certified by the relevant NGB's.</li> </ul> <p>Whilst club needs have been identified in each area, there is also a need for 3G pitches to provide for community use, so these should not be developed solely for club use.</p>	
<p><b>Age and condition of existing leisure facilities</b></p>	<p>Both existing leisure centres are coming to the end of their useful lives; public leisure centres typically have a lifespan of 35-40 years. Wantage Leisure Centre is now 45 years old; Faringdon Leisure Centre pool is 24 years old and the sports hall is 31 years old.</p> <p>VoWHDC will need to consider the future of both these facilities as part of the SOPG and Active Communities Strategy, based on a districtwide assessment of need. This should be informed by a Facilities Planning Model (FPM) run for pools.</p>	<p>It is difficult to see how the existing levels of provision would not be needed in the future, and indeed how additional facilities will not be needed to meet the demand from significant population growth in the area</p>



## 6. Analysis and Conclusions

6.1. Based on the work undertaken, the conclusions are:

- **There is a clear need for increased water space to provide for increased populations in Grove and Faringdon. Given there are existing indoor leisure facilities in Wantage and Faringdon these should be priority sites for investment in water space now the Wessex leisure project has been cancelled;**
- **The quantum of water space needed to provide for the new communities across the three parishes equates to;**
  - a 6 lane x 25m pool, plus a learner pool;
  - provision of two new learner pools (17m x 10m) would go a significant way to addressing this need;
- **There is a clear need for increased provision of fitness facilities;**

N.B Swimming lessons and fitness facilities are the two best income generators in a leisure facility.

6.2. The need for both natural and 3G pitch facilities is also clear in Wantage, Grove and Faringdon. Existing demand, particularly for training facilities cannot be met for football, or rugby. There is also a need for floodlighting to pitches to increase available capacity.

6.3. The opportunity for a 3G in Wantage is linked to the football club needs, but if developed should provide for some community access. The same is true in Faringdon and Grove; they should not be club only facilities and should not be managed by the clubs unless there is a clear community use agreement in place, specifying that the facility must also be available for casual use for so many hours a week. Without such arrangements facilities can easily become dominated by club use, which mean they do not provide for the whole community, as not everyone who want to use a 3G pitch is a member of a sports club. Facilities funded through s106 agreements should benefit the overall community and not just local sports clubs.

6.4. Clearly the pitches are needed to address a growth in demand; this will impact on both club and casual use. Based on need voiced through the consultation to date, as well as the needs assessment the emerging priority needs are:

- **Wantage Football Club and community use**
- **Faringdon Rugby FC and football training use**
- **Grove Recreation Ground, incorporating the rugby and football clubs**

6.5. There is also a need for grass pitches, particularly in Grove to enable the re-location of the football club and the re-laying of rugby pitches.

---

## Vale of White Horse District Council

### *Wantage, Faringdon and Grove Needs Assessment*

---

- 6.6. There is a need for additional outdoor tennis courts, and open access MUGAs particularly in Grove and Faringdon.
- 6.7. The need for sports hall space is identified in all three areas
- 6.8. Also important in all three areas is the provision of informal walking, cycling and running routes to connect existing and new communities, creating an accessible active environment for all.
- 6.9. A number of other projects have been identified across the three areas (based on the consultation undertaken specifically for this study) which would help to increase participation levels and contribute to improved community health and well-being. These include:
- **The Compact Athletics track, Wantage;**
  - **Floodlit netball courts , Faringdon;**
  - **Indoor community space, Faringdon; and**
  - **Outdoor gym, Wantage.**
- 6.10. The growth in population across the three areas, and particularly Faringdon and Grove is huge; this is creating increased demand for a range of community services, including sport and physical activity.
- 6.11. The identified need for sport and physical activity across the three areas is significant, but also critical given the contribution that it can make to local health and wellbeing priorities. The aim of this report is to identify the need and place it in context; VoWHDC will decide which, if any, of the identified needs it wishes to address as a priority and so secure s106 funding to progress project delivery.

---

Vale of White Horse District Council  
*Wantage, Faringdon and Grove Needs Assessment*

---

## Disclaimer

Forecasts and recommendation in any proposal, report or letter are made in good faith and on the basis of the information before the Company at the time. Their achievement must depend, among other things, on effective co-operation of the Client and the Client's staff. In any consequence, no statement in any proposal, report or letter is to be deemed to be in any circumstances a representation, undertaking, warranty or contractual condition.

DRAFT