

Stroud Playing Pitch Strategy

Stage C: FINAL NEEDS ASSESSMENT REPORT

for

Stroud District Council



Section 5 Rugby

The Set of Needs Assessment documents comprises:

- Stage B Database
- Stage C Sections 1 and 2: Introduction and Strategic Context
- Stage C Section 3: Football
- Stage C Section 4: Cricket
- Stage C Section 5: Rugby
- Stage C Section 6: Hockey
- Stage C: Section 7: Tennis and Bowls
- Stage C: Section 8: Key Findings and Issues Report

May 2019

5 RUGBY

5.1 This section assesses the adequacy of pitches for rugby in Stroud by presenting the following

- An overview of pitch supply
- An overview of demand for rugby
- The pattern of play of rugby
- A review of the capacity and adequacy of current provision, including an understanding of activity at individual sites
- The future picture of provision for rugby across Stroud

OVERVIEW OF PITCH SUPPLY

Quantity and quality ratings

5.2 The rugby pitches in Stroud are set out in Tables 5, together with their quality ratings. The letters in the 'Community Use' column signify the following, as set out in Sport England's latest Playing Pitch Strategy Guidance, October 2013.

- A Available for community use and used
- B Available for community use and unused
- C Not available for community use, as matter of policy and practice
- D Not available as disused. Any sites where pitches were once, but are no longer, marked out and remain undeveloped.

5.3 The score given to the overall pitch quality is based upon Sport England's playing pitch strategy guidance. There are two scores recorded on the assessment form: one is for pitch maintenance (frequency of aeration and surface dressing) and the other is for the type of drainage a particular pitch has (natural, pipe drained, pipe and slit drained, unknown). Also noted but not scored on the assessment forms are qualitative and ancillary information (length and coverage of grass, size of pitch, problem areas, condition and safety of goal posts, and availability of changing, floodlighting and car parking)

5.4 The maintenance (M) scores of the pitches are either M0 (poor) where it is indicated that required 'action is significant improvements to maintenance programme', M1 (adequate) where required 'action is minor improvements to maintenance programme' or M2 (good maintenance). The scores increase to reflect the frequency of the maintenance regime, with the maximum possible score of 15. Drainage (D) ratings are recorded as D0 (natural inadequate) where required 'action is pipe drainage system needed on pitch', D1 (natural adequate) where required 'action is pipe and slit drainage needed on pitch' or D2 (pipe drained) where required 'action is slit drainage needed on pitch'. D3 is a pipe and slit drained pitch, where no action is needed.

Table 5.1: Rugby pitches in Stroud with quality ratings and ratings by clubs

Ref No	Owner Manager	Name	Senior rugby	*Mini/Midi	Training area	Community	Rating D/M	Comments VQA	Club rating/comments
SDCD.05	Sports Club	Dursley Rugby Club	3	3	1	A	#1 D2/M1 #2 D2/M1 #3 D1/M1 *Mini pitches = D2/M1	3 full size + 3 mini/midi + training area. No issues pointed out but top pitch – lots of weeds. Main pitch is one by cricket pitch. Floodlighting is the training area (paddock – 3 lights) and top pitch (5 lights) – 10 years old Changing rated as good.	Club rate pitches as good on all indices. Satisfied with overall provision. Rate changing as good.
SDSV.88	Sports Club	Minchinhampton RFC	2	1	1		#1 D2/M1 #2 D2/M1 *#1 D1/M1	Smart, newly constructed clubhouse; sloping site	Club rated pitches as acceptable and changing facilities likewise.
SDSV.89	Sports Club	Stroud RFC (Fromehall Park)	1		¼ pitch size		#1 D2/M2	1 full size pitch with match floodlighting + quarter of a pitch for training with partial floodlights – Quality good. Spectator seating and rather tired looking changing /clubhouse	Showers and changing areas are old, tired and much in need of refurbishment. All indices poor apart from overall quality and cleaning (acceptable)

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Ref No	Owner Manager	Name	Senior rugby	*Mini/Midi	Training area	Community	Rating D/M	Comments VQA	Club rating/comments
SDCF.24	Sports Club	Painswick RFC	2		Small		#1 D2/M1	<p>2 adult rugby – one fully floodlit and 2nd pitch partially floodlit....very faint markings for 3 mini/midi pitches around cricket square. Lack of functioning floodlights.</p> <p>Maintenance by contractor and in-house. Training area not floodlit</p>	<p>Club say drainage good – all other aspects either good/acceptable</p> <p>Club rated changing as acceptable.</p>
SDSV.79	Parish Council	Victory Park (Cainscross RFC)	1				#1 D2/M1	<p>VQA: single sloping pitch which drains well with smart new changing. Two lights pointing up the pitch from the dead ball line – about 25% of pitch covered - 2 years old. Changing next to pitch; one pitch club.</p> <p>Club comments pitch is generally in good condition and rates drainage as good; all other indices good/acceptable, but site suffers from dog fouling and litter.</p>	<p>Rugby club rates all aspects of changing as good apart from ability to cater for men and women separately (acceptable) and cleaning (acceptable)</p> <p>New changing rooms are acceptable but some key aspects need to be learnt from in design for future projects.</p>
SDWO.45	Community Trust	Wotton Sports Centre/Community Parc	1				#1 D2/M1	<p>1 school rugby pitch (small), rated as good. Parc site, training floodlights (4 sets; each side; 8 years old) and grass quality not as good; prone to waterlogging.</p>	<p>Cleaning good; showers, poor; all other indices acceptable. Rugby club say: We use the school/sports centre at KLB. Changing rooms are ok for us to host another team. When the Hockey teams are also home</p>

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Ref No	Owner Manager	Name	Senior rugby	*Mini/Midi	Training area	Community	Rating D/M	Comments VQA	Club rating/comments
								<p>Club say drainage good; other indices acceptable/poor</p> <p>When the pitch was laid, there was only funding to drain or level the pitch. Drainage was chosen. We maintain the pitch and mark it. Car parking is catered for by the School car park. one set of posts has been repaired in the last 12 months</p>	things are tight and we have to manage KO times to allow for all. Showers can sometimes loose pressure. Could cater for Mini & Youth, but not on Saturday afternoon when adults are home.
SDSV.01	Education	Archway School (used by Stroud RFC jnrs)		2					Used by Stroud RFC juniors and minis – full range u6 – u16 – about 10 matches each per season., Club say pitches drain well.
SDST.43	Education	Maidenhill School	1				# D1/M1		No recorded community use
SDSV.16	Education	Marling School	2	1					No recorded community use
SDCD.25		Norman Hill (Rednock School)	1					Sole remaining marked pitch on off-site school playing fields. Rusty posts	No community use and minimal school use.
SDSV.44	Education	Thomas Keble School	2						Apparently available for community use but have been able to clarify. No use at present.

Commentary on Rugby by Cluster

5.5 Findings for rugby pitch quantity in Stroud are:

- 11 sites containing rugby pitches are identified in Stroud, with a total of 23 pitches.
- 4 of these sites (7 pitches) are on school sites with no recorded community use (Marling School, Maidenhill School, Norman Hill (Rednock School) and Thomas Keble School.
- There are two schools which have community use: Wotton Sports Centre Community Park – 1 adult pitch and Archway School – 2 not quite adult size pitches. Together with the other 5 sites, there are thus 16 pitches with community use: 10 adult and 6 mini/midi.
- Stroud RFC (Fromehall Park) and Minchinhampton RFC are the only two sites catering exclusively for rugby.
- Archway School is an important educational site that regularly caters for rugby matchplay – this season, all Stroud RFC's u6 – u16 teams are playing there.

5.6 As regards quality:

- No playing surfaces were regarded as being less than acceptable. Comments from the clubs are also considered as part of the quality assessments.
- The best rated pitch was Stroud RFC's ground at Fromehall Park (D2/M2) (This pitch has been identified by the RFU for an aeration programme) The lowest rated pitches were #3 at Dursley Rugby Club and the midi pitch at Minchinhampton RFC. The pitches at Archway School were not assessed although Stroud RFC who use them say they drain well. All other pitches scored D2/M1, meaning that they can accommodate 2.5 match equivalent sessions a week.
- There were no issues around the drainage of the pitches. The main quality issues concerns floodlighting:
 - Dursley RFC: The capacity of this site would be increased by better floodlights on the training area and also floodlighting of Pitch 2 (Pitch 1 is floodlit, although lights are 10 years old)
 - Painswick RFC – The main pitch is floodlit and the 2nd pitch is partially floodlit; improving these floodlights would increase capacity and is supported by the RFU
 - Wotton RFC - RFU has supported club with small grant for floodlighting. Currently applying for higher, permanent lighting stations
- Changing facilities were either rated adequate or good throughout, other than at Stroud RFC, where the showers and changing areas are old, tired and much in need of refurbishment. At Wotton Sports Centre, there is tremendous pressure on changing facilities when hockey, football and rugby teams are playing; this situation has been highlighted by all clubs playing there.

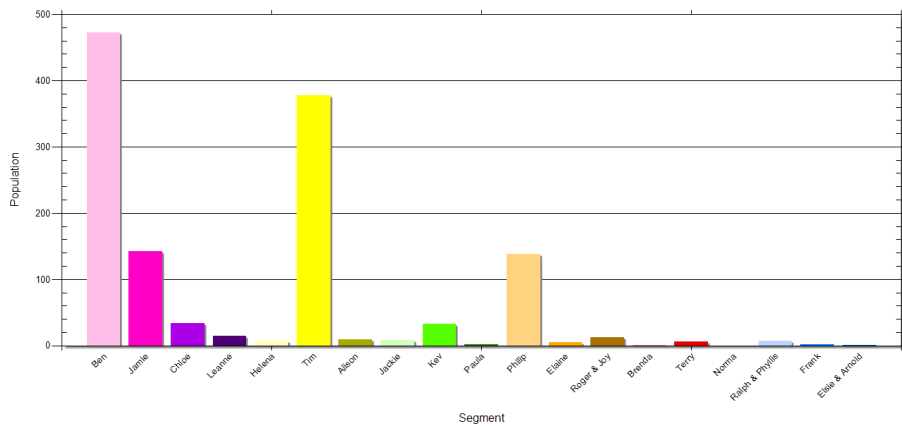
OVERVIEW OF DEMAND

Demand and Latent Demand for Rugby Union

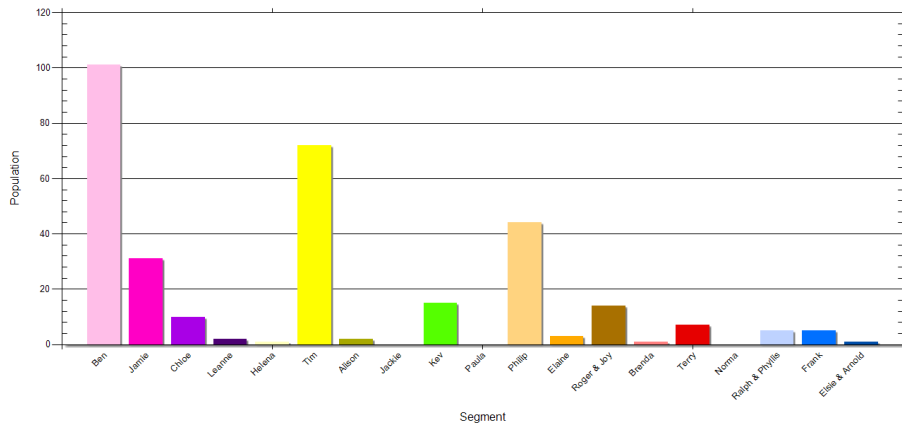
5.7 From the Sport England Market Segmentation data the charts below show:

- the numbers of the adult population in Stroud within each market segment group that **currently participate** in rugby (1272).
- the numbers of the adult population in Stroud within each market segment group that **are wanting to participate** in rugby (314).

Population within catchment area participating in: Rugby Union 



Population within catchment area wanting to participate in: Rugby Union 



5.8 The key participants in rugby in Stroud come from those market segments groups that are most likely to play rugby nationally. However, the relative proportion of the population that participates from each group differs from national rates due to the make-up of the local population. For rugby, the main market segmentation groups in Stroud are:

- **Ben:** competitive male urbanite, mainly aged 18-25, single, graduate professional.
- **Tim:** settling down male, mainly aged 26-45, married or single, professional

- **Philip:** comfortable mid-life male, mainly aged 46-55, married with children, full time employment and owner occupier.
- **Jamie:** sports team lad, mainly aged 18-25, single, vocational student.

5.9 The following tables sets out rugby teams in Stroud:

Table 5.2 Rugby Teams in Stroud

Sub Area	Club	Adult			Youth							Mini/Midi Teams							
		Adult Men TOTAL	Ladies TOTAL	Vets	Colts	Girls	U17	U16	U15	U14	U13	Not specified	U12	U11	U10	U9	U8	U7	TOTAL
SDCD.05	Dursley RFC	3	1		1			1	1	1	1		1	1	1	1	1	1	15
SDSV.88	Minchinhampton RFC	3			1			1	1	1	1		1	1	1	1	1	1	14
SDSV.89	Stroud RFC	2			1			1	1	1	1		1	1	1	1	1	1	13
SDCF.24	Painswick RFC	1				1		1	1	1	1		1	1	1	1	1	1	12
	'Cainswick' (Painswick & Cainscross shared)	1																	1
SDSV.79	Cainscross RFC	1										1							2
SDWO.45	Wotton RFC	1																	1
	TOTAL	12	1		3	1		4	4	4	4	1	4	4	4	4	4	4	

5.10 The main points are:

- There are 6 clubs in Stroud fielding a total of 58 teams - 17 adult and colts and 41 mini/midis.
- Four of the clubs run the whole range of adult, youth and mini/midi teams. Cainscross RFC and Wotton RFC currently run one team each. There is a joint initiative supported by Glos RFU to run a 'Cainswick' team jointly between Painswick and Cainscross RFCs; this XV will play 4 matches this year – 2 at Painswick and 2 at Cainscross.
- All clubs running junior teams said they have increased the number of teams they run over the past 3 years, other than Dursley RFC who have remained the same.
- Painswick RFC is the only club to currently run a women's/girls' team.

5.11 As regards trends in membership over the last 3 years, clubs indicated the following:

- Dursley RFC – static
- Minchinhampton RFC – static, but juniors increased
- Painswick RFC – decreased in adults – older players not available and not enough younger ones coming through to maintain older youth teams
- Stroud RFC: membership increasing across the board because of successful recruitment and retention
- Cainscross RFC– decrease in men's numbers at 2nd XI often compounded by not the right level of playing opposition, but numbers have increased slightly this year with the 'Cainswick' initiative
- Wotton RFC – membership staying the same

CAPACITY

Assessing the Supply and Demand Information and Views

5.12 Senior rugby is played on Saturday afternoons, with minis and midis/Colts on Sunday mornings.

5.13 For rugby, supply and demand is measured by considering;

- the amount of play that a site is able to sustain (based upon pitch quality and the facilities and pitches available);
- how much play takes place;
- whether there is any spare capacity at the site based upon a comparison between the capacity of the site and the actual usage; and
- any other key issues relating to the site which have arisen through provider and user consultation.

5.14 Both the supply of pitches and the demand for pitches is measured through the use of match equivalents to ensure that a comparison is possible. To fully understand activity on a site, consideration is given to both;

- the adequacy of pitch provision over the course of a week; and

- capacity of a site to meet additional demand at peak time.

5.15 For rugby, this analysis is based upon the following principles;

Capacity over the course of a week

- it is assumed that a team playing home fixtures every other week would generate the equivalent of 0.5 match equivalents per week (one fixture every other week). Match equivalent values are also used to measure the use of pitches for training, as well as the impact of use by educational establishments and casual access. 90 minutes of training is 1 match equivalent.
- the RFU sets a standard number of match equivalent sessions that natural grass pitches should be able to sustain without adversely affecting their current quality (pitch carrying capacity). This is based upon the drainage system installed at the site and the maintenance programme used to prepare the pitches.

5.16 The guideline theoretical capacity for rugby pitches is summarised in Table 5.3

Table 5.3: Theoretical Pitch Capacity Ratings (RFU)

		Maintenance		
		Poor (M0)	Standard (M1)	Good (M2)
Drainage	Natural Inadequate (D0)	0.5	1.5	2
	Natural Adequate (D1)	1.5	2	3
	Pipe Drained (D2)	1.75	2.5	3.25
	Pipe and Slit Drained (D3)	2	3	3.5

Matchplay

5.17 The following team types and age groups are identified.

- Senior teams (19 to 45 yrs)
- Youth teams (U13 to 17yrs),
- Colts teams (U18 to U19yrs) and
- Mini/Midi teams (U7 to 12)

5.18 As youth rugby is played on a senior pitch it is categorised, for capacity assessment purposes, as equivalent to a senior match.

5.19 If a mini/midi team plays on half a senior pitch every week for half the time of a senior match then it may be appropriate to record the use as a quarter (0.25) of a senior match equivalent session a week against the senior pitches on a site. This would enable the demand to be captured against the senior pitches on a site where the play takes place while reflecting the limited impact on the quality and capacity of the pitches compared to the senior play. Usually if minis are at home one week, juniors will play away and vice versa.

Training

5.20 Rugby union has a strong culture of training on floodlit natural grass pitches on weekday evenings; the same pitches that are also used for matches at weekends. Therefore training has to be considered in terms of match equivalent sessions. As a guide:

- teams training on one pitch on one evening = one match equivalent session.
- One training session = 90 minutes
- A typical floodlit pitch may be used on 3 evenings per week for training. The number of training sessions per week per pitch should be established.

5.21 Table 5.4 below sets out the capacity analysis for rugby on a club by club basis.

MINCHINHAMPTON RUGBY CLUB (SDSV.89)

Adult – 2 pitches	Matches	2	Training	3.25 4.0	Other		Education	
#1 D2/M1	Carrying Capacity	2.5 x 2 = 5.0	Community Use Total	5.25 6.0	Spare capacity in week	0	Spare capacity peak time	0
1 junior	Matches	1.5	Training	0	Casual		Education	
#1 D1/M1	Carrying Capacity	2	Community Use Total	1.5	Spare capacity in week	0.5	Spare capacity peak time	0
1 training area	Matches		Training		Casual		Education	
	Carrying Capacity		Community Use Total		Spare capacity in week		Spare capacity peak time	

Being played to the level the site can sustain although training on adult pitches means these pitches are technically overplayed

Matches: 1st XV (14); Rams (12); Tups (2); Colts (7); u7, u8, u10, u11, u13 and u16 (6 each); u9 (7); u12 and u14 (5); u15 (8)

Training: 1st, Rams and Tups = 20 sessions on main pitch; Touch – 52 sessions – half on pitches in summer and half at Wycliffe College (winter); u13s to Colts; 10 sessions on pitches; u6-u12 – 12 sessions on training area

		Matchplay	Training	
1st XV	14	54	Once a week on main pitch	1 ME
Rams	12		Once a week on main pitch	1 ME
Tups (friendlies)	2			
Colts	7		10 sessions on main pitches	0.25-0.5 ME
U16	6		10 sessions on main pitches	0.25 0.5 ME
U15	8		10 sessions on main pitches	0.25 0.5 ME
U14	5		10 sessions on main pitches	0.25 ME
U13	6	42 matches on junior and mini pitch	10 sessions on main pitches	0.25 ME
U12	5		On training area	
U10 - u11	6 x 2			
-u9	7			
U7 – u 8	6 X 2			
			Touch – 52 sessions – half on pitches in summer and half at Wycliffe College (winter);	

DURSLEY RUGBY CLUB (SDCD.05)

Adult – 3 pitches	Matches	3	Training	0	Other		Education	0
#1 D2/M1 #2 D2/M1 #3 D1/M1	Carrying Capacity	2.5+2.5+2.0 = 7	Community Use Total	3	Spare capacity in week	4	Spare capacity peak time	1
Mini – 3 pitches	Matches	2	Training		Casual		Education	
# D2/M1	Carrying Capacity	3 X 2.5 = 7.5	Community Use Total	2	Spare capacity in week	5.5	Spare capacity peak time	2

Potentially able to accommodate some additional play at peak times – a little at peak time on the adult pitch and more on the mini pitches.

Matches: 1st XV (11); 2nd XV (9); 3rd XV (5); Ladies (7); Colts (12); u7 & u9s (8 each); u8 (6); u10-u13 (10 each); u14 & u16 (9 each); u15 – 7.

Training: Elsewhere on the ground ('The Paddock' – an unmarked, dedicated, floodlit training area)

MATCH PLAY

	Matchplay	Training	
1st XV (11)	69 MATCHES IN TOTAL	Elsewhere on the ground and Rednock School 3G Oct - Feb	
2nd XV (9)			
3rd XV (5)			
Ladies (7)			
Colts (12)			
u15 – 7			
u14 & u16 (9 EACH)			
u10-u13 (10 each)	52 MATCHES		
u8 (6)			
u7 & u9s (8 each)			

STROUD RUGBY CLUB (Fromehall Park - SDSV.89 and Archway School – SDSV.01)

Adult – 1 pitches	Matches	2.50	Training	2	Other	0	Education	0
#1 D2/M2	Carrying Capacity	3.25	Community Use Total	4.50	Spare capacity in week	-1.25	Spare capacity peak time	0
¼ SIZE PITCH FOR TRAINING	Matches		Training		Casual		Education	
	Carrying Capacity		Community Use Total		Spare capacity in week		Spare capacity peak time	
Archway School – 2 pitches D1/M1	Matches	2	Training		Casual		Education	3
	Carrying Capacity	2 x 2.5 = 5	Community Use Total	5	Spare capacity in week	0	Spare capacity peak time	0

Pitch being overplayed, as accommodates matches from u13 upwards and adult teams. U7 – u13s use Archway School for matches.

Matches: 1st XV – 13 matches, 2nd XV - 10; Colts – 10; u6 – u12 – c.65 matches in total; u13 – u16 – c33 matches in total, as below.

Training: 1st & 2nd XV training twice a week on main pitch; other 11 teams train once a week on training area

		Matchplay	Training	
1st XV	13	33 MATCHES IN TOTAL	Twice a week on main pitch & training area	1 ME
2nd XV	10		Twice a week on main pitch & training area	1 ME
Colts	10		Once a week on training area	
U16	5	33 matches – some on main pitch at Fromehall Park if possible.	Once a week on training area & off site	
U15	9		Once a week on training area & off site	
U14	12		Once a week on training area & off site	
U13	9		Once a week on training area & off site	
U12	10		Once a week on training area & off site	
U10 – u11	20		Don't train	
U7-u9	30		Don't train	
U6	5			

PAINSWICK RUGBY CLUB (SDCF.24 – Broadham Field)

Adult – 2 pitches	Matches	2.5	Training	8	Other		Education	0
#1 D2/M1	Carrying Capacity	2.5+2.5 = 5	Community Use Total	10.5	Spare capacity in week	0	Spare capacity peak time	0
Mini/Midi – 3 pitches	Matches	2	Training	3	Casual		Education	
# D2/M1	Carrying Capacity	3 X 2.5 = 7.5	Community Use Total	5	Spare capacity in week	2.5	Spare capacity peak time	0

Technically overplayed main pitch and no spare capacity on mini/midi pitches at peak time

Matches: 1st XV – 12; 2nd XV – 8; u11-u16 – 10 each; u8-u10 – 8 each; u6/7 and women's/girls – 5 each

Training: U16 & u15 train once a week on main pitch; 1st XV and 2 XV (twice a week) u14 and u13 on 2nd pitch; 7 other teams on training area/mini pitches

		Matchplay	Training	
1 st XV	12	55 MATCHES IN TOTAL	Twice a week on 2 nd pitch	2 ME
2 nd XV	8		Twice a week on 2 nd pitch	2ME
Ladies/Girls	5		Once a week on mini/midi	
U16	10		Once a week on main pitch	1ME
U15	10		Once a week on main pitch	1ME
U14	10		Once a week on 2 nd pitch	1 ME
U13	10		59 matches	Once a week on 2 nd pitch
U12	10		Once a week on mini/midi	1 ME
U11	10		Once a week on mini/midi	1 ME
U7-u10	29		Once a week on mini/midi	1 ME

CAINSCROSS RUGBY CLUB (SDSV.79 – Victory Park)

Adult – 1 pitches	Matches	1.25	Training	3	Other		Education	
#1 D2/M1	Carrying Capacity	2.5	Community Use Total	4.25	Spare capacity in week	0	Spare capacity peak time	0

A little spare capacity for matchplay, but with training the site is being played to level the site can sustain. Only one pitch means that when having 2 games this often means (expensive) hire of external facilities

Cainscross RFC – 1st XV (Glos 2 North) ; 2nd XV non-league 'Cainswick). Minis (u6 and u7) & u11. Mixed ability – no matches yet

Stayed the same; 30/60/10%

Matches: 1st XV – 11 matches; 2nd XV – 2 at Cainscross and 2 at Painswick.

Training: 1st XV twice a week on main pitch; minis and mixed ability once a week on main pitch

		Matchplay	Training	
1 st XV	14		Twice a week on main pitch	2 ME
2 nd XV	4			
U11		Just train	Once a week on main pitch	1ME
U7				
U6				

WOTTON RUGBY CLUB (SDWO.45 Wotton Sports Centre Community Parc)

Adult – 1 pitches	Matches	0.5	Training	1	Other		Education	0.25
#1 D2/M1	Carrying Capacity	2.5	Community Use Total	1.75	Spare capacity in week	0.75	Spare capacity peak time	0.5

One team currently based here so some spare capacity including at peak time.

Matches: One team, plays 12 matches p.a.

Training Once a week on pitch.

		Matchplay	Training	
1 st XV	12		Once a week on main pitch	1 ME

5.13 The conclusions on capacity are:

- Minchinhampton RFC: Being played to the level the site can sustain although training on adult pitches means these pitches are technically overplayed
- Dursley RFC Potentially able to accommodate some additional play at peak times – a little at peak time on the adult pitch and more on the mini pitches.
- Stroud RFC – adult pitch at Fromehall Park is being overplayed as accommodates matches from u13s upwards and adult teams. Lower age groups play off site on the two pitches at Archway School which are at capacity as a result.
- Painswick RFC: Technically overplayed main pitch and no spare capacity on mini/midi pitches at peak time
- Cainscross RFC: A little spare capacity but with training, the site is probably being played to the level it can sustain.
- Wotton RFC: One team currently based here so some spare capacity including at peak time.

FUTURE PICTURE OF PROVISION

5.14 The future requirement for rugby pitches will be impacted by several factors, including;

- A Changes in participation trends and in how pitch sports are played;
- B Changes to the number of people living in the area and / or to the demographic profile of the population;
- C Consideration of latent, unmet and displaced demand
- D Trends in participation and club specific development plans and aspirations; and
- E Amendments to the current facility stock either through the provision of new pitches or the loss of current pitches.

A Changes in participation trends and how the sport is played

5.15 Whilst focusing on maintaining its core market of 15v15 senior teams, the RFU is actively promoting its variants of the game for younger players – touch and tag rugby and '7s' and also looking to develop more recreational and social rugby during the summer. This is likely to increase the numbers of junior teams and possibly summer activity for adults, which may cascade down to increase participation during the winter months.

5.16 There are also changes in the type of facilities now being used for rugby. Clubs are aspiring to use AGPs more for training, to reduce the impact on the grass pitches for training, thus enabling grass pitches to accommodate greater intensity of match play. In addition, clubs are now considering the possibilities of using World Rugby accredited AGPs for competitive fixtures. However, at present the programme of delivering such facilities is being reappraised by the RFU, and so this is not a consideration for Stroud area at this time.

5.17 The remaining factors B – E are now considered in turn for Chichester, in order to build a picture of future demand for playing pitches.

B Population change in Stroud District

5.18 The analysis of ONS population projections for Stroud shows that:

- Whilst the overall population of Stroud District is predicted to increase by 16,355 (13.7%) over the 22 year period 2018-2040, the number of people in the overall 'active participation' age group (5-69 years) is also projected to increase, but at a lower rate (i.e. by 3,954 or 4.2%).
- The age group within the 'active participation' group that are projected to see the greatest increase in numbers in the period to 2040 is the 10-19 years age group (youth/junior pitch sports), which is projected to increase by 12.2%.
- The main age band for adult pitch sports (20 – 34 years) is predicted to show an increase of 5%.
- The age group predicted to see a decline in numbers in the period to 2040 is the 46-54 years age group (adult and vets pitch sports) by -3.8%.
- The implications of these projected changes are explored further within the 'Future Demand' sections for each individual pitch sport.

Team Generation Rates

5.20 Team Generation Rates (TGRs) indicate how many people in a specified age group are required to generate one team. TGRs are derived by dividing the appropriate population age band by the number of teams playing within that area in that age band. By applying TGRs to population projections, we can project the theoretical number of teams that would be generated from population growth and gain an understanding of future demand. The TGR for men's rugby in Stroud is 1036 (i.e. 1036 men in the 19-45 year age group needed to generate a team) and for juniors (13-18 years), the TGR is 345.

5.21 Team Generation Rates for rugby have been used to assess the potential impact of projected changes to the population profile from the proposed future housing provision allocations. However, these are not presented on a cluster basis as the number of teams are too small.

5.22 On this basis and rounding teams to whole numbers; by 2040 it can be expected that through population growth from new housing there will be an additional 4 men's, 1 ladies and 4 junior rugby teams across the district as a whole.

C Consideration of latent, unmet and displaced demand

5.23 The Active People and Market Segmentation (mentioned earlier in this section) can also be used to estimate the numbers of the population who would like to play (or would like to play more - 314). This suggests that there is potential to increase adult rugby participation by up to 25%. (from the numbers that are estimated to currently play – 1272). This latent demand is from residents in the main market segments that currently play.

5.24 Given current TGRs. this would not result in an increase in the number of teams, but may result in larger squad sizes or existing players playing more often.

D Trends in participation and club specific development plans and aspirations

5.25 All the clubs in Stroud say they are keen to run more teams, although a lack of coaches and other club volunteers and shortages of pitches (in particular in Stroud) mitigates

against this. In particular, clubs continue to want to grow their youth sections; Stroud RFC wishes to introduce a Ladies team. We have estimated aspirational growth to be 5% for adult play and 10% for junior play, as with other pitch sports.

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR RUGBY IN STROUD?

Table 5.6 Summary of Latent, Displaced and Future Demand for Rugby in Stroud

Reason for more teams	Men's teams	Women's teams	Youth Boys teams	Youth Girls teams	Mini/Midi teams
Population growth to 2040	4	1	3	1	5
Latent demand	No increase in the number of teams, but may result in larger squad sizes or existing players playing more often.				
Aspirations/Unmet demand	2	1	1	1	2
TOTAL	6	2	4	2	7

**Teams rounded to nearest whole number*

- 5.26 As the TGR for rugby is so always so high, it is very difficult to project an increase in the number of teams through new housing/population growth. The growth is most likely to come through existing rugby clubs, or the formation of a new club with its own facilities.
- 5.27 The analysis has demonstrated that existing pitches are nearing capacity. Each club has particular issues in terms of accommodating growth in demand – some sites with the addition of floodlighting may be able to accommodate more matches, but there are particular pinchpoints for Minchinhampton RFC, Painswick RFC and Stroud RFC, and any increase at Cainscross (with just one pitch) will be difficult to accommodate.
- 5.28 There are some additional rugby pitches at schools, but it does seem that most avenues for securing greater use of school sites have been explored. Stroud RFC did use Maidenhill School rugby pitches in the past, but is currently focusing use on Fromehall Park and Archway school in an effort to bring some cohesion to the club. However, it does desperately require additional provision, ideally 4 rugby pitches in total and sites have been sought throughout Stroud for some years. Possible sites can be discussed further; one such site is an area of land between Fromehall Park and the Marling School sports ground, adjacent to the Howdens Joinery Industrial Park
- 5.29 Therefore, taking into account likely growth in demand and the requirement to provide accessible permanent rugby pitches for Stroud RFC youth teams, it is estimated that 6-7 additional rugby pitches will be required (4-5 adult/youth) and 2 mini, plus 3-4 pitches for accommodating Stroud youth teams on one site.

AGPS FOR RUGBY

- 5.30 Several rugby clubs in Stroud train on 3G FTPs – notably Dursley RFC who train at rednock School (and Wotton) and Minchinhampton RFC train on the sand based AGP at Wycliffe College. However the provision of additional AGP training facilities for rugby has not emerged as an issue. The improvement of floodlights will provide greater capacity on training areas at certain grounds..
- 5.30 AGPs are also becoming recognized surfaces for matchplay for rugby. They need to be World Rugby Regulation 22 compliant, and can be used by football as well, although

the dimensions are slightly bigger than a football compliant 3G AGP. The cost of a rugby compliant 3G is also higher as the posts are larger, so that they can cost between £100-£150k more than a football compliant 3G. However, they can accommodate both sports for matchplay and training, and can also meet demand for training from American football. When rugby is to be played on surfaces it is advisable to have an artificial grass pile length of 60mm with a 15mm-25mm rubber shock pad laid beneath the all weather carpet and artificial rugby pitch.

5.31 Any club's aspirations to create an AGP to reduce the impact on the grass pitches for training would ensure that the capacity of grass pitches to accommodate other match play and training would be increased. A World Rugby Regulation 22 accredited AGP would also be usable for competitive fixtures.

5.32 Further information sought from the RFU on the status of this programme.

5.33 *For list of priority issues and sites for rugby and summaries of key issues by each site, please see Section 8.*