

North Lincolnshire Council

BRIGG RECREATION GROUND

1. Background

1.1 In 2005 North Lincolnshire Council adopted a strategic plan “Modernising Community Leisure Facilities” This looked at the quality and quantity of existing provision across North Lincolnshire and set out a clear vision for our provision for the future. Much work has been done to improve the core infrastructure which has meant an investment in the region of £28m for enhancement and/or modernisation of existing sports facilities:

- Redevelopment of Baysgarth Leisure Centre with refurbished sports hall, new 20m 4 lane community pool, dance studio and fitness centre
- Replacement of Scunthorpe Leisure Centre with a new leisure centre “The Pods” comprising 6 court sports hall, 8 lane 25m pool, teaching pool, dance studio, fitness centre, yoga studio and climbing wall.
- Extension of fitness facilities and refurbishment of changing at Ancholme Leisure Centre
- Extension and improvement of fitness and changing facilities at Epworth Leisure Centre
- Refurbishment of fitness and changing at Riddings Pool together with the development of a new dance studio
- Redevelopment of Quibell Park athletics track and construction of a new pavilion

1.2 The main focus here has been to predominantly invest in our indoor facilities. Now that this is complete, 10 years on we are looking to follow on and complete our outdoor sites to make them fit for the future. We need to have in place the right facility infrastructure that will help increase participation rates in sport and active recreation in rural areas where transport is limited and access to physical facilities may be difficult.

2. North Lincolnshire Playing Pitches Strategy

2.1 The playing pitch strategy (2013) (PPS) for North Lincolnshire was developed following Sport England methodology to analyse the current level of pitch provision and identify demand for pitches across north Lincolnshire. The resulting strategy identified how facilities for pitch sports can be improved to meet the needs of residents and sports clubs. This work was undertaken with the support of the Football Association, England Hockey, the England and Wales Cricket Board and Sport England.

2.2 The PPS resulted in a clear action plan to ensure that the quality and quantity of pitches and support accommodation meet the needs and aspirations of residents of North Lincolnshire now and in the future. **PPS4** recommends ensuring that the stock of AGP's is appropriate to the demand. The PPS identified in para 6.42 that existing MUGA's do not offset the demand for facilities in formal training. Highlighted was the need to increase the capacity of Artificial Grass Pitches (AGP's) and increase the provision of high quality training facilities for football clubs and other sports. **PPS 6** identifies that the focus of the council should be on improving sites of strategic importance:

- Those sites rated as good which are considered to be of strategic importance (ie Tier 1 flagship sites) which should be improved to 90% (the percentage score required to be categorised as excellent);
- Demolishing/upgrading/refurbishing changing facilities to ensure that standards are acceptable. Where possible, all sites should be equipped with changing facilities and there should be sufficient facilities at each site for the number of pitches.

2.3 The PPS identifies an overall surplus of 22.2 pitches for sub area 5 (Brigg & Wolds, Burton & Winterton)

Table 5.3 – Summary of PPM results by Sub-area

Sub-area	Shortfall/surplus of adult football	Shortfall/surplus of junior football	Shortfall/surplus of Mini-soccer	Shortfall/surplus of cricket	Shortfall/surplus of adult rugby union	Shortfall/surplus of junior rugby union	Total pitches
Sub-area5	12.3	0.7	8.4	-0.1	0.0	0.0	22.2

3. Brigg Recreation Ground

3.1 Brigg Recreation Ground (BRG) is a long established formal sports ground. The site currently plays host to football and cricket. The site is well used by both adult and junior sports teams. The facilities on site include six football pitches, a cricket square, changing rooms, tennis courts and car parking. The cricket square has recently been re-laid following consultation with Brigg Town Cricket Club. The tennis courts are in a very poor state and are not currently used. The changing rooms are no longer fit for purpose and need to be replaced.

4. Consultation

4.1 In July 2004 ISRM Consultants undertook work with local sports clubs and the wider community to determine the requirements for the Brigg and District Sports and Recreation Association for the development of Brigg Recreation Ground. It was not possible to deliver this due to a lack of funding at the time. The views of local people were sought with regard to future sports provision. In January 2013 the public and local sports clubs were invited to submit their comments on the existing mix of facilities and possible improvements. The consultation also sought to establish support for greater community involvement in the future management of BRG.

4.2 We received 94 written responses to our invitation. There was 95% support of improving the current offer and developing new sporting facilities. Many of the views and suggestions put forward as part of this work have been incorporated in to the plans and design. The outcomes of the consultation have helped to shape the future mix of facilities.

4.3. Sports governing Bodies

We have consulted with sports governing bodies about our plans for Brigg Recreation Ground. The Lincolnshire County Football Association (LCFA), England Hockey, The Lawn Tennis Association and Lincolnshire Cricket have all been involved. We have taken in to account advice given by them in developing the scheme.

5. Sports facilities

5.1 Following the consultation activities, we have worked with representatives of the sports involved to ask questions about the facility mix and other considerations. There was support for :

- Constructing a new changing pavilion to Sport England & governing body standards
- Reconstructing the tennis courts
- Improving the cricket wicket to league requirements
- Constructing a full size hockey compatible AGP
- Constructing a floodlit multisport training area

5.2 Changing Pavilion

Having support facilities that are fit for purpose is a key requirement of the PPS as described above. The proposed new pavilion will be compliant with the requirements of Sport England and the relevant governing bodies of sport. The building will have 4 team changing rooms and club equipment lockers to maximise potential use at peak periods. There will be a club room capable of hosting committee meetings, coach development activities, cricket teas and

the like. The Sports Development team plan to use this facility to deliver some of their project activities.

5.3 Tennis Courts

There is no floodlit tennis provision in Brigg. Brigg Tennis Club play at Sir John Nelthorpe school during the Summer season with no clubhouse or access to toilets. They see potential to grow the club and participation if good quality floodlit courts with access to a pavilion are available. The development plan for the club targets coach development and a growth in community participation in the sport.

5.4 Cricket

Brigg Cricket Club currently play home fixtures at Brocklesby Park, outside the North Lincolnshire local authority area. The improved facilities will enable the club to relocate and develop. The pavilion of the proposed clubhouse will overlook the cricket pitch. We have commenced natural turf improvements at this site with works to reconstruct the cricket wicket

5.5 Artificial Grass Pitch and Floodlit Multisport Training Area

Brigg Hockey Club has stated long held aspirations to return to Brigg as soon as a new Hockey compliant AGP could be achieved. This is reflected in the North Lincolnshire 2013 PPS. (Table 4.12 and para 6.46) This also clearly identifies that there is a demand for increased capacity for hockey AGP provision at peak times. England Hockey report that this has increased over the past two years due in part to the loss of the Quibell Park AGP.

Brigg Hockey Club is a priority Club for England Hockey in North Lincolnshire, which they say has seen a growth in participation over the past two years, especially the junior section. However England Hockey inform us that the club feel that any future growth would be restricted due to inadequate pitch availability if the Brigg AGP were not to progress.

Responding to Brigg Hockey Club stating that they would like a hockey AGP in Brigg has formed the rationale for our choice of surface. Rather than provide a separate floodlit training area we have chosen to specify a hockey surface that is also compatible with multiple sports. This will help minimise the loss of natural turf provision at the site. The surface we think best achieves this is a sand dressed artificial grass pitch that complies with FIH technical requirements and will be suitable for other sports, particularly football. The surface will accommodate football training as there is a demand for a floodlit playing surface.

Choosing a floodlit artificial surface at Brigg that is compatible for multi sport, not just hockey could offset demand where access to local facilities for floodlit training is problematic

The development has been carefully positioned so as to minimise any impact on the natural turf pitch layout for the site. So far Adult Pitch 1 has only been used once this season and has no further bookings for the rest of the season. Our biggest customer last year, Brigg Servicemen, folded and is no longer in the league. We also had regular bookings last year from Barnetby United but they are playing elsewhere this season.

It is considered that the sporting benefit for increased carrying capacity of the artificial turf far outweighs this potential loss. The PPS identifies that there is no strategic need to replace any lost natural turf sports pitch in this area.

6. SPORTS DEVELOPMENT

This provision would be linked to sports development programmes which would ensure that the use of these new and improved facilities resulted in improved levels of take up and of performance. The aim being to provide pathways for people to take part in sport or improve their standard of play and frequency of participation which will help contribute to the overall health of the area and its people. Sports Development officers are currently supporting the clubs with their development plans and already use the site for outreach programmes which will be enhanced by the new floodlit all weather surface.

7. SCHOOL USE

We will seek to maximise the benefit of the improved facilities by encouraging use by neighbouring schools. There are 4 schools in Brigg with 1902 pupils. All schools are within easy walking distance of the Brigg recreation Ground.

8. Programme of use

A draft programme of use is set out below:

BRIGG
RECREATION
GROUND – Draft
Programme

	Mon	Tues	Weds	Thurs	Fri	Sat	Sun
Morning	<i>Older Peoples Outdoor Circuits (spring/summer) 60 minutes</i>		<i>Walking Sports activities</i>	<i>Disability Multi-Sports</i>	<i>Do Something Different – Disability Multi-sports</i>	<i>Ladies - Hockey – 3 Hrs</i>	<i>Hockey – Junior – 2 hrs</i>
Afternoon		<i>Active Together Outdoor Archery</i>	<i>SCHOOLS</i>	<i>SCHOOLS</i>		<i>Men's Hockey – 3 Hrs</i> <i>Walking Football 60 minutes</i>	<i>Casual football</i>
Evening	<i>Junior hockey training – 2.5 hours</i> <i>Casual football</i>	<i>Casual use/ football training</i> <i>Walking Football 60 minutes</i> <i>Streetsports (Summer 5- 7)</i>	<i>Junior football training</i> <i>Hockey training: mens & ladies 2.5 hours</i> <i>Active Together Family Rounders session</i>	<i>Casual use/ football training</i> <i>Walking sports activities</i>	<i>On Target (8 to 19 year olds) Weekly Football 6pm to 8pm</i>	<i>Casual use</i>	<i>Casual use</i>