

Essential Reference Paper 'B'

Table 1: Summary of Sports Facilities Needs Assessment

| Facility | Issue |
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| Sports halls | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There are 4 community accessible sports halls in the town, though none comply with Sport England's latest recommendations in terms of dimensions • High dependency on school facilities limits usable capacity • Additional demand from BSN will be equivalent to 0.64 of new sports hall |
| Swimming pools | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There are 4 community accessible pools, but 'pay and play' is only available at Grange Paddocks, the other facilities are through limited access at 2 schools or through member-only access at the Bishop's Stortford Fitness and Wellbeing Centre • All pools operating at 'comfortable capacity' • Grange Paddocks is unable to meet competitive needs • Changing facilities at Grange Paddocks and Herts and Essex High School need improvement • Additional demand from BSN will be equivalent to 0.64 of a 25m x 13m swimming pool |
| Athletics tracks | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There are no specialist athletics facilities in the town, though there are 3 in settlements within 20 minutes' drive time • There is sufficient population in the town to warrant a compact athletics facility, though existing demand is met at facilities well outside the town • Additional demand from BSN will be equivalent to 0.16 of a compact athletics facility, which could be most practically met through additional lanes, a 'J' track or by expanding field events provision at an existing provider. |
| Indoor bowls | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There are no indoor bowls facilities in the town, though there are 2 in nearby settlements • Existing facilities in neighbouring areas have sufficient capacity, which is also able to meet the additional demand arising from BSN which is equivalent to 0.05 rinks. |
| Outdoor bowls | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There are 3 outdoor bowls greens at 2 sites in the town, one of which is all-weather • Current levels of provision are adequate to meet the needs of the town with some spare capacity • Additional demand arising from BSN equivalent to 0.40 outdoor bowls green would leave a net shortfall of 0.15 of a facility (equivalent to 1 rink). |
| Indoor tennis | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There are no indoor tennis centres in Bishop's Stortford, though other nearby towns have some capacity • The Lawn Tennis Association supports the need for additional court provision in Bishop's Stortford |

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Additional demand arising from BSN equivalent to 0.05 of an indoor tennis centre would leave net spare capacity of 0.20 of a facility. |
| Outdoor tennis | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There are 17 community accessible outdoor tennis courts in the town plus 10 courts on school sites with no scope to increase community access • Current levels of provision are adequate to meet existing needs with some spare capacity • Additional demand arising from BSN equivalent to 2.42 outdoor tennis courts leaving a net shortfall of 1.42 courts. |
| Netball Courts | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There are 5 community accessible netball courts in the town plus 6 courts on a school site with no community access • All available courts are operating at capacity, with a deficiency in summer months when some school courts are unavailable • Additional demand arising from BSN equivalent to 0.86 netball courts |
| Health and fitness | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There are 4 community accessible health and fitness centres in the town, plus one on a school site with no scope to increase community access • All facilities are operating at full capacity • Additional demand arising from BSN is equivalent to 0.64 of a 100-station health and fitness facility, equating to a 64 station facility. |
| Gymnastics Facilities | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is 1 specialist permanent facility in the town which is operating at full capacity • Additional demand arising from BSN equivalent to 0.16 of a gymnastic facility, which would best be served by expanding capacity at the current facility. |
| Squash courts | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There are 8 community accessible squash courts in the town at 2 sites • Existing facilities are adequate to meet existing needs with limited spare capacity • Additional demand arising from BSN equivalent to 1.21 squash courts leaves a net shortfall of 0.71 courts. |
| Golf courses | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is one 18-hole golf course in the town • The existing facility is adequate to meet existing needs with limited spare capacity • Additional demand arising from BSN is equivalent to 0.15 of a golf course, which can be met by existing spare capacity. |
| Canoeing Facilities | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is one specialist canoeing facility in the town with no effective spare capacity and poor access for disabled users • Additional demands arising from BSN equivalent to 0.16 of a canoeing facility, which would best be served by expanding capacity at the existing facility. |

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| Community and ancillary halls | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There are 13 community and ancillary halls in the town which are adequate to meet existing needs with some spare capacity • Additional demand arising from BSN equivalent to 20.02 halls leaves a net shortfall of 1.02 halls. |
| Football pitches (adult) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There are 10 adult pitches in the town, 4 at Grange Paddocks have poor drainage and therefore a reduced capacity • There are 12 additional adult pitches on school sites with no scope to increase community access • There is spare capacity equivalent to one standard pitch at Grange Paddocks, though this is often because of poor drainage and is therefore not played • Additional demands arising from BSN equivalent to 1.5 standard quality pitches, leaving a net shortfall of 0.5 pitches if counting Grange Paddocks |
| Football pitches (youth 11x11) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There are 3 youth (11x11) pitches, supplemented by 4 pitches in neighbouring towns used by Bishop's Stortford Community FC • There are 5 further pitches with no scope to increase community access • All pitches are used to capacity and beyond with further exported demand • Additional demand arising from BSN of 4 male and 1 female teams, equivalent to 2.5 standard quality pitches, leaves a shortfall of 2.5 (11x11) football pitches once existing deficiency has been met |
| Football pitches (youth 9x9) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There are 6 youth (9x9) pitches, plus 1 pitch at a school site with no scope to increase community access • There is an existing deficit equivalent to 0.5 of a standard quality pitch • Additional demand arising from BSN of 4 male and 1 female teams, equivalent to 2.5 standard quality pitches, leaves a shortfall of 2.5 (9x9) football pitches once existing deficiency has been met |
| Football pitches (mini soccer 7x7) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There are 4 (7x7) mini-soccer pitches in the town which are all used to capacity • There are 9 additional (7x7) mini-soccer pitches at school sites with no scope to increase community access • Additional demand arising from BSN is equivalent to 0.25 of a standard quality pitch which will create a shortfall of 0.25 of a (7x7) mini-soccer pitch. |
| Football pitches (mini soccer 5x5) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is 1 (5x5) mini-soccer pitch in the town which is used to capacity • There are 2 additional (5x5) mini-soccer pitches on a school site with no scope to increase community access • Additional demand arising from BSN is equivalent to 0.25 of a standard quality pitch which will create a shortfall of 0.25 of a (5x5) mini-soccer pitch. |
| Cricket pitches | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There are 3 cricket pitches in the town with community access, plus an additional 11 pitches on school sites with no scope to increase community access • There is some seasonal spare capacity equivalent to 18 good quality grass wickets • Additional demand arising from BSH equivalent to 8 good quality grass wickets can be accommodated by |

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| | existing capacity. |
| Rugby pitches (adult, junior and mini) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There are 4 adult and 5 junior rugby pitches in the town with community access, plus an additional 20 adult rugby pitches and 4 junior rugby pitches with no or very limited community access, and no scope to increase this access. • The pitches at the Rugby Club are used beyond capacity by 3.75 match equivalents per week (adult) and 4 match equivalents (junior), while supply and demand is balanced for the Bishop's Stortford College pitches. • Additional demand arising from BSN for 1 adult, 3 junior and 1 mini-rugby teams, equivalent to 1 adult and 2 junior pitches will create an additional shortfall of 1 adult and 2 junior rugby pitches once the existing deficiencies are met. |
| Synthetic turf pitches for hockey | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There are 2 synthetic turf pitches in the town, with an additional pitch at Bishop's Stortford College with no scope to increase community access • All pitches are used to capacity during the peak period and the lack of a clubhouse at the Hockey Club is detrimental to its operation • Additional demand arising from BSN for 3 adult and 2 junior teams is equivalent to 10 match equivalents per week, needing 0.6 synthetic turf pitches for hockey. |
| '3G' football turf pitches | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is 1 '3G' football turf pitch with capacity of 25 hours of peak time availability per week located on a school site • There is a current deficiency of provision equivalent to 0.58 '3G' football turf pitches • Additional demand arising from BSN for 15 teams would need 0.27 '3G' football turf pitches. |

Table 2: Current project proposals

| Project promoter | Proposed development | Estimated cost | Potential funding sources | Needs addressed | Risks |
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| Herts and Essex High School | New sports complex on 2 sites at Beldham's Lane including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A sports hall. • A 25m pool • Health and fitness • Dance studio/ancillary hall • '3G' football turf pitch(es) • Tennis/netball courts • Grass football pitches • (Athletics training facility) | £7,700,000 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Education Funding Authority • Sport England • Football Foundation | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All the facilities proposed would meet identified needs arising from the BSN development. • Potential to accommodate club needs including BS Judo Club, BS Netball Club, BS Running Club | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No funding yet secured. • Land purchase required for part of the proposed development. • Planning consents. |
| Bishop's Stortford Sports Trust | New facilities at the Trust's Cricketfield Lane site, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A sports hall. • 1.5 synthetic turf pitches for hockey • New pavilion • Health and fitness • Cover for 2 tennis courts • Convert 3 outdoor tennis courts to artificial clay • 1 Youth football pitch | £3,375,000 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sport England (£500,000 secured) • LTA (£70,000 secured) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Most proposed facilities would meet identified needs arising from the BSN development (no clear case for 0.5 hockey pitch or covered tennis courts). • Close proximity to the BSN development. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Planning consents for floodlights in the Green Belt. • Proposed loss of allotment land. |
| Birchwood High School | New facilities at the School's adjacent detached playing field site, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 '3G' football turf pitch. • A 1km closed road circuit for cycling and running. | £7,750,000 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sport England • Football Foundation • British Cycling | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All the facilities proposed would meet identified needs arising from the BSN development. • Potential to | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No funding yet secured. • Planning consents. |

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New pavilion with conference facilities. • Ancillary hall for BS Judo Club. | | | accommodate club needs including BS Judo Club | |
| Herts County Council | <p>New secondary school sports facilities on the BSN development, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A sports hall. • Health and fitness • 2 dance studios/ancillary halls • Tennis/netball courts • 5.5ha of grass football and cricket pitches | Unknown | Developer contributions | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Facilities designed to serve education needs (BB98) but could be enhanced for community use. • Potential to accommodate club needs including BS Judo Club, BS Netball Club, and possibly BS Community FC. | No obvious risks |
| Bishop's Stortford Rugby Club | <p>Improved provision at the Silverleys Trust/BSRFC site, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Converting 2 football pitches to rugby pitches and improving drainage (depending on BS Swifts FC relocating). • Extended changing and catering facilities. • Longer term plan for a new 2-storey pavilion. | £365,000 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • S106 funding from Fire Station site • Club fundraising | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Would solve current pitch capacity problems and facilitate team expansion. • Close proximity to the BSN development. | Contingent on BS Swifts FC moving to new pitches at the BSN development. |
| Bishop's Stortford Swifts FC | Relocation to two grass football pitches and changing pavilion provided by the BSN developers. | Unknown | Developer contributions | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Would solve current pitch capacity problems and facilitate team expansion. • Part of the BSN development. | No obvious risks |
| Bishop's Stortford | Two '3G' pitches and a clubhouse at a single site to | £2,000,000 | Football Foundation | Would solve current pitch capacity | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No funding yet secured. |

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| Community FC | meet all the pitch needs of BS Community FC at one of the following sites (in order of preference: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Land south of Beldham's Lane (same site as Herts & Essex HS proposals). • Jobbers Wood playing fields. • Grange Paddocks Leisure Centre. • Birchwood High School (with addition to the existing '3G' pitch at the site. | | (potentially £500,000) | problems and enable the club to operate from a single site. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Land purchase required at one site. • Planning consents. |
| Bishop's Stortford Judo Club | Establishment of a permanently matted hall for the club (and other local martial arts clubs) with dedicated storage and catering capacity, as part of a wider facilities complex. | Unknown | Club (£40,000 raised) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Would enable the club to develop and expand. • Designation as a Centre of Excellence for the Home Counties North. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No obvious risks. • Several other project proposals include provision for ancillary halls. |
| Bishop's Stortford Canoe Club | Clubhouse extension and new water access pontoon. | Unknown | Unknown | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deficiency with current facilities. • Improved disabled access. | No identified funding sources. |
| BMX track | Provision of a formal BMX track at Ash Grove at a site used informally at present. | Unknown | Unknown | Provision for young people. | No identified funding sources. |
| Bishop's Stortford Town Council | Provision of a formal BMX track at Sworders Field. | £70,000 | Unknown | Provision for young people. | No identified funding sources. |