

## APPENDIX D – NATIONAL GOVERNING BODY INFORMATION

<b>PROJECT:</b>	Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils Leisure, Sport and Physical Activity Strategy Update
<b>SUBJECT:</b>	National Governing Body Sport Information Supplied
<b>DATE:</b>	14/05/21

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**Table 1: NGB and updated audit information - Babergh**

Sport	Pitches (see Audit)	Clubs	Supply and Demand
Football	61 adult, 27 youth 11 v11 & 9v9, 31 mini 7v7 & mini 5 v 5, 7 AGP (126 total)	27 clubs (SFA data), 212 teams (49 adult male, 8 adult female, 77 youth male, 10 youth female, 4 disability, 64 mini soccer teams - LFFP 2020)	See PPS Action Plan and LFFP
Cricket	34 pitches total including 12 at schools and 3 at private clubs.	12 clubs, 11 affiliated 2021 (2 lost since 2015).	Suffolk Cricket comment – Sufficient capacity for current & future growth.
Rugby	38 Total including 23 at Schools	2 clubs Hadleigh – 13 teams (6 mini/midi, 5 youth, 2 adults). Sudbury - 17 teams (6 mini/midi, 8 youth, 3 adults).	No deficit in Sudbury but a 2 adult pitch deficit in Hadleigh
Hockey	5 AGP	1 club (Sudbury), 8 adult, 3 junior teams.	England Hockey comment – Sufficient capacity for current and future growth if current AGP retained. No requirement for additional AGP due to availability in Ipswich, West Suffolk etc.

Netball	51 total, 46 macadam and 5 AGP. 41 courts are on school sites.	4 Netball Clubs	
Tennis	99 total, 77 macadam and 22 AGP. 64 courts are on school sites.	8 registered LTA clubs. 693 registered members.	Holbrook Tennis Club have changed their agreement with Holbrook Academy
Badminton	8 (3+ courts) Sports Halls containing 38 courts (all available for some community use)	2 registered Badminton England Clubs	See Supply and Demand Assessment (Appendix 3). Badminton England supply and demand suggests 79 additional <u>court hours</u> per week by 2030.
Bowls	14 Bowls Greens	13 clubs (BE & SCBA websites)	

**Table 2: NGB and updated audit information – Mid Suffolk**

<b>Sport</b>	<b>Pitches (see Audit)</b>	<b>Clubs</b>	<b>Supply and Demand</b>
Football	73 adult, 26 youth 11v11 & 9v9, 31 mini 7v7 & mini 5 v 5, 5 AGP (135 total)	37 clubs (SFA data), 51 teams (72 adult male, 5 adult female, 96 youth male, 9 youth female, 1 disability, 68 mini soccer teams - LFFP 2020).	See PPS action plan and LFFP
Cricket	31 pitches total including 6 on school sites	14 affiliated clubs (2 lost since 2015)	Suffolk Cricket comment – Sufficient capacity for current & future growth.  Demand for specialist indoor cricket facility/winter nets – A14 west of Ipswich.
Rugby	13 total with 8 on school sites	2 clubs Stowmarket – 13 teams (6 mini/midi, 4 youth, 3 adults). Thurston – 2 teams (2 adult).	No deficit in either Stowmarket or Thurston
Hockey	5.5 AGP	1 Club (Harleston Magpies – 17 Teams 19/20, 28	England Hockey comment – Sufficient capacity for

		Teams 18/19) + Diss Greyhound HC (1 Team) play at Hartismere School in Eye	current and future growth if current AGP retained. No requirement for additional AGP due to availability in Ipswich, West Suffolk etc.
Netball	46 total, 33 macadam and 13 AGP. 32 courts are on school sites.	5 clubs registered in Mid Suffolk and 7 clubs play at Needham market courts, 22 teams, 200 regular female players.	NGB aspiration for more 4-6 ct facility to enable central venue.
Tennis	96 total, 72 macadam and 24 AGP. 42 courts are on school sites.	7 registered LTA clubs	
Badminton	9 (3+ courts) Sports Halls containing 32 courts (3 halls are private use only, only 22 courts are available for community badminton).	8 registered Badminton England Clubs	See Supply and Demand Assessment (Appendix 3). Badminton England supply and demand suggests 81 additional <u>court hours</u> per week by 2030.
Bowls	31 Bowls Greens	29 clubs (BE & SCBA websites) plus 3 without affiliation	

**Table 3: Key comments and themes from consultation with National Governing Bodies**

National Governing Body	Comments
Suffolk FA	<p><b>Priorities for Suffolk FA:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Male, female and disability pathways, quality of grass pitches, safeguarding &amp; refereeing.</li> <li>To revive the local game, focussing on clubs and affiliated player football both junior &amp; adults.</li> <li>Delivery of all aspects of the Babergh &amp; Mid Suffolk LFFP's, with appropriate partners, over the next 5-10 yrs.</li> <li><b>High priority</b> – 1-2 3G pitches in Stowmarket/Stowupland due to the scale of local club needs</li> </ul> <p>There are a number of significant clubs (high performing, with community outreach and/or facilities) with ambitions, which should be supported ie:</p> <p><b>Babergh</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>AFC Sudbury (facilities improvement)</li> <li>Capel FC (strong youth based community).</li> </ul> <p><b>Mid Suffolk</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Needham Market FC (Highest performing club in area with ambitions)</li> <li>Stowmarket Town FC (on the way up &amp; needing a home base for their youth teams).</li> </ul>

National Governing Body	Comments
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Smaller clubs with ambition include Claydon &amp; Walsham Le Willows.</li> </ul> <p><b>Challenges</b> Sustaining sufficient &amp; capable workforce &amp; volunteers is an issue for clubs. Back-office tasks, grounds maintenance and sitting on committees becoming more difficult to recruit to. Ageing/lack of time and satisfaction influencing commitment. Coaching generally attracts ongoing support by parents etc.</p> <p><b>Update on 3G Pitch Progress:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Stowmarket – Part of wider “live” discussions at emerging community sport working group. Town Meadow not suitable for MUGA/training facility due to access/space etc.</li> <li>• Stowupland – High School interest, but no recent progress.</li> <li>• Needham Market – Club aspiration for 2nd pitch on site to cater for growth. No recent progress.</li> <li>• Sudbury – “Live” current discussion with AFC Sudbury to provide 2nd pitch at their site.</li> <li>• Capel St. Mary – Football Foundation funding achieved for clubhouse improvements. Aspiration for 3G later.</li> <li>• Hadleigh – Working with Hadleigh TC to further consider Layham Rd. potential. Rugby Club now staying? Pavilion improvements!</li> <li>• Brantham – Interest for use of old factory site adjacent still aspiration.</li> <li>• Barham FC - Working with FF and B Par.Council to achieve new pitches/facilities at redundant picnic site.</li> </ul> <p><b>Key Investment Projects in Babergh and Mid Suffolk</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Achieving solution to Stowmarket Town’s youth pitch provision. Suffolk FA are working with Stowmarket Town Council to consider Millfield as site for good new grass junior pitches (base), plus toilets, car parking etc. (SFA Millfield project – HQ relocation &amp; new 3G unviable).</li> <li>• 3G provision – Priority for Stowmarket Town FC. Siting is funding/financially driven. Town Meadow (STFC) an option, behind the leisure centre/Stowmarket High School or Chilton Fields, unless new land becomes available. (Vision – Millfield nurse club, High Sch. Secondary Club, Town Meadow Pinnacle).</li> <li>• Use of SFA reserves now seeking to spread across projects rather than original large Millfield project.</li> <li>• General availability</li> </ul>
England and Wales Cricket Board	<p><b>Participation</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Since 2015, 4 of the 31/32 clubs have folded (Great Cornard in B, Hartest Coldham, Grundisburgh &amp; Coddham, &amp; Wortham in MS).</li> </ul>

National Governing Body	Comments
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Adults - Mens weekend cricket has reduced but weekday (mainly Wed. eves) short format cricket is increasing ie. Adult 20/20 &amp; recently u19's.</li> <li>Steady increase in Junior sections with 17 clubs now having junior sections and 6 having ladies sections. (which).</li> <li>Overall shift of emphasis from simply team-based clubs to developing as Community Clubs, wider participatory profile.</li> </ul> <p><b>Priorities/Challenges</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No significant unmet or latent demand for cricket</li> <li>Overall, there is a good supply across both district with capacity. ie. Sunday pms more availability due to reduction in Adult matches.</li> <li>Lack of women and girls changing.</li> <li>Sustaining existing clubs – recognition that each have different needs.</li> <li>County's Pitch Association support autumn renovation work. Value to smaller clubs.</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>National priority to protect the baseline of clubs</li> <li>Only 1 club per District</li> <li><b>Sudbury HC.</b> Based in Sudbury town, historic shared facility with Sudbury Cricket Club. Since sport moved to artificial pitches, they play on sand filled AGP at Thomas Gainsborough School (Great Cornard) – however there is no formal Community Use Agreement. Men's and Ladies adult first teams play at Eastern Premier level.</li> <li><b>Harleston Magpies HC.</b> Based in Weybread (just in MS on northern border with Norfolk). Large Club (600 members). Own their 2 pitch facility (Water based &amp; sand dressed AGP). Pavilion and space for expansion. Men's &amp; Ladies adult first teams play in National League.</li> </ul> <p><b>Widening participation</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Back to Hockey established, with Walking Hockey developing.</li> <li>Hockey Heroes (5-8yr olds) had a slow start locally last season but is developing.</li> </ul> <p><b>Demand</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Historic discussion about starting a Club in Stowmarket, but never really developed as sufficient Clubs available (4 in Ipswich to choose from, plus large club at Bury St. Edmunds (at Culford in West Suffolk). Plus easy access to Essex Clubs as hockey players used to travelling to choose right club for their approach/level.</li> <li>More recent awareness of hockey activity at Hadleigh High School. Well represented in County Emerging Schools hockey tournaments. To be further investigated.</li> <li>Hockey development mainly linked to level of interest/activity in Schools. Patchy in state provision, more established in independent schools.</li> </ul>

National Governing Body	Comments
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Overall, consider that there is sufficient club access within the area and developing a new sustainable club in the Stowmarket and Hadleigh is unlikely!</li> </ul> <p>Harleston have a working group exploring potential to develop an indoor facility to accommodate indoor hockey, training and potential use by other sports (dependent on size). They are aware of the SCC County Facilities Framework that refers to lack of regional size indoor sports hall ie. Badminton, Volleyball etc? In the meantime they are refurbishing their Pavilion to improve showers/changing and disability access.</p>
Rugby Football Union	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>There are no specific priority areas – at present the RFU is responding to those clubs under the greatest threat due to COVID.</li> <li>4 clubs: Hadleigh, Sudbury, Stowmarket and Thurston – all are important to the RFU to ensure their ongoing sustainability.</li> <li>Large increase nationally in participation by women and girls.</li> <li>Development work is demographically based i.e. using IMD indices. Therefore, most work is in more urban areas with a larger population than in Suffolk.</li> <li>No unmet/latent demand for Rugby. There is adequate pitch availability to cater for current demand.</li> <li>RFU supports 4 areas: pitches, clubhouses, floodlights and AGP's</li> </ul> <p><b>Projects</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Hadleigh - current “live” discussions re. the potential of a joint rugby/football AGP at Layham Rd. NB. Rugby/Football compliant AGP now available ie. Rugby requires shockpad. Lease on clubhouse only, pavilion Improvements?</li> <li>Sudbury – Previous AGP consideration waning. <b>(SA to catch up with SRUFC).</b></li> <li>Thurston – applying for/recently received? funding to extend changing and social facilities. (Pitches have capacity. NB. Football 3G planned for Thurston Community College adjacent – Opportunity?</li> <li>Stowmarket, also backed off from AGP consideration. Floodlight required. Secure lease.</li> </ul>
England Netball	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Babergh and Mid Suffolk are not a priority area for England Netball.</li> <li>All clubs in Mid Suffolk play at the Needham Market facility</li> <li>Thriving netball in Needham/Stowmarket area since refurbishment of NM Community Centre facility. Total: approx. 200 ladies and girls use it on a regular weekly basis.</li> <li>Popular sport, 3 leagues South Suffolk Netball League (12 mile radius of Ipswich, 100 teams), West Suffolk Netball League (Bury St Edmunds, 50 teams), Sudbury Netball League (Thomas Gainsborough School, smaller league).</li> </ul>

National Governing Body	Comments
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Aim to develop U11, U14 &amp; U16 county wide league. Central Mid Suffolk location preferred.</li> <li>• Catering for stifled growth of Suffolk Rockets as currently travelling to Manningtree (Tendring) to be meet match demands. (Hadleigh High School venue only outdoors as sports hall fully booked).</li> </ul> <p><b>Challenges</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lack of indoor courts availability (normally in school/LA sports halls) due to other sports use.</li> <li>• Poor condition of outdoor courts – mainly slippery surfaces therefore cancellations in wet weather high. No alternative venues.</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rebranding to make tennis more accessible, incl. Smart Gates technology builds on dive to open up LA/park courts, pay &amp; play/free use etc. Example - Abbey Gardens BSE).</li> <li>• Serves programme focusses on people from deprived areas. Established work with disabilities ref. Exning. Training up community leaders = Tennis for free coaching, working at park sites with min. 3 courts. BMS there is scope to do more.</li> </ul> <p><b>Challenges</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• General condition of outdoor courts – repair and maintenance, resurfacing etc.</li> <li>• Lack of pay &amp; play courts for casual use.</li> <li>• Lack of indoor courts availability (normally in school/LA sports halls) due to other sport.</li> <li>• Not enough coaches.</li> <li>• Keen to develop parks programmes further i.e. Norfolk link with leisure providers/operators to manage these.</li> <li>• Ensuring it recovers from Covid and continues to grow.</li> </ul>
England Athletics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Facilities Strategy - Moving away from 400 metre track focus (retain only), supporting compact athletics facilities, marked and measured running trails, off track running.</li> <li>• Off track priority - Aware of Stowmarket Striders, Hadleigh Hares, Capel Cheetahs, Sudbury Joggers &amp; Sudbury Tri Club.</li> </ul> <p><b>Challenges</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Safety is an issue in rural areas, particularly in winter – lack of lights and pavements. Non club running is hard to monitor, hence England Athletics are encouraging marked lit safe routes.</li> <li>• Ageing population – lack of volunteers, particularly officials;</li> <li>• Track &amp; field drop out – from 14-20 yrs;</li> </ul> <p><b>Opportunities</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Opportunity to explore a new/different offer, with social interaction at heart.</li> </ul>

National Governing Body	Comments
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Technology helping. Now linked with Strava. Building technology into tracks!</li> <li>• Compact Athletics – flexible facilities, suited to local specification – accessible &amp; cheap! (£150k ballpark). EA Facilities &amp; Planning Manager can assist with feasibility work &amp; technical guidance (Com. Ath. Pack). Some good examples, particularly in Europe of innovative builds.</li> </ul>
Swim England	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Swim England have moved from a disciplines-based staff structure to geographic based staff, concentrating on ‘facilities first’, reflective of the impact of Covid i.e. indoors facilities now at risk around re-opening/age &amp; condition of stock/sustainable futures.</li> <li>• B&amp;MS are a “concern” on the Water Deprivation Table, due to evidenced lack of water space across both districts.</li> <li>• Evidenced need in Babergh – Pool capacity currently reliant on private sector school access.</li> <li>• Additional water space (8/9 lanes) required in MS.</li> <li>• Swim England development work tends to be demographically based and B&amp;MS is not prioritised.</li> <li>• Support in identifying people and organisations to work with, is needed from LA’s.</li> </ul>
British Gymnastics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sudbury GC – Based in industrial unit south of town centre. Some regional representation.</li> <li>• Hadleigh Stars – Moved to Birch Farm venue in 2019? (Ex-Hadleigh High School). County level club.</li> <li>• Stowmarket – based at MSLC. Lowest representative level in area due to facility limitations. Long-term head Coach retiring.</li> <li>• All clubs in Suffolk have waiting lists except Stowmarket</li> <li>• Demand for a bespoke facility in Stowmarket</li> </ul>
Badminton England	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Babergh and Mid Suffolk is a key area because there are high participation levels in the Districts</li> <li>• For league play need a minimum 2 court venue</li> <li>• School access can be variable and inconsistent</li> <li>• County deficit of an 8 court Sports Hall</li> <li>• The lack of a Sports Development Officer in the Councils is a limitation for clubs.</li> </ul>
British Cycling	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ipswich is a priority area but Babergh and Mid Suffolk are not.</li> <li>• Focus on recreational riding, facilities &amp; partnerships</li> <li>• Awareness of a number of clubs including Hadleigh BMX, Great Blakenham Cycle speedway club, who use both their own and the Somersham tracks.</li> <li>• Across Suffolk there are 5 “Go Ride” school-based clubs. There are also 19 adult clubs. Generally low “Go Ride” school numbers in B&amp;MS.</li> </ul>



National Governing Body	Comments
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 10 fold increase in cycling through COVID</li> </ul> <p><b>Development initiatives</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Recreational “Breeze” &amp; guided rides nationally, although ltd locally;</li> <li>• Education and training focus in Suffolk. Working with SCC to develop “place based” partnering. Focus on communities with greatest need.</li> <li>• Suffolk (&amp; B&amp;MS) pro-active re Tour events. Used as activation initiative for cycling promotion ie. working with clubs on the route.</li> </ul> <p><b>Challenges</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rurality the issue. Limited support infrastructure ie. places to meet with bike hire, toilets, changing, cafe etc. Seek to designate spaces to build cycling in.</li> </ul>