

Stone Town Council – General Purposes Committee

Minutes of the meeting held in the Council Chamber on Tuesday 17 May, 2016

PRESENT: Councillor R Kenney in the Chair and
Councillors Ms L Bakker-Collier, Mrs C Collier, G Collier, J Davies, Mrs J Farnham,
Mrs J Hood, T Jackson, Mrs M Goodall, Mrs K Green, M Green, P Leason,
Mrs E Mowatt, G Neagus, A Osgathorpe, Mrs J Piggott, M Shaw and M Williamson

GP17/001 Apologies

None received

GP17/002 Declarations of Interest and Requests for Dispensations

Councillors G Neagus, Mrs J Piggott and M Williamson declared an interest in Minute Number GP17/005, Minutes of the Tourism & Town Promotion Meeting (Minute number TTP16/044)

GP17/003 To receive the reports of the County Councillors

County Councillor I Parry was absent.

County Councillor P Jones reported that Highways Department has been looking at parking concerns around Stonefield. He has asked for a comprehensive review and recommendations to be drawn up for consideration.

He referred to the road alterations on Newcastle Road by the bridge. A number of objections have been raised. Requests for pedestrian crossings on the road have been received.

Councillor G Neagus asked for consideration to be given to the new roundabout at Meaford, where motorists are going straight across rather than around the lanes. He suggested that painted rumble strips will slow drivers down thus allowing them to use the lanes correctly.

Councillor M Green asked County Councillor Jones to forward concerns about the state of the roads in Walton to County Councillor Parry.

County Councillor Jones reported on the Health Service, referring to the average time it takes for an ambulance to attend a red alert. Within the West Midlands, 9 out of 10 calls are responded to in 8 minutes. In Staffordshire it is 8 out of 10, and in Stone only 51%. County Councillor Jones wrote to the Health Authority raising his concerns. He also said that if less money was spent on pharmaceuticals there would be more money available for the Ambulance service.

RESOLVED: to write to the Health Authority requesting assistance with the Ambulance Service, especially as there is an ageing population in Stone.

GP17/004 **Representations from Members of the Public**

None

GP17/005 **Minutes**

RESOLVED

- a) that the minutes of the Tourism & Town Promotion Sub-Committee held on the 19th April, 2016, copies having been circulated to Members, be signed by the Chairman as a correct record and that the recommendations of the Sub-Committee be adopted.

Councillor R Kenney referred to Minute Number TTP16/044 “a specific item for the money to be spent on will be decided”.

RESOLVED: to donate a £500 grant to the Festival Committee in order to assist in the provision of chairs, tables and bins.

Councillors G Neagus, Mrs J Piggott and M Williamson did not take part in the discussion or vote.

GP17/006 **Election of Members, Chairmen and Vice Chairmen of the following sub-committees**

a) Tourism & Town Promotion

Chairman – Councillor Mrs J Hood

Vice Chairman – Councillor G Neagus

Members – Councillors M Shaw, M Williamson, Mrs J Piggott, Mrs C Collier, Mrs K Green and P Leason

Co-opted – Mr J Heal

b) Environment

Chairman – Councillor P Leason

Vice Chairman – Councillor Mrs K Green

Members – Councillors Mrs J Piggott, Mrs M Goodall, M Shaw, G Collier, G Neagus and A Osgathorpe

c) Estates

Chairman – Councillor M Green

Vice Chairman – Councillor Mrs J Hood

Members – Councillors T Jackson, Mrs J Farnham, Mrs M Goodall, Ms L Bakker-Collier, Mrs E Mowatt and A Osgathorpe

d) Management

Chairman – Councillor A Osgathorpe

Vice Chairman – Councillor M Green

Members – Councillors Mrs J Farnham, Ms L Bakker-Collier, M Williamson, T Jackson, Mrs E Mowatt and G Neagus

e) Neighbourhood Plan Working Group

Chairman – Councillor Mrs J Hood
Vice Chairman – Councillor A Osgathorpe
Members – Councillors Mrs C Collier, G Collier, M Green, T Jackson, G Neagus and M Williamson

f) Mayor's Charity

Chairman – Councillor J Davies
Vice Chairman – Councillor T Jackson
Members – Councillors Mrs J Piggott, Mrs J Farnham, P Leason, Mrs K Green and M Williamson

RESOLVED: to elect the Members as listed above.

GP17/007 Appointments to Outside Bodies

a) Stone ATC

Mayor and Councillor M Williamson

b) Age Concern Stone & District

Councillors Mrs C Collier and Mrs K Green

c) Stone Town Band

Mayor

d) Walton Community Centre

Councillor M Shaw

e) Stafford & Stone Access Group

Councillor Mrs C Collier

f) Trustees of the Town Hall Charity

All Members

g) Stone Common Plott

Councillor Mrs C Collier until May 2019
Councillors G Collier, M Shaw, R Kenney and Mrs J Hood until May 2020

h) Richard Vernon Trust

Councillors M Shaw and P Leason until May 2019, Mr H Brunt until May 2017

RESOLVED: to appoint the Members as listed above

* Items marked with an asterisk refer to reports or papers circulated with the agenda or distributed at the meeting. They are attached as an appendix to the signed copy of the Council minutes.

GP17/008 **Stone Community Hub**

The Committee considered the report of the Town Clerk*.

The Clerk reported that since the presentation by Karen Wardell of Stone Community Hub, a meeting had taken place concerning possible ways Stone Town Council can support Stone Community Hub.

The Clerk stated that there are three possible ways to support the organisation:

- To give a grant
- To offer rent relief
- Working in partnership with the group

The Clerk recommended that the best option would be to give a grant, but also pointed out the recommended safeguards within the report.

RESOLVED: to offer a grant of £6000 payable in 12 monthly instalments of £500 to be reviewed in 12 months, and to seek to form a liaison group with the Hub consisting of one Member from each Ward.

GP17/009 **Stafford Borough Council Sport and Recreation Investment Plan**

Councillor Osgathorpe attended two consultations regarding the Stafford Borough Council Sports and Recreation Investment Plan. He circulated a draft response for Members to consider.

Councillor Osgathorpe also asked for an update on the two queries that had been raised with the Borough Council in respect of the previous report. The Clerk replied that the Borough had acknowledged receipt of the Town Council's comments that it did not support the report due to date issues, and it had attached an addendum to the report clarifying that the information that is credited to the Town Council within the document is not supported by the Town Council.

RESOLVED: to send the response* on behalf of Stone Town Council

GP17/010 **Member's Motions under Standing Order 4**

Councillor J Davies

"In Stone we are blessed with two long-established and very successful military cadet units: the Stone Detachment (Mercian) Army Cadet Force and 2352 (Stone) Squadron, Air Training Corps. We appreciate their valuable work in the development among the youth of the Town and its surrounding area of teamwork, self-discipline, consideration for others and good citizenship. We are grateful for their continuing support of many formal events in the Town.

In recognition of that valuable contribution to the life of the Town and to create a permanent link between the Ton Council and these two cadet units, I ask the Town Council to resolve:

- a. To appoint annually two Mayor's Cadets for the ensuing year and
- b. To approve the attached draft protocol

A number of other town councils in England have already instituted the appointment of mayor's cadets as, indeed, has HM's Lord Lieutenant for Staffordshire.

* Items marked with an asterisk refer to reports or papers circulated with the agenda or distributed at the meeting. They are attached as an appendix to the signed copy of the Council minutes.

Regarding costs, there would be an initial, one-off estimated cost of £100 for the provision of two Cadet's Maces and an annual estimated cost of £20.00 for two badges."

RESOLVED: Members agreed to the proposal subject to "other occasions as requested by the Town Mayor" being removed from the protocol

GP17/011 Extension of Meeting Time under Standing Order 4.25

RESOLVED: to agree to extend the length of the meeting beyond 1.5 hours

GP17/012 Update from Working Groups

a) Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group

Councillor Mrs J Hood reported that each member of the Steering Group had been given tasks to complete. The next meeting takes place on 18th May.

GP17/013 To receive reports from Town Councillors on attendance at meetings of local organisations and outside bodies as a representative of the Town Council

None received

Town Mayor

Stone Town Council - General Purposes Committee

17 May 2016

Stone Community Hub

Report of Town Clerk

Purpose of Report

1. To consider whether the Council wishes to financially support Stone Community Hub.

Background

2. At the March meeting of this Committee, Karen Wardell made a presentation on behalf of the trustees of the Hub. She informed the Committee that the Hub is a registered charity and is based at the Frank Jordan Centre. Its mission is to make lives better and this is done by offering support and advice and also offering opportunities for social interaction and learning.
3. She also explained that there has been a withdrawal of Stafford Borough Council funding. The Hub are planning various new services and are hoping that these will help to fund the existing services. It is expected that there will be a loss of around £6,000 this year.
4. This report asks the Council whether it wishes to offer any financial support to the Hub, and if so, what the form and amount of that financial support should be.

Options

5. The decision whether to offer any financial support to the Hub and, if so, how much is clearly a matter for Members to consider. The remainder of this report will discuss the best way of supporting the Hub, if the Council is minded to do so.
6. The most usual forms of support that a Council could offer to an organisation such as the Hub are:
 - a. **Grant:** The most common way of supporting an organisation, and normal practice at the Town Council, would be by payment of a grant within the Council's normal grant processes.
 - b. **Rent Relief:** Currently the Hub pay £430.26 per month (£5,163.12 per annum) to the Council for the use of the Frank Jordan Centre. The Council could determine to reduce or eliminate this rent to ease the costs incurred by the organisation.
 - c. **Partnership:** The Council could enter into a partnership with the Hub for the delivery of its services, thereby securing its financial position.

7. In this case I would recommend that a grant would be the most appropriate form of support, at least in the short term.
8. Rent relief would not be transparent, and would create a skewing of both the Frank Jordan Centre (FJC) and the Hub's accounts. This may, however, need reconsideration should FJC rents become subject to VAT at any time in the future.
9. A partnership would not be appropriate without considerably more consideration of the implications by both parties. Such a partnership would create a long term commitment for the Council and result in a loss of independence for the Hub. It would not seem an appropriate approach at this stage.
10. The payment of a grant in this case, however, is unlikely to fit within the Council's normal criteria, and in particular the £500 limitation. If the Council is minded to support the Hub with a grant outside this limit, it is suggested that additional controls be put in place to ensure that the Council's wishes are being followed in respect of the funds granted. In particular:
 - a. The grant is paid in monthly instalments, rather than as a lump sum, and is subject to the receipt of a regular financial and performance monitoring report in a format agreed between the Town Clerk and the Hub Trustees.
 - b. A joint Council/Hub Liaison Committee is created to help with the flow of information between the two organisations. This would have no decision making powers on behalf of the Council, and the Council's representatives would be expected to report to the Council's General Purposes Committee after each liaison committee meeting. It is suggested that the Council appoints four members, one from each Ward.
11. In her presentation to the Committee, Mrs Wardell suggested that current initiatives could result in the Hub achieving a self-sustaining position in the medium term. It is thus suggested that any arrangement entered into should be subject to review after 12 months of operation.

Conclusions

12. The Stone Community Hub is in need of financial support in order to continue to provide its services to Stone residents. This report asks Members if they wish to offer such support to the Hub, and if so, how much and in what form. The report offers a number of options for the form that this support could take.

Recommendations

13. The Committee is asked to consider whether it wishes to offer any financial support to Stone Community Hub and if so, at what level.
14. If financial support is offered, the Committee is recommended to offer it in the form of a grant, and adopt the proposals in paragraphs 10 and 11 above.

Sport and Recreation Strategy Consultation



Stafford
BOROUGH COUNCIL

www.staffordbc.gov.uk

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1. Background

1.1 This document sets out how the Borough Council and its partners intend to ensure that there is adequate sport and recreation provision in the Borough over the next twenty years. It sits beneath a “planning cascade” of the National Planning Policy Framework, the Local Strategic Partnership’s Sustainable Communities Strategy, Shaping Our Borough for the Future, the Borough Council’s Corporate Plan, Improving Stafford Borough, and The Plan for Stafford Borough.

The Planning Cascade

The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)

1.2 The NPPF sets the national policy context for all development plans and strategies that relate to spatial planning and delivery in England. Its main thrust is to require planning authorities and by extension, local authorities in general, to promote sustainable development in their areas. In the specific context of this strategy its objectives include:

- Supporting a prosperous rural economy
- Promoting sustainable transport
- Promoting healthy communities
- Protecting Green Belt land
- Meeting the challenge of climate change and flooding
- Conserving and enhancing the natural environment

1.3 In order to deliver against these objectives, the NPPF requires Councils:

- To adopt planning policies that support economic growth in rural areas in order to create jobs and prosperity by taking a positive approach to sustainable new development (and) promoting the retention and development of local services and community facilities in villages, such as local sports venues;
- To deliver the social, recreational and cultural facilities and services the community needs;
- To base their planning policies on robust and up-to-date assessments of the needs for open space, sports and recreation facilities and opportunities for new provision;
- To protect and enhance public rights of way and access (and) seek opportunities to provide better facilities for users, for example by adding links to existing rights of way networks including National Trails;
- To plan positively to enhance the beneficial use of the Green Belt, such as looking for opportunities to provide access and outdoor sport and recreation; to retain and enhance landscapes, visual amenity and biodiversity; or to improve damaged and derelict land;
- To take account of climate change over the longer term and manage risks through suitable adaptation measures, including through the planning of green infrastructure; and

- To set out a strategic approach in their Local Plans, planning positively for the creation, protection, enhancement and management of networks of biodiversity and green infrastructure.

Shaping Our Borough for the Future

1.5 The Local Strategic Partnership's overall aim is for the Borough:

- To have a vibrant, prosperous, sustainable economy and environment
- To be a Borough where all members of the community are safe and feel safe
- To have a protected and enhanced environment
- To be a Borough in which people feel included in society and live longer, healthier and more contented lives

Improving Stafford Borough

1.6 The Council's Corporate Plan has four broad priorities:

- Prosperity: a flourishing, thriving, successful Borough where we encourage and nurture economic growth and diversification
- Clean, Green, Safe: an attractive environment in which our community feels safe
- Health and Wellbeing: happy and healthy residents with an improved sense of wellbeing

- Leading and Delivering: a high performing Council that champions the needs and aspirations of its communities

The Plan for Stafford Borough

1.7 The Plan for Stafford Borough is based on a spatial vision that by 2031 the Borough, will have:

- Retained and enhanced its high quality unique character, made up of the County Town of Stafford, the market town of Stone and extensive rural area containing smaller towns and historic villages
- Provided high quality designed developments including recreation, open space and sport provision
- A range of housing types and tenures to meet the local needs of all communities and the ageing population, including affordable housing and provision for gypsies and travellers
- Reduced the need to travel, through the provision of increased services and facilities in key locations to sustain the surrounding rural areas
- Addressed issues of climate change, including a reduction in carbon emissions and flood risk with sensitively delivered renewable energy schemes
- Improved accessibility to services and facilities by providing safe, attractive and convenient sustainable connections from and to new developments

- Been protected, conserved and enhanced to provide an exceptionally high quality of environmental, historic and landscape character
- Community supported Neighbourhood Plans in place

2. Strategic Priorities for Sport and Recreation

2.1. The Open Space, Sport and Recreation Assessment Update 2013 undertaken by Kit Campbell provides the evidence base that underpins the open space, sports and recreation elements of the Plan for Stafford Borough and also the Sport and Recreation Strategy. Accordingly the Assessment:

- Summarises the national and local policy contexts relating to sport and recreation provision;
- Reviews the amount, distribution and quality of existing provision;
- Identifies where there is a need for more or better provision and the types of enhancements which will benefit existing facilities and spaces most;
- Suggests appropriate provision standards for the Borough Council to use as part of the planning process; and
- Identifies the new provision that the Council should require developers to provide or fund in Stafford and Stone (including the proposed Strategic Development Locations to the north, west and east of Stafford and west of Stone) and the Borough's Key Service Villages.

2.2. Sport England's "Value of Sport Monitor" highlights that participation in sport and recreation brings many benefits to both individuals and communities, including:

- Crime reduction and improved community safety
- Economic benefits from improvements in fitness and health and the regeneration of local communities
- Education and lifelong learning
- Psychological health and well-being
- Social capacity and cohesion

Based upon this work the key priorities related to Sport and Recreation are:

Priority 1: Development of a network of Outdoor Sport and Recreation opportunities

2.3 The most significant land use in terms of sport is pitches, especially grass ones because of the large area of land required and low carrying capacity. Ideally the Borough should seek to develop a network of a limited number of multi-pitch sport sites backed up by changing and social facilities for a community club as its core facilities for grass pitch provision. To provide for this it may be necessary to rationalise the current stock of single pitch sites reinvesting any proceeds in the development of multi pitch sites with appropriate levels of supporting infrastructure.

2.4 The optimum locations for Artificial Grass Pitches (A.G.P) are generally on secondary school or further/higher education sites as they can then be used during the day for curriculum-use by students and during midweek evenings, at the weekends and during school holidays by the wider community. These sites will allow the Borough Council to work with the Staffordshire Football Association, in particular, to foster the development of fewer but strong multi-team football clubs catering for players of all ages and both sexes. With AGPs they will be able to function every night of the week as well as at the weekend and provide for intensive midweek training and development and coaching. The corollary of this is that there is generally little point in promoting and developing single grass pitch sites.

2.5 Locating community clubs on secondary school sites has three additional advantages:

- Most schools will have some grass pitches to complement the artificial grass provision
- The schools' indoor facilities will make it possible for the community clubs to offer opportunities to participate in a wider range of sports
- Community club management should minimise the subsidies needed from the Borough or County Council.

2.6 Some existing local clubs with their own facilities may also be able to develop artificial grass pitches. For example Stafford Rugby Club and Stafford Town Football Club are currently in the process of seeking to provide full- sized floodlit synthetic pitches. However, this process needs to be part of a Borough wide, integrated and strategic approach to providing a network of AGPs which are fully justified and sustainable in order to prevent random or over provision or unjustified loss of existing grass pitch provision.

Priority 2: Development of an appropriate level of Indoor Leisure provision

2.7. The majority of indoor leisure provision in the Borough (sport halls and swimming pools) is generally located within or near to the larger centres of the population ie Stafford and Stone. The overall demand for sports hall provision has been fairly consistent over the years despite the fact that the popularity of certain sports varies from time to time. In common with many other Boroughs the provision of sports halls has been founded in the main on the basis of ‘multi-use’ facilities in an attempt to maximise the attraction to a wider range of sporting participants. However, there a growing number of issues which are set to influence that approach and these include:

- the aging stock of sports hall provision in the Borough;
- growth in demand for sport specific facilities;
- projected population growth;
- majority of sports hall provision is based on Educational sites minimising availability; and to the community during the day.

2.8 This may necessitate adopting a somewhat different approach to sports hall provision in years to come.

2.9 With regard to wet side provision the Assessment concluded that there is currently a shortfall of 300sqm of pool space within the Borough and any future developments will further increase the deficiency in swimming capacity. Stafford

Leisure Centre and Alleyne’s Sports Centre are already operating at capacity.

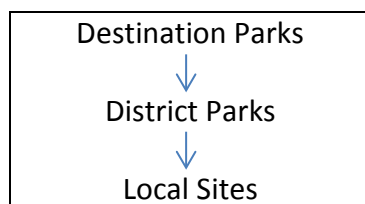
2.10 As with outdoor sporting facilities the optimum locations for new sport halls and swimming pools are generally on secondary school or further/higher education sites as they can then be used during the day for curriculum-use by students and during midweek evenings, at the weekends and during school holidays by the wider community.

2.11 There is also a need to refurbish existing sport halls to reflect the National Governing Bodies of Sport standards and specifications particularly for cricket, basketball, netball, gymnastics, athletics etc.

Priority 3: Development of a network of Destination Parks and Play Areas

2.12. The Assessment highlighted that traditionally the provision of play areas has been based on quantity and not necessarily on quality of provision. This approach often incurs high maintenance costs and can result in poor quality of provision. Due to the high costs and lack of quality provision there is a strong case for developing a network of larger, higher quality areas that are accessible to the maximum number of people.

2.13. It is recommended that there is a need to develop a hierarchical approach to open space and play area provision. This hierarchy would be as follows:



2.14. The success of the investment in upgrading the play facilities at both Victoria Park and Wildwood Park reinforces the view that the introduction of high quality play provision will encourage members of the community to travel further and stay longer at sites which offer a wider range of play provision, are set in an appropriate environment and offer the necessary supporting infrastructure.

2.15. However, there will remain a need to offer an optimum level of play

provision for those who either fall outside of the catchment area for Destination Park sites or are unable to access them for practical reasons. It remains critical that there is a supporting structure which underpins the provision of Destination Parks offering a reduced level of play provision but at a more localised level.

2.16. The introduction of a more strategic approach to play provision is therefore more likely to involve a rolling programme of investment in the quality of existing provision whilst actively seeking to rationalise the overall quantitative level of play area sites.

3. Key Strategic Elements.

Based upon the evidence base contained in the Greenspaces Assessment and the Sport and Recreation Strategy 2013 the Council should seek to deliver on five key strategic elements which relate to sport and recreation provision. These are:

- Indoor sports hall provision;
- Swimming pools;
- Artificial Grass Pitches (AGP);
- Grass Pitches; and
- Destination Parks.

3.1 Sports Hall provision



3.1.1. According to the Sport England Facility Planning Report 2014 Stafford has 13 sports halls across 11 sites providing a total of 44 badminton courts. However, when the supply is assessed based on the number of courts publicly available during peak period this reduces to 35 courts – a 20% reduction. The Kit Campbell Assessment and Sport England Facilities Planning Model Report¹ highlighted that in general terms there is broadly sufficient quantity of provision for sports halls within the Borough however the quality of the existing provision is inadequate.

¹ Strategic Assessment of Need for Swimming Pools, Sports Halls and Artificial Grass Pitch Provision in Stafford Borough: Sport England's Facilities Planning Model Report (February 2014)

3.1.2. There is and will be an increasing need for modernisation and upgrading of the current sports hall provision within the Borough as the overall stock of sports halls is old with the majority built prior to 1990 and with only 4 of them receiving any form of refurbishment since that time.

3.1.3. The basic balance of supply and demand is therefore currently being met. However, due to projected growth demand will increase to require the provision of at least one new sports hall within the Borough within the next decade.

3.1.4. There is also some variation across the Borough related to the pattern of sports hall usage levels. Stafford Leisure

Centre and Sir Graham Balfour School sports halls, for example, are deemed to be operating at almost 100% capacity probably due to the fact that they are the most modern and the level of provision at those sites enables them to accommodate a wider variety of sports.

3.1.5 In terms of the size and specification of the existing sports hall stock within the Borough it is interesting to note and unusual that all of the current sports halls are 4 court size. There are no 6-8 court size sports halls which provide for dual sports activity at the same time. The balance of use of the current level of provision is very much geared towards general community recreational use and lacks the capability of accommodating “specialised” activities or more than one activity at a time which would aid flexibility and improve programming of use.

3.1.6 The strategic priorities for sports hall provision should therefore include for;

- The development of a new sports hall within Stafford;
- Redevelopment of indoor provision in Stone;
- Refurbishment of existing school sport halls to:
 - Allow for wider community use; and
 - Upgrade from multi-use sports halls where appropriate to incorporate specialist facilities e.g. improve lighting ,internal floor coverings etc. that reflect the National Governing Bodies of Sport standards and specifications particularly for

cricket, basketball , netball, gymnastics, athletics etc.

3.1.7 Appendix 1 provides the background on the existing provision within the Borough, optimum locations for the development of new sports hall provision within the Borough together with a methodology to progress an upgrade of current facility provision.

3.2 Swimming Pool Provision



3.2.1. There are currently 4 swimming pools available across 3 sites within the Borough. Set out in **Appendix 2** are details relating to the existing provision of water space in the Borough.

3.2.2 The Sport England Facility Planning Report evaluated that the population in Stafford in 2013 generated a demand for 8,245 swims per week period. This is equivalent to 1,359m² of water space.

3.2.3 The Report highlighted that currently there is only 1,024m² of water space available. This is supported by the Kit Campbell Assessment which highlighted that in terms of meeting the national benchmark for water space the Borough has a current shortfall of around 300sqm of pool space (for ease of

comparison a 4 lane 25mx10m pool is equivalent to 250m of water space).

3.2.4 The Facility Planning model assumes that pool usage levels over 70 % of capacity is busy and that a pool operating at above that is at an 'uncomfortable' level. The modelling suggests that the pools in the Borough are operating at an average level of 84.2% and that this will be virtually unchanged by 2024 - except that the pools will be 11 years older. Clearly at peak times the pools will be over utilised with insufficient capacity to deliver adequate recreational and development programme levels. However, the utilised capacity of individual pools will vary and whilst Stafford Leisure Centre is estimated to be operating at 92% of capacity in 2013 and around 100% by 2024, Alleyne's Sports

Centre pool is estimated to be at 92% in 2013 decreasing to 77% by 2024 - a trend based on population changes in the catchment area so that there are less swimmers in the relevant age groups. The pool with "spare capacity " at 53% in 2013 and 62% in 2024 will be the Virgin Active pool which does not provide open public access or a full range of swimming programmes.

3.2.5 The overriding strategic priority for swimming provision will be in the longer term to seek to develop a new swimming pool within the Stafford Town catchment area. **Appendix 2** details possible locations where a new pool could potentially be developed.

3.3 Artificial Grass Pitches



3.3.1 The Borough wide “Open Space, Sport and Recreation Assessment (updated 2013) produced by Kit Campbell provided the evidence base for outlining the need for a long term network of Artificial Grass Pitches (AGP).

3.3.2 The Assessment concluded that whilst the National Governing bodies for Sport (NGBs) understandably focused on the perceived needs of member clubs, especially those owning or leasing their facilities, the Borough Council has an additional responsibility to make provision for those clubs who do not own their own facilities or individuals who do not have direct access to facilities as members of clubs. The Council has to decide whether

to base its long term planning on the NGBs current perceptions of need, adopt a completely different view or a balanced approach somewhere in between.

3.3.3 It is impossible to accurately forecast how patterns of participation and hence facility development will change over the next decade or so but reasonable to suppose that synthetic surfaces will become more extensively used in competitive matches, training and development as the benefits for players and partner agencies become too important to ignore and the quality of the synthetic surfaces continues to improve.

3.3.4 Hence it is critical that the Council works with appropriate partner agencies

such as Sport England, National Governing Bodies for Sport and voluntary sector providers to ensure that not only is an appropriate level of provision attained but that it is located at optimum sites with minimum disruption to the balance of grass pitch provision.

3.3.5 The Assessment concluded that the longer term quantity standard for the provision of AGPs in the Borough should be:

- 3 full size floodlit AGPs for Hockey;
- 7 full sized floodlit 3G pitches for football;
- 1- 2 full sized floodlit International Rugby Board compliant pitches for rugby; and
- At least 2, 60x40m AGPs training areas.

3.3.6 Appendix 3 lists detailed information in relation to existing A.G.P. provision within the Borough and potential locations for new A.G.P provision based upon the quantity standard set out above;

3.4 Grass Pitches

The Playing Pitch Assessment originally carried out in 2008 and updated in 2013 covered the major traditional sports of cricket, football and rugby. The later study included work on bowling greens and tennis courts. **Appendix 4** contains details of the existing provision of grass pitches across the Borough.

A summary of the key findings of the Assessment related to cricket, football and rugby highlighted;

3.4.1 Cricket



The Borough had around 15 cricket clubs fielding;

- 65 mens teams
- 2 womens teams
- 6 girls teams
- 42 boys teams
- The Assessment suggested that the Borough had around 16 publicly accessible pitches plus 2 joint-use facilities
- Over 50% of the adult cricket teams are based in the North of the Borough although it accounts for only 20% of the population.

In quantitative terms the Assessment concluded that in general terms there are broadly sufficient cricket pitches across the Borough to accommodate the existing level of demand but that masks the apparent shortfall of 3 cricket pitches within the Stafford Town catchment area. The key priorities for cricket are;

- Increase capacity of grounds to accommodate midweek use (particularly by junior teams) through the provision of artificial wickets,
- Improve changing accommodation;
- Borough Council to allocate land for additional cricket pitches as part of the LDF;
- Improving indoor cricket facilities.
- Seek to address the capacity issues within the Stafford Town catchment area eg. Support the case for the development of an additional cricket square at Stafford Cricket Club, Riverway.

3.4.2. Football:



At the time of writing the Assessment indicated that the Borough had approximately 56 adult teams fielding 52 men's teams and 4 lady's teams. Of the

men's teams 11 played their competitive fixtures predominantly on Saturdays and 45 on Sundays. All of the ladies teams played their matches on Sunday afternoons.

In addition there are 49 boy and 17 girl teams between 11-18 years and 75 mini-soccer teams. The Borough had a stock of 61 publicly accessible adult pitches, 21 youth pitches and 7 mini – soccer pitches.

At the time the Assessment concluded that there was a surplus of adult pitches and a deficit of junior and mini soccer pitches. The Council together with the local leagues continues to work to redress the balance through the conversion of pitches and increased use of synthetic playing surfaces. The key recommendations for football include;

- Provide more pitches for mini-soccer particularly in the North East of the Borough and Stafford Town area;
- Provide additional junior pitches in Stafford Town;
- Improve the quality of facilities for adult football primarily by improving drainage of pitches and changing accommodation;
- To assist those clubs aspiring to achieve/maintain higher league status through improvements to playing facilities to meet ground grading specifications.
- To encourage and facilitate clubs to come together to either ground share or form fewer but larger community based clubs.

- Identify a limited number of additional grass pitch sites on which to develop multi-pitch complexes. eg Riverway in Stafford and Walton Common in Stone.

3.4.3 Rugby.



The Assessment suggested that rugby within the Borough focused in the main on 5 clubs- although there may have been recent additions to that number - fielding 14 men's teams, 4 colts teams, 2 women's teams, 13 midi teams 17 mini teams plus a team representing Stafford College of Further Education.

The Assessment concluded that there appeared to be an adequate supply of adult rugby pitches so the fact that junior and midi teams used adult pitches did not significantly reduce the availability of pitches for adult teams. The key recommendations for rugby included;

- Assist clubs in securing appropriate new or existing locations sufficiently large to accommodate all of their current teams whilst having capacity for additional teams arising as a result of development work and population growth.
- Assist clubs to enhance their facilities whilst ensuring that they are able to access affordable, appropriate artificial training areas, if they do not have their own.

3.4.4. Bowls



The Assessment recommended that the Council adopts a provision standard for bowling greens but acknowledged that at that time there was no need to apply the standard in either Stafford Town or Stone as the level of provision was adequate. (See **Appendix 4** for current level of provision).

Any shortage in provision was deemed to be in certain rural areas notably;

- Fulford,
- Eccleshall,
- Colwich,
- Gnosall.

In addition Hilderstone, Berkswich, Hopton and Coton had identified a possible need.

It was considered that Council's in general could do little to prevent bowls clubs folding but that the Borough Council should seek to;

- Protect the existing stock of bowling greens, wherever practical;
- Rationalise provision into fewer but better facilities;
- Continue to try to make more intensive use of the existing greens; and
- Seek to improve the quality of the existing facilities and the supporting infrastructure.

3.4.5. Tennis



The Assessment highlighted that with milder winters the number of people playing tennis outdoors all year round was slowly rising but to a large extent this trend will depend upon the availability of floodlit, hard or synthetic surfaced courts. To that end the Council no longer maintains grass courts preferring instead to convert grass courts e.g. Stonefield Park to synthetic surfacing.

It was acknowledged that courts exist at a further 10 sites within the Borough in varying condition but that the above sites are of significantly higher quality.

The Assessment concluded that it was advisable to continue to concentrate tennis provision at a limited number of high quality venues. This would facilitate coaching and junior development programmes and enhance the viability of clubs and Centres. The main recommendation was to seek to support the existing level of provision but to support clubs in providing floodlights to their courts where practical and to seek to convert existing under-used tennis courts to multi-games areas wherever feasible.

3.5 Destination Play Areas



3.5.1 Destination sites are our largest sites and contain a wide range of facilities which may include toilets, play areas with equipment for a range of ages, bowling greens, football pitches and wheeled sports parks.

3.5.4 The Council has already developed two destination sites with the investment and redevelopment of Victoria Park and Wildwood Park. The success of these two areas serves to reinforce the benefits of developing a network of larger, higher quality areas that are accessible to the maximum number of people.

3.5.5 The main opportunities to develop this level of provision will arise in established parks and within the proposed Strategic Development locations. Existing

sites which could be developed to achieve this status include:

- Rowley Park, Stafford;
- Charnley road, Stafford;
- Westbridge Park, Stone; and
- Strategic Development Locations (SDLs)

3.5.6 However, it is acknowledged that technical and/or financial constraints at individual sites may mean that it is highly desirable but not practical to achieve full 'Destination Play' standard at some of the sites but that should not prevent the Council taking the opportunity to upgrade the facilities to the highest possible level.

3.5.7 Owing to the anticipated growth within Stafford the East, West and North Stafford Strategic Development Locations (SDLs) are identified within the Local

Development Framework (LDF) as potential Destination Play sites.

3.5.8 The Assessment also identified that improved park facilities should also be developed in the Key Service Villages including:

- Barlaston;
- Eccleshall;
- Hixon;
- Colwich;
- Weston;
- Fulford;
- Gnosall.

3.5.9 The key recommendations for developing a more strategic approach to the delivery of play provision within the Borough are;

- To plan and progressively develop a strategic network of Destination play sites in Stafford and Stone and to work with the appropriate Parish Councils to significantly

improve the level of provision within the Key Service Villages.

- To support the introduction of Destination Play provision with a network of additional localised play areas including natural play sites.
- To seek to rationalise the overall level of play provision, identifying areas that can either be sold or transferred and refocusing this investment at qualitative improvements and maintaining the remaining provision to a higher quality level.



4. Delivery of the Strategy

4.1.1 The Green Infrastructure Strategy and the updated Open Space, Sport and Recreation Assessment both identify the need for a significant number of projects at various scales across the Borough.

4.1.2 Delivery of these projects will inevitably require considerable resources. The main sources of finance to fund them are likely in the future to include:

- Planning Obligations
- Community Infrastructure Levy
- External Funding
- The Borough Council's own resources

Planning Obligations and the Community Infrastructure Levy

4.1.3 The Council is intending to adopt the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL). CIL is a new levy that local authorities in England and Wales can choose to charge on new developments in their area. The money raised from CIL can be used to support development by funding infrastructure that the Council, local community and neighbourhoods need, such as transport, education and open space.

4.1.4 SBC is moving forwards with the implementation of CIL and is now working through the statutory process as set out by the CIL

Regulations. All information relating to CIL can be found on the Councils website www.staffordbc.gov.uk

4.1.5 Whilst CIL has the potential to raise additional funds for use by the Council, the funds will be shared between a number of Services, for example, Highways, Housing, Education etc. Therefore whilst sport and recreation opportunities have been identified for requiring additional funding, it does not mean they will be the focus for receiving the funds. Therefore there is a need to identify additional external funding resources.

External Funding

4.1.6 There are a number of potential sources of external grant funding open to the Borough Council and its Town and Parish Council partners. They include:

- Parks for People (Heritage Lottery Fund): the Big Lottery Fund offers grants of £100,000 to £5 million towards projects designed to regenerate public parks of national regional or local heritage value.
- Football Foundation Facilities Scheme: this offers grants of up to £500,000 that will help to improve local facilities for football and other sports, designed to sustain or increase participation amongst people of all ages and abilities. The grants can help fund grass pitch improvements (including changing facilities), artificial turf pitches and floodlighting.
- Football Foundation Build the Game Scheme: this scheme offers grants of up to £100,000
- Sport England Improvement Fund: this can provide funding for medium-sized projects that will improve the quality and experience of sport. The funding of £45M over five years will be allocated in five rounds of £9M per year with a very

short application period for each round. Grants will be between £150,000 and £500,000.

- Sport England Inspired Facilities Fund: this can provide funding for building modernisation, floodlighting, outdoor sports surfaces, community club buildings and sports equipment. Community groups and Town and Parish Councils can seek funding of between £20,000 and £50,000 and local authorities and schools for between £20,000 and £150,000.
- Sport England Protecting Playing Fields Fund: this scheme is designed to support the safeguarding or improvement of natural turf playing fields. It offers grants of up to £50,000 that come with fairly onerous conditions.
- Governing Body Whole Sport Plan Grants: Sport England has provided capital funding to a number of sports governing bodies for them to invest in local facilities that are high priorities in their Whole Sport Plans.

4.1.7 The Department for Communities publishes guidance on sources of funding available to community and voluntary organisations for green spaces entitled Potential

Funding for Community Green Spaces.

The Council's Own Resources

4.1.8 The Council's capital and revenue budgets are coming under severe pressure, although there are some signs of the government wishing to do more to promote investment in capital projects which may gather pace over the next year or so. At current interest rates, it can obviously borrow cheaply and so its priority should be to invest in projects that will not incur high revenue costs or better still make revenue savings.

4.1.9 The Council also has significant holdings of land. Its "own resources" therefore also include any capital receipts it may be able to generate by selling off poorly used or unwanted assets. In terms of the National Planning Policy Framework, it is certainly possible to make a case for the disposal of some grass pitches, redundant play areas or open spaces in order to fund the development of artificial ones as this will increase the overall "playing capacity" in the Borough.

Development of a Charging Policy

4.1.10 A key element when drawing up a charging policy is to identify realistic charges for different forms of provision. The quantity standards in **Appendix A** provide one element of this by setting out

the amount of provision per person that residential developers should provide or fund. The other key element is the unit cost of each different form of provision.

4.1.11 Sport England publishes broad capital and life cycle cost guidance on its website (www.sportengland.org). It covers:

- Artificial turf pitches
- Athletics tracks
- Bowling greens
- Changing rooms/clubhouses/pavilions
- Grandstands
- Grass pitches for cricket, football and rugby
- Indoor bowls centres
- Indoor tennis centres
- Multi-use games areas
- Outdoor tennis courts
- Skate parks
- Sports halls
- Swimming pool

4.1.12 The main advantage of using the Sport England figures when drawing up a charging schedule is that they are likely to be regarded as robust by Planning Inspectors. However, they have a few drawbacks:

- They do not allow for any regional variations in building costs
- They include percentage add-ons for external works, professional and other fees and expenses

(and the first year's maintenance for grass pitches) but it is not always easy to disaggregate all of these costs if it is necessary to do so – for example, to get the cost for an artificial grass pitch that does not require any parking

- The costs exclude a number of potentially significant items, such as ground levelling, long services connections and SUDS attenuation
- Some of the capital costs seem abnormally high or low and the amounts that pitch owners should budget for annual maintenance and put into sinking funds to pay for cyclical replacements depends in part on levels of use.

5 Management and Maintenance

Introduction

5.1 The “liveability” of a residential environment depends on many things, including its layout, the design of the dwellings, quality of the landscaping, behaviour of residents and visitors and how well owners maintain their properties. One of the most critical factors for the long term is the maintenance of common areas such as publicly accessible greenspaces and car parking areas and in flatted developments, common entrances. How these common areas are managed determines the image of both the development itself and the wider area in which it is set. It is therefore a legitimate concern for the Council and perfectly reasonable for it to require developers to put in place effective arrangements for long term management and maintenances. The main options open to the Council are:

- For the Council to adopt the common areas or facilities and the developers to pay a commuted sum to fund long term management and maintenance
- For the developers to appoint a factor or other agent to manage the maintenance and

recover the costs from property owners

- For the Council to require that householders or other property owners create and fund a residents’ association to oversee the maintenance of the common areas

5.2 The first of these approaches is not without its issues. Commuted maintenance sums last for only a limited period of time and the longer this is the higher commuted sums will be and the more that developers will resist paying them. More seriously, when the commuted sums run out the Council, as the land owner, will be required to fund maintenance from its revenue budget and this tends to result in this budget being spread ever more thinly across more and more land. If Councils are forced to reduce their grounds maintenance budgets, standards of maintenance inevitably fall.

5.3 The second approach also has drawbacks, not least that the Council and local property owners have little or no control over the quality of long term maintenance. There have also been very few instances of where factors appointed by developers have not been

severely criticised by dwelling owners.

5.4 The third approach has much to offer, provided that it can be done in a way that does not expose the Council to long term risks or costs. The process would necessitate the use of three standard planning conditions, covering:

- The quality of on-site greenspace and sport and recreation provision
- Short term management and maintenance
- Long term management and maintenance.

5.5 Unfortunately the provision and maintenance of Sport and Recreation opportunities is not a statutory service and therefore in times of austerity these services can be prone to cutbacks. Consequently the management and maintenance of facilities is dependent on the

budget available. As such the Council is willing to consider, on their merits, other approaches developers may wish to propose in order to comply with its standard conditions. Any approach will need to be at least as effective as those implemented by SBC and should be based on the British Standard for Grounds Maintenance.

6 Conclusion

The purpose of this strategy is to provide clear information on the future development on Sport and Recreation facilities within Stafford Borough. Delivering this Strategy will take a concerted and committed effort by the Council and this Strategy is just one small element of the commitment the Authority has to providing a range of high quality facilities. To support this Strategy further work is required to provide detailed action plans and feasibility studies to implement the above schemes.

Appendix 1: Sport Halls

Existing provision

The Borough has 13 sports halls across 11 sites.

Existing Sport Hall Provision

Facility	Size (meters)	Year Built	Year Refurbished
Stafford			
Beaconside Sports Centre	33 x 18	2000	-
Blessed William Howard School *	32 x 17	1978	2012
King Edward VI School*	32x 18	1965	2004
Sir Graham Balfour School	33 x 18	2001	-
Stafford Grammar School	35 x 17	1999	2004
Stafford Leisure Centre	33 x 18	2008	-
Stafford Sports College		1985	2008
Walton High School*	20 x 12	1967	-
Weston Road High School *	32 x 17	1979	-
Stone			
Alleyne's Sports Centre	37 X 18	1970	2006
Elsewhere			
Yarnfield Park	Not known	Not known	

(* sites have a sports hall and ancillary gym which is often not available during peak use)

The provision does not reflect that many of the school sports halls are only available to clubs or other organised groups and are therefore not available to the wider community. As most of the sports halls are located on educational sites they are generally unavailable to the community during the day. Additionally Stafford Sports College is not available to the public.

With regard to Beaconside Sports Centre, Staffordshire University have indicated that they wish to centralise their facilities on the Stoke campus so the future of the provision of sports facilities on the Beaconside site remains to some extent unclear.

Identified Need: Development of new sports hall

The anticipated growth in Stafford will generate demand for a further sports hall. The Assessment suggests that potential locations for additional sports halls provision could include;

- Rowley Park;
- North Stafford SDL – as part of the development of any new School;
- Staffordshire University;
- Walton High School; or
- An existing facility within the Stafford catchment that can be extended (preferably to become a 6-8 badminton court size) and upgraded to meet National Governing Bodies of Sport standards.

Identified need: Redevelopment of indoor sports provision in Stone.

The Council is currently consulting on proposals to improve the level of indoor and outdoor sporting and recreational provision in the Stone catchment area. The proposals include plans to improve indoor sporting provision through;

- Relocation of the existing wet-side provision from Alleyne's Sports Centre to a new site in Westbridge Park, Stone;
- Refurbishment of the current pool hall to form additional sports halls provision at Alleyne's Sports Centre, Stone

Identified Need: Refurbishment of existing school sports halls provision.

The vast majority of the current sports halls provision within the Borough is located on Educational sites. There is a growing recognition of the need to upgrade much of the existing provision so that it is capable of accommodating specific sports to a standard set by the relevant Governing Body and in many cases this will necessitate improvements in key elements such as lighting, floor surfaces and netting etc. In order

to provide an appropriate network of provision within the Borough it is suggested that a detailed feasibility study is undertaken to carry out sequential testing to determine the optimum locations for specialised indoor sports facilities that are designed to accommodate target sports such as cricket, basketball, netball, gymnastics and indoor athletics etc. This approach would provide the basis for a Borough wide range of sports hall provision offering a range of sport specific and multi- sport facilities which will significantly improve capacity levels and offer flexibility in programming.

Appendix 2: Swimming Provision

Existing Provision

Existing Swimming Pool Provision

Location	Type	Dimensions Area M ²	Year Built	Year Refurbished
Stafford Leisure Centre, Stafford (Main)	Public facility	420	2008	-
Stafford Leisure Centre, Stafford (Learner/Teaching)	Public facility	100	2008	-
Virgin Active, Stafford	Private sector facility	250	2003	2007
Alleyne's Academy School, Stone	Public facility	313	1970	2009
St Lawrence Primary School, Gnosall	Community Use	-	-	-
Walton High School, Stafford	Community use	153	1967	-

In addition to the sites listed above the Borough also contains a number of small school and commercial pools with some degree of community use. The overall contribution of these pools to meeting demand is very limited and has been ignored for the purposes of the Assessment.

It should be noted that the pool at St Lawrence Primary School has been identified for closure.

Identified Need

The over-riding priority in relation to swimming pool provision in the longer-term is for the development of a new pool in the Stafford area. In addition to the significant capital and revenue implications of delivering this proposal there are a number of key technical and operational factors will need to be considered when tailoring a new building or redesigning an existing facility to accommodate swimming pool provision. This may present significant implications at some sites and considerable detailed investigative work will need to be undertaken in evaluating the various options available. However, suggested optimum locations should initially include;

- Redevelopment of the existing pool facility at Walton High School;
- Within one of the Strategic Development Locations (identified within the Local Development Framework) that will have a secondary school;

- Weston Road Academy;
- Sir Graham Balfour School;
- Staffordshire University; or
- A suitable location within 20 minute drive of Stafford town.

The Council has already announced its intention to carry out formal consultation on the potential to relocate the existing wet- side facility at Alleyne's Academy, Stone to a new site in Westbridge Park, Stone as part of a plan to centralise the indoor and outdoor leisure facilities.

Appendix 3: Artificial Grass Pitch provision.

Table 1: Existing AGP provision

Stone Hockey Club	Floodlit 2G pitch
	Changing rooms
	Car parking
	Existing carpet is in poor condition and in need of replacement.
	Ground currently being shared with Stone Rugby club
	Existing under- used playing fields (previously used as mini - football pitches)
	Potential for the provision of a second 2G pitch for hockey and development on site.
Alleyes Academy	Existing floodlit, sand-dressed pitch
	Changing rooms
	Car parking
	Coach education room
	Stafford Borough Council (SBC)/Alleyes Academy have a Joint Management Agreement for the use of sports facilities at the site.
	Current usage of the synthetic pitch is limited to minimal use by Barlaston Hockey club on a Saturday (occasional use by Stafford Hockey club) and predominantly football for remainder of week.
Beaconside/Staffordshire University	Borough's first floodlit synthetic pitch, jointly provided in 1991 by formal Agreement between SBC/Staffordshire University.
	Sports hall
	Changing accommodation
	Car parking
	Grass pitches
	Sand-dressed carpet replaced in 2006 and in 2015 – sinking fund available.
	Home venue for Stafford Hockey club
	Extensive use on Saturdays for matches and some midweek training. Limited Sunday uptake by hockey but extensively used by local football clubs for the remainder of the week particularly those who cannot be accommodated at Rowley Park's 3G pitch.

	University have indicated that they wish to centralise on Stoke campus so future provision of sports facilities on the Beaconside site is to some extent unclear. Should the University decide to close this facility then a suitable alternative site with the necessary supporting infrastructure would need to be considered. Alternatively should the site be made available by the University as a going concern there may be significant developmental opportunities.
Rowley Park	Completed in 2012 only full-sized floodlit 3G pitch in the Borough
	Home venue for West Midlands League football team on Saturday
	Extensively used by local junior and senior league teams during the weekend and weekday evenings
	Athletics Track
	Multi use games area
	Tennis courts
	Bowling Green Extensive grass pitch provision.

Options for future provision of sand-dressed pitches.

Stafford Cricket and Hockey Club	Multiuse site including hockey, cricket and rugby. Redevelopment may be possible subject to a suitable scheme being devised that will not reduce /inhibit existing grass pitch provision at the site.
Weston Road Academy	Existing user of the facility
	Proven track record of community use of its sports facilities
	Extensive school playing fields which are adjacent to the University site
Stone Hockey Club	An additional 2G pitch could be accommodated at the venue
	Proven track record of hockey provision and an
	Additional pitch would enable hockey to centralise provision, development and excellence on a multi-pitch site
Existing Secondary Schools or new schools developed within an Strategic Development Location	Subject to suitable land being available.

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Potential sites for additional 3G pitches

Stafford	
Stafford Town Football Club, Riverway	The stadium was opened in April 2010 and has achieved Charter Community Standard
	Excess of 25 teams including adult, junior, ladies and disability teams.
	Floodlighting
	Changing accommodation
	Spectator stand
	Car parking
	Master planning underway for the development of a 3G carpet to replace the natural grass surface at the Football Club's existing stadium.
Sir Graham Balfour School	Currently operated on a Private Finance Initiative (PFI) basis with the sports facilities in use within a Community-use protocol
	Informal discussions with the operator have taken place in the past in regard to the potential for the provision of a floodlit, synthetic pitch on the site
Stafford Rangers Football Club	The current ground already possesses most of the supporting infrastructure necessary to support a 3G playing surface
	The Club already has a large number of associated adult and junior teams who currently hire playing pitches throughout the Borough. Development of a 3G pitch at the stadium would enable the club to centralise playing pitch provision for its associated clubs freeing up external pitches for alternative use.
Stafford Rugby Club	Club is well advanced with a scheme to relocate its clubhouse and playing pitches to an alternative site. New site will provide a full size, floodlit International Rugby Board compliant synthetic pitch as part of the package.
Walton High School	Discussions with the school on the potential to work in partnership on the provision of community sports facilities at the site are ongoing.
	Amongst the poorest Schools in the County in terms of the quality of its sports facilities

	though it has a swimming pool, extensive playing fields and tennis courts.
	Proven track record in making its sports facilities available to the community.
Weston Road Academy	Extensive playing fields which are directly adjacent to Staffs University sports facilities
	Outdoor sports facilities
	Sports hall
	Proven track record in making its sports facilities available to the community.
Stafford Sports College	Existing supporting infrastructure
	A proven track record in community use of sporting facilities
	The Council has recently worked successfully in partnership with the Sports College on the provision of an Indoor Tennis Centre.
	May be significant planning issues on the site for the development of 3G pitch. Assuming the site continues to be managed as a sports hub consider the provision of a second AGP in either a sand-dressed or 3G format .
Staffordshire University, Beaconside	The current ground already possesses most of the supporting infrastructure necessary to support a 3G playing surface
	Sports hall
	Changing accommodation
	Car parking
Stone	
Westbridge Park/Alleyes	Council is currently engaged in a proposal to improve both the indoor and outdoor sports and leisure provision in the Stone area and the provision of a floodlit 3G pitch in the catchment area would be a key element in the plan to improve sporting provision in the longer term.
	Should the existing sand-dressed pitch at Alleyes be converted to a 3G surface as part of the overall proposal then it may be necessary to consider the case for replacement at an appropriate venue elsewhere in the catchment area.
Elsewhere	
Stone Dominoes site at Yarnfield and Brocton Football Club at Silkmore Lane at Stafford.	Subject to suitable land and scheme being developed. Potential technical and planning issues may be relevant at these sites.
Existing Secondary schools within the Borough	The Assessment concluded that the optimum site for AGP provision is on Educational sites as it allows them to be used for curriculum purposes during the day and by the wider

	community during weekday evenings, weekends and school holidays. An A.G.P. could be accommodated on any existing secondary school or any new secondary schools in one of the Strategic Development Location subject to the availability of the necessary supporting infrastructure and a Community- use Agreement.
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Existing 3G 60x40m pitch

Location	Information
Bishop Lonsdale Primary School, Eccleshall	Flood light pitch
	Available for community use
	Accessible only through the school

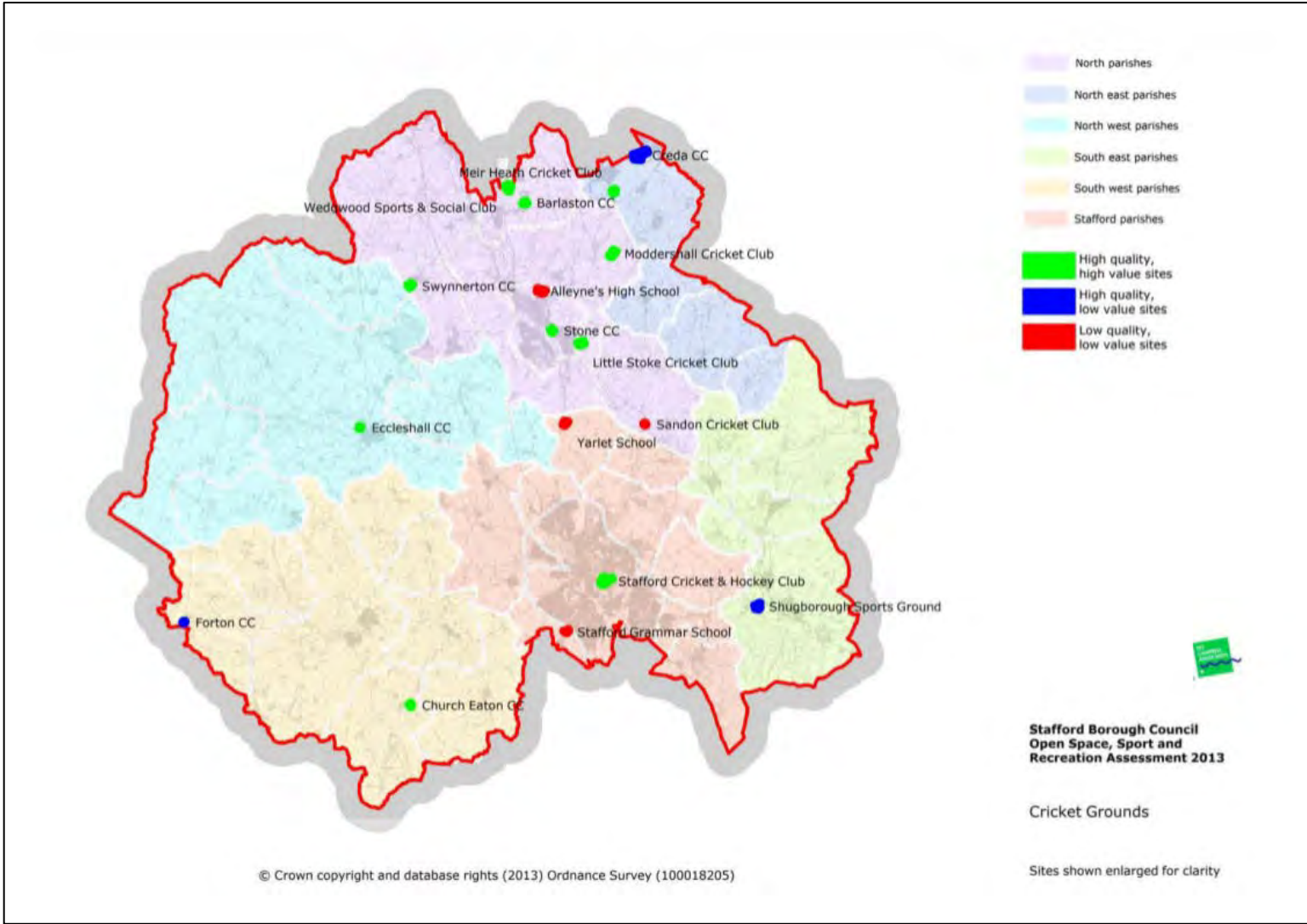
Potential sites for additional 3G 60x40m pitch

Location	Information
Gnosall	Largest Key Service Village
	Good transport links
Existing Secondary schools within the Borough	The Assessment concluded that the optimum site for AGP provision is on Educational sites as it allows them to be used for curriculum purposes during the day and by the wider community during weekday evenings, weekends and school holidays. An AGP could be accommodated on any existing secondary school or any new secondary schools in one of the Strategic Development Location subject to the availability of the necessary supporting infrastructure and a Community- use Agreement.

Appendix 4: Grass Pitches

Existing Cricket Pitches

Site name	Settlement
Barlaston CC	Barlaston
Wedgwood Sports and Social Club	Barlaston
Alleyne's High School	Stone
Stone CC	Stone
Little Stoke Cricket Club (2)	Little Stoke
Moddershall Cricket Club (2)	Moddershall
Swynnerton CC	Swynnerton
Creda CC	Blythe Bridge
Meir Heath Cricket Club	Meir Heath
Eccleshall CC	Eccleshall
Sandon Cricket Club	Sandon
Shugborough County Sports Ground	near Milford Stafford
Church Eaton CC	Church Eaton
Milford Hall Cricket Club	Milford,Stafford
Stafford Cricket Club (2)	Riverway, Stafford
Oulton Cricket Club	Oulton,Stone
Stafford Grammar School	Burton Manor,Stafford



Existing Football Pitches

Site name	Settlement	Site name	Settlement
Alleyne's Sports Centre	Stone	Perkins Factory	Stafford
Aston Fields (Stafford Rangers FC)	Stafford	Riverway SBC	Stafford
Bibby AFC	Stone	Riverway Stafford College	Stafford
Blessed William Howard RC HS	Stafford	Rowley Park	Stafford
Brocton FC	Stafford	Shugborough County Sports Ground	Near Milford
Brooklands School	Stafford	Sir Graham Balfour High School	Stafford
Charnley Road	Stafford	Springbank Park	Yarnfield
Christ Church First School	Woodseaves	Stafford Sports College	Stafford
Christ Church Middle School	Stone	Staffordshire University	Stafford
Church Lane	Derrington	Stone Youth and Community centre	Stone
Cotes Heath/Standon	Cotes Heath/Standon	Swynnerton Recreation Ground	Swynnerton
Creda FC	Blythe Bridge	The Green	Barlaston
Doxey	Stafford	Tilling Drive	Stone
Eccleshall Football Club	Eccleshall	Torrington Rd	Stafford
Gnosall Sports and Social Club	Gnosall	Walton High School	Walton on the Hill
Gnosall St Lawrence Primary School	Gnosall	Walton Middle School	Stone
Great Bridgeford Playing Field	Great Bridgeford	Wedgwood Sports and Social Club	Barlaston
Greensome	Doxey	Westbridge	Stone
Grindley Park	Meir Heath	Western Downs	Stafford
Holmcroft Youth and Community Centre	Stafford	Weston Road High School	Stafford
Hopton Playing Field	Hopton	Wildwood Park	Stafford
King Edward VI High School	Stafford	Woodlands Road	Stafford
Knighton Sports and Social Club	Knighton	Wootton Drive	Stafford
Meadow Road	Stafford	Yarlet School	Near Stafford
MoD Stafford	Stafford	Yarnfield Park	Yarnfield



- North parishes
- North east parishes
- North west parishes
- South east parishes
- South west parishes
- Stafford parishes
- High quality, high value sites
- High quality, low value sites
- Low quality, high value sites
- Low quality, low value sites

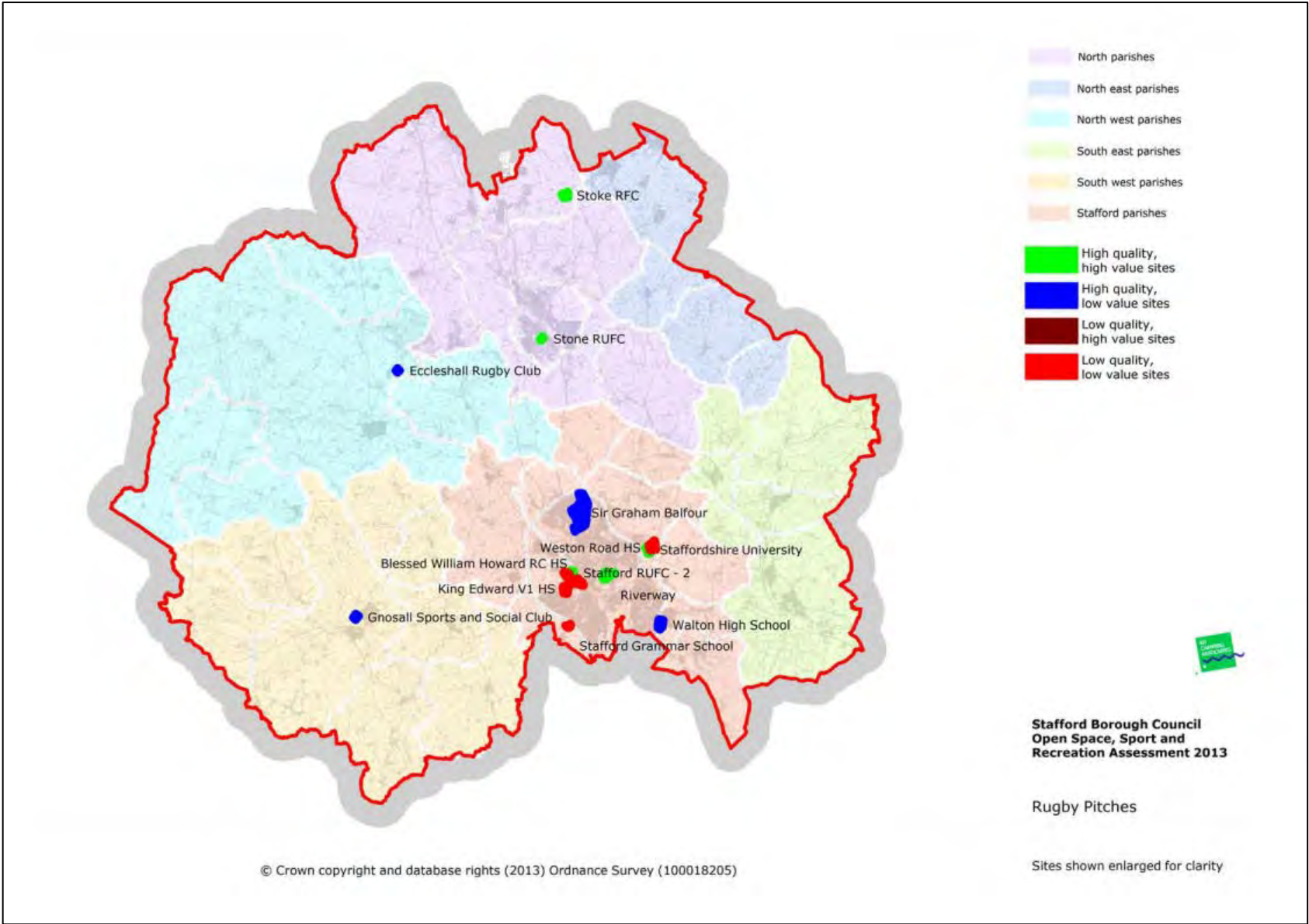
**Stafford Borough Council
Open Space, Sport and
Recreation Assessment 2013**

Football Pitches

Sites shown enlarged for clarity

Existing Rugby Pitches

Site name	Settlement
Stoke RFC	Hartwell
Stone RUFC	Stone
Eccleshall Rugby Club	Eccleshall
Gnosall Sports and Social Club	Gnosall
Blessed William Howard RC HS	Stafford
King Edward V1 HS	Stafford
St Leonards R.F.C.	Stafford
Sir Graham Balfour	Stafford
Stafford Grammar School	Stafford
Stafford RUFC - 2	Stafford
Stafford RUFC - 3	Stafford
Stafford RUFC - 1	Stafford
Staffordshire University	Stafford
Weston Road HS	Stafford
Walton High School	Walton on the Hill
Stafford College of Further Education	Stafford



- North parishes
- North east parishes
- North west parishes
- South east parishes
- South west parishes
- Stafford parishes
- High quality, high value sites
- High quality, low value sites
- Low quality, high value sites
- Low quality, low value sites



Existing Provision Bowling Greens

Site/club name	Settlement
Amasal Bowling Club	Stafford
Burton Manor	Stafford
Corporation St	Stafford
Doxey Greens (3)	Stafford
G.E.C Alstom (3)	Stafford
Littleworth	Stafford
Perkins Factory	Stafford
Police Club	Stafford
Riverway (2)	Stafford
Rowley Park	Stafford
Stafford BC	Stafford
Victoria Park	Stafford
Little Stoke Bowling Club	Stone
Stonefield Park	Stone
Stone Bowling Club	Stone
Wedgwood Sports Club	Barlaston
Tittensor Bowling Club	Tittensor
Trentham	Trentham

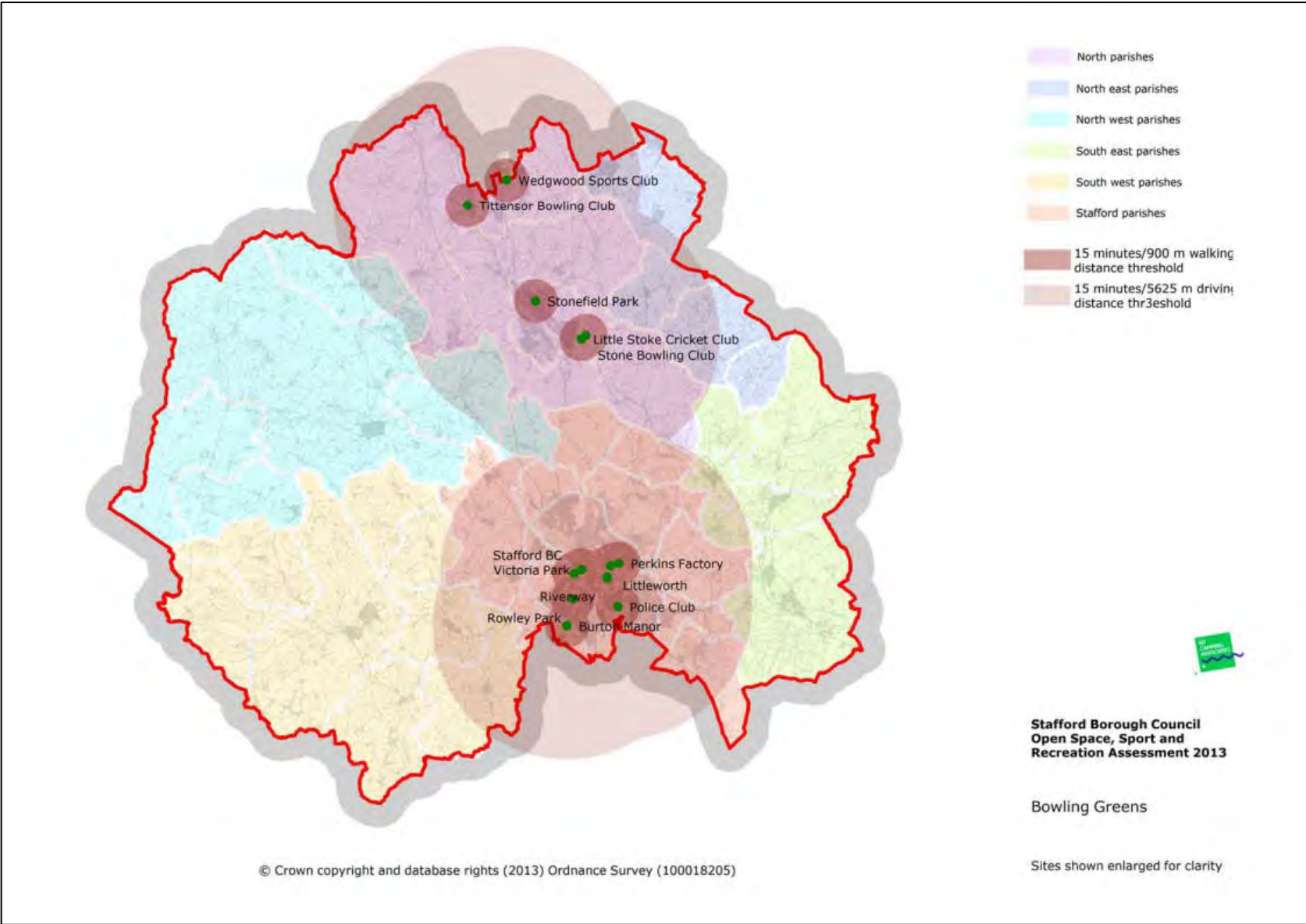
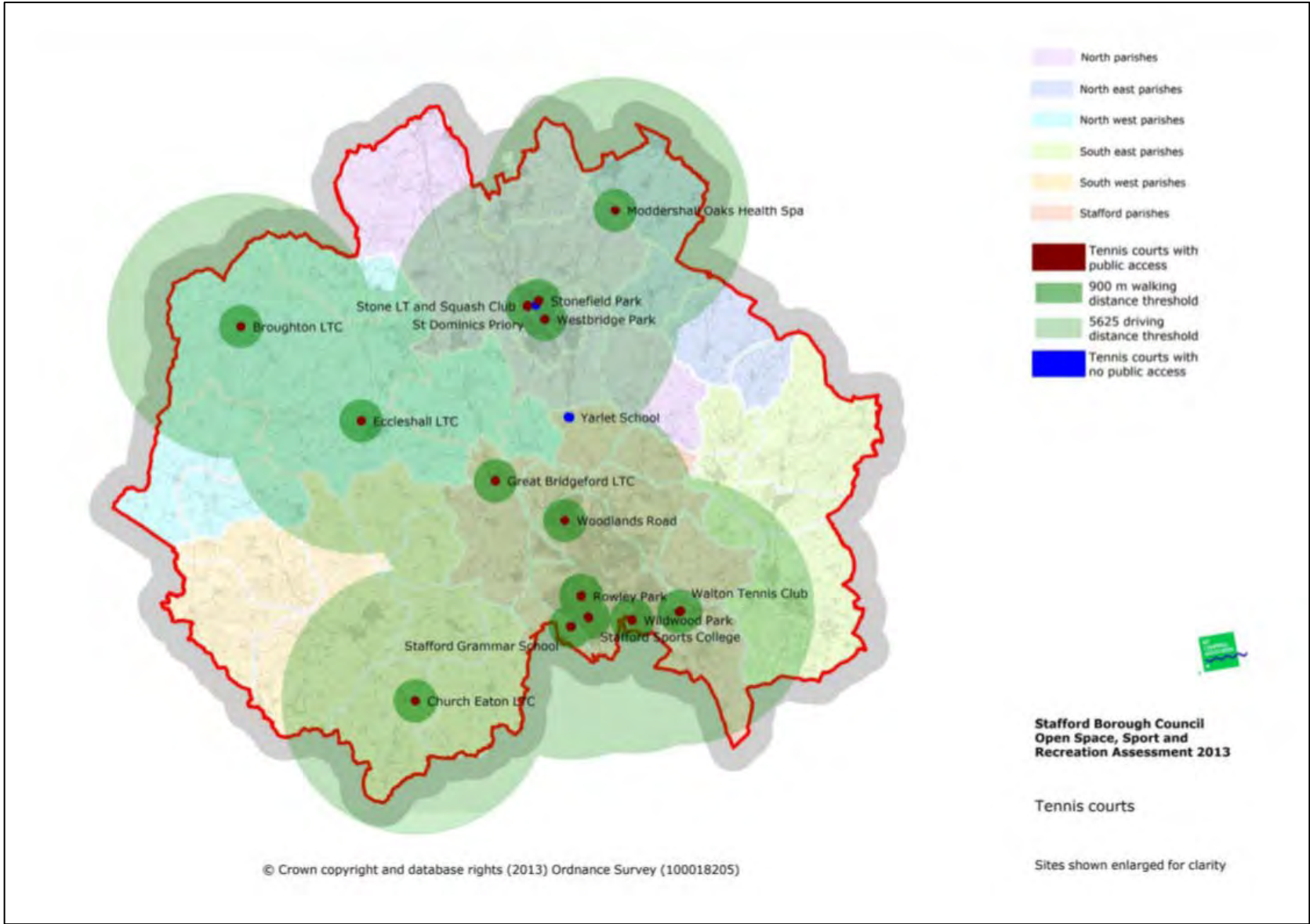


Table 5: Existing Tennis Courts

Site name	Settlement
Moddershall Oaks Health Spa	Near Stone
St Dominics Priory	Stone
Stone LT and Squash Club	Stone
Stonefield Park	Stone
Westbridge Park	Stone
Broughton LTC	Broughton
Eccleshall LTC	Eccleshall
Church Eaton LTC	Church Eaton
Walton Tennis Club	Walton on the Hill
Yarlet School	Yarlet near Stafford
Great Bridgeford LTC	Great Bridgeford
Rowley Park	Stafford
Stafford Grammar School	Stafford
Stafford Sports College	Stafford
Wildwood Park	Stafford
Woodlands Road	Stafford



- North parishes
- North east parishes
- North west parishes
- South east parishes
- South west parishes
- Stafford parishes
- Tennis courts with public access
- 900 m walking distance threshold
- 5625 driving distance threshold
- Tennis courts with no public access

Moddershall Oaks Health Spa

Broughton LTC

Stone LT and Squash Club

St Dominics Priory

Stonefield Park

Westbridge Park

Eccleshall LTC

Yarlet School

Great Bridgeford LTC

Woodlands Road

Rowley Park

Walton Tennis Club

Wildwood Park

Stafford Sports College

Stafford Grammar School

Church Eaton LTC

Appendix 5: Destination Play and Play Areas

Destination Parks offer a wide range of attractions for all ages. Equipment does not only include play equipment for younger children but also resources for teenagers e.g. skate bowls and adults e.g. green gyms. As the facilities are generally larger it is likely that the park will attract a range of people from a wider area, intensify usage and encourage customers to stay longer.

As Destination play areas are by their nature larger, it will not be possible to have every existing play area upgraded to this standard. Therefore it will be important to support Destination play areas with a network of additional play sites including 'Natural' play facilities. These are play facilities based upon natural green spaces and natural materials e.g. logs as the play equipment.

Work is ongoing by the Council in terms of investigating the existing provision of play areas and identifying areas where larger, enhanced play areas could be developed.

Table 1: Destination Play facilities (existing and potential) within the Borough

Stafford	
Victoria	Skate bowl
	Dynamic play area
	Splash pad
	Bandstand
	Bowling Green
Wildwood	Multi Use Games Area
	Tennis Court
	Skate Bowl
	Dynamic Play Area
	Football pitch
	Outdoor Gym
Rowley Park Sports Stadium	Multi Use Games Area
	Tennis Court
	3G Pitch
	Athletics Track
	Bowling Green
	Grass pitches
	Traditional play area
Charnley Road	Multi Use Games Area
	Activity Trail
	Goal Posts
	Junior Multiplay Unit
	Slide
	Swings, Flat and Cradle
North Stafford SDL	To be developed as part of the site

West Stafford SDL	To be developed as part of the site
Stone	
Westbridge	Grass football pitch
	Traditional play area
	Tennis court
	Skate park
Stone SDL	To be developed as part of the site

CONTACT

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Leisure and Culture Stafford Borough Council

Civic Centre, Riverside, Stafford ST16 3AQ

TEL 01785 619 000

EMAIL info@staffordbc.gov.uk

WEB www.staffordbc.gov.uk

If you need this information in
large print, Braille, other language
or in **audio format** please contact:

EMAIL info@staffordbc.gov.uk

TEL 01785 619 000

All information correct at time of going to print.



STONE TOWN MAYOR'S CADETS

The councillor elected annually as Stone Town Mayor shall appoint two cadets - one from the Stone Detachment (Mercian) Army Cadet Force and the other from 2352 (Stone) Squadron, Air Training Corps - to be Mayor's Cadets for the ensuing year.

The Town Mayor shall make the appointments as soon after the annual mayor-making as possible and shall announce them at the first full council meeting after the appointments have been made.

The officers in charge of the two Stone cadet units will each recommend to the Town Mayor-elect one cadet. The Town Mayor-elect will then arrange to meet the recommended cadets to confirm their suitability. It will be the Town Mayor-elect's prerogative to request alternative recommendations if considered necessary.

The term of office for each town mayor's cadet will run until the formal election and investment of the next Town Mayor.

The Town Mayor will present each mayor's cadet with a badge of appointment. When attending upon the Town Mayor each cadet is to carry a cadet mace provided by Stone Town Council for that purpose. The Town Mayor will present each cadet with a certificate on the conclusion of their period of appointment.

The principal duties of the mayor's cadets are to attend in uniform upon the Town Mayor at civic and ceremonial occasions as follows:

- Mayor-making ceremony
- Civic service
- Remembrance Sunday
- Other occasions as requested by the Town Mayor

Town mayor's cadets are expected to be clean and smart at all times when on duty, keep confidential any matters learned as a result of the exercise of their appointment, and to keep the town mayor's secretary informed of their availability for these duties.