

# Waveney District Built Sports and Recreational Facilities Assessment and Strategy

September 2016

## Appendix 3: Consultations



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# 1: Stakeholder Consultation Event

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## CONSULTATION WORKSHOP LOWESTOFT

### MEETING AT KIRKLEY CENTRE 19 APRIL 2016

#### NOTES AND MAIN POINTS (to be read in conjunction with PowerPoint presentation) Present

16 members of the local sporting community mainly from WDC/Sentinel, local clubs, operators, town/parish councils, NGB (tennis) and other groups.

MP/DP

Matt Stebbings (Sentinel LT), Paul Martins (squash), Peter Collecott (Oulton CC), Betty Jarrold/Emma Harris (Waveney Over 50s club), Lionel Miller (squash), Louise Lockett/Sharon Inglis/Alf Dyer /Donald Carr (Beccles Royales Gym Club), Jack Green/Jill Tyler (Carlton Colville), Corinna Glennester /Peter Swan (LOBSC), Darren Clarke (LTA), Clare Bishop (Nuffield Trust).

naa gave a presentation outlining the aims of the strategy and some key features of the District on sports participation trends and the hard data on sports facility provision. Purpose being to set the scene for the discussions and provide a strategic overview.

#### Main points:

- Why is the strategy restricted to indoor/built sports facilities and not outdoor pitches etc? MP stated that an outdoor sports and PPS was understood to have been completed for Waveney recently and this was not the remit of this study. However, the links with the outdoor strategy need to be made to ensure that any cross over is noted and implementation and priorities of each are established.
- Can we ensure that WDC will implement the findings of the current playing pitch and this indoor strategy? The response provided was this will be an important part of the overall process. Also that Waveney Council and Sentinel Trust are committed to improving the sporting and recreational facilities offer but it is the job of all stakeholders in the district to implement and action, not just the Council – it is intended as a strategy for Waveney as a whole.
- Beccles Gym club was formerly at Beccles Sports Centre, but has recently moved to an industrial unit at Ellough. Membership has increased from 40 to 120. The club needs additional equipment, including mats. There are current planning issues affecting the full use of the venue, including traffic. The club is looking to improve its facilities and increase access to the club by a relaxation of the planning conditions. MP and DP arranged to visit the club the next day to understand the club operation and the reasons for the planning conditions.
- There are some management issues with existing facilities which probably are outside the scope of the strategy brief but nonetheless are important to users:
  - Existing squash provision in Lowestoft is good, but Waterlane LC courts are poor (hole in front wall, leaking roof). Beccles courts are ok, but there is indiscriminate use by non-registered players, and a need for preventative maintenance

# 1: Stakeholder Consultation Event

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- Squash membership has increased at Waterlane since the courts were built. When Water Lane was refurbished, squash was not in the plans

- There is over use of Waterlane pool for learn to swim sessions and this impinges on the ability of the swimming club to develop swimmers. The club needs to get young swimmers in the pool at 5.30 to train, but the opening time is later and this is restricting club development
- Waveney 50+ group – the strategy needs to address the needs of sports that are attractive to older people. There are maintenance issues at WDC/Sentinel facilities that are difficult/slow to resolve, as well as poor quality of some facilities (e.g. nets) and unacceptable fee increases. There needs to be better communication between managers and users
- The swimming equipment at Waterlane pool is unacceptable (e.g. timing system, blocks)
- There is a lack of adequate late night catering at Water Lane LC.

The comments on the operational issues at Waterlane were noted and reported to Claire Henwood at Sentinel Leisure Trust. It is understood that Sentinel will hold a club and users' group meeting to understand and address these operational issues.

- The overcapacity of some facilities expressed by MP in presentation is probably over stated – existing facilities need to accommodate a range of different users, including clubs and casual users
- Village halls are important venues for sport outside the main towns, and information on their use and availability would be welcomed by MP and DP
- naa does not underestimate the importance of these operational issues at Waterlane in constraining clubs and groups wishing to play and develop their sport. However, the meeting was dominated by operational issues at Waterlane and there was a missed opportunity for the audience to set out their views on the need for indoor sports facilities – what, why and the role they could play in development of sport and recreation for district residents
- All attendees were invited to submit any views about the strategy to MP and DP by e mail.

## **CONSULTATION WORKSHOP BECCLES**

### **MEETING AT BECCLES SPORTS PAVILION 20 APRIL 2016**

#### **NOTES AND MAIN POINTS (to be read in conjunction with PowerPoint presentation)**

##### **Present**

12 members of the local sporting community mainly from, local clubs, operators, town/parish councils and other groups.

MP/DP

David Hall (Beccles SC/Sir John Leman Sch), Barrie Remblance, Wendy Summerfield (Worlingham PC), Trish Rumsby/Francesca Rumsby (Waveney Roller Skating Club), Andy Woodcock/Keith Beevor (Beccles FC), Leslie Beevor (Beccles Town SC), Alan Peck (Lowestoft TT club).

## Main points:

- Why is the strategy restricted to indoor/built sports facilities and not outdoor pitches etc? There is an active football club in Beccles with 402 players and 32 teams, with a need for outdoor facilities, but also a desire for somewhere to play futsal. MP explained that the remit for the strategy from WDC was a built facilities strategy, and agreed that clarification should be made to ensure that the scope of the study only includes built facilities for indoor sports. It would be unlikely that a facility for futsal (which is a large structure) would be a priority for the Beccles area, even if mainly outdoor sports were being considered. MP referred to the recently produced outdoor sports and PPS which addressed the needs of football and other sports. But was unable to comment fully on this as naa were not responsible.
- Beccles is the fastest growing part of Waveney, and there is additional new housing development to be accommodated, all of which needs associated community infrastructure. There is a feeling that the rural towns in Waveney are not treated as equitably by WDC as Lowestoft. MP/DP agreed that the needs of all parts of the district would be addressed, but this needs to take into account demand and supply – Lowestoft itself represents about half of the total population of Waveney and would therefore be likely to have a higher demand for sports facilities than say Beccles with around 10,000 population.
- There is a need to consider the provision of additional pools in the area. A 50m pool would be desirable, though the justification for this was questioned by DP/MP. Any project proposal is most likely to be on the basis of combining future swimming needs with a review of existing swimming pool provision. So combining current and projected future swimming needs with a review of how existing pools are meeting demand. This could lead to pool rationalisation with development of a new pool which could be a 50m pool, or, a new 25m 6/8 lane pools. This is most likely to happen where there is a swimming demand, combined with a review of the existing swimming pool stock in meeting current and future demand, with a core business case. Initial provision of new pools in areas where there is no pools is, as everyone knows, a much harder proposition to combine a swimming demand and need with a business case that demonstrates long term viability in terms of meeting the costs of construction and operation. The proposal for a 20m community pool in Halesworth was commented on at the meeting and challenged on the 20m pool length in meeting a full range of swimming activities. The Halesworth project along with all areas of Waveney will be part of the strategy assessment work.
- The Waveney TT club is in need of additional storage at existing venues. Not only is storage space limited at venues but often the size of storage areas along with other equipment being stored does mean tables are left in corridors. Often this causes them to be damaged.
- The views of clubs are essential to the development of facilities - MP/DP agreed that clubs have an important role, but also stressed the need for casual and recreational use to be included in the overall assessment. The Sport England participation data does identify an increasing trend for more participating based on individual activities such as gym, dance and exercise classes. These have to be included at venues as well as club use by particular team and individual sports.
- Roller skating is an important sport in Waveney, and the existing club requires increased access to venues which can accommodate it in terms of size of venue and particularly a solid floor surface. Ideally roller skating requires a space larger than a 4 court sports hall. Often the club cannot negotiate more access because of competing and higher income from other sports and activities. It is noted that roller skating has mass appeal to

young people and the future focus on increasing participation in strategies is likely to be on young people.

- Southwold and Reydon are not well provided for indoor sports facilities, although there is a new health and fitness gym on the business park. It is noted the St Felix's school does provide for some community use but this is mainly for individuals who wish to join school clubs. This applies particularly to the swimming pool.
- Can we ensure that WDC will implement the findings of the current strategy? MP/DP said this what the Council has said and they are a very important player. It is also the role of all stakeholders in the district to engage in the delivery as the strategy is for Waveney District.
- The importance of village halls in providing for informal sport and physical activity was stressed.MP/DP explained that a survey of village halls and community centres is an integral part of the strategy and a bespoke survey has been sent to all venues to collect core information and providing an assessment of the role these venues play. MP/DP stressed the importance of Town and Parish Councils' completing and returning these survey forms.
- It was noted that there are about 25 sites put forward for new housing in the latest stage of the Waveney Local Plan. DP and MP agreed to find out the current position of housing sites in the district.
- MP/DP were criticised for not appearing to take into account the views of those present. MP/DP said that all comments received were being noted and would be included in the strategies progression with Waveney District Council. MP and DP stressed the importance of the needs assessment being the first stage of work. Once projects are identified and agreed in the strategy then there has to be a feasibility study for each project. The degree of detail depends on the type of project, for example establishing and securing more access at venues for particular sports is obviously more straightforward than a feasibility study for a new project development. However in all cases the demand and need has to be integrated with a business case and demonstrate long term viability. It is the importance of all these parts of project development that MP and DP were trying to communicate. It is acknowledged we did not communicate this clearly at some stages of the meeting.

#### Actions agreed

- If any clubs represented at the workshop (or indeed anybody else) wish to provide detailed information on their current provision and future needs for inclusion in the strategy, please e mail David or Mick at [d.payne10@btinternet.com](mailto:d.payne10@btinternet.com) or [mick@neilallenassociates.co.uk](mailto:mick@neilallenassociates.co.uk) .
- Aspirations for future provision will be based on an assessment of need and where there is long term viability for any project. The strategy will set out the needs for each sports facility type in the project scope. Any subsequent project development be it new or development of existing facilities will be subject to further feasibility to ensure there is long term viability.
- The emerging local plan and potential housing development areas will be researched to ensure that community sports facilities are integral, and developers are be required to make their contributions towards positive sports provision. (Note: follow up after the meeting and discussion with WDC Planning. This confirmed that the District Council is currently consulting on housing sites put forward for development. The findings will be reviewed (2016) and locations/scale of new development will be determined in the

new Local Plan which will be consulted on in 2017 and the WDC aim is to adopt this in 2018).



## 2: National Governing Body Consultations

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- 2.1 As survey form requesting the views of each National Governing Body (NGB) for the sports included in the study was sent. This requested views on the needs for their sport in Waveney, any priority projects, details of investment and comments on the existing facility provision.
- 2.2 The survey form was sent to the NGB's for swimming, squash, seven individual and team hall sports, gymnastics, tennis and indoor bowls. Only one response was received from the England indoor Bowling Association (EIBA). This is set out in full below and it provides the headings for the information that was asked form all the other NGB's. Follow up e mails were sent to each NGB but this did not generate more responses.

## Indoor Bowling

<b>Relevant plans and strategies (Context)</b>	<b>INDOOR BOWLS (Indoor level Green Bowls) – English Indoor Bowls Association Ltd (EIBA)</b>
What are your Whole Sport Plan priorities? (List high level outcomes etc)	<p>As per the PDF attached dated September 2014, our Vision states:</p> <p>EIBA Outline Plan 2013-17</p> <p>The EIBA plan covers the following areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Recruit and Retain 50+; Recruit and Retain 70+ - two different markets which requires us to find a way to grow both specific groups. The 50+ requiring new versions/formats – the 70+ wishing to keep the current formats.</li><li>• Facilities – Build, Improve, Retain, Operate; Volunteer support with skills training</li><li>• Youth and the Family</li><li>• Women – increased participation and retention</li><li>• Disabled</li><li>• Competitions</li><li>• Internationals</li><li>• Promotion of our Sport</li><li>• Alternative sources of income</li><li>• Manpower to fulfil the Plans</li></ul> <p>EIBA Objectives</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• A growth in participation across the adult population in local Communities. Targeted work to increase Female participation</li><li>• A growth in participation in the 14-25 age range, plus working with Primary Schools (Year 3 &amp; 4 – age 7 to 9)</li><li>• The provision of an excellent sporting experience for new and existing participants</li><li>• A growth in Indoor Bowls participation by people who have disabilities</li></ul> <p>Running alongside our work is the Sport England Funded Development work provided jointly by the Indoor NGB (EIBA); Outdoor NGB (Bowls England) and the “Bowls Development Alliance” (BDA). Each NGB has two Directors on the Board of BDA.</p> <p><u>BDA work is summarised as follows:</u></p> <p>The plan focuses on working in identified Hot Spot areas where there is both a high density of those 55 years and over and a proven latent demand for bowls.</p> <p>The Plan concentrates on the following areas:</p>

- a growth in participation across the adult population (55+)
- an excellent sporting experience for existing participants to keep them playing Indoor Bowls
- a growth in participation of those who have disabilities

For the first time there are packages of funding available across the whole country to help clubs recruit new members specifically over 55 years of age.

There will also be health related projects and an improvement in opportunities for those with a disability.

This award builds on the work of the BDA over the past two years and provides an opportunity to grow the sport of Bowls particularly of those coming up to early retirement who are looking to take up a new activity that will keep them fit and active.

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Other Bowls NGB's that are currently not part of the Development Body

- British Crown Green Bowling Association (BCGBA)
- English Short Mat Bowling Association (ESMBA)
- English Bowls Federation (EBF)

Relevant plans and strategies (Context)	INDOOR BOWLS (Indoor level Green Bowls) – English Indoor Bowls Association Ltd (EIBA)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>English Carpet Bowls Association (ECBA)</li> </ul> <p>Full details can be found at <a href="http://www.playbowls.org">www.playbowls.org</a> and the Sport England website – <a href="https://public.sportengland.org/b2bengage/Shared%20Documents/Bowls%20Development%20Alliance%202013-17%20WSP%20Summary%20Document%20FINAL.pdf">https://public.sportengland.org/b2bengage/Shared%20Documents/Bowls%20Development%20Alliance%202013-17%20WSP%20Summary%20Document%20FINAL.pdf</a></p> <p>Like all Sports NGB's, the two Bowls NGB's and BDA are currently in discussion with Sport England with regards to Funding until 2021.</p>
Is Waveney a priority area for your sport?	We consider that there are sufficient Indoor Bowls Facilities in this Local Authority area.
Does your sport have a facilities strategy (please provide link)	<p>No – both EIBA and Bowls England are in discussion with Rosie Benson (Relationship Manager NGBs Facilities &amp; Planning). We are finalising a Joint project entitled “Bowls Market Research” which entailed Consultant led discussions with Indoor &amp; Outdoor Clubs, Local Authorities and Leisure Operators.</p> <p>Our “facility strategy” remain as outlined in the Vision, plus the development of an effective partnership with Local Authorities/Leisure Providers. From this we will develop an overall Facility Strategy.</p>
What strategic facility statements does your WSP or strategy include (list)	See above
Is Waveney identified in this? If so, please summarise here and insert web link if possible.	All Four Indoor Clubs are Affiliated to the EIBA. Three are “traditional bowls clubs” whilst Gunton Hall Resort (Alias of Warner Gunton Hall Indoor Bowls Club” is primarily a Holiday Leisure Facility with only a very small number of “declared members”.
Is there a more specific NGB local facility plan or strategy? Please list these and attach weblink or electronic copy;	Our Indoor County Associations do not have any involvement in such matters. “Competitions Pathway” is their role.
Please list any specific local priorities in these plans	N/a
Does your plan have any capital or revenue investment earmarked for this area? Please list.	We do not have any facility Capital or Revenue funding for Clubs. We do provide Coaching Bursaries.
Any other comments?	None

## 2. Facility supply

<p>Do you have sufficient QUANTITY of facilities for your sport in Waveney? Are there any specific requirements such as competition venues? Please list the key venues used.</p>	<p>The existing sites meet our Needs.</p>
<p>Are the facilities well located and ACCESSIBLE to meet the needs of your sport? If there are any areas with access issues or geographical gaps in provision please list.</p>	<p>The existing sites meet our Needs.</p>
<p>In your assessment what is the QUALITY of the existing facilities? Are they 'fit for purpose'? Please summarise here.</p>	<p>We have not recently undertaken a site visit to any of the Venues. In 2012 we circulated a Facility Audit to all Clubs. The Clubs rated the following matters as "POOR":  <b>BECCLES – Council owned Car park, Lighting in car Park, Signage to Club</b>  <b>CARLTON ROAD/LOWESTOFT RAILWAY – Car Park</b></p>
<p>AVAILABILITY: does your sport own or control facilities? Do you rely on school facilities? Council facilities? HE/FE facilities?  Please describe which applies</p>	<p>As an NGB we do not own or control any of the Club Indoor Bowls facilities that are affiliated to us.  None of the Four facilities are in "Council or School/HE or FE" sites.  Beccles has a Lease from Waveney DC</p>
<p>How available are the facilities that you use when you need them?  How easy is it to access school/HE and FE facilities?  Any other issues e.g. pricing, quality, general availability?</p>	<p>As the NGB we do not currently use any of the Facilities for National Competitions Finals. Warners Gunton Hall has been used for a National Finals in the past.</p>
<p>Are any of the facilities your sport uses at risk? Are you aware of any planned developments which will change the SUPPLY? For example, threatened with closure; change of surface; change of operator/ownership? Please list.</p>	<p>We are not aware of any of the Clubs being currently "At Risk"</p>
<p>Any other comments?</p>	<p>None</p>

## 3. Demand issues

<p>Please provide an overview of your sport in Waveney eg club membership. How important is your sport in Waveney?</p>	<p>Looking at the last three years "Declared Levy Membership Figures", we have seen small annual reductions.  Beccles and Lowestoft Railway have a number of entries in national Competitions. Beccles, Lowestoft Railway and Sole Bay take part in County events.</p>
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### 3. Demand issues

Please provide any insight you have on latent and future demand in Waveney. <del>Rother</del> . Are any interventions planned that will increase demand for facilities?	Like the NGB, our Clubs have a similar strategy of maintaining membership numbers and if possible increasing the number of Participants. As the Sport is very attractive to the older population, “natural wastage” can have an adverse effect of membership numbers.
Any other comments?	None

### 4. Summary/conclusions

What are the key challenges and opportunities for your sport in Waveney?	<p>Challenges – see 3.2</p> <p>Opportunities – looking at “Market Segmentation Population Data” and the Projection to 2019 in “local sports profile” data, we would envisage a greater opportunity to attract older people to our sport (being our traditional customer base which generates the majority of Income for our Clubs).</p> <p>MS Population Figures: 40776    56 to 66+ (43%) 13766    46-55 (15%)</p> <p>Total: 54542    46 to 66+ (58%)</p>
What are the facility priorities for your sport in Waveney <del>Rother</del> using the Sport England planning criteria?	<p>PROTECT – see Vision/Strategy above</p> <p>PROVIDE – new facilities are not envisaged. If a site is at risk, we endorse the Sport England Strategy of Multi-Sport/Multi-Use facilities. Hence our desire to work closer with Local Authorities and Leisure Operators.</p> <p>ENHANCE – see Vision/Strategy above. Our Clubs have been encouraged to consider Sport England “Inspired Facilities Funding”. We await future Funding announcements from Sport England.</p>
Is there any NGB funding potentially available to support the delivery of your facility priorities in Waveney?	See 1.8 above
Any other comments?	None
Please provide contact details e mail and phone for any follow up	<p>Stephen Rodwell, Development Manager, English Indoor Bowling Association</p> <p><a href="http://www.eiba.co.uk">www.eiba.co.uk</a></p> <p>Email: <a href="mailto:SteveRodwell@eiba.co.uk">SteveRodwell@eiba.co.uk</a></p>

2.3 REGIONAL LTA telephone response covered in assessment.

2.4 Suffolk Squash telephone response covered in assessment.

#### Other consultations

2.5 **Beccles Taekwondo club** has approx 50 members and has been running for over 4 years, located at the Venue Ringsfield Road at least twice a week. The club has had great success at national tournaments with gold, silver and bronze medalists at the British Championships.

2.6 Our aim has been to offer individuals a sport that they can learn at their own pace, help them to gain in strength and confidence, and very importantly for young people respect and discipline. Many who are not successful at other team sports thrive at a martial art. Age groups that attend the classes are from 5 up to 60+.

2.7 In the time we have been at the sports centre we have seen the price of the Venue hire increase several times, making our subscriptions for members increase more than we would like.

2.8 A problem we do have is that we do not have anywhere to store our equipment, which has all been purchased by the club, but has to be taken in for each training session. This also takes up valuable time to set up as the booking slots are very tight, we cannot get into the room until the previous sport has finished, and again at the end we have to vacate as soon as we can at the end time of our slot. Unfortunately if we increase hire times it increases the costs.

2.9 We also do not have any options of booking the venue during day time as it is part of the SJL school, but we do feel we could actually introduce our sport to local people during the day, those who cannot train in the evenings, and even to those who are retired, as Taekwondo skills can be modified to benefit executive students (veterans).

# 3: Site Visits & Consultations with Operators

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## MEETING AT ASHLEY SCHOOL/ACADEMY 19 APRIL 2016

### NOTES AND MAIN POINTS

#### Present

Andrew Deacon Head of PE and Mark Kemp senior business manager  
DP/MP

#### Main points:

- The school is a special needs school with a roll of 135 students aged 8-16, with some limited residential accommodation. The school catchment is wide and includes students from north of Gt Yarmouth, Norwich and Ipswich areas. It is a one school Academy Trust.
- Facilities:
  - Small pool (17.5 x 8m) with the shallow water down the length of the pool
  - new changing accommodation
  - Sports hall – which is 19m x 13m
  - Drama studio 18m x 10m
- These facilities meet school curriculum requirements. The school has plans to re-roof the pool, replace boiler and services, though no funding has been identified. The school has relatively recently provided/refurbished changing rooms at the front of the pool, and these are in good condition for both school and community use.
- Usage – the pool is maintained mainly as a school facility, to deliver the curriculum, learn to swim, water polo, etc, and to develop students for the role in the community. Community use of the pool is available and currently taken up by Sentinel, N&M swim school and other users, including local primary schools. The times of availability are usually 4pm to 8/9pm and Saturday am. There is no usage on Sundays or in school holidays, because of practical management issues including site supervision. The pool is also sometimes used during the school day by local schools (as well as Ashley School KS delivery). Local school use includes primaries for learn to swim (St Margaret's, Poplars, Northfield, Roman Hill), Suffolk CC. There is perceived to be significant spare capacity, and this is confirmed by reference to the schedule attached.
- Management - strategic management oversees the caretaker and swimming teacher, and bookings are taken by the school. Some usage is self-managed by groups (e.g. hold key), and the school would not be averse to some form of cooperative management with other facilities, if the opportunity arose. Pricing is inherited from the previous LA regime, and pool hire costs £32.50 per hour. This includes use of changing room.
- The sports hall and gym are not available at present for community except for resident students.
- Promotion and marketing of the facilities are limited at present, but the school has the intention to improve this.

Conclusion – the school pool makes a contribution to overall swimming need (particularly learn to swim) in Lowestoft, and is therefore a complementary facility to Waterlane pool. There is spare capacity to accommodate more use, and this could be developed to be specialised use by groups requiring a small pool. Need to consider learn to swim overall in the area, as there appears to be a potential conflict between the various providers. The improvement to the pool by means of a new roof would be a cost effective way of developing pool provision in Lowestoft, subject to feasibility/condition survey (see Hewett Pool in Norwich). The school



staff are amenable to additional community use and do intend to promoter market the venue better but have limited funds to do this. Scope to see if there could be marketing of the swimming pool as part of other marketing.

## **MEETING AT BANNATYNES 18 JUNE 2016**

### **NOTES AND MAIN POINTS**

#### **Present**

Catering Manager  
DP/MP

#### **Main points**

- Purpose built health and fitness centre built in 2002 on employment estate near to centre of Lowestoft.
- Facilities include:
  - Swimming pool 20m x 4 lanes
  - H&F gym 85 stations
  - Mezzanine gym
  - Spinning studio
  - Mind and body studio
  - One further studio
  - café and bar area
  - parking for 100
- Membership capacity of about 4000, currently 2300, normally 2600-2700, so some spare capacity. Turnover is 15% per month. Impression there are active promotional schemes – e.g. reduced joining fee to develop new membership. Target is to have regular 3,000 memberships.
- Membership costs, £39 per month all in, so includes all facilities and classes. Family memberships but did not appear to be off peak memberships.
- Increasing peak time for the pool of early morning lane swimming - 6,30 am - 8 am.
- Not really willing to talk about catchment area but seemed mainly Lowestoft. Could appeal to wider catchment who want to be a member of an up market gym and who work in Lowestoft.
- Condition – very good, relatively recently refurbished.

Conclusions – one of larger gyms in Waveney with modern and extensive CV and strength and conditioning, very small free weights area. Good size pool of 20m x 4 lane. Only membership usage, and some spare capacity, but may be due to temporal demand.

## **MEETING AT BECCLES ROYALES GYMNASSTICS CLUB 20 APRIL 2016**

### **NOTES AND MAIN POINTS**

#### **Present**

Louise Lockett/Sharon Inglis (club)  
DP/MP

#### **Main points:**

- Facilities;
  - Industrial unit at Ellough Business Park, with fully equipped gymnastics hall (except pits) together with admin/kitchen/toilet areas, and limited parking at front. Heating.

- Current usage is constrained by planning permission to limited daytime use and early evening. WDC planners worried about traffic generation and conflict with employment area lorries etc. Club is actively chasing additional hours of operation from planners.
- Hours of use are Wednesdays – Thursdays 5.30pm – 8.30pm and Saturdays 9am – 1 pm. Only hours of use allowed under planning permission.
- Coaching – level 5 and 2 coaches already in place, plus a number of parent helpers (level 0).
- Membership currently about 140, with limited waiting list of about 20. No views on capacity of club and venue. Currently charge £3.50 per hour for users, but need to reduce this.
- Scope to deliver PE for schools as part of their PE curriculum.
- Plans:
  - extend activities, consider pit (?) and additional space (e.g. extension to side of building, more comprehensive planning permission)
  - More qualified coaches
  - Expenditure – rent £2k per month, power, rates 100% exemption
  - Equipment – need parallel bar for boys
  - Club is progressing a small grants application (seeking award of £5,000) from Sport England to purchase additional equipment

Conclusions – important local club with large number of users/members, mainly children, long established, and have found an acceptable venue. Strategy needs to support the extended use of the new facility, both in time and space.

## **MEETING AT BECCLES SPORTS CENTRE/SIR JOHN LEMAN SCHOOL 20 APRIL 2016**

### **NOTES AND MAIN POINTS**

#### **Present**

Amy Duty Manager

#### **Main points**

- 4 badminton court sports hall, solid floor
- small 13m x 8 m activity hall
- one squash court
- Small scale health and fitness in alcove area off main circulation corridor, around 12 pieces of cardio vascular equipment area
- 4 changing rooms for indoor and 3 for outdoor for adjacent all weather and hard court areas
- Outside one 60m x 40m astro pitch floodlit and one 30m x 20m unlit astro area. Three hard courts unlit
- Sports area indoor and outdoor is separated from the main school building and has a car park immediately in front of the entrance to the indoor facilities
- Potential additional facilities/improvements

- Would like to refurbish circulation areas, receptions and changing.
  - Main focus is on improving the quality of the existing facilities.
- Usage open 6 days a week (plus weekend on request) from 5 – 9pm with estimated 60% usage. Clubs include 5 a side, casual badminton, basketball, hockey training. Community offer is an integral part of the school. It is the only sports centre in Beccles and is size and operation a community sports centre.
  - Management – with a dedicated community sports manager of three people for managing outside and indoor facilities. Community use hours are 4.30pm – 9.30pm weekday evenings and weekend days. Established club use for regular lets and long term bookings.

Conclusions – the indoor sports building was opened in 1981 and underwent a modernisation programme in 2008. Conversion of small areas of the building to other uses, for example the gym area. Located well away from the school buildings and ease of access/use/separation from the school itself. Centre located on the outskirts of Beccles. Strong commitment to community use and employment of a sports lettings manager and two assistants.

Strategy focus should be on improvements to the quality of the sports hall venue, possibly upgraded sports lighting and flooring and changing accommodation improvements. It is a community sports centre and off a size and mix which can provide for most indoor hall sports at the community level. So an important venue to meet the needs of indoor hall sports and clubs in the Beccles area.

## **MEETING AT BENJAMIN BRITTEN HS/ACADEMY 18 JUNE 2016**

### **NOTES AND MAIN POINTS**

#### **Present**

Callum, Site Supervisor

#### **Main points**

- Former high school recently academised under auspices of Hartismere Trust (Eye), only two schools in partnership. Current school roll of 700 students, years 7-11.
- Sports facilities
  - 4 badminton court sports hall, solid floor
  - 1 court gym, sprung floor
  - Small scale health and fitness suite in separate room off main circulation corridor, around 30 pieces of cardio vascular equipment, only is use by school
  - 2 changing rooms for indoor and outdoor sports. very old equipment and not suitable for use by the public.
  - Sports area indoor self-contained within the school grounds and separate from the main school buildings and has a car park immediately in front of the entrance to the indoor facilities
- Usage – available 5 evenings per week, from 5.00 to 9.00 pm, for variety of activities, including cricket (nets in winter), men's keep fit, football, basketball, table tennis. Mainly use the main hall, although gym is used 1 evening per week for TT, and all club bookings through school lettings manager (Debbie Greenard ext. 241). No use weekends, probably because of management issues.

- Actual usage very low – Mon empty, Tues booked 4 hours, Wed-Fri spare capacity (Thurs/Fri winter cricket). No use in school holidays and during exam times.
- Condition – generally fair/good, and some improvements currently underway/planned (e.g. new corridor ceilings, doors painted). Recently resealed sports hall floor.
- Additional small hall at former Foxwood MS, now part of BB, but not seen.

Conclusions – typical school sports hall, with ancillary facilities like gym and health and fitness. Primarily used by school, and although theoretically available for the wider community, in reality little usage, and then only by a few clubs. Condition relatively good, and block of sports facilities on the academy site are easy to segregate for wider use.

Strategy focus should be on improving accessibility to the facilities for wider community use. It is a school sports hall, but of a size and mix which can provide for most indoor hall sports at the community level, plus a smaller hall and health suite. Needs to be considered as a potential additional 4 court resource, but subject to the school being able/willing to promote more widely (e.g. like Ormiston Academy). Well located with extensive housing surrounding the site, though possibly too close to other school halls to have a unique walking catchment area.

## **MEETING AT BROADLAND HEALTH & FITNESS CENTRE 18 JUNE 2016**

### **NOTES AND MAIN POINTS**

#### **Present**

Nicole Duty Manager (Sentinel Leisure Trust)

#### **Main points**

- Broadland H&F C formerly provided by holiday park owners to meet the needs of its guests (chalets, caravans), and recently taken over by Sentinel Leisure as part of its wider portfolio of sports facilities (including Waterlane, Bungay, Marina C and Phoenix Pool, GY).
- Facilities include
  - Swimming pool 16 x 8m 1.2m at deep end
  - Children's pool
  - sauna
  - H&F gym 30 stations mainly CV equipment
- Pool has a wide programme of activities including public swimming, members, Pre School, swimming lessons and private hire. Lifeguards are only required for lessons and larger groups – others are self-supervised. Lessons part of Sentinel programme including Waterlane and Bungay.
- The gym offers a full range of CV and resistance stations, but no classes are available because of the lack of a suitable indoor space (may be considering use of hall on edge of site).
- Costs of use - £11 day pass, £29.95 per month membership of Sentinel facilities (plus joining fee). Membership of Broadland facilities currently 678 (of total Sentinel 7000 including Gt Yarmouth). Main users of facilities are leisure members.
- Some conflict in programming with holiday makers wanting to use the pool when it is let for swim lessons. Minor problem.
- Condition – generally good, pool has laminated wooden structure, probably requiring some upgrade, gym is confined for space.

- Conclusions – facilities now part of Sentinel portfolio, and managed in similar way to others, making this an important little CU facility. Pool is important supplement to larger pools in the area, and gym similar. Strategy should recognise its local importance in meeting wider community need.

## **MEETING AT BUNGAY HIGH SCHOOL 20 APRIL 2016**

### **NOTES AND MAIN POINTS**

#### **Present**

Head/Head of PE Claire Bishop and Business Manager Lynn Eldrett

DP/MP

#### **Main points:**

- Newly academised high school with 1300 students including 6<sup>th</sup> form. Age range from 11-18.
- Facilities
  - 4 court sports hall (typical Suffolk 1970s construction with a solid floor and balcony viewing)
  - Health and fitness suite very old equipment of only 12 stations and only used for school PE curriculum purposes.
  - School gymnasium
  - Changing rooms for school use
  - Outside mini astro without floodlights.
  - Sports area is detached from the school with good access from parking area at back of school buildings.
- Potential additional facilities/improvements
  - Need more indoor space, currently in process of improving reception area and sports hall floor with stripping, re-varnishing and new markings
  - Dance studio, for school (and potential CU)
  - Refurbished H&F area (currently upstairs from the sports hall)
- Usage open 6 days a week (plus weekend on request) from 6-10, with estimated 60% usage. Not available to community for 6-8 weeks a year due to exams, and no holiday use). Clubs include 5 a side, cricket nets, casual badminton, basketball, hockey training. Intend to continue CU in future, and CU is attractive to school, but local people are unwilling to pay a commercial rate for use. Pricing maybe the issue and possibly review the pricing in relation to the offer so as to achieve a balance which increases usage but also meets the school's income targets.
- Management – finance officer keeps a diary, bookings are taken and casual staff are booked or users have key to lock up, most booking are regular term or even yearlong lets.

Conclusions – this is the only main indoor space in Bungay for a local population of about 5000, plus villages around. The facilities are in acceptable condition and the works on improving the sports hall and repainting of the circulation areas and changing will give a big lift to the appearance to users and appeal to clubs. School is interested in the strategy and in particular the opportunities and benefits to the school. Head of PE is very interested in promoting and further developing community use. Suggest the strategy needs to address condition, usage, management to meet Bungay's needs for indoor sports space.

## **MEETING AT BUNGAY POOL 20 APRIL 2016**

### **NOTES AND MAIN POINTS**

#### **Present**

Stan Clouting Manager

DP/MP

#### **Main points:**

- Facilities include:
  - Main pool 25 x 10.5m, including wide surround/fencing
  - Small teaching/learner pool and slide (which remains popular and was installed at the time of the centre opening)
  - Gym with 51 stations and gym membership of 1,200 members. Turnover is around 10% per month - no other gym in Bungay
  - Dance studio (but considered too small)
  - Seating/vending area/café
  - Large parking to the front of the centre
- Main usage –
  - Swimming clubs – Beccles Kingfishers (most weekday evenings – see programme), and Halesworth Dolphins
  - Learn to swim classes and instruction (centre employs 6 instructors) and is an extensive programme but learn to swim also competes with other venues and price is competitive. Belief that learn to swim pricing is competitive at Bungay
  - Primary schools in Bungay for learn to swim programmes.
- Desirable improvements considered – bigger car park, sauna and steam room, remodelled gym, dance studio on first floor. Effectively changing the existing gym layout and (ideally) add a new gym and fitness suite on the first floor overlooking the front of the centre. No feasibility done on this suggestion.
- Other comments –
  - Overall a very open and welcoming centre. Gym and fitness suite good quality and the centre quality in appearance looks very good.
  - Only gym in Bungay (one closed recently)

Conclusions – one of only two LA provided sports facilities in the district (other is Waterlane in Lowestoft). Local issue and long standing issue of why a pool in Bungay and not in Beccles? The centre location is intended to serve Bungay, Beccles and Halesworth, though not actually best located to serve Bungay. Built in 1990 with added facilities 2005, generally a well maintained building.

## **MEETING AT EAST POINT ACADEMY 19 APRIL 2016**

### **NOTES AND MAIN POINTS**

#### **Present**

Claire Bishop, Nuffield Health

DP/MP

#### **Main points:**

- East Point Academy is the former Kirkley HS which was academised relatively recently under the auspices of the Inspiration Trust. All of its sports facilities were devolved to the Nuffield Trust for management in community time. Five year contract with Nuffield Health, commenced in 2014

- Facilities
  - Sports hall 4 court (built on Suffolk CC model with brick walls)
  - Gym – 1 court, based on previous school gym
  - Health and fitness gym, 27 stations, plus free weight area
  - Studios (dance) - 1
  - Changing/entrance
  - Plus outdoor pitches/courts, astro, athletics club, gymnastics centre on site
- Improvements planned –
  - Floodlights improved on astro and hard courts,
  - H&F gym already improved with new equipment and re-decoration of the gym
  - No improvements scheduled for the sports hall, gymnasium
- Quality ??
  - Of the gym equipment is good as is the gym, dance studio and circulation areas. Nuffield have invested in areas which will attract participants/memberships and where they can get a return.
  - Sports hall and school gym not good quality. Need for improved lighting and improvements to flooring – stripped/re-varnished and re marked
- Usage/Management
  - Managed in CU time by Nuffield Health, financial arrangements are devolved entirely by school to NH, with a profit sharing scheme above a certain level of income/profit (not yet achieved) Previously facilities run by Kirkley HS at a loss. 5 year contract, currently in year 2
  - Membership of the gym is 150 members. Membership turnover difficult to establish as upgrading of the gym only recent.
  - Catchment area very local to school - 1 - 2 miles and does not involve travelling across Lowestoft.
  - Clientele is participants who want a gym which is local/easy to access early weekday evenings. Do activity and leave. Not looking for add-ons such as a pool. spa/treatments etc
  - CU time starts at 5.30 onwards.
  - Membership fee for use of £25 for gym (cheaper than other venues in town), casual and block bookings for other facilities Prices – whole hall/court - £23 + VAT/£7.80/£6.50
  - Staffing comprises 1 FT (manager) and 5 PT including instructors
  - Users – Waveney Valley Athletics Club, gym and hall, Waveney Badminton Club (1 x 2 hrs per week), Badminton Club (1 x 2 hrs per week), Remote control car club. Ad hoc bookings e.g. cricket nets. Classes in studios
  - Promotion/marketing – since Jan 1 social media campaign through marketing company, leaflet drops not worked
- No relationship with Sentinel/WDC.

Conclusions – there is some/much spare capacity which may be filled by more aggressive marketing in time. The sports hall is not in good condition and requires refurbishment. It is considered unlikely that Nuffield would invest in improvements (beyond normal branding) because of length of remaining contract. The facility is located on the 'right' side of the river. Potentially plays an important role in CU among certain groups, particularly for health and fitness, but questions about long term future. Continuity will depend on Nuffield Health maintaining gym memberships and securing a return on its (limited) investment. Unlikely to invest in other indoor sports facilities – sports hall and school gym as does not offer a return. Outside facilities especially the AGP creates more critical mass for Nuffield  
[www.Nuffieldhealthoffer.co.uk](http://www.Nuffieldhealthoffer.co.uk)



– other similar facilities in Derby Univ, Benfleet, Whitgift College, Croydon, Enfield GS Kirton, Middlecote, Leventhorpe East Herts, Royal Masonic Girls Sch, Rickmansworth, Romford Wickford, Hornchurch Abbs X (220 corporate, 30 Cannons/Greens)

## **MEETING AT GUNTON HALL HOLIDAY RESORT 18 JUNE 2016**

### **NOTES AND MAIN POINTS**

#### **Present**

Unsupervised visit

Contact (Liam Hembling)

#### **Main points**

- Facilities include
  - 4 rink indoor bowls green
  - Freeform indoor pool (about 220m<sup>2</sup>)
  - Health and fitness gym (about 20 stations)
  - Spa
- Facilities mainly intended for use in connection with the holiday business on site (chalets, residential accommodation, entertainment, etc), though membership of the leisure club is available to local residents, which includes all sports facilities and entertainment. Membership prices are £39 per month (DD). Classes are available for aqua aerobics, zumba, yoga, etc mainly as part of the membership package
- Bowls club usage again mainly holiday packages etc. There is some limited club usage mainly Tues/Thurs afternoon – there are 80 members of the indoor bowls membership section, but it is considered up to capacity given the main use for guests. No club based at centre, but organise internal leagues
- Health club mainly used by leisure club members (currently 286) – probably some limited scope for additional members
- Condition – generally good, pool, gym and bowls hall kept in good state of repair.

Conclusions – commercial facilities primarily intended for holiday trade, with some local membership available. Strategy focus should be on considering if there is additional need for indoor bowls facilities the scope this venue could play. Challenging however because of the main focus for indoor bowls packages for holiday makers. Regular league play would cut across and cause programming issues. At best a potential venue for increased pay and play recreational bowling.

#### **LOWESTOFT RAILWAY AND BOWLS SOCIAL CLUB CENTRE (telephone call)**

Lowestoft Railway and Bowls Social club (listed as Calton Road Bowls and Social Club). A 4 rink centre opened in 1986 and last refurbished in 2009 when a new carpet was installed. The centre rook needs to be replaced and is being patched at present to prevent leaks. Club has a modernisation fund to meet this cost but does not have sufficient funds. Club would like to replace rink lighting with low cost lighting and cost of £10,000 could be recovered in 5 years.

There is also a 7 rink outdoor centre adjacent to the indoor centre. Club has a function room for up to 80 people and a bar. Both are the main source of income to support the club. Function room is fully booked throughout the year.

#### **Membership and fees**

2015 – 16 playing membership is 250 in total, of which 160 are male and 90 female. Average age of the membership is 60 and is decreasing in age. Reason being early retirement of people in the Lowestoft area and looking for a winter indoor activity 70. Membership has however declined from 320 members ten years ago.



2015 – 16 membership fees are; adult full membership £42 and a per person rink fee of £3.00. Members who play outdoors also pay £80. Small social membership of around 20 people who pay £20.

### **Season and peak times**

The indoor playing season is September – April. There is very limited use of the indoor rink over the summer. Rink occupancy with average of 4 players per rink is 100% Monday – Wednesday. With Thursday and Friday day time use around 60% occupancy. Virtually no use weekend days or evenings. Club does not encourage weekend evening use because cuts across hiring of the function room.

### **Programme.**

The programme is a mixture of county (Norfolk/Suffolk) league – club has 12 teams; inter club competitions/friendlies and internal league play. There are 5 leagues played each day Monday - Wednesday. County games take precedence in the programme. Recreational games and pay and play is fitted in around this programme. Casual play is £1 per player per session.

### **Catchment area**

Most members from in and close to Lowestoft, with around 70% of the membership from Lowestoft. The nearest clubs in order are Beccles and Sole Bay. Membership catchment does extend for 10 miles but majority of bowlers within 3-5 miles of the centre.

### **Trends and issues.**

As with Sole Bay maintaining the membership is the top priority and the club consider the membership turnover is around 15% each year but with more members leaving/dying than being recruited. Managing to reduce the average of the membership to 60 has increased activity and presumably a longer bowling life for the membership than before. Club does not undertake any direct marketing or promotion of the club for indoor and outdoor. Believes that closure of other outdoor rinks has allowed them to maintain outdoor membership.

Biggest challenges are (1) maintaining/increasing the membership (2) developing sufficient secondary income to undertake major repairs/modernisation of the centre.

### **Club Contact**

Paula Wright – Malcolm Upton Club Chairman 01502 574578

## **MEETING AT NIRVANA FITNESS LTD 18 JUNE 2016**

### **NOTES AND MAIN POINTS**

#### **Present**

Duty Manager

#### **Main points**

- Purpose built fitness centre on southern edge of Lowestoft on industrial estate, using former industrial unit. Limited car parking.
  
- Facilities include
  - Swimming pool 25m x 10m – casual swimming, aquafit, swimming lessons
  - Jacuzzi/steam room
  - H&F gym 35 stations
  - Boxing gym
  - Martial arts dojo
  - Studio (spinning plus)
  - Weights room
  - Cafe/bar

- Membership - £36 per month (£30 off peak) plus range of other user passes, etc.
- Wide range of classes.
- Spare capacity – considered significant. Pool had 2 people when we were there and only about 10 in the gym – bar/café was almost empty. Impression is that this is a family business and particular interests in some sports – so less commercial than other centres.
- Condition – good/average but much of the building is a conversion of an industrial unit. Building over 20 years old and showing signs of need for major improvements.
- Location could be an issue in attracting new members and possibly low public awareness of its existence. Probably appeals and retains long term membership who like this sort of different quirky sports venue. Very friendly and informative staff.

Conclusions – centre in a converted industrial unit with a wider range of facilities than many other pools/gyms in Lowestoft, including boxing and martial arts. Comparable pricing structure. Clientele from the local area in Lowestoft and rural area south.

Important venue for boxing and martial arts as it has a dedicated dojo and boxing training ring and local club. Very limited purpose alternative if this was lost, needs to be protected/retained.

## **MEETING AT OAKLANDS LEISURE POOL 20 APRIL 2016**

### **NOTES AND MAIN POINTS**

#### **Present**

Alastair Fuller and brother (owners)

DP/MP

#### **Main points:**

- Facilities comprise swimming pool plus changing/parking. Pool measures 12 x 9m (check with APP/FPM). Depth varies from 1.2 to 1.6m. Pool opened in 2011/12.
- Main catchment area is Bungay, Beccles, Halesworth, Southwold (mainly 20 minute driving catchment).
- Main users are private hire by small groups and individuals, swim schools by commercial hire (e.g. Water lilies 4 days a week). Capacity of pool is 8 for private hire and 10 for swim schools. There is no casual access, as the owners wish to maintain water quality etc.
- The pool is considered relatively busy overall, with no particular peak times. The pool is open 7 am to 9.30/10 evenings, including weekends. Throughput is estimated at 10-20,000 swimmers a year.
- There are no lifeguarding costs as the lettings are done on a contract basis. Bookings are taken per term (12-13 weeks).
- The clientele is relatively middle class, with car ownership a necessity as the pools in remote from Bungay and other towns.
- Charges are £19.50 for the whole pool per half hour. Annual costs to run (including rates, heating etc) are about £20000. Capital cost was about £0.5m.
- Plans to consider gym.

- Other similar pools in the area to investigate – Holton (near Halesworth), Bedingfield, Eye, Waveney Boating Centre, Worpole ??

Conclusions – the pool is an innovative approach to farm diversification, and good value for capital cost. It is remote from built up areas and will only ever be accessible by car. Capacity is low, and throughput limited. Learn to swim is provided by a commercial company and this is a competitor to other pools nearby (e.g. Bungay). Limited contribution to overall community use, but needs to be considered in the supply/demand equation.

In effect it is a niche market for individuals who want a private pool hire for themselves or small group. Overlap is in learn to swim but not likely the Water Lilies Swim School will hire Bungay pool because of competing with Bungay's own learn to swim programme. So Oaklands is developing (innovatively) a gap in the market which does not compete with public or commercial pools.

## **MEETING AT ORMISTON DENES ACADEMY 20 APRIL 2016 NOTES AND MAIN POINTS**

### **Present**

Kevin Oldman and Business Manager  
MP/DP

### **Main points**

- Relatively newly established academy under auspices of Ormiston Trust, less than 1000 students, aged 11-16. Sports hall is named Ormiston Community Sports Centre and branded as such
- Facilities
  - 4 courts sports hall
  - small school gym (sprung floor)
  - fitness gym small with 12 stations
  - dance studio
  - plus main school hall, available for shows and exhibitions
  - Plus extensive outdoor grounds with grass pitches and astro (funded through FF and FA)
- Availability to community – 5-10 pm evenings all year, weekends on demand (9am -4 pm) for all sports facilities. Sports hall and other facilities at Denes have a small catchment because of proximity of Waterlane leisure centre
- Management – staffed by manager/deputy manager plus others. Purports to cover all costs, but heating, lighting etc subsumed into school budget
- Usage – roller skating (Wed even, Sat 9-4, Fri evenings. Long term established let and very popular activity, solid sports hall floor makes it very suitable for roller skating), badminton, cheerleading, indoor football, martial arts, zumba/aerobics in studio. Plus football on astro. Some spare capacity, and academy would like to take more users. No groups are turned away at present. Mainly done on a block booking system
- Condition – mostly built in 1970s, studio adapted later. Typical Suffolk style and construction. School gym requires refurbishment. Plans for improvement includes internal redecoration. Changing accommodation ok quality but needs upgrading
- Liaison with Sentinel/WDC is limited, with NGBs work to relevant guidelines.

Conclusions - probably the school/academy with the best opportunity to develop community use, with wide range of facilities, and eager and keen staff. Very much focused on the business operation and programming of the venue does reflect income generation. Roller skating would like more time but other sports/activities develop more income. Need to address accessibility, and develop a wider programme/better coordinated management. However close to Waterlane. School would like to further develop their outdoor courts which could improve the community offer.

### **SOLE BAY INDOOR BOWLS CLUB (telephone call)**

#### **Centre**

A 4 rink centre opened in 1971 and refurbished last in 2001 when a new carpet was installed. The carpet needs to be replaced again. The centre roof also needs to be replaced (has asbestos) but the cost is £10,000 and the club is fund raising for this renewal. There is also an 8 rink outdoor centre adjacent to the indoor centre.

#### **Membership and fees**

2015 – 16 playing membership is 200 in total, of which 125 are male and 75 female. A very small social membership of around 20 – 30 people. Average age of the membership is 70. Membership has declined from 260 members ten years ago. The club has tried unsuccessfully to recruit younger members (aged 30 – 50) but without success. The image of the sport as a sport for older people is they consider a barrier.

2015 – 16 membership fees are; adult full membership £50 and a per person rink fee of £2.50. Members who play outdoors also pay £60 for playing outdoor.

#### **Season and peak times**

The indoor playing season is September – April. There is also a summer recreational league for players who are unable to bowl outdoor/prefer to bowl indoors. Rink occupancy with average of 4 players is 100% Tuesday and Thursday 10 am - 4pm .Monday, Wednesday and Friday around 80% rink occupancy at these times. 4pm – 6pm slot has around 50% occupancy all week days. Virtually no use over weekend days. There are 12 juniors members who sometimes play on Saturday mornings for recreational games and occasional League matches on Sunday evenings.

#### **Programme.**

The programme is a mixture of county league – club has 10 teams; inter club competitions/friendlies and internal Sole Bay club competitions. County games are always weekday pm and take precedence in the programme. Other types of play make up majority of the programme. Recreational games and pay and play is fitted in around this programme. 12pm 2pm slot often used for these games and practice for County competitions.

#### **Catchment area**

Most members from in and close to Southwold. Membership catchment does extend for 15 miles but majority of bowlers within 5 miles of the centre.

#### **Trends and issues.**

Maintaining the membership is the top priority and the club consider the membership turnover is around 10% each year but with more members leaving/dying than being recruited. Club relies on word of mouth and knowledge about the club to attract members. Does not undertake any direct marketing/promotion itself. Strong belief that image of the sport as an old person's sport is the biggest membership barrier for the club.

Club has a repairs fund built into its membership fee levels but this covers minor repairs. Cost of a new carpet and re-roofing not sufficient to cover these costs. Belief that the carpet quality is becoming a disincentive to bowl.

## Club Contact

Paula Wright – Club Manager 01502 722683.

## MEETING AT ST FELIX SCHOOL 19 APRIL 2016

### NOTES AND MAIN POINTS

#### Present

Gaye Nash, Lettings Manager/former Director of Sport, etc  
DP/MP

#### Main points:

- School roll about 300, including 100 boarders and 200 from local catchment. Age range – pre-prep to 18 years old. Child safeguarding not highlighted as a problem but needs to be considered in any strategy for facilities. Residences for boarders are close to the sports facilities.
- Facilities
  - Sports hall 4 court, capable of use for indoor tennis (1), full court basketball/volleyball/5 a side, 1 indoor hockey, 1 netball, 4 indoor cricket nets. Probably the largest 4 court hall in the district and has potential to provide for District wide competition,
  - Pool 25m by 5 lanes - with depth range of 0.8m to 1.2m. Good quality pool
  - Squash courts – 4
  - Health and fitness gym – about 20 stations but
  - No dedicated studio, but use of old school gym and other areas (e.g. theatre)
  - Changing facilities
  - Also outside tennis courts plus numerous grass pitches
  - no committed/planned improvements to the existing sports facilities or new facilities.
  - School is at an early stage of considering sale of (unused) playing fields/equestrian land for development. If this happens could be scope from a capital receipt to fund improvements to the existing sports facilities stock or add a full size AGP.
- The sports facilities are available via a separate access from the school parking area, and segregation of CU and school use is possible
- Condition – generally good, full disabled access throughout, with ramps etc., but access to first floor viewing not available. Need to complete condition pro forma
- Curriculum needs – some timetable clashes but generally enough to meet school's needs (but would like 50m pool, as a very strong swimming school!!)
- Potential/planned improvements – propose to sell block of land adjacent to school grounds, currently used as a playing field/equestrian facility (potential loss of PF of interest to SE). Would enable replacement of tennis courts by floodlit astro (need to check with planners that acceptable for floodlights and an adequate alternative to PFs. Considering feasibility of clear domed indoor facility (like Colson's???)
- Access to funding – limited funding from school for capital works, school has falling rolls and small numbers
- Usage/management – school day finishes at 4.50 and community use programme available after that
- Main users ((see programme)–

- Tennis coaching/mini tennis
  - Southwold cricket club (nets)
  - Junior football training
  - Basketball
  - Badminton
- Perceived that there is little spare capacity, but in reality there is likely to be relatively little structured CU. Mainly free access to users – school charges £20-30 per hour, but much use secured only for students
  - There is no CU in the summer, and little at weekends, though the hall is considered available
  - No CU of pool, except for St Felix SC, which is primarily school based. Club uses pool early morning (5-8), evening (4-8\_ though there is no weekend swimming (total 35 hours per week). There is considered some scope for casual swimming at weekends but this is not currently used
  - Access to changing facilities is not available – users come ready changed
  - There is considered to be an unmet in the area particularly for football (e.g. Sole Bay Vets/Juniors) . However, there is limited spare capacity because of ingrained attitudes and practices at the school
  - Management is undertaken by the lettings officer, who reports to a lets committee
  - There is no marketing or promotion, and little public awareness of the facilities at the school. There is a compartmentalised management structure and philosophy
  - The school has little or no contact with Waveney DC/Sentinel LT. The school philosophy is centred on the school not the community
  - Overall the school is responsive to requests for community use but not a business centred approach
  - Potential problem of access at exam time.

Conclusions – the school facilities are the only ones in the Southwold area, and are generally in good condition and perfectly suitable for community use. However the amount and degree of CU is limited, to very few clubs, and despite comments, there is spare capacity. There appears to be internal disagreement about the use of facilities by the community, and a protective attitude towards the pool. Only with coordinated management, promotion and marketing could St Felix School provide a full CU programme.

Issue is maybe need for additional water space serving this area of the district but a very good quality and size of pool exists. However the protective attitude of the school to not allowing community use is a real barrier. Should not consider additional provision on the basis of no access to a pool that could serve this part of the district. Focus has to be on management change at this venue.

## **MEETING AT WAVENEY GYMNASTICS CLUB 20 APRIL 2016**

### **NOTES AND MAIN POINTS**

#### **Present**

Head Coach Alan Rouse

DP/MP

### Main points:

- Purpose built gymnastics club with range of fixed equipment, pits etc. on edge of East Point Academy site, but with separate access.
- Club was formed in 1976. Current centre established in 2002, with benefit of Lottery grant, current assets of £1.3m and partnership funding of £200,000. Turnover £330k pa, £6-10k surplus per month (??), but recently defrauded to tune of £99k by former treasurer.
- Users – currently about 1000 users, comprising 14 classes of 30 kids, 6 preschool sessions, adult classes. Waiting list of 250. Users mainly 3-14 years old, 60/40 girls. Club members also include elite gymnasts. One of 14 'I'm In' clubs (disabled). The constraint on development of the club and increasing access is lack of qualified coaches.
- The Club has 4 full qualified coaches but for someone to become a level 1 coach is a cost of £1,200 plus extensive travel to venues for training and accreditation of performance. if the centre could find people with time to become qualified and then train/pay costs then the club waiting list would be removed and membership expanded to 1,500 which is the capacity of the centre.
- Management – Board oversees head coach, with SMT, and delivery by coaches and centre staff.
- Other similar facilities nearby – UEA, others around Norwich, Ipswich, Beccles Gym Club (Ellough).
- Issues
  - Lack of qualified coaching staff
  - Cost of getting coaches qualified (£1200 each)
  - Health and safety bureaucracy
  - Need for satellite centre at other end of Lowestoft – identified site on an industrial estate (**\*\* need to reference in strategy, to include similar range of facilities, but on a smaller scale, mainly for recreational gymnasts**)
  - Relationship with WDC/Sentinel - potential talks about a merger??
  - Good relationship with local members of WDC, use of locality budget

Conclusions – very important club meeting needs of large numbers of young people. Current issues more to do with coaches than venues, though trying to develop second centre. Need to reflect their wishes in the strategy.

### Meeting at WATERLANE LEISURE CENTRE 20 April 2016

#### NOTES AND MAIN POINTS

##### Present

Matt Stebbings Sentinel Trust

DP/MP

##### Sports hall

**Waterlane LC** has a 6 badminton court size sports hall with a terraflex floor surface. The main uses are for badminton, five a side football, circuit training, larger size exercise fitness classes, martial arts, table tennis and indoor cricket in the winter. There is limited use for other indoor hall or court sports. The sports hall is used by 6 indoor sports clubs on a regular basis, mainly badminton. There is a 9m high climbing wall in one corner of the sports hall and when in use this can restrict use of the main hall and take out one badminton court.



Use is mainly from the Lowestoft area but the arrangement where all members of the Sentinel Trust managed facilities can use any venue has meant an increase in bookings and club use from clubs in the GT Yarmouth area. Waterlane is the largest sports hall in the district and does cater for events, but limited use.

The hall is sub divided and let as a 4 and 2-court hall for most of the weekly peak period. The recent modernisation of the Waterlane centre did include minor works to the sports hall in re-decoration. This led to a grant from Badminton England who invested in re-decoration of the walls in colours to suit badminton use. There is a need to upgrade the lighting system and consider the need for a sprung timber floor. However, this is not the preferred floor surface for some users, notably indoor cricket.

Conclusion – the main sports hall venue for Waveney District but the catchment area is the Lowestoft area in providing a large venue for the town for community recreation. Modernisation of the hall lighting and flooring is required but this could deter some users who prefer the current floor surface. The size of the hall does allow for flexible use for more than one activity at any one time – the only venue in Waveney that provides this opportunity. The climbing wall is an asset but can preclude use of one court for hall sports activities.

### **Swimming pool**

Has a 6 lane x 25 metre main pool and a separate 84m<sup>2</sup> m<sup>2</sup> teaching/learner pool. It is the only pool site in the District to have a dedicated and separate main pool and teaching/training pool. This makes it the most important swimming venue as it can provide for the full range of swimming activities with separation of uses in the two pools. It is the gala pool for the District and has limited seating for around 60 people overlooking the pool hall.

The pool hall area was very extensively modernised in 2012, the pool hall area made much more open and with new lighting installed. The changing accommodation was also modernised.

The main activities are learn to swim – which is a very extensive programme of around 18 hours per week. Public recreational swimming – daytime and weekday evenings. Lane and fitness swimming – early morning and with separate lanes as part of the public recreational swimming. Public swimming also includes fun and family based sessions with use of inflatables. Swimming development through clubs with the main club being Lowestoft and Oulton Broad Swimming Club. The club has early morning weekday access then dedicated club sessions four weekday evenings and one session each weekend day. The club would like more access to be able to develop the performance of more of its swimmers. There is also use of the main pool by sub aqua clubs and for master's swimming.

The centre through Sentinel Trust develops and manages its own learn to swim programme and employs its own instructors. There is extensive use by local primary schools. Learn to swim is a very competitive market in Lowestoft.

Conclusions – the largest pool site in Waveney and because it has a dedicated teaching and learner pool as well as the 6 lane x 25m main pool, is able to provide for the full range of swimming activities. There are however still competing demands from different user groups for more pool time weekday evenings. In addition, the club would like an earlier opening time for their dedicated use. The very extensive modernisation of the pool hall area has created a very modern and attractive swimming pools site.



## Waveney Sports Clubs Consulted

Sports Club	Contact Name	Contact Email	Contact Number	Location
Lowestoft Bocchia Club	Bruce Proven	bruceprovan@yahoo.com		Waterlane Leisure Centre, Water Lane, Lowestoft, Suffolk, NR32 2NH
Waveney 50+ Activities Club, Lowestoft Branch	Betty Jarrod	bettyjarrod1@gmail.com		Waterlane Leisure Centre, Water Lane, Lowestoft, Suffolk, NR32 2NH
Beccles Royales Gymnastics Club			01502 716852	Unit 6, Ellough Industrial Estate, Ellough, Beccles, Suffolk, NR34 7TD
Beccles Indoor Bowls Club			01502 471056	Common Lane South, Beccles, Suffolk, NR34 9RH
Sole Bay Bowls Club			01502 722683	50 Halesworth Road, Reydon, Southwold, Suffolk, IP18 6NR
Bungay Bowls Club			01986 892982	St. John's Road, Bungay, Suffolk, NR35 1DL
Black Dog Judo Club				3 Popson Street, Bungay, Suffolk, NR35 1EB
Lowestoft and Oulton Broad Swimming Club			01502 740359	Waterlane Leisure Centre, Water Lane, Lowestoft, Suffolk, NR32 2NH
Beccles Kingfishers Swimming Club	Tim Kingfishers	tim.kingfishers@hotmail.com	07727 125427	Bungay Pool and Gym, St Johns Hill, Bungay,
Lowestoft Table Tennis Club	Martin Peek	martin.peek@sky.com	07900 903706	Waterlane Leisure Centre, Water Lane, Lowestoft, Suffolk, NR32 2NH
Lowestoft Railway Bowls and Social Club			01502 574578	Carlton Road, Lowestoft, Suffolk, NR33 0LZ
Lowestoft Squash Club	Lionel Miller	lionel.miller@virgin.net		Waterlane Leisure Centre, Water Lane, Lowestoft, Suffolk, NR32 2NH
Kuk Sol Won Halesworth and Lowestoft	Martin Ducker	martin.ducker@virgin.net	07908 786278	Waterlane Leisure Centre, Water Lane, Lowestoft, Suffolk, NR32 2NH Dairy Hill, Halesworth, Suffolk, IP19 8JS
Waveney Gymnastics Club	John Pawsey	waveneygym@aol.com	01502 501419 / 584166	Waveney Gymnastics Club, Southwell Road, Lowestoft, Suffolk
No 44 Badminton Club		caroline.franks@nsft.nhs.uk		Waterlane Leisure Centre, Water Lane, Lowestoft, Suffolk, NR32 2NH
The Hit Squad Badminton Club	Elizabeth Box-Jones	elisabethboxjones@yahoo.co.uk		Waterlane Leisure Centre, Water Lane, Lowestoft, Suffolk, NR32 2NH
Breakaway Group	John Smith	johnsmith1@talktalk.net		Waterlane Leisure Centre, Water Lane, Lowestoft, Suffolk, NR32 2NH
Christchurch	Peter Dykes	peterkaren@talktalk.net		Waterlane Leisure Centre, Water Lane, Lowestoft, Suffolk, NR32 2NH
Northend Badminton Club	Richard Revell	richard.revell@yahoo.co.uk		Waterlane Leisure Centre, Water Lane, Lowestoft, Suffolk, NR32 2NH
Lowestoft Kazoku Kai Karate	Tony Bergin	tony.kazoku@gmail.com	01502 565839	Waterlane Leisure Centre, Water Lane, Lowestoft, Suffolk, NR32 2NH
Water Babies	Kim Bennett	twinkletwinkle@waterbabies.co.uk	07989 342106	Waterlane Leisure Centre, Water Lane, Lowestoft, Suffolk, NR32 2NH
Leiston Lynx Basketball Club	Jeffery Hoey	northsuffolkschoolgames@gmail	01449 401821	Waterlane Leisure Centre, Water Lane, Lowestoft, Suffolk, NR32 2NH
Yoshinkan Karate Club	Malcom Banner	malcolmbanner@btinternet.com	07740 722393	Waterlane Leisure Centre, Water Lane, Lowestoft, Suffolk, NR32 2NH