

Planning for Sport in Harrogate, Knaresborough and Ripon

**Draft Notes from Working Group meeting at Council Offices, Harrogate,
5.30pm, Tuesday 9th February**

Present;

Cllr Pat Marsh (HBC)
Cllr David Parnaby (Mayor of Ripon, HBC)
Sue Dennison (Ripon City Football Club)
Mark Taylor (Pannal Sports FC and JFC)
John McGivern (Sports Development, HBC)
Lynne Garne (Harrogate District Sports Council)
Paul Ashfield (Harrogate Racquets Club)
Alec Porter (Rugby Football Union)
Brian Forshaw (Harrogate Rugby Union Football Club)
Chris Green (ALO, North Yorkshire Police)
Patrick Kilburn (Parks and Open Space, HBC)
Gordon Renton (Knaresborough Lions/Renaissance Knaresborough)
Andrew Wadsworth (West Riding Football Association)
Damien Smith (Harrogate Schools Sport Partnership)
David Sykes (Planning Policy, HBC)
Rachael Hutton (Planning Policy, HBC)

Apologies :

Cllr Richard Cooper (Cabinet Member for Cultural Services, HBC)
Richard Irving (on behalf of Ripon City Football Club)
Alan Williams (Harrogate Town Football Club)
Jo de Tute (West Riding Football Association)

Actions are given in emboldened and italicised text in the notes below.

Dave Sykes welcomed members to the meeting and introductions were made.

The notes of the previous meeting 4th November were approved by the group.

Agenda Item 4 Sites and Policies DPD : Revised Work Programme

The revised work programme for the DPD was outlined .

There was concern expressed that in terms of the rural areas, they were not being engaged in up front consultation and that they only had a chance to comment when decisions about land allocation had already been taken. It was explained to the group however that although there won't be opportunities to engage in meetings such as the working group because workload dictates that it couldn't be done all at the same time. The rural communities will have opportunities to comment before decisions will be taken.

Agenda Item 5 Options for increasing capacity for sport

Request made to let RH know if any of the members of the group did not want any of their comments (which were detailed in the summary of responses report) to be put on the Council website.

5a discussion of papers submitted by working group

Questions were invited on the summary of responses report.

There was discussion about multi-sports complexes. including the difficulties faced such as as car parking, use of the clubhouse at the same time. Examples were stated such as Manchester and Nuneaton where there were lots of problems. Ground sharing more easily achieved with professional clubs because of technology of the pitches. Back to back' is best option, but this still isn't ideal.

A lot of clubs share facilities but some opinion was that this was mainly rugby and cricket rather than rugby and football.

There was also discussion about Britain in Bloom money being used every so often for the provision of sporting facilities etc however the money comes from normal Council budgets.

There was discussion about the previous permission for tennis at Hay a Park , Knares alongside the existing use by Rugby. It isn't being pursued any more by Knaresborough Tennis Club as Sport England funding bid turned down due to lack of benefits. This area presents a good opportunity for joint working between the tennis and the Rugby however lack of investment is an issue.

5b update on position in Ripon

A verbal update of the situation in Ripon as a whole was given by Cllr Parnaby. Information was provided in terms of Ripon Rugby, Studley Cricket and Football, Ripon runners, Ripon Panthers and Ripon Tennis. There is no Ripon Hockey or Squash Club.

Brief discussion was had regarding ongoing problems associated with the Astro turf pitch at Ripon College. The Council is aware of the problems and it is presently being investigated by Estates and Legal.

A verbal update on the situation at Ripon City Football Club was given by Sue Dennison.

The Club have been on their present pitch since 1898 and they have 1 pitch and stand. They have no opportunities to expand but have 4 teams who need more facilities. They did have 7 teams but had to hire out pitches so were unable to keep the Youth Academy. The pitch is also continually used by the community including local schools, police etc. The club need bigger premises as they are only charter standard at the moment but want to progress.

Two alternative sites have been identified and the club is in discussion with landowners and planning. The present site would have to be sold for development to fund the relocation.

Ripon Rugby Club, who play next to the Football pitch, have expressed concern about the possible loss of this site to development and the possible impact it may have on their facilities and their need for space for their own needs.

5c Update from Damien Smith, Harrogate Schools Sport Partnership

Damian Smith introduced the School Sport Partnership and explained that it covered 63 primary schools, 9 secondary schools and Harrogate College. The main aim of the partnership is to encourage PE in schools and the opportunities for extra-curriculum activities.

There is a mixed picture about existing facilities. Some audits have been done by NYCC, Extended Schools. All the secondary schools have community use but they are done differently. The vast majority run themselves but Nidderdale High and Rossett have dual agreements. The indoor schedules for the secondary schools are very hectic.

The situation is very unclear for the primary schools and there is a lack of information about the use of the schools for community use.

Issues for the schools when considering community use include:

- models of management
- staffing/resource issues
- security
- insurance
- storage
- health and safety.

The barriers to increasing community use include;

- availability
- poor quality drainage prevents over use
- lack of floodlighting
- exam pressures
- high-cost staffing
- complicated legal/rental agreements.

Drivers that could increase community use include effective local policies, simple letting agreements, positive think of heads and good communication.

Audits need to be done to establish what individual schools think and what opportunities are available. Building Schools for the Future create possible future opportunities where secondary schools could be rebuilt or enhanced.

There was discussion that although it could not be seen as the full solution, increasing opportunities for community use of schools could provide some of the answers.

The Army Foundation College has wonderful facilities but there are obviously security issues. MOD have said that the facilities are available for one-off events but can't look at weekly sessions etc.

It is important to look at how we might help the schools improve facilities and introduce partnership working etc so that it can contribute towards future facilities.

Aspirations may not be met because of capital funding issues and therefore we must look at improving facilities so that we can meet demands.

There was some agreement however that we should be looking for the best solution and not make do and mend. Good facilities draw people to use them which increases membership.

Mobile changing facilities were also put forward as a suggestion to meet demand and also reduce issues such as vandalism etc.

It was felt that the working group should not look to solve all the problems of each club but make sure we concentrate on land allocation. There are a lot of operational issues which we can't get into in this group.

Meeting could not be concluded as further discussion needed about the options presented so it was agreed to reconvene the meeting in a few weeks time.

Date of next Meeting

Meeting to be reconvened in a few weeks time