



# **OUTDOOR SPORTS FACILITIES AND OPEN SPACES**

**REPORT OF THE  
CULTURE, ECONOMY  
AND SUSTAINABILITY  
SCRUTINY AND POLICY  
DEVELOPMENT BOARD**

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## Chair's Foreword

The following report is the result of issues raised by members of the general public who expressed concerns over the condition and management of sporting facilities within our parks.

It was clear that while our user groups welcomed the increased investment in many of our parks and recognised the improving conditions, they nevertheless felt that the sporting provision within many of our parks and open spaces could be improved and managed differently. A particular concern raised by our elderly users was the bowling greens.

We offer the findings of our scrutiny exercise to the Cabinet for approval.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank members, officers and the user groups who have worked hard and contributed positively to our work and particularly, Jason Dietsch, for pulling it all together in such a coherent form.

**Peter Price, Chair.**

## REPORT OF THE WORKING GROUP

### 1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 The purpose of this report is to detail the outcome of the scrutiny exercise undertaken by the Working Group examining sporting facilities in Parks, which was established by the former Development, Environment and Leisure Scrutiny Board at its meeting held on 16th December, 2004, together with the Working Group's recommendations.

### 2. BACKGROUND TO THE SCRUTINY EXERCISE

2.1 At its meeting on 21st October 2004, the former Development, Environment and Leisure Scrutiny Board considered the condition of the City's parks sports pitches and agreed to:

- Establish a Member Working Group to work with officers to examine the potential for extending the self-management by clubs on selected sites.
- Consider the opportunities for extending community use of schools.
- Examine the balance of spending between formal sports and non-sporting activities.
- Look at the potential rationalisation of facilities to reflect changing demand.

- Consider alternative sources of provision and non-traditional provision as a means of offering some potential to help solve both problems of quality and quantity.
- Following the Working Group's examination of these issues, to report and draw up a series of recommendations to be considered by the Scrutiny Board concerning how improvements to sporting facilities in Parks might be implemented.

### 3. SCRUTINY EXERCISE - TERMS OF REFERENCE

3.1 The following terms of reference were agreed by the Scrutiny Board, at its meeting on 16th December 2004:

- 1 To examine the potential for self-management by clubs on selected sites.
- 2 Consider the balance of spend between formal sports and non-sporting activities.
- 3 Examine the potential rationalisation of facilities to reflect changing demands and alternative, possible non-traditional sources of provision.

### 4. MEMBERSHIP OF THE WORKING GROUP

4.1 It was agreed by the Development Environment and Leisure Scrutiny Board, that the Working Group comprise the following Members:

Councillors Trevor Bagshaw, David Barker, Janet Bragg, Martin Brelsford, Jean Cromar, Jackie Drayton, Sylvia Dunkley, Arthur Dunworth, Alan Law, Mike Peat (Joint Chair), Peter Price (Joint Chair), Ian Saunders, Anne Smith and Garry Weatherall.

Meetings were also open to all Members of the Scrutiny Board to attend, and Members did use the opportunity to participate on a casual basis to monitor the progress and work of the Group. In addition, with the establishment of the Culture, Economy and Sustainability Scrutiny and Policy Development Board in May 2005, Members of the Board also attended on an ad hoc basis.

Meetings of the Working Group were also attended and supported by the following Council Officers:

Martin Page (Parks, Woodlands and Countryside)

David Hargate (Parks, Woodlands and Countryside)

Ian Blakemore (Activity Sheffield)

Sarah Smith (Development Services)

Jason Dietsch (Scrutiny Policy Officer, Legal and Governance)

John Challenger (Committee Secretariat, Legal and Governance)

External attendees participating in the exercise were:

Adam Clarke, Strategic Leisure

Derek Ellis, Chair of the Hillsborough Park Bowling Club

Robert Jackson, President of the British Parks Crown Green Bowling Association

and of Sheffield and District Parks Bowls Association and President of Millhouses Park Bowling Club

Various members of bowls clubs in the City and Parks Woodlands and Countryside staff spoken to on site visits.

## 5. MEETINGS OF THE WORKING GROUP

Meetings of the Working Group were held on 7 occasions and reports and evidence submitted by officers from Parks, Woodlands and Countryside, Activity Sheffield and Development Services were examined.

Contributions to a meeting of the Working Group were made from a representative of one of the City's bowling clubs, Mr Derek Ellis, Chair of the Hillsborough Park Bowling Club in relation to the management and operation of clubs and the general condition of bowling greens in Sheffield.

A piece of work, carried out by Strategic Leisure, already commissioned by the Council's Development Services was also presented to Members, which was taken into account in their deliberations.

In addition, a tour of the City's parks took place on 7th June, during which Members visited the locations (detailed below) and benefited from speaking to users of bowling greens and staff located in parks:

### **Parks visited:**

Graves Park

Abbeyfield Park

Parson Cross Park  
 Colley Park  
 Longley Park  
 Concord Park  
 Steel City

## 6. EVIDENCE GATHERING

### 6.1 Scene Setting - the current condition of sport provision in the City's Parks

As a precursor to the scrutiny exercise, members of the Development, Environment and Leisure Scrutiny Board considered a report by the Head of Parks, Woodlands and Countryside which provided an overview of services and detailed expenditure on sports facilities. Also outlined were charges for sports and activities in parks.

The quality and range of sports pitches and associated buildings varied and continues to suffer from a lack of infrastructure investment which has resulted in an investment backlog with regard to improvements such as drainage, changing accommodation and fencing.

The maintenance of sports facilities is carried out by the Parks, Woodlands and Countryside gardening staff, together with Street Force and some sports clubs carried out maintenance directly with grant assistance from Parks, Woodlands and Countryside.

The need to inform the provision of sports facilities by a number of initiatives and influences such as the work of Activity Sheffield, the outdoor playing pitch assessment and strategy for Sheffield and strategies relating to site categorisation and reinvestment and including the recently produced action plans for parks for each of the 12 Area Panel areas was highlighted.

Other activities such as walking, cycling and other individual exercise regimes which might not require specific facilities but which were promoted nationally and locally as part of an informed healthy lifestyle choice should also be considered in the development of provision for physical activities in the City's parks.

Discussions had been held between officers in Parks, Woodlands and Countryside and Activity Sheffield on the extension of self-management by clubs on selected sites, opportunities for extending community use of schools, how expenditure might be balanced between formal sport and non-sporting facilities and finally, how facilities might be rationalised to reflect both the changing demand for activities, alternative sources of provision and to combat problems of both quality and quantity of provision.

Robert Jackson, president of the British Parks Crown Green Bowling Association and of Sheffield and District Parks Bowls Association and President of Millhouses Park Bowling Club, attended the Board meeting, at which he outlined the merits of Crown Green Bowling as a sport in which a variety of age groups participated, particularly providing gentle exercise for middle aged and older people.

He perceived the City's bowling greens to be in a poor state which had resulted in some high level bowlers leaving the City to participate in bowling outside of Sheffield, where bowling greens were considered to be of a higher standard. Also highlighted was the need for bowling greens to be protected by security measures such as strong perimeter fencing.

Mr Jackson expressed the view that the degeneration of bowling greens resulting from a combination of poor cutting and drainage and lack of watering should be brought to the Board's attention. Concern was also expressed at the shortage of skills in greenkeeping.

The Board were informed that the allowing of self-maintenance of bowling greens by a number of self managed bowling clubs such as Millhouses Park, Whiteley Woods and Meersbrook had resulted in improvements to the quality of bowling greens.

The growth of urban sports such as skateboarding and BMX had a strong base and provided positive lifestyle and cultural influences amongst young people, however the development of facilities for such activity would require further significant work as well as investment and funding for maintenance if levels of demand were to be addressed.

Sports charges were reviewed each year and in most circumstances were increased in line with inflation.

Consultation on sports provision occurred through contact with the Football Association through Activity Sheffield, meetings with Sheffield and District Parks Bowling Association, the Cricket League and with sports club and friends group representatives.

Consultation also occurred with Area Panels in relation to the allocation of Section 106 funding and discussions with Area Co-ordinators also took place.

There were several areas, concerning which officers from Parks, Woodlands and Countryside and Activity Sheffield might undertake further joint work, including the potential of extending self management to clubs, extension of community use of schools and the balance of spend and rationalisation of facilities and in offering support for individual sports such as cricket.



Expenditure and income for outdoor sports could be broken down for each of the sports and are detailed at **Appendix 1**.

Expenditure on sports consisted of maintenance of facilities, staff costs including administration and officer time, running costs for buildings and expenditure on measures to deter vandalism and on wear and tear. The current level of expenditure was considered to be insufficient to meet the standards to which both the service and many users of the service aspired.

Support was provided by Parks, Woodlands and Countryside to some self maintained sports clubs through grant aid. Other grant aid was also available from sources such as Awards for All, the Football Foundation, the Foundation for Schools and the Arts, Sport England, the Lottery Fund and Sports Match. Council officers within Parks, Woodlands and Countryside and Activity Sheffield advised and supported clubs in obtaining funding as did the Council's Lottery Officer.

## 6.2 **Maintenance and improving the condition of specialist sports surfaces**

A number of initiatives have been taken by Parks, Woodlands and Countryside to improve the

maintenance of fine turf sports such as bowling greens and cricket squares. A mixed economy approach had been applied using both Parks, Woodlands and Countryside staff and those of Street Force; self maintenance of some bowling and cricket facilities; and the leasing of some facilities.

Training has been implemented for gardeners who had undertaken refresher courses by the Institute of Groundsmanship on fine turf maintenance and renovation. The bowling greens had been independently assessed by a turf expert and fertiliser manufacturers had developed a fertiliser programme for each green. All greens were hollow tyned in Autumn 2004 using professional contractors with specialist equipment.

Extreme weather conditions, especially dry summers and mild winters resulted in poor growing conditions and increased turf fungal diseases. The self management of greens by clubs had resulted in a lack of summer watering by bowlers and this also resulted in poor grass growth and the compaction of surfaces. Automatic irrigation is required to overcome this problem although unfortunately, funding had not been available and the service was reliant upon the more successful clubs to provide such improvement.

Three clubs were self maintained by private contractors managed by the clubs with grant aid provided by the Council. The Authority had been approached by the Bowling Association to extend self maintenance although only one other club had requested self maintenance and this was under review as part of the budget planning process.

Representatives of the Bowls Advisory Group were met by Parks, Woodlands and Countryside officers and dialogue was undertaken with individual clubs to improve maintenance and facilities. Meetings had taken place with Cricket League representatives to improve maintenance of cricket squares. Meetings at club level with cricket teams are especially problematic as teams were not often based in parks.

Information on the provision of facilities at bowls clubs and their condition is indicated at **Appendix 2**, which rates the condition of facilities between very good and poor. The cost of upgrading facilities such as toilets and pavilions had significant implications for the Council's budget and might not always be justifiable based on bowling club membership alone.

Maintenance costs varied and were dependent upon usage, vandalism and the condition of the green etc. Expenditure on green maintenance

by clubs might often exceed the value of the grant given, where those clubs were self maintained, by a significant margin.

### 6.3 Measures to minimise incidence and effects of vandalism

The ability to provide and maintain facilities in some areas of the City is becoming increasingly difficult and costly because of vandalism and anti-social behaviour. Fine turf sports such as bowling and cricket are particularly prone to physical damage and vandalism. Some anti-social activities such as the playing of football on bowling greens and cricket surfaces, the riding of motorbikes, golfing, damage by stolen cars, the firing of wheeled bins etc. are all both destructive and costly to repair.

Anti-social behaviour might on occasion be directed at the infrastructure and at players who might have to suffer aggressive and threatening behaviour such as disruption of play, the stealing of bowls woods, dog walking and bike riding on bowling greens whilst games were in progress. Young people also often admitted to playing on bowling greens because they were free of dog fouling, well drained and sometimes lit by street lights which enabled their use when the rest of the park was empty.

In response, an increasing number of bowling clubs have requested

fencing off greens. In most instances this work had been funded from contributions by self managed clubs and with the assistance from other sources such as grants. In some cases (Norfolk Heritage Park and Firth Park) closed circuit television had been installed as a deterrent and as a means of recording activities. In cases where Anti-Social Behaviour Orders had been placed in adjacent locations, young people affected by that order had moved to an adjoining location and subsequently congregated in parks which had served to increase incidents of anti-social behaviour in that area and potentially might increase incidents of vandalism.

Some bowling clubs were reluctant to take up the option of management because of anti-social behaviour problems and the fear of crime. In addition, the opportunity to contribute to perimeter fencing work was not available to such clubs as they did not have the means of generating income that self managed clubs did. The cost of providing fences as at 2005 is approximately £10,000 per green. The acquisition of funding for such work was largely opportunistic as Parks, Woodlands and Countryside had not been able to secure funding from the Council's capital programme.

Seasonal ticket attendants were employed in some locations which provided services to bowling clubs

as well as other users and might provide a visible deterrent to anti-social behaviour as well as practical duties such as collecting entrance fees and carrying out maintenance and gardening duties. Unfortunately, staff have also been subjected to anti-social activities and had to be removed, if their safety was perceived to be at risk.

Cricket squares were once regularly fenced during the winter months and marked in the summer with boundary rope and metal pins to prevent misuse of the squares. This practice had not been possible for a number of years because fencing posts and metal pins were used by some people to damage the cricket squares or break into cricket pavilions and other facilities.

The requirement to provide a true playing surface is important for a predictable ball bounce and the safety of a batsman in cricket. Providing a true surface was much more difficult if cricket squares were used for other activities such as football. Cricket did not have the same strong parks club base as crown green bowling for example and there were only a small number of examples of self management and self maintenance of park - based cricket facilities.

The Parks, Woodlands and Countryside Service is working hard to regenerate parks and was in regular contact with clubs to improve

facilities and encourage and increase usage by members of the public. It was considered that the measure of a successful club was often directly linked to the success of the entire park and to the adjacent area.

Following consultation with various clubs in the City using parks facilities, vandalism was found to be of particular concern, ranging from petty vandalism such as littering to more extreme cases such as stone throwing and abuse. This was at times felt a severe barrier to encouraging new people to participate in sport and many clubs had been forced to raise funds for fencing and security improvements. It was considered that, by encouraging more people to participate in sport and providing for those users, the number of users within a park would increase overall and this might serve to discourage anti-social activity. However, persistent anti-social behaviour was likely to be detrimental to the take-up of sport and the quality of facilities available.

#### 6.4 Participation – Bowling

Officers provided the Working Group with information regarding participation rates in bowling including the number of club members, public attendances and estimation of the numbers of times that club bowlers played casual games in the last year. Information

regarding the 2004 season is detailed at **Appendix 2**.

10 bowls clubs had less than 50 members, 12 having between 50 and 100 members and only three having more than 100 members. It had not been possible to indicate how many competitive games had been played by bowlers as this depended on the number of club teams competitions entered and numbers of players per team. There was a significant variation between the numbers of club members and the level of public use of the greens. Casual public use of bowling greens was disappointingly low at the majority of sites. Public attendances at Parks, Woodlands and Countryside staffed greens were higher than at most other sites which might relate to the duration of opening times.

There was a variance between the income from the use of the bowling greens between Parks, Woodlands and Countryside staff locations and self managed clubs and this was linked to club membership and levels of casual play. The cost of employing staff was significantly more than the actual income taken except in the case of Graves Park, where the sports attendant also took additional income from other facilities such as pitch and putt. However, the benefit of employing on site staff providing a presence on site, outweighed the amount of income taken.

## 6.5 The changing demands for sport and non-sports activity

The opportunity and choice of sport and physical activity is much wider than at any time previously and included physical activities and individual exercise regimes, which were now being promoted both locally and nationally as part of the informed healthy lifestyle choice. This is partially reflected in the demand placed upon the Parks, Woodlands and Countryside service for the provision of alternatives to more traditional sporting activities.

Traditional exercise such as walking, jogging and cycling requires little in the way of specific facilities and were ideally suited to parks and other areas managed by Parks, Woodlands and Countryside across the whole city. These were also generally accessible to all. The development of the outdoor gym with wooden exercise stations was relatively inexpensive and provided additional variety and opportunity.

Health professionals are beginning to recognise the value of physical exercise as a more appropriate and less expensive alternative to the treatment of mental and physical illness than the use of prescription drugs. The service's Health Walk Rangers have received the nationally accredited Three Hearts Award by the British Heart Foundation for their health walks programme of activities.

Urban sports or street sports such as BMX and skateboarding had a strong base within the City and promoted a positive lifestyle and cultural influence among young people. Demand for BMX tracks and skate parks in Sheffield had increased although it was recognised that these were costly to both provide and maintain. Although Parks, Woodlands and Countryside was responding positively to requests for alternative sport, further work would be required if these were to be considered a priority along with traditional playgrounds and would need to receive appropriate resourcing.

Work was already undertaken with Primary Care Trusts to deliver health clubs as well as with doctor's surgeries to promote healthy lifestyles.

The provision of BMX or skateboard parks would need to be pursued following consultation with interested parties, including Area Panels.

There had been a marked reduction in participation in traditional sports and the decline in membership of bowling clubs was reflective of this change.

It was recognised, however that Parks, Woodlands and Countryside should work more closely with Activity Sheffield to encourage the use of facilities and green spaces in the City and to more closely tie in

various health development projects. The promotion of healthy living could also be undertaken with projects such as Surestart in Firth Park.

## 6.6 Pricing Policy

A review of the schedule of prices for facilities for hire to the general public and for other sports facilities including bowling and tennis and the hire of pavilion rooms took place on an annual basis with the aim of insuring that prices remained competitive in line with service provision. The principle of any review of pricing was to ensure that prices continued to provide good value and were not a barrier to participation as well as encouraging take-up of usage and these were reviewed by officers in line with corporate guidance and would include inflationary increases.

To encourage participation, the prices for juniors in certain sports such as bowling, tennis and golf had been held for the previous two years whilst other prices had been increased in line with inflation.

Charges for the hire of changing pavilions had also been reviewed in order that they remained competitive and provided for clubs who might have difficulty in affording the hire of changing rooms in commercial premises.

Consultation on the revised prices for bowling, tennis and pitch and putt

had taken place and included liaison with representatives of the Bowls Advisory Group and on behalf of the self managed bowls clubs who took some income on behalf of the service. Customers were advised that prices were subject to periodic (annual) review and given notice in advance of any price increases.

The income from the provision of most sporting facilities and activities in parks was relatively low due to limited investment in facilities in comparison to privately managed sports facilities.

The pricing strategy aimed to encourage participation from all sections of the community and age groups and discounts of 30% were available to holders of the Council Slice Card.

Detailed price information is available at **Appendix 3**.

## 6.7 Consultation

On behalf of the Working Group, the Parks, Woodlands and Countryside Service carried out a consultation exercise to establish how teams and clubs used facilities in parks.

Key findings of the survey were as follows:-

- A common theme in responses was how strongly people feel about their local sports provision

- One of the main reasons that clubs chose a particular site was location and it would also appear that people would prefer to pursue their sport through a city-wide distribution of facilities.
- Pavilions, where they were available, were often felt to be of poor quality.
- Overall, the booking system was felt to be working well and 86% of respondents were satisfied with the system and of those 57% were very satisfied.
- Whilst there was recognition that facilities were not perfect there was a general feeling of contentment in relation to the service provided by Parks, Woodlands and Countryside, with 75% of respondents feeling at least fairly satisfied with the service provided.

A total of 41 football clubs out of 185 who were asked for information responded. Generally, clubs were fairly satisfied with the service and condition of pitches and most facilities were used because of their location.

In relation to cricket, seven out of the 20 that were asked for information responded. Responses from clubs varied significantly and appeared to reflect difficulties experienced by clubs at individual locations. Overall satisfaction with

the service varied from very dissatisfied to fairly satisfied. Satisfaction with the condition of cricket facilities varied according to location, the facilities on offer and condition of the wicket and outfield.

In relation to bowls, 11 out of 29 bowling clubs that were asked for information responded. Bowling clubs were, on the whole, fairly satisfied with the service and the condition of greens and bowling pavilions. Most clubs were fairly satisfied with the booking system.

25% of the 234 surveys sent out to various sporting clubs in the City were returned.

The information provided by clubs through the survey should be shared with officers within the Council's Directorate of Development, Environment and Leisure, (Premises and Assets) concerning the condition of various pavilions and changing rooms. Whilst the need to improve infrastructure had been emphasised within the survey, it was recognised by users that this was linked to the availability of resources.

The detailed results of the survey are contained within **Appendix 4**.

## 6.8 Tour of the City's Parks

Members of the Working Group undertook a fact finding tour of various parks in Sheffield with the

combined aims of examining the condition of sports pitches and facilities in parks, including ancillary facilities such as pavilions and changing rooms; speaking to development workers and staff in parks to ascertain their views; gaining the opinions of users of parks including members of organised clubs; and considering possible solutions leading to the improvement of facilities.

Parks visited were Graves Park, Abbeyfield Park, Colley Park, Longley Park, Concord Park, Steel City and Parson Cross.

#### Graves Park

The Norton and Woodseats Cricket Club had requested a more level outfield, however, the landscape at Graves Park was not naturally flat and drainage was problematic. The club had also attempted to raise funds for improvements to the pavilion. An offer had been made that the club use Greenhill Park so that they can play in a higher league. However the club resolved to stay at Graves Park. A particular issue identified was that the club found it difficult to recruit sufficient numbers of junior members. There was also a general issue of gangs of youths congregating around the park.

Similarly, the bowling green was not irrigated. Further, there had been vandalism to the chain link fence around the tennis court, which would be costly to replace.

The landscape of the park was largely ridge and furrow and should any attempt be made to flatten parts of the surface, for football pitches, for example, then the nature of the landscape would be changed and its historic landscape value lost. There were also trees on the outlying areas of the park, which although they interrupted suitability for playing pitches, formed part of the historic landscape of Graves Park.

There were a range of competing users for facilities and space in the park and members visiting the park noted that junior football was a particularly popular activity.

The pavilion at Graves Park had recently been refurbished with newly equipped changing areas and new heating installed with improved access to wheelchair users. A continuing problem at the pavilion and more commonly around the park was vandalism and especially graffiti.

#### Abbeyfield Park

The bowling green at the park had been rebuilt, including new turf and security fencing from the New Deal for Communities funding at a cost of approximately £40,000, which included the infrastructure for automated irrigation. The building in the park was currently used by Surestart and Green City Action and there was interest from English Heritage in its status and for possible refurbishment of outbuildings. There was also a tennis court area awaiting funding for refurbishment.



Colley Park

The park had been included as part of the liveability scheme and capital investment had been forthcoming for phase 1 which included an outdoor gym. However, there had been no additional resourcing for maintenance in terms of revenue and the condition of the site was beginning to deteriorate.

The three Friends Groups, Colley Park, Longley Parks and Parson Cross Park were working together, assisted by a development worker from Parks Woodlands and Countryside.

Improvement to the football pitches in the park was funded by the Football Foundation and pitches were largely flat and suitable for the sport.

Whereas, bowling and cricket on the park were in decline, partly because of the maintenance standard of pitches, as referred to above.

The bowling club was self managed and maintained by the City Council using a high security container as its pavilion. There was low casual use of the bowling green which was enclosed to maintain security. The bowling club had between 50 and 60 members but a limited number of truly regular participants.

Longley Park

The park had one bowling green and another, which was currently out of use. Although there had been some criminal damage to a fence around

the green, the green itself had remained unharmed. There was a multi-use games area at the site and access for disabled people to the site and to the pavilion. On the day of the visit, the park was being used as a neutral ground for a veterans league bowls league match. Members noted that the area to the front of the park was to be redeveloped from liveability and Section 106 funding to create a car park and other improvements.

Concord Park

The City Council maintained the bowling greens at Concord Park. It was thought that the club were reluctant to take on greater responsibility for maintenance of the greens due to previous incidents of vandalism and anti-social behaviour. In speaking to club members, the desirability of fencing around the bowling greens was expressed, which would prevent damage caused by vandals. However, conversely, the urban nature of the site made it a welcoming place for visitors and casual bowlers. Members observed the results of a wheeled bin having been set alight on the bowling green and heard how there had been damage to the gable end of the pavilion in the previous year.

An attendant was employed to open the bowling pavilion and to carry out gardening duties and maintain a visible presence at the site.

Tennis and basketball courts at the park were not used and had fallen

into disrepair and there was damage to fencing around the courts.

There were 12 football pitches in use at the park, although there was no water or electricity to the container type changing rooms. This might limit participation by some clubs particularly where womens' clubs might use facilities.

There is also a mini football pitch which was flat and of all weather type surface. The provision of such a pitch served to discourage young people from using the bowling greens inappropriately to play football on.

#### Steel City

The bowling green had been fenced in providing a secure play environment.

Although there was a flat, large playing surface at the park, there were no football changing rooms and there was no secure boundary to the front of the park. Therefore, vehicles could be driven onto green areas causing considerable damage to pitch surfaces. Use was noted of the cricket pitch maintained by the City Council.

#### Parson Cross

Pitches at the park had good drainage following considerable investment by the Football Foundation for the six football pitches.

Health walks originating at the Buchanan Road general practice surgery were facilitated through the park. The pavilion and changing rooms at the park were designed to minimise vandalism and there was in addition a staff presence at the pavilion, which provided a community base together with a base for the development worker for the area. The play area was reportedly well used. However, the bowling green at the park had no associated bowling club and was poorly used. Increased marketing and promotion of the bowls facilities and a multi-use games area was thought to be required to increase participation.

There is also a skate park facility at Parson Cross which was well used.

Arising from the tour of parks several other issues had been identified

- The marked enthusiasm and willingness to travel by members of the City's bowling clubs
- The positive social and physical benefits of bowling to participants of all ages.
- The problem of unauthorised motorbikes and other vehicles gaining access to parks and causing damage to pitches, the difficulty in recruitment of adequate numbers of high calibre staff even on a seasonal basis to help manage parks facilities.

- The role of successful sports clubs and governing bodies in relation to the promotion and marketing of activities such as bowling together with that of Area Panels in potentially raising the profile of certain sports.
- The training of groundsmen was to the Institute of Groundsmanship standard. However, there was not necessarily the opportunity for groundsmen to undertake any more tasks than those thought essential to maintain facilities because of time and funding constraints.

#### 6.9 Evidence from bowls clubs

Representatives from several bowls clubs in the City had been invited to give evidence to the Working Group. Mr Derek Ellis, Chair of the Hillsborough Park Bowling Club, attended and spoke to Members in relation to the operation of clubs and the condition of bowling greens in the City.

Mr Ellis believed that bowling should be promoted to a greater extent in schools, especially as it was a non-contact game and, as such, was not dependent upon physical size and could accommodate people who might be reluctant to participate in contact sport and young females. Although bowls was perceived as an older person's sport, at the

weekends and evenings and at a county level, younger people did participate.

Mr Ellis referred to the condition of bowling greens, stating that, in his opinion, Hillsborough Park and Hollins End were improving as was Longley Park, although the second green was, at present, out of use and it was hoped that the green could be reinstated. However, he had concerns about the condition of greens at Ecclesfield, Concord, Colley, Firth Park and Thorncliffe. At Hillsborough, the pavilion building was the subject of an application of funding for improvement.

As had been found previously, the length of grass on greens was a potential source of disagreement because bowlers generally wanted short grass to increase speed and distance, whereas the Council often wished to keep grass longer to improve irrigation. Nevertheless, he stated that he would like both Officers and Councillors to look at the condition of greens from the viewpoint of bowlers as the condition they were currently in might cause people to play elsewhere, or discourage participation.

He agreed there had been improvement at Hillsborough, following concerted effort by the Parks staff and he thought that clubs would be willing to water greens

themselves in liaison with Parks staff. The Sheffield Bowls Association recommended that the maximum length of grass on greens should be 3 X 1/16 inch or 4.7mm. and above this length there was a limit to the extent to which veterans could reach the corners of a green. In addition, he believed that increased scarifying was required and the quality of turf should be improved in some cases. An especially good example of a green was at Dronfield Woodhouse. Private greens of good quality were located at: Hallam, Meersbrook, Bradfield, Stocksbridge and Wadsley. A machine had been purchased by clubs to assist in the maintenance of greens and was used jointly between certain clubs.

Stockport Council had a Bowling Development Team as bowling was particularly popular in Cheshire. In addition, Civic Week, where 300 matches were played in 10 days might potentially attract sponsorship. Increased joint promotion, might also be facilitated by the Parks Bowling Association and the Hallam Association.

There were 120 active members at Hillsborough Club, including a group for blind people and for people with learning difficulties. In addition, there were links with the Deaf Society.

A school programme was introduced with children from Uppertorpe

School. However, it relied on the commitment of a single teacher who, due to other obligations was not able to bring the children to the ground and therefore sustain the programme. The establishment of competitions between school clubs might serve to increase younger people's interest in the sport and to facilitate this, the involvement of sports co-ordinators would be required. This would also require a degree of parental enthusiasm and support for young people wishing to participate.

Hillsborough Bowls Club would consider the pursuit of self maintenance, if the opportunity arose, although it was pointed out that there was a shortage of private green keepers in the area with the knowledge and skills to maintain a quality bowling green. In general, clubs, which had pursued self-management, had been able to put money back into their respective clubs through green fees. It was perceived that casual play was comparatively expensive in relation to joining a local bowls club.

Mr Ellis informed the Group that bowls facilities in parks were in decline in Cities such as Leeds and Liverpool. He recommended that Officers look to examples of good practice in relation to the quality of bowling greens in the locality, such as at Hallam, Bradfield Village and Dronfield Woodhouse.

Skills and knowledge were required to properly manage a local club for which support in relation to training might be required. If clubs were lost as a result of declining memberships, they were difficult to resurrect. It was his opinion that improvements to the quality of greens would help to rekindle high level interest and, it might be the case that facilities such as those at Concord Park and Steel City should be combined, and a wider rationalisation of facilities in the City considered.

In conclusion, Mr Ellis believed that bowling was a positive activity, encouraging physical activity and companionship.

### 6.10 Playing Pitch Strategy

The Working group considered a Playing Pitch Strategy for the City. This piece of work was commissioned by the Council's Development Services Division and undertaken by Strategic Leisure.

The methodology for the study, leading to the Strategy was prescribed by Sport England and the Central Council for Physical Recreation (CCPR), and included visits and consultation, which considered the quantity and quality of provision and current and future supply and demand. Whilst acknowledging that the methodology used did have its limitations, it was

considered useful in identifying future priorities and the quality and value of pitches.

In relation to supply and demand, the study had found that:

- 78% clubs had capacity for new members.
- Over half of clubs rate pitches as average to poor and have access to average, poor or no changing facilities.
- 66% pitches were sloped and 37% uneven.

There was a quality range in pitch ratings (categories were from very poor to excellent\*) and number of unmarked or disused pitches and in terms of quality of ancillary facilities, such as changing rooms\*.

There were also issues of access such as the quality of changing rooms and whether segregated changing areas were provided and appropriate facilities, reflecting developing trends in physical activity, such as purpose built changing accommodation for the increasing number of ladies or girls football teams

#### Access

- Poor quality changing rooms
- Modern design/segregated changing
- 69% of clubs would prefer to travel further to access better quality facilities

- Acceptable travel distance varies between 1 and 30 miles, although the average was 5 miles.

### **Other issues**

- The sustainability of clubs
- User expectations regarding quality
- Access and pricing
- Different level of facilities depending on area

Whilst senior clubs were able to facilitate transport to pitches some distance away, junior clubs required a more local facility. It was recognised that the involvement of senior teams in junior clubs was needed to plan to help facilitate progression from junior to senior level.

Consideration also had to be given to funding and competition between the many uses of parks, including sports.

For the study, parks were rated in terms of their value from a sporting perspective. The first audit was done as part of Planning Policy Guidance 17 (PPG 17) but other factors would be considered as well and there was a wider question of whether pitches should be located in parks for recreational use rather than for specific sport provision.

In terms of demand, factors such as team generation and future population projections had been

considered and to what extent there would be natural growth in team membership and active growth promoted by clubs. It was noted that there had been a fall in membership of traditional football clubs and a marked switch to five a side games and that an increased understanding of such patterns would be critical to ensuring there was a proper supply of pitches in the city. A large growth in junior and particularly girls football was noted whereas football at a senior level remained static for the last five years and in addition, mini soccer had seen a marked growth.

If certain pitches were identified for redesign (i.e. conversion from full size to five a side or smaller scale use) the existing users would need some persuasion to relocate before such a redesign could take place there was also a potential for leasing facilities of larger clubs or for example, University facilities to other community clubs but the extent to which this might be achieved had not been properly tested.

The strategy did not include bowls and tennis provision and, although it was acknowledged that emphasis was placed around team sports, extensive demand for casual play as well as team organised bowls had been identified.

There were also a number of tennis courts, which might be brought back into use or used for a different type of activity.

A similar exercise might also be needed into bowls and tennis, although this might require an alternative methodology to that employed for the teams sports studied as part of the pitch strategy.

#### 6.11 **Comparison with other local authorities**

As part of the scrutiny exercise, other local authorities were sent questionnaires to ascertain their approach to provision of facilities for sporting and physical activities in parks, including the proportion of budget allocated for sports compared to non-sporting activities.

There was a marked lack of response to the consultation exercise, with the exception of Manchester City Council, which provided the detail of a sports pitch strategy.

A recommendation from the Working Group might be to undertake further comparative work into alternative approaches used by other authorities in the provision and management of sports facilities.

## 7 **CONCLUSIONS**

The Working Group found a marked discrepancy between the best and the worst examples of pitches and facilities in the City's parks.

In relation to self management, the evidence pointed to a willingness by clubs to pursue self management, either in relation to overall management and maintenance or purely the maintenance of pitches or greens. There was however, indication that clubs pursuing self management should be supported to build up the skills and knowledge required to undertake an increased management role.

One theme, which emerged from the exercise was evidence of successful partnerships between the Council and clubs, Friends Groups and the health community. These might be strengthened further, by building upon internal co-operation between, for example, the Parks Woodlands and Countryside and Activity Sheffield and with clubs, Friends Groups and national organisations such as governing bodies.

Such co-operation might be in the realm of promotion and marketing for target age groups and sports, for example the promotion of bowls, aimed at older people to promote better health, in line with the Council's Physical Activity Strategy, and to build a social structure for people.

The level of pricing and ease of booking needed to be managed to ensure the highest level of access for people wishing to participate

within the club structure and as casual users of parks facilities.

Any rationalisation of facilities should take account of alternative provision, and consider the quantity and quality of that provision elsewhere in the City on sites not under the management of Parks Woodlands and Countryside. With this in mind, it should also utilise the study undertaken as part of the Playing Pitch Strategy and reflect changing demands and clear trends, such as the growth in womens or junior football. However, there was also a duty to stimulate demand, particularly for target groups.

The initial consultation, which took place with clubs revealed a number of opinions, both positive and negative, in relation to the quantity and the quality of sporting facilities in parks and, although it is apparent that more extensive consultation needed to be undertaken, on a formal and informal level with both clubs based in the City's parks and with casual users.

## 8 RECOMMENDATIONS

8.1 The Working Group recognise the pivotal role which Friends of Parks Groups can play, one of which is in attracting external funding and that the Council should make every effort to help sustain and create Friends Groups for those Parks where they do not currently exist.

8.2 To recommend that the Council encourage increased involvement of participants/clubs in activities such as bowls in the management of facilities in parks. Wherever self-management takes place it is believed that club members are more satisfied and therefore it is recommended that, wherever there is the potential that clubs establish self management and maintenance, the direct amount spent by the Council be transferred for them to use as they see fit, whilst understanding that this might affect the budget for the service and this issue will need to be addressed internally by the Council, it is believed that this would represent best value.

8.3 The Council has a particular role to play in making activities more attractive, to older people in particular, to encourage participation and recommends increased intervention to this end.

8.4 The Working Group detected a conflict between the maintenance specification (such as the length of grass on a bowling green) used by the Council and the demands of bowlers, particularly older participants who expressed a desire for a shorter length of green and it is recommended that, subject to it not affecting the sustainability of a particular green, this be addressed to meet the requirements of bowlers and that consideration be given to alternative arrangements to improve the irrigation of greens. To this end,



it might be appropriate for discussion to take place between Parks, Woodlands and Countryside and the Crown Green Bowling Association.

- 8.5 In relation to continuing issues surrounding security and vandalism, it is recommended that bowls clubs be assisted in fencing off greens to prevent such vandalism by bikes or by the lighting of fires, damaging green surfaces and that a programme be established over a period to meet this requirement. Similar consideration is given to increased security for cricket clubs to protect wickets from damage. This will require the Council to allocate capital funds.
- 8.6 That self-management for cricket clubs be further explored which might enable them to attract external funding and thereby finance improvements to pavilions and wickets.
- 8.7 That provision of quality sports pitches and ancillary facilities might not be available in some parks, and in order to ensure there is quality provision, schools should be opened more widely for community access.
- 8.8 A long term plan should be produced, supported by capital funding, to bring about the improvement of ancillary facilities, including the provision of appropriate changing areas, which reflect need, such as the increasing number of female football teams.
- 8.9 Increasingly, close co-operation be undertaken between Parks Woodlands and Countryside and Activity Sheffield in the realms of sports development and health promotion.
- 8.10 That the division of Cabinet responsibility between the maintenance of sports provision and sports development should be reviewed and that, in relation to maintenance, the provision of sufficient revenue funding should be further examined.
- 8.11 That full consideration should be given to the provision for other activities in parks, such as walking and urban sports such as BMX and skateboarding.
- 8.12 Further exploration be undertaken of the extent to which more general regeneration funds might be utilised to improve sporting and other facilities relating to physical activities in parks.
- 8.13 That a study be undertaken of bowling and tennis facilities, leading to the development of a green and tennis strategy for the City, along the same basis as that commissioned by Development Services for the playing pitch strategy.

- 8.14 That, as part of any future assessment, provision in parks should reflect identified trends, for example, the increased participation of females in football and junior football in general.
- 8.15 To undertake further comparative work into alternative approaches used by other authorities in the provision and management of sports facilities.
- 8.16 To achieve greater transparency earlier in the process in relation to the potential for investment or development of additional or existing parks and open space, through the acquisition of monies from Section 106 planning gain.
- 8.17 Given the problems of vandalism and inappropriate use of pitches and greens within City's Parks, that increased work takes place with all appropriate agencies, including the Police, youth services and community based groups, to focus youth provision on engaging young people, so as to provide diversionary activities and reduce incidents of damage to parks or anti-social behaviour.
- 8.18 Similarly, in conjunction with the appropriate partner agencies, to take further action to manage the use of off-road vehicles to ensure appropriate enforcement action in relation to the illegitimate use of

vehicles, particularly where they might cause damage to parks and open spaces, whilst recognising the difficulties of such enforcement.

## MANAGEMENT RESPONSE

8.1 The Working Group recognise the pivotal role which Friends of Parks Groups can play, one of which is in attracting external funding and that the Council should make every effort to help create and sustain Friends Groups for those Parks where they do not currently exist.

8.2 To recommend that the Council encourage increased involvement of participants/clubs for activities such as bowls in the management of facilities in parks. Wherever self management takes place it is believed that club members are more satisfied and therefore it is recommended that, wherever there is the potential that clubs establish self management and maintenance, the direct amount spent by the Council be transferred for them to use as they see fit, whilst understanding that this might affect the budget for the service and this issue will need to be addressed internally by the Council, it is believed that this would represent best value.

The working group's recognition of the pivotal role of Friends groups is welcomed. Officers will continue to offer support and assistance to these groups and will encourage the formation of Friends groups where currently none exist.

Officers are keen to encourage the increased participation in casual play and increased involvement at club level. The self-management of local facilities by clubs has been a successful partnership for those clubs involved and for the Council. Officers would support proposals for bowling clubs to become self-managed, but recognise that this will place an additional burden on some clubs which have a low or declining numbers of members.

Self-management of bowling greens may have contributed to significant decline in casual public bowling at most greens; a contributing factor may be the public perception that clubs have 'private' membership. This public perception is unfortunately given some credence by the presence of security fencing to deter vandalism and the restricted opening hours operated by some smaller clubs. Some of these smaller clubs have low member numbers preventing them from staffing the facilities to the required opening hours, especially on days when the club members are competing away from home.

The extension of self-maintenance in addition to self-management of bowling

greens has been beneficial to the more successful self-managed clubs with strong membership. The bowling clubs with self-maintenance are reliant upon grant aid from Parks and Countryside to core fund the private maintenance contractors. Officers have received requests from new clubs for self-maintenance; all of these include requests for grant aid. Increasing the number of clubs with self-maintenance, with the Council grant aid, will further add pressure to the existing Parks and Countryside employee budget. This may reduce the available funding for the employment of seasonal front line gardeners, consequently effecting non-sport maintenance standards in the parks to the detriment of the general public. We would recommend that any further extension of the self-maintenance of bowling greens and cricket facilities is linked to a review of facilities and is fully justified by increased sports usage and can demonstrate best value. Officers will look for opportunities to increase the number of clubs benefiting from self-maintenance; this will require a review of the current arrangements and an evaluation of existing grant aid to enable equitable support for clubs with fewer members.

Clubs that can be considered for self-maintenance will;

- be able to demonstrate that they have the resources, capacity, commitment and member support to develop their role for the benefit of their members and casual and community sports users

- the appropriate constitution in place
- opportunities for external financial support, and the capacity to explore these.

Parks and Countryside employees at all levels work closely with individual clubs and league representatives to improve facility maintenance, carry out infrastructure improvements and provide support to club management. This partnership working is very encouraging and demonstrates a strong commitment to local club based sport. Officers are reviewing the current arrangements for the provision, management and maintenance of facilities and will contact other local authorities to look at best practice examples for club self-management and self-maintenance.

The recently opened all year-around artificial bowling green is proving very popular and has led to the formation of a new bowling club at Woodhouse West End, it is hoped that this new facility will increase participation in outdoor bowling throughout the winter period. The success of the new green will provide the opportunity to review the use of artificial greens as a cost effective alternative to grass.

8.3 The Council has a particular role to play in making activities more attractive to older people in particular to encourage participation and recommends increased intervention to this end.

Officers are looking at opportunities with help from others to make activities more attractive and recognise the value of participation in sport at all levels. The marketing and promotion of sports activities requires strengthening. Additional resources and support in this area are required in order to make a meaningful improvement in take up, especially in areas, which suffer from

antisocial activity and increased fear of crime. We would like to extend the role of the Ranger Service and develop the post of a dedicated 'Sport and Well-being Ranger' to focus on community engagement and offer support to various sports clubs where this is most needed. We will look at opportunities to fund this post from next financial year subject to budget.

Activity Sheffield is currently pursuing two work strands relevant to this issue. Firstly, the city is developing a promotional campaign to encourage people to be more active. This will have a focus (amongst others) on parks and their value for healthy activity. Secondly, Activity Sheffield has commissioned the British Heart Foundation to produce an 'active older people's' plan for the city. This will recommend specific and practical steps that the city needs to take to encourage and support older people to be more active.

8.4 The Working Group detected a conflict between the maintenance specification (such as the length of grass on a bowling green) used by the Council and the demands of bowlers, particularly older participants who expressed a desire for a shorter length of green and it is recommended that, subject to it not affecting the sustainability of a particular green, this be addressed to meet the requirements of bowlers and that consideration be given to alternative arrangements to improve the irrigation of greens. To this end, it

As previously stated (8.2 above) grounds staff and officers are working with individual clubs to improve sports facility maintenance, including improvements to bowling greens to develop the grass's resilience to continued short mowing. As a follow on from the site visits by Members and the involvement of bowling club representatives staff visits have taken place to view private club facilities to share good practice. Improvements to the irrigation facilities, in association with clubs, are underway at three more sites (Meersbrook Park, Ecclesfield Park and Abbeyfield Park) this will bring about a

might be appropriate for discussion to take place between Parks, Woodlands and Countryside and the Crown Green Bowling Association.

- 8.5 In relation to continuing issues surrounding security and vandalism, it is recommended that bowls clubs be assisted in fencing off greens to prevent such vandalism by bikes or by the lighting of fires, damaging green surfaces and that a programme be established over a period to meet this requirement. Similar consideration is given to increased security for cricket clubs to protect wickets from damage. This will require the Council to allocate capital funds.

corresponding improvement in growing conditions and improved playing surfaces and grass quality. A further increase of automatic irrigation will require capital investment of approximately £7,000 per green.

The erection of security fencing around bowling greens has reduced vandalism. In some cases self-managed bowling clubs have raised sufficient income to contribute towards, or completely fund, the fencing (£8,000 - £10,000) per green. However, some bowling clubs are unable to contribute towards security fencing and officers have already submitted a sports infrastructure bid for inclusion within the Capital Programme, but this has not been allocated funding. The installation of temporary security fencing to protect cricket squares is more difficult and has not proved to be successful on previous occasions due to vandalism.

A key response to the issue of anti-social behaviour as the recommendation in 8.17 suggests, is the provision of constructive, diversionary activities for young people. Activity Sheffield is about to launch a 'Street Sports' initiative, which will aim to attract young people who would not normally engage with more traditional sports. The service will offer opportunities to climb, skateboard, skate, BMX etc. The service will continue to work with the Police and Sheffield Futures to look at effective engagement opportunities. On site presence has been shown to be effective in other Parks Services for example, Maldon District Council has recorded a 50% reduction in vandalism. An equivalent service for Sheffield would

8.6 That self-management for cricket clubs be further explored which might enable them to attract external funding and thereby finance improvements to pavilions and wickets.

cost an additional 1.3 million. This would provide 30 Rangers across the city who would give site presence and community engagement for the city. Officers acknowledge this level of funding is not available at the present time and will continue to seek external funding opportunities to work towards this best practice example.

Officers propose to develop base-line data of the resource cost of dealing with anti-social behaviour. This will be compared with core cities to analyse the benefits of increasing site presence. Bench marking to compare the role and level of involvement of sports clubs will also be carried out.

Increasing the self-management of cricket facilities by clubs is often linked to the quality of facilities available and the potential for securing further investment by clubs. The availability of grant funding is often dependant upon the clubs having a player development role within the sport and obtaining a lease from the council for the facilities in question. We encourage self-management, in appropriate circumstances this will depend on the venue and the sustainability of the organisation.

8.7 That provision of quality sports pitches and ancillary facilities might not be available in some parks, and in order to ensure there is quality provision, schools should be opened more widely for community access.

Officers welcome and support the Member's recommendation that schools should be opened more widely for community access.

Community access of school pitches will be a key part of the future strategy. Schools can offer good standard playing



facilities often with associated changing facilities. Community use makes economic sense in maximising the play capacity from school facilities. The key issue is obtaining schools' agreement. There are concerns about over-play of facilities, increased vandalism and unmet costs for increased demands on cleaning, maintenance, utilities and caretaking.

A second strand of the pitches strategy is the further development of self-management on selected sites with appropriate clubs. This is currently being explored in relation to football and discussions are planned with the local Football Association officers in the near future.

The third strand of the pitch strategy however is the need to retain opportunities for those teams and clubs who simply want to book pitches and play but do not wish to get involved in the management and/or maintenance of pitches and buildings. This is also important for the many ad hoc teams of friends who enjoy playing in their local area.

The final issue to be tackled in the strategy will be the selective transfer from adult football pitches – which currently show a general level of under-utilisation – towards more provision for junior football, which is experiencing a boom in demand and interest.

8.8 A long term plan should be produced, supported by capital funding, to bring about the improvement of ancillary facilities, including the provision of appropriate changing areas, which reflect need, such as the increasing number of female football teams.

Officers from Parks and Countryside and Activity Sheffield are looking for opportunities to implement the recommendations of the Playing Pitch Assessment and Strategy produced by Strategic Leisure Ltd., which will require significant capital expenditure, which is currently not available. The report did not include an assessment of bowling provision, there will be a cost of approximately £5000 -£7000 if this work is to be commissioned as a separate study, and this expenditure will have to be considered against other budget priorities. It is unlikely that the recommendations of the Playing Pitch Assessment and Strategy can be progressed without a dedicated officer resource that would work in partnership with Activity Sheffield on identified joint multi pitch/multi sport projects. This resource would enable the pitch strategy to be realistically costed. It would also require a budget to fund a detailed technical appraisal of sites and architects fees. It is possible that some of this expenditure, whilst undertaken, initially at risk, may be claimed back later as part of a funding bid.

Previous success has been achieved with grant aid of £137,000 from the Football Foundation for Parson Cross Park, Colley Park and £12,500 for Tooty Hall Park. Other sites such as Steel City are benefiting from a refurbishment of sports facilities funded from a grant of £250,00 from Sport England.

8.9 Increasingly, close co-operation be undertaken between Parks Woodlands and Countryside and

There are already strong relationships between Parks and Countryside and Activity Sheffield staff on both sporting

Activity Sheffield in the realms of sports development and health promotion.

8.10 That the division of Cabinet responsibility between the maintenance of sports provision and sports development should be reviewed and that, in relation to maintenance, the provision of sufficient revenue funding should be further examined.

8.11 That full consideration should be given to the provision for other activities in parks, such as walking and urban sports such as BMX and skateboarding.

8.12 Further exploration be undertaken of the extent to which more general regeneration funds might be utilized to improve sporting and other facilities relating to physical activities in parks.

issues and health-related activities such as health walks. As referred to previously in this paper (see above), officers from both services are meeting to discuss a number of sports related issues and will continue to look at opportunities to increase participation in sport including sports development and promotion of healthy activities.

These recommendations are noted and we trust that members will give these due consideration.

Officers are pleased that members are supportive of the benefits of other sporting activities. The creation of facilities for skateboard parks and BMX tracks again require a capital allocation (5 number of skate board parks have been created in the last 2 years). In these instances the availability of Section 106 funding can enable facilities to be developed and Area Panels are recommended to consider this type of provision alongside the more traditional children's play facilities when prioritising the allocation of Section 106 funding. See 8.5 above with reference to emerging Street Sports initiative.

The availability of more general regeneration funds for the improvement of sporting activities will be determined by the appropriateness and availability of the funding regime and its application to the

8.13 That a study be undertaken of bowling and tennis facilities, leading to the development of a green and tennis strategy for the City, along the same basis as that commissioned by Development Services for the playing pitch strategy.

requirements of the location. Officers will look for further opportunities through the HMR master planning and via Area Panels to improve sport and other physical activities as appropriate alongside other opportunities for regeneration. However, a key factor continues to be the lack of revenue funding to provide the necessary maintenance support following the capital investment, for instance it can cost £3,000- £5,000 per annum to maintain a football pitch in good condition following installation of a drainage system.

Officers agree that a further piece of work is required to develop strategies for the provision and use of public tennis and bowling green (see 8.8 above) facilities. Funding will be required to develop the outcomes of this work and this will need to be prioritised against other funding requirements. There will be an opportunity to look at the quality and quantity of all facilities within parks as part of the Green and Open Spaces Strategy.

8.14 That, as part of any future assessment, provision in parks should reflect identified trends, for example, the increased participation of females in football and junior football in general.

Paul Sheard, Tennis Development Officer, Activity Sheffield, has been asked to undertake a study of tennis facilities and provide recommendations on usage and provision of facilities. A student has undertaken a study on bowling usage and provision of facilities. It is centred on current demand and future requirements. Officers will use the information, which is currently available, e.g. the recommendations contained within the outdoor playing pitch strategy and demographic information, to help determine the changing trends and will

8.15 To undertake further comparative work into alternative approaches used by other authorities in provision and management of sports facilities.

8.16 To achieve greater transparency earlier in the process in relation to the potential for investment for development of additional or existing parks and open space, through the acquisition of monies from Section 106 planning gain.

8.17 Given the problems of vandalism and inappropriate use of pitches and greens within City's Parks, that increased work takes place with all appropriate agencies, including the Police, youth services and community based groups, to focus youth provision on engaging young people, so as to provide diversionary activities and reduce incidents of damage to parks or antisocial behaviour.

8.18 Similarly, in conjunction with the appropriate partner agencies, to take further action to manage the use of off-road vehicles to ensure appropriate enforcement action in relation to the illegitimate use of vehicles, particularly where they

endeavour to match this to future service provision. This matter is already forming part of the agenda of officer meetings.

Officers are undertaking comparison work with other local authorities and would like to employ best practice. This will be progressed through the core cities benchmarking group which has recently been established. Sheffield Parks and Countryside Service is in the lowest quartile for spend but every effort will be made to reach best practice standards.

Officers are working closely with Area Panels to improve the Panel's priority sites and to identify potential funding such as S106 to ensure that the process is understood and supported by officers and Members alike (see 8.11 above).

Officers actively seek opportunities to engage in joint working with other agencies to improve the provision and use of facilities and discourage antisocial activity. There are good examples within the service where this has happened, but it is often limited by the availability of the short-term external funds. Officers would like to see an increase in core funding to enable this work to be more sustainable (Reference 8.5 and on site presence and engagement).

Officers have been working in partnership with other agencies concerning planned joint enforcement action to manage the illegal use of off-road vehicles where significant problems exist. A number of successful joint actions have already taken place.

might cause damage to parks and open spaces, whilst recognising the difficulties of such enforcement.

Members may be aware that an off-road motorcycle steering group was set up to look at the feasibility of developing a dedicated track within the city. A consultant was commissioned to investigate 12 pre-selected sites (the only possible options for Sheffield) for potential use as off-road motorcycle facilities and outline planning and other constraints. Following the study the consultant concluded that none of the sites, or other areas in Sheffield, are suitable for off-road motorcycling use and whilst it would be possible to seek other sites, given the built up nature of Sheffield, finding a suitable site for off - road motorcycling is unlikely. It was recommended that the next step should be to network with the adjoining local authorities in order to seek a regional consensus and possible solution.

## Appendix 1 - Income and expenditure

### OUTDOOR SPORTS FIGURES 2003/04 SEASON

#### FOOTBALL

	Senior	Junior	Totals	Costs
No of teams	122	108	230	
No of pitches	97	53	150	
Maintenance costs				72,000
Income	£28,719	£9,556		£38,275
Net Cost				<u>£33,725</u>

#### CRICKET

No of teams	27		27	
No of pitches	13		13	
Maintenance costs				£63,600
Income	£4,848			£4,848
Net Cost				<u>£58,752</u>

#### BOWLS

Self managed teams	21		21	
No of s/m greens	43		43	
Average club membership	71		71	
Maintenance costs				£226,400
Grant aid				£25,900
Income				£18,326
Net Cost				<u>£233,974</u>

#### TENNIS

Maintenance costs				£42,000
Income				£5,100
Net Cost				<u>£36,900</u>

#### PITCH 'n PUTT

Maintenance costs				£11,400
Income				£16,700
				<u>-£5,300</u>

Consumeables, Ferts etc				£25,300
Contingency costs (5%)				£21,000
Sports Admin Costs				£23,300
Sports attendant costs				£105,000

Net cost of sport				<u>£532,651</u>
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## Appendix 2 - 2004 season bowling figures and condition survey

SELF MANAGED SITES	No Greens	Green Maintenance Costs	Self Maintenance Grant	No. of Members	Public Attendance for casual play	Club Attendance for casual play	Cub Match Play	Club takings (including tennis)	Club Income	Parks and Countryside Payment	Fencing to Greens	Pavilion Condition	Toilets Condition
BOLEHILLS BC	2	9434		61	33	4758	Varies	2893	2630	263	no	good	good
COLLEY BC	1	4717		45	0	3510	Varies	1813	1649	164	yes	poor	average
CROOKESMOOR BC	2	9434		80	50	6240	Varies	3188	2899	289	no	good	good
ECCLESFIELD BC	2	9434		93	52	7254	Varies	4598	4180	418	yes	good	good
FRECHEVILLE BC	1	4717		35	3	2730	Varies	1786	1624	162	yes	poor	poor
GREENHILL BC	2	9434		23	2	1794	Varies	2116	1924	192	yes	good	good
GREEN OAK BC	1	4717		40	0	3120	Varies	1459	1327	132	no	average	average
GRENOSIDE BC	1	4717		62	2	4836	Varies	2673	2430	243	yes	average	average
HERDINGS PARK	1	4717		41	0	3198	Varies	1719	1563	156	yes	average	no
HIGH HAZELS PARK BC	2	9434		33	21	2574	Varies	2122	1930	192	no	good	good
HILLSBOROUGH BC	3	14151		144	10	11232	Varies	5201	4729	472	yes	good	good
HOLLINSEND BC	2	9434		104	73	8112	Varies	5116	4651	465	yes (1)	good	good
LONGLEY BC	1	4717		48	6	3744	Varies	4342	4048	294	yes	good	good
MEERSBROOK PARK BC	2	4717	8633	54	27	4212	Varies	2907	2635	272	yes	good	good
MIDDLEWOOD PARK BC	1	4717		55	0	4290	Varies	1706	1551	155	yes	good	good
MILLHOUSES PARK BC	2	4717	8633	200	477	15600	Varies	14790	13446	1344	yes	good	good
NORFOLK PARK BC	2	9434		32	0	2496	Varies	1220	1110	110	no (CCTV)	v good	good
RICHMOND PARK BC	1	4717		64	78	4992	Varies	2726	2479	247	yes	average	poor
STANNINGTON BC	1	4717		68	2	5304	Varies	2666	2424	242	yes	average	average
STEEL CITY BC	1	4717		34	0	2652	Varies	1319	1200	119	yes	average	good
THORNCLIFFE BC	2	9434		93	0	7254	Varies	3421	3110	311	yes	average	poor
WHITELEY WOODS BC	2	4717	8633	96	39	7488	Varies	4808	4371	437	yes	good	good
BEIGHTON SPORTS CLUB	1	4717		35	N/A	2730	Varies	N/A			yes	average	good
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>141510</b>	<b>25899</b>	<b>1540</b>	<b>875</b>	<b>120120</b>		<b>74589</b>	<b>67910</b>	<b>6679</b>			
<b>STAFFED SITES</b>													
Parks and Countryside Takings/Staff Costs (Average)													
ABBAYFIELD PARK	1	not in use		N/A	No Play	No Play	closed 2004	not staffed			yes	poor	poor
CONCORD PARK	2	9434		40	47	3120		2142	12000		no	good	good
FIRTH PARK	1	4717		55	222	4290		3235	12000		yes (CCTV)	good	good
GRAVES PARK	2	9434		61	625	4758		3866	12000		no	good	average
PARSON CROSS	1	4717		no club	134	N/A		1331	12000		no	very good	good
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>169812</b>		<b>1696</b>	<b>1903</b>	<b>135018</b>		<b>10574</b>	<b>48000</b>				



# **Sheffield City Council**

## **PARKS, WOODLANDS AND COUNTRYSIDE SERVICE**

**2005/2006**

### **PRICE SCHEDULE FOR USE OF:**

- **Sports facilities**
- **Hire of meeting rooms**
  - **Allotments**

**SHEFFIELD CITY COUNCIL, PARKS, WOODLANDS AND COUNTRYSIDE  
SPORTS PRICES 2005/2006**

TYPE OF PITCH	OUTDOOR SPORTS PITCHES (GRASS)				
	CASUAL Adult	CASUAL Junior	SEASON Adult	SEASON Junior	SEASON 7-a-side
Class One	£36.00	£18.00	£406.00	£198.00	£96.00
Class Two	£34.00	£17.00	£345.00	£172.00	£92.00
Class Three	£25.00	£13.00	£270.00	£141.00	£86.00
Class Four	£19.00	£9.20	£189.00	£86.00	£71.00

Five-a-Side (per hour)	Adult	Junior
Class One Graves	£16.00	£8.20
Class Two High Green	£14.00	£7.00

Notes

- (a) Football, cricket, hockey and rugby pitch prices are for a 'match' period.
- (b) All other pitches are for a one-hour period.
- (c) Further details on block bookings for football, cricket, hockey and rugby prices are available from David Judge at Head Office (tel: 250 0500).
- (d) Changing room charge:  
 Parson Cross - £18.90  
 Graves Park - £18.90

Changing room charges are per match.

All prices include VAT at 17.5%.

**SHEFFIELD CITY COUNCIL, PARKS, WOODLANDS AND COUNTRYSIDE  
SPORTS PRICES 2005/2006**

ACTIVITY	OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES - BOWLS	
	NON-CARD	SLIDE CARD HOLDERS
Casual Per person per hour		
Adult	£2.30	£1.60
Junior	£1.00	£0.70
Individual and pairs knockout per person for a one day tournament		
Adult	£1.80	£1.80
Junior	£1.00	£1.00
Team Bowls Per match NB: Slice card discounts do not apply	7-a-side matches - £11.20 per team. (£1.60 p/ person) 8-a-side matches - £12.80 per team. (£1.60 p/ person) 10-a-side matches - £17.50 per team. (£1.75 p/ person) (The few 12-a-side matches to be charged as a 10-a-side)	

Notes

- (a) Lockers: £5.50 for non card holders, £3.30 for slice card holders.
- (b) Bowl hire: £1 deposit (or card) and 70p hire charge for set of two.
- (c) Green hire: payment of green hire fee gives exclusive use to the hirer. Please note that there are no card discounts. Green hire is only available for final days, county, inter city open and rep matches.

Charges:

Adult per day - £38.50  
 Adult 3 hours - £18.00  
 Junior per day - £16.75  
 Junior 3 hours - £8.40

- (d) Meersbrook Park floodlit green hire: adult £22.00 and junior £11.00 (per evening hire).

All prices include VAT at 17.5%.

**SHEFFIELD CITY COUNCIL, PARKS, WOODLANDS AND COUNTRYSIDE  
SPORTS PRICES 2005/2006**

TYPE OF PITCH (per 60 minute session)	OUTDOOR SPORTS PITCHES (FLOODLIT TARMAC AT PARKS)
	WINTER (FLOODLIT) (1st September – 31st March)
Class One (Parson Cross) (includes changing)  Adult Junior	   <p align="right">£22.00 £17.35</p>
Class Three (Meersbrook, Hillsborough, High Green)  Adult Junior	   <p align="right">£15.30 £11.00</p>

All prices include VAT at 17.5%.

**SHEFFIELD CITY COUNCIL, PARKS, WOODLANDS AND COUNTRYSIDE  
SPORTS PRICES 2005/2006**

<b>TENNIS (EXCLUDING GRAVES LEISURE TENNIS AND LEISURE CENTRE)</b>	<b>NON-CARD HOLDERS</b>	<b>SLIDE CARD</b>
CASUAL Per hour, per court (not per person)		
Adult	£3.60	£2.60
Junior	£1.60	£1.20
TEAM Per court, per match		
Adult	£9.60	£7.00
Junior	£4.50	£3.40

Notes

**Casual Tennis**

(a) **Padder Tennis**

Junior - £0.50 per court per half hour for 2 to 4 persons.  
Adult - £1.00 per court per half hour.

(b) **Tennis**

1. Tennis racket hire: £1.00 for non card holders, 80p for slice card holders.
2. Deposit on rackets: £5.00 or slice card.
3. Tennis balls hire: 50p each. Deposit £0.50 pence

*Tennis balls are no longer available for sale*

**Team Tennis**

1. All prices are per court per match.
2. Slice card discounts only apply when all team members have a card.
3. These charges only apply to official matches ie Yorkshire League, Sheffield and District Lawn Tennis Association matches.

All prices include VAT at 17.5%

**SHEFFIELD CITY COUNCIL, PARKS, WOODLANDS AND COUNTRYSIDE  
SPORTS PRICES 2005/2006**

<b>Miniature Golf (Pitch and Putt) Whiteley and Graves</b>	<b>NON-CARD HOLDERS</b>	<b>SLIDE CARD HOLDERS</b>
Adult	£2.75	£1.90
Junior	£1.20	£0.80
<b>Putting Greens</b>		
Adult	£1.70	£1.20
Junior	£1.00	£0.50

**Notes**

- (a) Golf tees: 10p for 2.
- (b) Deposit for putter/mashie and putter: £5 or slice card.
- (c) Lost balls – £1.00 each.

All prices include VAT at 17.5%.

<b>BOATING - MILLHOUSES</b>	<b>NON-CARD HOLDERS</b>	<b>SLIDE CARD HOLDERS</b>
Juniors - one person per boat (20 minutes)	£1.80	£1.00
Juniors - 2 people per boat (maximum) sharing (20 minutes)	£1.40 per person	£0.75 per person

## PARKS, WOODLANDS AND COUNTRYSIDE CONDITIONS OF USE: PARK BUILDINGS

Thank you for your interest in booking a park pavilion.

1. The use of a park building is subject to the following conditions and hire charges.
2. Hire Charges

ORGANISATION CATEGORY	RATE PER HOUR
<b>Subsidised use:</b> - Pre school playgroups - OAP groups - Community associations - Youth clubs etc  - Non profit making organisations/charities - Cultural associations - Children's dance classes - Sports clubs etc  - Children's birthday parties (subject to availability)	£4.15 per room (negotiable)           £7.40            £12.50
<b>Full rate:</b> - Private functions (e.g. wedding receptions, dinner dances etc). - Profit making ventures (e.g. commercial training courses, bingo sessions, health clubs etc). - Profit making organisations	£20.60
<b>Others:</b> - Casual/ad-hoc use	Negotiable from £5.60 per week
- Occasional fund-raising events (within the premises) – held by existing groups and linked directly to use of the pavilion.	Negotiable/free
<b>Any others</b>	Negotiable on request
<b>Public Liability insurance</b> - single bookings only	£10.00

**NB. Prices are subject to periodical review. Customers will however be given adequate notice well in advance of any price increases.**

### 3. Invoicing Procedure

- **Individual bookings: you will be invoiced the following month. Please withhold payment until you have received the invoice.**
- **Regular bookings: you will be given the choice to be invoiced monthly, bi-monthly or quarterly.**

#### 4. Cancellation of Bookings

- **The Council must be notified if you wish to cancel your booking, or charges may be made.**
- **In the event of a cancellation on a specific day, please inform me. This will avoid any overcharging when the invoices are sent out. If you are overcharged by one or two sessions, I can alter the next invoice accordingly.**
- **The council reserves the right to terminate bookings at any time.**

#### 5. In accordance with the Sheffield City Council policy:

- **NO SMOKING** should take place in pavilions.
- No dogs or other animals are allowed inside pavilions (guide dogs excepted) during public use.
- Gambling should not take place in pavilions during public use.

#### 6. Insurance Liabilities

- The City Council is covered by “Public Liability Insurance” for claims involving Council negligence only. This does not cover accidental personal injury, accidental damage to property or similar incidents caused by any wilful, malicious or deliberate action or omission. Therefore, it is necessary for users of this accommodation to provide their own insurance to cover such claims.
- In the event of any damage done to a building, premises, furniture and fittings or any other contents of the premises arising from the use of the accommodation, the cost of the damages will be assessed by a Council Officer. The customer irrespective of the level of charge category applied will pay this cost.

#### 7. Completion of Application Forms

On signed completion, please send to:

Parks, Woodlands and Countryside  
Meersbrook Park  
Brook Road  
Sheffield  
S8 9FL

Marked for the attention of: James Barnes, Community Partnerships Officer,  
telephone: 0114 273 6816, fax: 0114 255 2375.



**SHEFFIELD CITY COUNCIL, PARKS, WOODLANDS AND COUNTRYSIDE  
NORFOLK HERITAGE PARK – CENTRE IN THE PARK  
HIRE CHARGES 2005/2006**

<b>Groups</b>	<b>1 small room</b>	<b>1 large room</b>	<b>2 large rooms</b>	<b>3 large rooms</b>	<b>Community hall</b>
<b>Voluntary/local community:</b>					
Per hour	£4.00	£9.00	£18.00	£25.00	£18.00
Half day	£12.00	£22.00	£44.00	£60.00	£44.00
Full day	£22.00	£44.00	£85.00	£110.00	£85.00
<b>Non profit making/ charities:</b>					
Per hour	£8.00	£17.00	£27.00	£37.00	£27.00
Half day	£22.00	£44.00	£65.00	£85.00	£65.00
Full day	£44.00	£85.00	£125.00	£168.00	£125.00
<b>Public sector:</b>					
Per hour	£11.00	£22.00	£33.00	£44.00	£33.00
Half day	£30.00	£60.00	£85.00	£110.00	£85.00
Full day	£55.00	£100.00	£160.00	£220.00	£160.00
<b>Commercial/Private Function:</b>					
Per hour	£18.00	£30.00	£40.00	£52.00	£40.00
Half day	£50.00	£90.00	£120.00	£150.00	£120.00
Full day	£90.00	£150.00	£220.00	£290.00	£220.00
<b>Birthday parties:</b>					
Per hour	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	£140.00

**Equipment Hire Charges**

TV and Video/DVD	£10.00 per session
Overhead projector and screen	£10.00 per session
Screen only	£5.00 per session
Flipcharts/whiteboards (plus pens & paper	£5.00 per session

**SHEFFIELD CITY COUNCIL, PARKS, WOODLANDS AND COUNTRYSIDE  
ALLOTMENT RENTS 2005/06 FINANCIAL YEAR**

The rents will be charged in accordance with the size and amenities of the site as follows. Tenants have however been advised of the level of charges for 2005/06 in line with the agreed 12 months notice of increase.

Sites without amenity charge		Sites with amenity charge			
Present Rent £	Rent from April 2005 £	Present Rent £	Revised Rent from April 2005 £	(Amenity charge included) £	Plot size
9.80	10.10	17.60	18.10	8.00	Up to 200m <sup>2</sup>
14.00	14.40	26.30	27.10	12.70	Over 200m <sup>2</sup>
18.00	18.50	36.40	37.50	19.00	Over 300m <sup>2</sup>

Corker Bottoms (from April 2005)	Present rent	Revised rent
Shed	£10.00	£10.30
Glasshouse	£10.00	£10.30
Boiler	£10.00	£10.30

Society huts:

Present rent	Revised rent
£0.52 per m <sup>2</sup>	£0.52 per m <sup>2</sup>

NB: The above rates are for normal size plots, larger plots will attract a pro-rata increase in charge. The new rent for your plot(s) will be based on the charges shown above and will be payable twenty one days from the date on which you received the account.

RENT CONCESSIONS

The rent increases do not affect the availability of allotment rent concessions, which will continue to operate at 50% of the revised rents. The discounts are senior citizens, unemployed, recipients of disabled living allowance, recipients of disabled workers' allowance, recipients of family credit, recipients of incapability benefit, industrial injuries disablement, Housing/Council Tax benefits and students on grants. **ALL DISCOUNTS MUST BE CLAIMED AT HOWDEN HOUSE PAYMENT DESK.**

**PARKS, WOODLANDS AND COUNTRYSIDE  
HIRE CHARGES: BOTANICAL GARDENS**

<b>ORGANISATION CATEGORY</b>	<b>RATE PER HOUR</b>
<b>Subsidised use:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Pre school playgroups</li> <li>- OAP groups</li> <li>- Community associations</li> <li>- Youth clubs etc</li> </ul>	£4.00 per room (negotiable)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Non profit making organisations/charities</li> <li>- Cultural associations</li> <li>- Children's dance classes</li> <li>- Sports clubs etc</li> </ul>	£7.15
<b>Full rate:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Private functions (e.g. wedding receptions, dinner dances etc).</li> <li>- Profit making ventures (e.g. commercial training courses, bingo sessions, health clubs etc).</li> <li>- Profit making organisations</li> </ul>	£20.00

**NB. Prices are subject to periodical review. Customers will however be given adequate notice well in advance of any price increases.**

**SHEFFIELD CITY COUNCIL, PARKS, WOODLANDS AND COUNTRYSIDE  
FIRST START – ROOM HIRE CHARGES 2005/2006**

	<b>Training room 1</b>	<b>Training room 2</b>	<b>1 &amp; 2 combined</b>	<b>Reception room</b>	<b>Park view</b>
<b>Voluntary/local community:</b>					
Per hour	£4.50	£4.50	£8.50	£6.50	£8.50
Half day	£12.50	£12.50	£25.00	£19.50	£25.00
Full day	£22.50	£22.50	£45.00	£35.50	£45.00
<b>Non profit making/charities/public sector:</b>					
Per hour	£8.50	£8.50	£17.00	£12.50	£17.00
Half day	£25.00	£25.00	£50.00	£37.50	£50.00
Full day	£42.50	£42.50	£85.00	£62.50	£85.00
<b>Commercial/private sector:</b>					
Per hour	£12.50	£12.50	£25.00	£20.00	£25.00
Half day	£37.50	£37.50	£75.00	£60.00	£75.00
Full day	£62.50	£62.50	£125.00	£100.00	£125.00

- Daily rates normally apply between 9.00 am – 5.00 pm
- Half day bookings start or finish by 1.00 pm
- Weekday bookings after 7.00 pm, and weekend bookings after 5.00 pm are subject to a £10 per hour surcharge
- Voluntary groups are defined as groups which do not receive external funding.

## Appendix 4 - Survey Results

### Results of the 2005 Bowlers Survey

In total 11 clubs out of 29 asked for information responded.

1. **Please indicate how satisfied or dissatisfied your club feels about the service provided by Parks, Woodlands and Countryside (PWC):**
2. **Please indicate which of the PWC Services your club has used**

<u>Park</u>	<u>Services used</u>	
High Hazels	Bookings Sports facilities Greenspaces	Fairly Sat
Norfolk Park	Small grants Sports facilities Rangers Greenspaces Parks building	Very Sat
Steel City, Shiregreen lane	Help with funding Bookings	Very Sat
Concord Park	Small grants Bookings Greenspaces	Neither
Grenoside Park	Sports facilities	Neither
Herdings Park	Help with funding	Fairly Sat
Greenhill	Rangers Sports facilities Greenspaces	Fairly Sat
Meersbrook Park	Rangers Small grants Help with funding Bookings Greenspaces Sports facilities	Fairly Sat
Hollinsend Park	Bookings Parks building	Fairly Sat
Crookesmoor	Bookings Sports facilities	Fairly Sat
Stannington Park	Help with funding Bookings	Fairly Sat

Key    Very sat= very satisfied  
         Fairly sat = fairly satisfied  
         Neither = neither satisfied or dissatisfied Fairly dis= fairly dissatisfied  
         Very dis= very dissatisfied

**3. How many members does your club have?**

**4. Of these how many are junior members?(under 18)**

<u>Quadrant</u>	<u>park</u>	<u>How many members</u>	<u>Junior members</u>
East	High Hazels	30	0
East	Norfolk Park	30	0
North	Concord Park	22	0
North	Grenoside park	68	1
North	Steel City,	34	0
South	Greenhill	28	0
South	Herdings Park	45	0
South	Meersbrook Park	55	2
West	Crookesmoor	80	0
West	Hollinsend Park	106	0
West	Stannington Park	65	0

**5. How does your club encourage new members?**

East	High Hazels	Web site word of mouth
East	Norfolk Park	word of mouth
North	Concord Park	word of mouth
North	Grenoside Park	Newsletter word of mouth
North	Steel City, Shiregreen Local lane	press/radio Web site
South	Greenhill	Posters events word of mouth
South	Herdings Park	events Web site word of mouth
South	Meersbrook Park	Posters events word of mouth
West	Crookesmoor	Posters word of mouth taster days
West	Hollinsend Park	Posters word of mouth
West	Stannington Park	events word of mouth

**6. Is your club self managed?**

Of the clubs that responded 10 out of 11 were self managed.

**7. Could you tell us about any difficulties your club has experienced in meeting the terms and conditions of your self-management agreement?**

Norfolk Park High Hazels	Not really we are quite satisfied with the terms at the moment. Low number of members means only small number of volunteers available to man pavilion.
Steel City,	none none
Grenoside Park Meersbrook Park	Opening times should be more flexible to suit our members. ie: we are there at night (evenings)
Herdings Park Crookesmoor Stannington Park Hollinsend Park	The self management team works very well for our club. Getting volunteers to man pavilion- only occasionally. No problems none

**8. Could you please tell us about any barriers your club has experienced that have stopped you becoming self-managed?**

Concord park Lack of support from club members re-booking on.

**9. What is your home green?**

**10. Why does your club use it? (please tick as many as apply):**

Concord Park	Location
Crookesmoor	Location Park setting quality
Greenhill	Location Park setting
Grenoside Park	Location Park setting
Herdings Park	Location Cost Park setting Accessibility by public transport Accessibility by private
High Hazels Hollinsend Park	Location Location Accessibility by public transport
Meersbrook Park	Location Cost Park setting quality
Norfolk Park	Park setting Accessibility by private
Stannington Park	Location Park setting Accessibility by private
Steel City, Shiregreen	Location Park setting Accessibility by public transport Accessibility by private

**11. Please indicate how satisfied or dissatisfied your club is with the condition of the bowling green (s):**

<u>quadrant</u>	<u>park</u>	<u>Satisfaction rating</u>
East	High Hazels	Neither
East	Norfolk Park	Very sat
North	Concord Park	Fairly sat
North	Grenoside Park	Fairly sat
North	Steel City,	Fairly sat
South	Greenhill	Neither
South	Herdings Park	Fairly sat
South	Meersbrook Park	Fairly sat
West	Crookesmoor	Fairly sat
West	Hollinsend Park	Fairly sat
West	Stannington Park	Neither

**11(b). Why?**

East	High Hazels	Improved on 2003 but only due to club volunteering to not use number 1 green 2004. Green still not perfect by a long way.
East	Norfolk Park	Because as I said we have a very good worker Melissa who look after the green.
North	Concord Park	Repairs to bowling surfaces are done, but are usually vandalised shortly afterwards.
North	Grenoside Park	
North	Steel City, Shiregreen lane	
South	Greenhill	Hoping it will improve with new green keeper!
South	Herdings Park	Vandalism has affected the quality of the bowling green however we are in the process of erecting a fence around the bowling green which should enable the gardeners to carry out improvements without their good work being undone by vandalism.
South	Meersbrook Park	
West	Crookesmoor	Not always cut and maintained as we would like but recently much improved.
West	Hollinsend Park	
West	Stannington Park	In previous years the green has been more consistent. I.e: speed of green etc. The work carried out for this year has proved helpful, but we feel that moss control has not been successful.



**12. If your club has a pavilion please indicate how satisfied or dissatisfied your club is with the condition of the building.**

Quadrant	park	
East	High Hazels	Fairly sat
East	Norfolk Park	Very sat
North	Concord Park	Fairly sat
North	Grenoside Park	<i>N/a</i>
North	Steel City,	Fairly sat
South	Greenhill	Fairly dis
South	Herdings Park	Very sat
South	Meersbrook Park	Fairly sat
West	Crookesmoor	Very sat
West	Hollinsend Park	Neither
West	Stannington Park	Very dis

**12(b). Why?**

East	High Hazels	Pavilion is regularly used by grounds maintenance during winter thus always a tip
East	Norfolk Park	Because it has all the facilities (toilets <i>mlf</i> ), microwave, hot cold running water-tea making facilities.
South	Greenhill	Kitchen in urgent need of updating flooring tiles need replacing. It is fairly new, meets all our requirements and is vandal proof.
South	Herdings Park	Window panels in the large room are being knocked out due to footballs being consistently kicked against them. Two windows in bowls room not yet replaced. Large hole in the wall still not repaired. General condition poor.
West	Stannington Park	

**13. PWC is keen to improve its community facilities, is there anything your club could do to improve the facilities you use?**

East	Norfolk Park	Well we are trying to get a lot of people into the game of bowls other than that not much.
North	Concord Park	No
North	Grenoside Park	We installed fencing on three sides of the green and we are now seeking funding for the fourth side to stop vandalism on the green
South	Herdings Park	At present we do not have the benefit of toilet facilities.
South	Meersbrook Park	New kitchen, toilets for disabled.
West	Crookesmoor	More signs asking public to keep off the bowling green (fencing is planned).
West	Stannington Park	Have recently spent approx £8,000 on new fence around the bowling green.

**14. Could you please tell us how many incidents of vandalism or anti-social behaviour your club has experienced in the past 12 months?**

<u>Quadrant</u>	<u>Dark</u>	no of incidents
East	High Hazels	3
East	Norfolk Park	
North	Concord Park	50+
North	Grenoside Park	many
North	Steel City,	2
South	Greenhill	6
South	Herdings Park	very many
South	Meersbrook Park	6+
West	Crookesmoor	numerous
West	Hollinsend Park	52
West	Stannington Park	numerous

**15. If your club has experienced vandalism or anti-social behaviour could you tell us about the most serious incidents?**

East	High Hazels	Youths causing a nuisance during club days- also some harassment of volunteers (limited).
East	Norfolk Park	Playing football on the greens sometimes it is local kids but also students have been seen and warned about playing football on the green but I have wrote letters to the college so this may solve the problem.
North	Concord Park	Pavilion was burnt out internally, and vandalised with personal property stolen.
North	Grenoside Park	Stones thrown over the fencing on to the green, football being played, golf divots taken out, balls deliberately thrown over the temporary fencing during play. A gathering point at the side of the green for youths to congregate, swearing and suspected drug taking and being abusive.
North	Steel City, Shiregreen lane	Car ran into fence.
South	Greenhill	Damage to green (removal of section of turf), riding bikes on green. theft of bird tables.
South	Herdings Park	Youths continually playing football on the green, youths throwing stones at members and guests while they are playing bowls. Police notified of all incidents.
South	Meersbrook Park	Playing football on green, breaking into fence (security) kicking rail out on pavilion.
West	Crookesmoor	Riding bikes on bowling green, footballers cutting up the surface- air gun pellets fired at bowlers- we kept an asbo diary last year and returned it to the police.
West	Hollinsend Park.	Mainly youths playing football or golf on the bowling greens
West	Stannington Park	Pavilion roof has been subjected to numerous attempts at vandalism as have the walls and windows. Two shelters on the bowling green have had to have replacement roofs, underdraw in stone shelter replaced twice. Damage to bowling green itself. Litter on green, foul language.

**16. Please indicate how satisfied or dissatisfied your club is with the booking system for the sports facilities?**

Hollinsend Park	Very sat
Herdings Park	Very sat
Stannington Park	Fairly sat
Meersbrook Park	Fairly sat
Concord Park	Very sat
High Hazels	Fairly sat
Grenoside Park	Very sat
Crookesmoor	Very sat
Steel City, Shiregreen lane	Very sat
Norfolk Park	Very sat
Greenhill	

**16(b). Why?**

Hollinsend Park	We have no complaints about the availability of the greens.
Herdings Park	We never have a problem.
Concord Park	No problems, straight forward system.
Norfolk Park	Because we have a pavilion now in which we can do the paper work properly.

**17. PWC reviews the sports charges annually, please indicate how satisfied your club feels about the fees you pay:**

East	Norfolk Park	Very sat
East	High Hazels	Neither
North	Steel City, Shiregreen lane	Fairly sat
North	Grenoside Park	Neither
North	Concord Park	Fairly sat
South	Greenhill	Fairly sat
South	Meersbrook Park	Fairly sat
South	Herdings Park	Very sat
West	Crookesmoor	Very sat
West	Stannington Park	Fairly sat
West	Hollinsend Park	Very sat

**17(b). Why?**

Hollinsend Park	We think the charges are reasonable.
Herdings Park	because the amount we pay enables us to provide our members with an affordable pastime. However the majority of bowlers are pensioners so every effort should be made to maintain an affordable fee.
Concord Park	Small increase from last year.
Norfolk Park	Because we feel the recreation dept up to now is doing a fine job on the bowling greens keeping them to a better standard.
Greenhill	Reasonable proportion of income.

**18. If your club is self maintained could you please tell us how much you spend per year in maintaining the bowling greens you are responsible for?**

(if you are not comfortable sharing this information please leave blank)

None of the clubs choose to respond to this question.

**19. Could you tell us about the positive affects the bowling facility you use has had on your members? ( health, social opportunities etc.)**

Hollinsend Park	All of our members have made new friends since joining the club.
Herdings Park	It has a huge benefit in helping to keep elderly citizens active both physically and mentally. We have eight active members in their eighties. Provides opportunities for members to meet and take part in a sport which provides exercise etc, which they would not normally experience.
Stannington Park	all these- health, social opportunities.
Meersbrook Park	Bowling can <i>offer</i> good opportunities for most ages to inter-react, and to socialise.
Concord Park	
Grenoside Park	Our members are mostly senior citizens and bowling is a way of keep mind and body active.
	Lifeline for some lonely people- obviously a health benefit for some, and recreational facility for many.
Crookesmoor	
	Well it gives them an outdoor sport and keep them occupied for a few hours each week.
Norfolk Park	
	Social activity within the club- and leading to other exercise. Promoting well-being and opportunity for socialising with general community.
Greenhill	

**20. The Council encourages casual use of the bowling greens, could you please tell us about any ideas your club has that would help us increase casual use?**

Hollinsend Park	No
Herdings Park	We are always trying to attract people to bowling and we will be having regular sessions with the kids from Valley School through out the summer.
Meersbrook Park	Don't charge anybody under 18.
Concord Park	Less vandalism, abuse, motorcycles within the park itself, particularly on match days.
High Hazels	Directions, signs to bowling green, advertising in ranger's stations.
Grenoside Park	Adverts in the local Grenoside news publication.
Norfolk Park	We would like to see children/teenagers come down and learn the sport of bowling.
Greenhill	Make the use of the greens free for casual use bowlers, we find public will not pay to bowl.

**21. Does your club have any ideas that would help you or another club increase casual use?**

Hollinsend Park	No
Herdings Park	I don't think our record qualifies us to <i>offer</i> advice in fact we would welcome any advice ourselves.
Stannington Park	No
Meersbrook Park	As above.
Concord Park	C.C. TV would prove useful, as people are put <i>off</i> playing due to verbal abuse, stone throwing etc.
Crookesmoor	Advertise in the university poster campaign.
Greenhill	Promote bowling by building an indoor arena (encouraging people to outdoor bowl in season).

**22. Could you please tell us how satisfied your club feels about it's communication with PWC staff? (i.e. Parks officers, grounds staff, sports attendants)**

East	High Hazels	Fairly sat
East	Norfolk Park	Very sat
North	Concord Park	Very sat
North	Grenoside	Very sat
North	Park Steel City,	Very sat
South	Greenhill	Fairly sat
South	Herdings Park	Fairly sat
South	Meersbrook Park	Fairly sat
West	Crookesmoor	Very sat
West	Hollinsend Park	Fairly dis
West	Stannington Park	Fairly sat

**23. Please tell us about any other concerns/feedback you may have:**

North	Concord Park	Length of time for general repairs to our facilities.
South	Herdings Park	We have had excellent funding help and advice from Joanne Mansell.
South	Meersbrook	Takes a long time for you to make a decision. Ie: waiting a reply about netting to keep footballs off top green, which we are prepared to buy. Etc
West	Crookesmoor	Vandalism and parking are the issues that concern us.
West	Hollinsend Park	Our only concern is how do we stop the vandalism.
West	Stannington	none

**Summary**

<b>Overall Satisfaction with PWC</b>	<b>percentage (%)</b>
Very satisfied	18
Fairly satisfied	64
Neither satisfied or dissatisfied	18
Fairly dissatisfied	0
Very dissatisfied	0
<b>Overall satisfaction with bowling green</b>	
Very satisfied	9
Fairly satisfied	64
Neither satisfied or dissatisfied	27
Fairly dissatisfied	0
Very dissatisfied	0
<b>Overall satisfaction with bowling pavilion</b>	
Very satisfied	30
Fairly satisfied	40
Neither satisfied or dissatisfied Fairly	10
dissatisfied	10
Very dissatisfied	10
<b>Overall satisfaction with booking system</b>	

Very satisfied	70
Fairly satisfied	30
Neither satisfied or dissatisfied	0
Fairly dissatisfied	0
Very dissatisfied	0

**Overall satisfaction with fees**

Very satisfied	36
Fairly satisfied	45
Neither satisfied or dissatisfied	18
Fairly dissatisfied	0
Very dissatisfied	0

**Overall satisfaction with communication with PWC staff**

Very satisfied	45
Fairly satisfied	45
Neither satisfied or dissatisfied	0
Fairly dissatisfied	0
Very dissatisfied	9

**Results of the 2005 Cricket Clubs Survey**

In total 7 clubs out of 20 asked for information responded.

**Key**

- Very sat= very satisfied
- Fairly sat = fairly satisfied
- Neither = neither satisfied or dissatisfied
- Fairly dis= fairly dissatisfied
- Very dis= very dissatisfied

Unless otherwise stated the results refer to one respondent only.

**1. Please indicate how satisfied or dissatisfied your club feels about the service provided by Parks, Woodlands and Countryside (PWC):**

**2. Please indicate which of the PWC Services your club has used:**

North	High Green PF	Bookings Sports facilities Greenspaces	Very dis sat
North	Ecclesfield Park	Greenspaces	Neither
North	Steel City	Greenspaces Trees/woodlands section	Neither
South	Millhouses	Small grants Greenspaces	Fairly Sat
South	Totley Bent	Sports facilities	Very dis sat
South	Whirlow	Sports facilities	Fairly Sat
West	Bents Green	Bookings Sports facilities	Fairly Sat

**3. How many members does your club have?**

**4. Of these how many are junior members?(under 18)**

<u>quadrant</u>	<u>Park</u>	<u>How many members</u>	<u>Junior members</u>
North	Ecclesfield Park	18	5

North	High Green PF	30	2
North	Steel City	16	1
South	Millhouses	35	0
South	Totley Bent	30	6
South	Whirlow	18	0
West	Bents Green	25	5

**5. How does your club encourage new members?**

North	Ecclesfield Park	word of mouth
North	High Green PF	word of mouth word of mouth
North	Steel City	Posters
South	Millhouses	word of mouth Local
South	Totley Bent	press/radio word of mouth
South	Whirlow	word of mouth Newsletter
West	Bents Green	word of mouth

**6. Which cricket facility does your club use?**

**7. Why does your club use it? (please tick as many as apply):**

North	Ecclesfield Park	Location Cost
North	High Green PF	Cost Accessibility by private transport
North	Steel City	Location
South	Millhouses	Been in use since early 1900s Cost Park setting Location
South	Totley Bent	Played there over 100 years.
South	Whirlow	Location
West	Bents Green	Location

**8. Please indicate how satisfied or dissatisfied your club is with the condition of the cricket facilities**

North	Ecclesfield Park	Neither
North	High Green PF	Fairly dis
North	Steel City	Neither
South	Millhouses	Fairly sat
South	Totley Bent	Very dis
South	Whirlow	Neither
West	Bents Green	Neither

**8(b). Why?**

North	Ecclesfield Park	
North	High Green PF	We are poor relations to football section based in this clubhouse.
North	Steel City	
South	Millhouses	
South	Totley Bent	Broken drains, no work on wicket, incompetent grass cutters, unaccountable staff.
South	Whirlow	Poor changing facilities poor pitch
West	Bents Green	1. Pitch not prepared on occasion. Generally quality of square is

poor. 2. Grass on outfield always too long. 3. Changing rooms never any toilet paper.

9. If your club has a pavilion please indicate how satisfied or dissatisfied your club is with the condition of the building.

North	Ecclesfield Park	Very sat
North	High Green PF	Fairly dis
North	Steel City	<i>n/a</i>
South	Millhouses	Fairly sat
South	Totley Bent	Very dis
South	Whirlow	<i>n/a</i>
West	Bents Green	Fairly dis

9(b). Why?

North		Dressing rooms dirty. Purpose built scoreboard ancient and dilapidated
North	Ecclesfield Park	
North	High Green PF	There is no building for cricket players
South	Steel City	We have a lease on the pavilion and carry out our own repairs.
	Millhouses	At present we need renewals by way of showers, floor covering and storage cupboards.
South	Totley Bent	
South	Whirlow	It was demolished never replaced
West	Bents Green	Poor condition and state repair. No facilities to offer refreshments to visiting teams.

10. PWC is keen to improve its community facilities, is there anything your club could do to improve the facilities you use?

North	Ecclesfield Park	We would like to help in any way that may improve the facilities.
North	High Green PF	Clean dressing rooms. Provide site screens. Protect wicket from vandalism.
North	Steel City	This is a new club for time being we can give you only ideas what to do. We do not have funds yet.
South	Millhouses	Floor covering, cupboards. boarding inside and showers
South	Totley Bent	
South	Whirlow	Offer labour force and expertise.
West	Bents Green	Put most things already noted

11. Could you please tell us how many incidents of vandalism or anti-social behaviour your club has experienced in the past 12months?

<u>Quadrant</u>	<u>park</u>	<u>no of incidents</u>
North	Ecclesfield Park	0
North	High Green PF	several
North	Steel City	0
South	Millhouses	none in last 12 months
South	Totley Bent	weekly by your tractor driver
South	Whirlow	0
West	Bents Green	0



12. If your club has experienced vandalism or anti-social behaviour could you tell us about the most serious incidents?:

North	Ecclesfield Park	During game parents of junior football section took possession of cricket ball the juniors were practicing on edge of field. Motorcycle tracks across cricket square 1st game of this season. At least one quad bike is being ridden on playing field while cricket in progress.
North North South	High Green PF Steel City Millhouses	Nothing happened yet. We take in benches and chain up freestanding equipment to eliminate vandalism and toilets are locked to discourage misuse but the square suffers from golfers, footballers and bikes. The stakes around the square are regularly stolen and/or dumped in the river. The rope cordoning the square is often stolen, graffiti on pavilion.
South	Totley Bent	Weekly by your tractor driver. Tractor driving across outfield. leaving dangerous ruts.
South West	Whirlow Bents Green	graffiti on changing rooms

**13. Please indicate how satisfied or dissatisfied your club is with the booking system for the sports facilities?**

Whirlow	Very sat
Steel City	Fairly sat
Ecclesfield Park	Very sat
Bents Green	Very sat
High Green PF	Neither
Totley Bent	Very dis
Millhouses	Very sat

**13(b). Why?**

Bents Green	Booking service always friendly and helpful.
Totley Bent	Telephone calls not returned. Passing the buck, unaccountable.
Millhouses	Simple if tedious form filling.

**14. PWC reviews the sports charges annually, please indicate how satisfied your club feels about the fees you pay:**

North	High Green PF	Neither
North	Ecclesfield Park	Fairly sat
North	Steel City	Neither
South	Millhouses	Very sat
South	Totley Bent	Very dis
South	Whirlow	Very dis
West	Bents Green	Fairly sat

**14(b). Why?**

Whirlow Steel City Ecclesfield Park Bents Green High Green PF Totley Bent Millhouses	Far too expensive for poor facilities provided  We would point out that year in year out the cost of the facilities has increased but the level of maintenance has gone down.  At this moment we do not know how much per game we will be paying this year. Value for money not provided. Reasonable and fair.
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**15. Could you tell us about the positive affects the cricket facility you use has had on your members? (health, social opportunities etc.)**

Whirlow Steel City Ecclesfield Park	Just social Health and fitness It has helped to keep us all fitter than we were, and has proved a good social event.
Bents Green	Social, extension of church activities. Good to meet teams from other churches.
Totley Bent Millhouses	Health, social, economic. Cannot understand the relevance of the question. Obviously there is a benefit to health in playing cricket if the alternative is doing nothing.

**16. Could you please tell us how satisfied your club feels about it's communication with PWC staff? (i.e. Parks officers, grounds staff, sports attendants)**

North	Ecclesfield Park	Very sat
North	High Green PF	Fairly sat
North	Steel City	Very sat
South	Millhouses	Very sat
South	Totley Bent	Very dis
South	Whirlow	Very sat
West	Bents Green	Fairly sat

**17. Please tell us about any other concerns/feedback you may have:**

North	Ecclesfield Park	We are concerned that the council have no park wardens to insure that football and golf are not played on the square and outfield. We are constantly asking people to move off the square but as we have no powers they choose to ignore our requests.
North	High Green PF	Thorncliffe juniors football section arranges football tournaments but for info from Shardlows secretary we would turn up for our home fixtures unaware ground unavailable.
North	Steel City	
South	Millhouses	We have always attempted to have direct contact with the local workers on site.

South South	Totley Bent Whirlow	Use of email is a big bonus but you need to respond more quickly.
West	Bents Green	

**Summary**

Overall Satisfaction with PWC

Very satisfied	0%
Fairly satisfied	43%
Neither satisfied or dissatisfied	29%
Fairly dissatisfied	0%
Very dissatisfied	29%

Overall satisfaction with cricket pitch

Very satisfied	0%
Fairly satisfied	14%
Neither satisfied or dissatisfied	57%
Very dissatisfied	14%
Fairly dissatisfied	14%

Overall satisfaction with cricket pavilion

Very satisfied	20%
Fairly satisfied	20%
Neither satisfied or dissatisfied	0%
Fairly dissatisfied	40%
Very dissatisfied	20%

Overall satisfaction with booking system

Very satisfied	57%
Fairly satisfied	14%
Neither satisfied or dissatisfied	14%
Fairly dissatisfied	0%
Very dissatisfied	14%

Overall satisfaction with fees

Very satisfied	29%
Fairly satisfied	0%
Neither satisfied or dissatisfied	29%
Fairly dissatisfied	0%
Very dissatisfied	43%

Overall satisfaction with communication with PWC staff

Very satisfied	57%
Fairly satisfied	29%
Neither satisfied or dissatisfied	0%

Fairly dissatisfied 0%  
 Very dissatisfied 14%

Results of the 04/05 Football Facilities Users Survey In total 41 people out of 185 who were asked for information responded.

### North Quadrant

#### Key

Very sat= very satisfied  
 Fairly sat = fairly satisfied  
 Neither = neither satisfied or dissatisfied Fairly dis= fairly dissatisfied  
 Very dis= very dissatisfied

Unless otherwise stated the results refer to one respondent only. In total 21 team secretaries responded from the north.

#### 1. Please indicate how satisfied or dissatisfied you are overall with Parks, Woodlands and Countryside Services (PWC):

#### 2. Please indicate which of the PWC Services you have used:

Angram Bank	Sports facilities Greenspaces Parks building	Fairly Sat
Ecclesfield Park	Bookings Sports facilities	Very Sat
Heliport	Greenspaces	Fairly Sat
Heliport	Bookings Sports facilities Greenspaces	Fairly Sat
Middlewood Park	Sports facilities Greenspaces	Fairly Sat
Middlewood Park	Bookings Sports facilities Greenspaces	Neither
Middlewood Park	Bookings Greenspaces	Neither
Oxley Park	Greenspaces	Fairly Sat
Parson Cross	Sports facilities Greenspaces	Fairly Sat
Parson Cross	Parks building Support for corn group Bookings Sports facilities Greenspaces Parks building	Very Sat
Parson Cross	Bookings Sports facilities Trees/woodlands section	Very Sat
Parson Cross	Bookings Sports facilities Greenspaces	Fairly Sat
Parson Cross	Sports facilities	Fairly Sat

Parson Cross	Parks building Bookings Sports facilities	Neither
Petre Street	Bookings Sports facilities Greenspaces	Fairly Sat
Shiregreen Lane	Sports facilities Greenspaces Rangers	Fairly Sat
Steel City	Sports facilities Greenspaces	
Steel City	Event Bookings	
Steel City	Sports facilities Greenspaces	
Thornclyff Rec	Bookings Greenspaces	
Thorpe Hesley	Bookings Sports facilities	

**3. What facility do you use and why do you use it?**

Angram Bank	Location Accessibility by private transport
Ecclesfield Park	Location Cost Accessibility by public transport
Heliport	Location
Heliport	Location Cost Quality
Middlewood	Location Cost quality
Middlewood	Location quality
Middlewood	Location
Oxley Park	Location
Parson Cross	Location Cost Park setting
Parson Cross	Location Cost Accessibility by public transport quality
Parson Cross	Accessibility by private transport Location Cost quality
Parson Cross	Location quality
Parson Cross	Location quality
Parson Cross	Location Cost quality

Petre Street	Location
	Cost
Shiregreen Lane	Park setting
Steel City	Location
	Accessibility by private transport
Steel City	Location
	Cost
	Accessibility by private transport
Steel City	Location
Thorncliffe Rec	Location
Thorpe Hesley	Location

**4. Please indicate how satisfied or dissatisfied you are with the condition of the sports facilities:**

Angram Bank	Fairly sat
Ecclesfield Park	Fairly sat
Heliport	Fairly sat
Heliport	Very sat
Middlewood Park	Fairly sat
Middlewood Park	Neither
Middlewood Park	Very sat
Oxley Park	Fairly sat
Parson Cross	Very sat x 6
Pentre Street	Fairly sat
Shiregreen Lane	Fairly sat
Steel City	Fairly sat
Steel City	Neither
Steel City	Very dis
Thomcliff Rec	Very dis
Thorpe Hesley	Very dis

**Why?**

Angram Bank	Unhappy with the amount of dog muck on pitch.
Heliport	Only one problem where we wanted to play a preseason friendly on the pitch but were not allowed to park cars in the car park. Changing rooms are very satisfied but inside windows cannot be opened and are in a state of disrepair.
Middlewood Park	
Middlewood Park	Booking system seems good enough. The football pitches are not maintained the way they should. Grass not cut often enough, also markings often not good enough. Not enough football pitches have proper stripping facilities, showers, lights etc. Football pitches not maintained to the required standard.
Parson Cross	There has always been someone in when booking football pitches, and changing rooms and area are always clean and tidy. My team Ecclesfield Greyhound have been penalised along with other clubs at PC even though other clubs even though we park properly. I get a quick response, help and advice. We use Parsons Cross which has excellent facilities now. They are new secure, clean and well maintained. can't use car park. When pitches are shared the cost should be

shared and not both of us playing full. This means you are receiving 2 payments for one pitch.

Petre Street Very satisfied until recently when car park to Parsons Cross Park was closed. I appreciate there have been problems with cars but an easier resolutions would be signs threatening fines if park in wrong place.

Shiregreen Lane Facilities- condition fine.  
Steel City New and well kept.  
Happy with the service received from David Judge but unhappy with the *issue* of parking at Parsons Cross on Sundays.  
Would be very satisfied if dogs were not allowed on steel city as at each home game we have to clear the mess left by dogs to make the ground safe for our children to play on.  
Some ruts in football pitches-potentially dangerous.  
The spaces have almost always been made available to a high standard.  
The changing facilities need up dating and the pitch is accessible to joy riders because it is not fenced off.

Thorncliffe Rec Pitch in bad condition, grass not cut regularly. Divets on pitch due to long grass.  
Thorpe Hesley Broken bottles, litter. Changing rooms are a mess, no showers, no electricity, old goal posts abandoned in our changing rooms.  
Poor condition of changing facilities and a pitch that is regularly left unmarked or badly marked out.

**5. Please indicate how satisfied or dissatisfied you are with the booking system for the sports facilities?**

Steel City	Fairly sat
Parsons Cross	Fairly sat
Middlewood Pari:	Fairly sat
Thorncliff Rec	Fairly sat
Ecclesfield Park	Fairly sat
Parson Cross	Fairly sat
Angram Bank	Fairly sat
Steel City	Fairly sat
Oxley Park	Neither
Thorpe Hesley	Very sat
Parson Cross	Very sat
Parson Cross	Very sat
Middlewood Park	Very sat
Shiregreen Lane	Very sat
Middlewood Park	Very sat
Parson Cross	Very sat
Heliport	Very sat
Petre Street	Very sat
Heliport	Very sat
Steel City	Very sat

**Why?**

Never had a problem.  
Normally the service is excellent but sometimes teams are double booked, this is not the parks fault but secretaries of some clubs do not adhere to the rules and forget to ring to book a pitch thus causing disruption for other teams.

David Judge provides a very good service.  
 Dealing with David Judge is a pleasure.  
 Booking system seems good enough.  
 I get a quick response, help and advice.

### East Quadrant

Unless otherwise stated the results refer to one respondent only. In total 5 team secretaries responded from the east

**1. Please indicate how satisfied or dissatisfied you are overall with Parks, Woodlands and Countryside Services (PWC):**

**2. Please indicate which of the PWC Services you have used**

East Park	Bookings	Fairly Sat
	Greenspaces	
Handsworth Rec	Bookings	Very Sat
	Greenspaces	
Handsworth Rec	Bookings	Fairly Sat
	Greenspaces	
	Sports facilities	
Reighead Farm Westfield School	Sports facilities	Neither
	Sports facilities	Very Sat
	Parks building	
	Greenspaces	

**3. What facility do you use and why do you use it?**

East Park	Location
Handsworth Rec	Location quality
Handsworth Rec	Location
Reighead Farm	Location
	Cost
Westfield School	Location quality Accessibility by private transport

**4. Please indicate how satisfied or dissatisfied you are with the booking system for the sports facilities?**

East Park	Fairly sat
Handsworth Rec	Fairly sat
Handsworth Rec	Very sat
Reighead Farm	Neither
Westfield School	Very sat

**Why?**

Handsworth Rec	Football is well kept, changing facilities excellent
Handsworth Rec	Changing rooms could be better. Could do with lighting and showers.
Reighead Farm	Pitch 1 reighead farm, grass never cut, lines never marked out,



showers cold all the time.

**4. Indicate how satisfied or dissatisfied you are with the booking system for the sports facilities**

Handsworth Rec	Fairly dis
East Park	Fairly sat
Reighead Farm	Very sat
Handsworth Rec	Very sat
Westfield School	Very sat

**Why?**

Never had a problem with pitch bookings.

Was satisfied with previous season but now schools own booking form and invoicing scheme has confused matters.

**South Quadrant**

Unless otherwise stated the results refer to one respondent only. In total 11 team secretaries responded from the south.

**1. Please indicate how satisfied or dissatisfied you are overall with Parks, Woodlans and Countryside Services (PWC):**

**2. Please indicate which of the PWC Services you have used**

Bents Green	Bookings	Fairly Sat
Bents Green	Sports facilities	Neither
	Greenspaces	
Graves Park	Bookings	Very Sat
High Storrs School	Bookings	Neither
	Sports facilities	
	Greenspaces	
Old Ashleigh	Bookings	Fairly Sat
	Sports facilities	
	Greenspaces	
St Aidens		Very dis sat
St Aidens	Greenspaces	Fairly Sat
	Sports facilities	
	Bookings	
Totley Hall Park	Sports facilities	Fairly Sat
Westfield School	Bookings	Very Sat
	Sports facilities	
Whirlow playing	Sports facilities	Fairly Sat
Whirlow playing	Bookings	Fairly Sat
	Sports facilities	
	Greenspaces	

**3. What facility do you use and why do you use it?**

Bents Green	quality
Graves Park	Location
	Park setting
	quality
	Accessibility by private transport

High Storrs School	Location
Old Ashleigh School Site	Location, Cost
St Aidens	Location
St Aidens	Location
Totley Hall Park	Location Cost Park setting
Westfield School	Location quality Accessibility by private transport
Whirlow playing fields	Location, Cost
Whirlow playing fields	Location Cost Accessibility by private transport

#### 4. Please indicate how satisfied or dissatisfied you are with the condition of the sports facilities:

Bents Green	Fairly sat
Bents Green	Very dis
Graves Park	Very sat
High Storrs School	Very dis
Old Ashleigh School Site	Fairly sat
St Aidens	Fairly dis
St Aidens	Fairly sat
Totley Hall Park	Fairly sat
Westfield School	Fairly sat
Whirlow playing fields	Fairly sat x2

#### Why?

Bents Green	Football pitches get overused.
Bents Green	Unsatisfied that we should pay £336 for Brents Green. Received an answer for questions most times-difficult to get hold of someone though when needed. Unsatisfied with pitch. Pitch unplayable most weeks-we were told we were getting an adult pitch it's too small (think it's a children's pitch).
High Storrs School	Lots of litter, football pitches poor size, poor drainage.
St Aidens	The pitch we play on rarely gets lined out or cut. Totley Hall Park The pitch is new and is still being seeded in parts the new drainage system does seem to be working well though. The Pitch does need a little work with reseeding and is a little uneven in parts.
Westfield School	Sports facilities are very adequate, however the only problem with pitch no. 5 at Westfield is that it is marked out too close to the field entrance. This corridor tends to become very water logged and boggy during rainfall. Our allocated football pitch was not marked out or goal posts erected on time at the start of the season. The problem was resolved until the middle of October.
Whirlow	Little if no maintenance during the season apart from the marking which suggests that economy rules (the markings are very thin and short lasting). The height of the crossbar on one pitch is clearly in breach of the laws of association football. The staff are fine, however I sense the service is considerably under funded. The football pitches at Whirlow are poorly drained, marked out and maintained. Vehicles are able to encroach on the pitches. They slope and undulate.

There appears to be little if no maintenance during the season apart from the marking which suggests that economy rules (the markings are very thin and short lasting). The height of the crossbar on one pitch is clearly in breach of the laws of association football.

**5. Please indicate how satisfied or dissatisfied you are with the booking system for the sports facilities?**

Whirlow playing	Fairly sat
High Storrs School	Fairly sat
Bents Green	Fairly sat
Westfield School	Fairly sat
Whirlow playing	Fairly sat
Old Ashleigh School	Fairly sat
Bents Green	Fairly sat
St Aidens	Neither
Totley Hall Park	Very sat
St Aidens	Very sat
Graves Park	Very sat

**Why?**

Fair system- 1st come 1st served on pitches.

Service is very courteous. If I have to leave a message on the answering service someone always returns my calls.

On a number of occasions there has been confusion with pitch bookings on one occasion we had the pitch booked for pm and a ladies team were advised that our allocated pitch was available for alternative pitch but the issue should not have occurred. I'm unsure that all staff at the center are consistent in using the booking system.

The booking system is easy and uncomplicated the staff are available and reliable.

**West Quadrant**

Unless otherwise stated the results refer to one respondent only. In total 3 team secretaries responded from the west.

**1. Please indicate how satisfied or dissatisfied you are overall with Parks, Woodlands and Countryside Services (PWC):**

**2. Please indicate which of the PWC Services you have used**

Bolehills	Bookings	Fairly Sat
	Sports facilities	
	Greenspaces	
Bolehills	Bookings	Fairly Sat
	Sports facilities	
	Greenspaces	
Stannington	Sports facilities	Fairly Sat
	Greenspaces	

**3. What facility do you use and why do you use it?**

Bolehills	Location
	Cost
	Park setting
Bolehills	Location

Stannington                      Cost  
    Location  
    quality  
    Accessibility by private transport

**4. Please indicate how satisfied or dissatisfied you are with the condition of the sports facilities:**

Bolehills                      Fairly dis  
 Bolehills                      Fairly sat  
 Stannington                      Fairly sat

**Why?**

Bolehills

Pitches are generally good but grass could do with mowing more often.

Bolehills                      Seen a reduction year on year on the quality and availability of sports and recreation facilities (especially parks). For what we pay the pitch is not as well maintained as we would like ie. Rocks on pitch, long grass, not always marked out enough.

Stannington                      Pitch to be cut more.

**5. Please indicate how satisfied or dissatisfied you are with the booking system for the sports facilities?**

Bolehills                      Fairly sat  
 Stannington                      Fairly sat  
 Bolehills                      Very sat

**Why?**

Accessibility good.  
 No hassle, courteous staff who respond to our needs quickly.

**Summary**

Overall Satisfaction with PWC

Very satisfied 17%  
 Fairly satisfied 61 %  
 Neither satisfied or dissatisfied 17% Fairly dissatisfied 5%  
 Very dissatisfied 0%

**Overall satisfaction with sports facilities**

Very satisfied 28%  
 Fairly satisfied 48%  
 Neither satisfied or dissatisfied 8%  
 Fairly dissatisfied 5 %  
 Very dissatisfied 13%

**Overall satisfaction with booking system**

Very satisfied 46%    Fairly satisfied 46%    Neither satisfied or dissatisfied 5%  
 Fairly dissatisfied 3%    Very dissatisfied 0%





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