

## **Consultation Response**

### **Playing Pitches and Indoor and Built Facilities Needs Assessments and Strategies**

The Poynton Analysis Area includes Poynton, Disley and Prestbury (including Derby Fields (Kings School) and Macclesfield Rugby Club. The Town Council would urge the removal of Derby Fields and Macclesfield Rugby Club from the Poynton Assessment Area and these should instead be included in the Macclesfield Assessment Area as both are on the outskirts of Macclesfield and are used exclusively for Macclesfield teams.

The four documents in the consultation use expected housing development figures in Poynton of 650 units not the latest figure of 693 units which is in the Local Plan. The Assessments and Strategies and Action Plan should be revised to reflect the uplift in housing.

### **Football**

It is correct to say that Poynton Analysis Area has the least number of pitches in Cheshire East. However, the Town Council believe that the figures in the report - 18 in total for community use (7 adult, 1 youth 11v11, 3 youth 9v9, 4 mini 7v7 and 3 mini 5v5) are inaccurate. The pitches at Poynton High School and Lower Park Primary School are not available for community use and therefore the figures should be amended as follows:

14 in total for community use (7 adult, 1 youth 11v11, 3 youth 9v9, 2 mini 7v7 and 1 mini 5v5).

The Town Council refutes that there is no latent demand for more football pitches in Poynton and with the comments that exported demand is by choice rather than necessity. Richmond Rovers have confirmed that if there were pitches available they would wish to return to Cheshire East.

There are currently 50 teams playing in Poynton at present. Of these 50, 17 we know of which currently outside Cheshire East. (6 teams play at Woodley Sports Village due to league requirements). In addition, 13 teams in winter and 6 teams in the summer train outside Cheshire East due to the lack of facilities.

The Town Council would urge that future demand for the Poynton Assessment Area is quantified. Cheshire East should use the Sports England calculator to quantify the future demand due to the significant housing development that is proposed in the Town.

The Town Council would support the following recommendations relevant to football pitches in Poynton

- Protect existing quantity of pitches.
- Ensure all teams are playing on the correct pitch sizes and explore pitch reconfiguration to accommodate more youth 11v11 pitches where possible.
- Where pitches are over played and assessed as poor or standard quality, prioritise investment and review maintenance regimes to ensure they are of an appropriate standard to sustain use and improve quality.
- Work to accommodate displaced, latent and future demand at sites which are not operating at capacity or at sites which are not currently available for community use.

- Improve ancillary provision at Poynton Sports Club and support Poynton Sports Club in its aspirations to relocate and ensure any re-location provides the Club with improved changing facilities.
- Ensure that any large housing developments are provided for and assess the need for new pitch provision through master planning on an individual basis.
- In the longer term, explore opportunities for access to an increased number of 3G pitches to cater for grass pitch shortfalls.
- Enable use of currently unavailable sites in order to further reduce shortfalls and build future capacity.
- Improve changing facilities at Newtown Playing Fields and seek, as a minimum, to sustain quality of facilities at other sites.

The Town Council notes the recommendation to transfer play from Deva Close to fully alleviate overplay but would recommend that the Deva Close pitch could be considered as a site for a 3G pitch.

### 3G Pitches

The Town Council is pleased that the assessment and strategy acknowledges that there is a current shortfall of 3G pitches in Cheshire East and Poynton specifically.

As Poynton has no full size or smaller 3G pitches (if the pitch at Priory Park is discounted). The Town Council would strongly urge that Poynton should be given preference should 3G pitches be developed. Any pitch developed should be a full size pitch.

The Town Council would support the comments in 'Recommendation H - Identify opportunities to add to the overall stock to accommodate current and future demand' which states that 'Adding to the current stock, particularly in the short term is therefore not recommended as a priority, except in the case of 3G pitches and non-turf wickets where is a discrete need, or where there is significant housing growth'. In Poynton's case, there is an urgent need for a 3G pitch and there will be significant housing growth in the Town.

Locations that could be considered for a 3G pitch include Deva Close Playing Fields, the playing field at the former Vernon Infants School (which is owned by Cheshire East) or the disused playing pitch at Hazelbadge Road.

### Cricket

The stated number of cricket squares in Poynton available for community use should be reduced to 3 (in line with earlier comments in relation to Derby Fields).

The Town Council would support the recommendation made in the Playing Pitch Strategy and Action Plan in relation to cricket.

### Rugby Union

The assessment and strategy documents should reflect that there is no current provision for rugby in the Poynton area.

## Hockey

There are no proposed recommendations in relation to Poynton.

## Lacrosse

The Town Council would support the recommendations made in relation to lacrosse and that consideration should be given to providing Poynton Lacrosse Club with access to more pitches. As lacrosse could be played on a 3G pitch the Town Council believes that this further supports the need for a full size 3G pitch in Poynton.

In addition, the Town Council would support the need to improve the quality of the lacrosse pitch at Mount Vernon.

## Lapsed /Disused pitches

The Town Council strongly supports the view that should playing pitches be taken out of use for any reason (e.g. council budget restraints), it is imperative that the land is retained so that it can be brought back into use in the future. Cheshire East Council should review the transfer of assets and the lease of assets to clubs in order to bring disused and lapsed pitches back into use in line with Recommendation D – Improve Quality.

## Recommendation C - Community Access

The Town Council would support any attempts to encourage Poynton High School to make its pitches available for community use. Cheshire East should consider utilising the unused land at Poynton High School by transferring it to Everybody Sport and Recreation for development as a pitch, 3G or otherwise.

## **Indoor Facilities and Built Facilities Needs Assessment & Indoor Built Facilities Strategy**

Poynton Town Council would support the recommendation of both the Assessment Report and Strategy that there should be an increase to the size of the swimming pool, that the dry facilities would benefit from a floodlit 3G pitch shared with the High School and that the health and fitness offer should be extended by providing a larger fitness suite as well as a group fitness studio.