

BARNSLEY METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORTS STRATEGY

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

JUNE 2023



BARNSELY BOROUGH COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORTS STRATEGY

FOREWORD

I'm very pleased to introduce Barnsley's Playing Pitch Strategy, which is an essential resource for Barnsley Council in how we manage current and future demand on our outdoor playing facilities. Our fresh strategy places a strong emphasis on pitch-based sports and athletics, recognising their important role in the health and wellbeing of our residents.

Sport, recreation and physical activity are an integral part of the fabric of our local communities. Whether you're a future international superstar, having a kickabout with some friends, or trying to lead a healthier lifestyle, there's something for everyone in Barnsley.

Our fantastic network of clubs, groups, coaches and volunteers do an amazing job delivering grassroots sport in the borough, and I am personally grateful for the input they have had into our Playing Pitches Strategy. This document has been shaped by their experience, expertise and insight and will be used to safeguard and enhance the provision of pitch-based sports facilities throughout the borough, using the resources we have at our disposal. It will also play a pivotal role in guiding our future plans for locations and facilities.

The objectives laid out in the action plan are ambitious, and I look forward to working closely with Sport England, local clubs, governing bodies, educational institutions and facility managers alongside our hugely dedicated Sport and Physical Activity Team. Together, we will make the collective goals outlined in the strategy into reality.

While quality facilities are undeniably crucial for the flourishing of sports, it is important to remember that sports fundamentally revolve around individuals coming together to enjoy activities they are passionate about. I extend my heartfelt gratitude to the numerous volunteers across the borough who generously contribute their time to foster grassroots sports. Your active involvement is the cornerstone of our Barnsley's vibrant sports culture.

Thank you.



A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "James Higginbottom". The ink is dark and the signature is fluid and legible.

Councillor James Higginbottom
Cabinet Member for Environment and Highways (including Sport and Physical Activity)
Barnsley Council

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This executive summary highlights the current situation and future requirements for each sport. A detailed assessment with further context to each of the sports is included in the full Playing Pitch and Outdoor Sport Strategy (PPOSS).

List of sport included in the executive summary:

- Football
- 3g Artificial Turf Pitches
- Cricket
- Rugby Union
- Rugby League
- Tennis
- Athletics
- Muti Use Games Area (MUGA's)

Summary – Football

- ◀ **There are current shortfalls across youth 11v11 and youth 9v9 pitches. Whilst capacity is sufficient across adult, mini 7v7 and mini 5v5 pitches.**
- ◀ **However, future growth could lead to future shortfalls across the Borough on adult pitches. Whilst mini 7v7 and mini 5v5 pitches continue to be able to accommodate future demand.**

Supply

- ◀ The audit identifies a total of 207 grass football pitches within Barnsley across 86 sites. Of these, 184 pitches across 72 sites are identified as being available for community use.
- ◀ Most available pitches in the Borough are in the Central Analysis Area (46 pitches - 25% of available pitches), followed by the North East Analysis Area (43 pitches - 23%), the North Analysis Area (39 pitches – 21%) and then the South Analysis Area (25 pitches - 14%). The Penistone Analysis Area has 17 pitches (9% of available pitches) and the Dearne Analysis Area has the least number of pitches with 14 pitches (8% of available pitches).

Quality

- ◀ In total, 27 pitches (15%) are rated as good quality, 57 as standard quality (31%) and 100 as poor quality (54%).
- ◀ Of the 72 sites that are actively used for community football, nine sites (13%) are serviced by good quality ancillary facilities, 18 sites (25%) by standard quality ancillary facilities and 19 sites (26%) are serviced by poor quality ancillary facilities. The remaining 26 sites (36%) are not serviced by onsite clubhouse/changing room provision.

Demand

- ◀ There are 402 teams identified as playing football in the Borough. This is made up of 65 adult men's, nine adult women's, 152 youth boys', 45 youth girls' and 131 mini soccer teams.
- ◀ In Barnsley 91% of all football teams play on grass pitches, with only 9% of teams playing on 3G pitches.
- ◀ Only Yorkshire RTC are known to export demand to the Doncaster for three of its mini teams to play at the Junior Premier League central venue.
- ◀ Future population growth totals 20 potential new teams, resulting in additional capacity requirement (in match equivalent sessions per week) of 1.5 on adult pitches three on youth 11v11 pitches, two on youth 9v9 pitches, 2.5 on mini 7v7 pitches and 1.5 on mini 5v5 pitches.

Capacity

- ◀ There are 30 pitches identified as having actual spare capacity, totalling 21 match equivalent sessions per week.
- ◀ In total, 27 pitches across just 21 sites are overplayed by a combined total of 25 match equivalent sessions per week. The most overplay is situated in the South Analysis Area (nine match equivalent sessions), followed by the Penistone Analysis Area (six match equivalent sessions).

Summary – 3G Artificial Turf Pitches

- ◀ **In conclusion, there is deemed to be an insufficient supply to accommodate both current and future demand for 3G pitches in Barnsley.**

Supply

- ◀ There are 11 3G pitches of 11v11 size in Barnsley. Three of these pitches are located in the North East Analysis Area.
- ◀ All pitches have sports lighting, with 10 of these being available for community use.
- ◀ There are also 16 smaller size 3G pitches servicing Barnsley, of which, 14 are available for community use. The community available pitches are all serviced by sports lighting. The two pitches that are not available for community use are both located at education sites.
- ◀ In Barnsley three of the pitches are FA/FIFA compliant and on the FA 3G Pitch Register so permitted for match play use. Whilst the certificate for the pitch at Penistone Grammar School has recently expired.
- ◀ There are no World Rugby compliant 3G pitches in Barnsley.
- ◀ The 3G pitch at Dorothy Hyman Sports Centre is managed by Barnsley Premier Leisure. Whilst the 3G pitch at Barnsley FC Training Ground is managed in house by the professional sports club. All other pitches are located at educational sites and are managed through a PFI contract and managed on behalf of the schools by Amey.

Quality

- ◀ Of the 11 pitches of 11v11 size, two (18%) are good quality, eight (73%) are standard quality and one (9%) pitch at Barnsley College is poor quality.
- ◀ Of the 16 small size 3G pitches 12 (75%) are standard quality and four (25%) are poor quality, no small sized 3G pitches in Barnsley are good quality.
- ◀ The ancillary facilities at Dorothy Hyman Sports Centre are rated as good quality with no issues arising during consultation.

Demand

- ◀ All pitches are extensively used for affiliated football demand both for midweek training and competitive demand at the weekend. There is also some use of The Astrea Dearne Academy pitch by Dodworth Miners ARLFC.

Capacity

- ◀ The 11v11 3G pitches currently available for community use in Barnsley are all operating at, or close to, capacity at peak times, especially during winter months when grass pitches cannot be used for training or recreational demand (due to a lack of sports lighting).
- ◀ In Barnsley 61% clubs that responded to consultation report that they require additional access to 3G provision, however, the exact number of teams that don't already access 3G pitches is unquantifiable.

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Summary – Cricket

- ◀ **Overall, there is currently insufficient capacity for natural turf cricket squares in Barnsley to meet senior weekend or junior midweek cricket demand now or in future.**

Cricket – supply

- ◀ There are 21 grass wicket squares in Barnsley located across 21 sites, of which, all 21 are available for community use.
- ◀ In Barnsley, there are 16 NTPs which accompany grass wicket squares, as well as 11 standalone NTPs.
- ◀ Tenure of sites in Barnsley is generally secure i.e., through freehold, a long-term lease or a guarantee that pitches will continue to be provided over the next three years.
- ◀ Dearne CC and Thurnscoe Institute CC are considered to have unsecure tenure as current arrangements are unknown.
- ◀ Of the 21 squares available for community use, 16 grass squares are rated as good quality (76%), five rated as standard quality (24%). No squares are rated as poor quality.
- ◀ The audit of ancillary facilities at available grass pitch cricket sites determines that 10 squares (50%) are accompanied by good quality provision, and ten squares (50%) are accompanied by standard quality provision.
- ◀ 13 sites used by affiliated clubs in Barnsley are not serviced by fixed practice nets. The remaining sites have fixed net provision.

Cricket – demand

- ◀ There are 21 cricket clubs competing in Barnsley generating 106 teams. As a breakdown, this equates to 54 senior men's, eight senior women's, 42 junior boys' teams and two junior girls' teams.
- ◀ The largest club playing in the Borough is Rockingham CC which has a total of 16 teams. It also has a women's and girls' section consisting of three teams.
- ◀ Only two clubs in the Borough provide a junior girls team, one team located at Penistone CC and one teams located at Rockingham CC.
- ◀ Most teams play in the South Analysis Area which accommodates 36 teams (34%), followed by the Penistone Analysis Area with 30 teams (28%), the Central Analysis Area with 23 teams (22%), the North Analysis Area with nine teams (9%), the North East Analysis Area with six teams (6%) and finally the Dearne Analysis Area with one team (2%).
- ◀ There is no known imported or exported demand from Barnsley.
- ◀ It is expected that three additional men's teams and two additional junior boys' teams are expected to be generated by population growth.
- ◀ Of the responding clubs, seven indicate aspirations to increase levels of participation through the creation of new teams. This equates to a total aspirational growth of 14 teams, equating to four senior men's, one senior women's and nine junior teams.

Cricket – capacity

- ◀ Houghton Main Miners Welfare Ground, Shaw Lane Sports Club and Wombwell Main Sports Ground have potential capacity to accommodate further demand on a Sunday.
- ◀ Darton Cricket Club, Houghton Main Miners Welfare Ground, Kexborough Cricket Club, Silkstone Recreation Ground, Stainbrough Cricket Club, Shaw Lane Sports Club, Wombwell Main Sports Ground and Penistone Cricket Club have potential capacity to accommodate further midweek demand.

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- ◀ There are eight sites in Barnsley considered to be overplayed for cricket by a total of 116 match equivalent sessions per season.

Summary – Rugby Union

- ◀ **There is an insufficient supply of provision in Barnsley to accommodate for both current and anticipated future levels of demand for rugby union.**
- ◀ **The priority for rugby union in Barnsley is to ensure maintenance programmes are enhanced across club settings to improve quality of pitches to alleviate the overplay across senior pitches.**

Supply

- ◀ There is a total of six rugby union pitches identified in Barnsley. Of these, four are available for community use. All pitches are senior pitches. All unavailable pitches are located at education sites.
- ◀ There is no WR compliant 3G pitches in Barnsley.
- ◀ All sites used by rugby union clubs in the Borough are managed by the respective rugby union clubs. Barnsley RUFC has freehold ownership of its site, whilst Wortley RUFC has a long-term lease agreements at its site.

Quality

- ◀ All four available rugby union pitches are rated as standard quality. Whilst the two pitches unavailable for community use are rated as poor quality.
- ◀ All available pitches are reported to have adequate natural drainage, with no issues with general drainage of pitches.

Demand

- ◀ There are two affiliated rugby union clubs based and playing within the Borough, identified as fielding a total of 17 affiliated teams.
- ◀ Community club training typically takes place on grass pitch provision with sports lighting.
- ◀ Future demand from population increases is projected as zero teams. Whilst future demand from club growth aspirations is considered to amount to five teams (one senior men's, two junior boys and two mini teams), requiring additional match play capacity of two match equivalent sessions on senior pitches.

Capacity

- ◀ None of the four available pitches are considered to have any actual spare capacity to accommodate additional demand.
- ◀ There are two pitches overplayed across two sites by a total of 5.75 match equivalent sessions per week.

Summary – Rugby League

- ◀ **Current demand can currently be met, with all pitches being played to capacity. However, it is evident that there is an insufficient supply of rugby league provision in Barnsley to accommodate any future demand with the anticipated future levels of demand from population growth seeing shortfalls created.**
- ◀ **The priority for rugby league in Barnsley is to ensure maintenance programmes are enhanced across club settings to improve quality of pitches to alleviate the overplay across senior pitches.**

Supply

- ◀ There are three rugby league pitches identified in Barnsley across two sites, one senior and one junior pitch located at Dodworth Miners Welfare Sports and Social Club in the Central Analysis Area, and one senior pitch located at Ingsfield Lane Sports & Social Club in the Dearne Analysis Area. Of these, all pitches are available for community use.
- ◀ All sites used by rugby league clubs in the Borough are considered to have secure tenure. Dodworth Miners ARLFC has freehold ownership of its site, whilst Dearne Valley Bulldogs ARLFC lease its site from the council.

Quality

- ◀ Pitches located at Dodworth Miners Welfare Sports and Social Club is standard quality, whilst the pitch located at Ingsfield Lane Sports and Social is poor quality due to limited maintenance.
- ◀ The ancillary provision at Dodworth Miners Welfare Sports and Social Club is poor quality, whilst the new pavilion at Ingsfield Lane Sports and Social is rated as good quality.

Demand

- ◀ There are two affiliated rugby league clubs located in Barnsley, Dodworth Miners ARLFC and Dearne Valley Bulldogs ARLFC. Collectively both clubs accommodate 17 teams, as a breakdown, this equates to three senior teams, three junior teams and 11 mini teams.
- ◀ Future demand from population increases is projected as one mini team.

Capacity

- ◀ None of the three available pitches are considered to have any actual spare capacity to accommodate additional demand.

Summary – Tennis

- ◀ **For club-based tennis, there is considered to be sufficient provision to meet demand. Additionally, when considering club future demand aspirations, supply is still sufficient to meet future demand.**
- ◀ **For non-club courts, whilst no courts are identified as having any capacity issues, it cannot be said that supply is sufficient to meet demand due to the large amount of unmet and latent demand evidenced both nationally and in Barnsley. There is instead a clear need to improve the supply in ways that can attract and better accommodate more users, specifically the courts provided at Carlton Park, Darton Park, Mapplewell Park and Locke Park.**

Supply

- ◀ There are 49 tennis courts identified in Barnsley across 15 sites. Of which 14 courts across six sites are available for community use and 35 courts across nine sites are unavailable for community use.
- ◀ The majority are provided by education sites, although the Council manage four sites, parish council manage two sites and a sports club manages one site located at Barnsley Lawn Tennis Club.
- ◀ Most outdoor courts in Barnsley have a macadam surface (42 or 86%), with 11 being of this type and available for community use. Three courts have an acyclic surface located at Horizon Community College which are unavailable for community use, and four courts have an artificial turf surface.
- ◀ In Barnsley, 18 of the tennis courts are serviced by sports lights, representing 36% of the provision. Of these, only five courts are available for community use, and all courts are located at Barnsley Lawn Tennis Club.

Quality

- ◀ Of the courts in Barnsley, 13 are assessed as good quality, 23 courts are assessed as standard quality, and 12 as poor quality. Most good quality courts are available for community use, however, six good courts located at Outwood Academy Shafton are unavailable for community use. All standard quality courts are unavailable for community use.
- ◀ Barnsley LTC report ancillary provision at its respective home site to be of good quality, with no major issues raised.

Demand

- ◀ Only one club is identified in Barnsley, Barnsley LTC, which has a total of 300 members. As a breakdown, this equates to 170 senior and 130 junior members.
- ◀ Away from club courts, usage can be difficult to quantify as it is not always monitored, especially at sites that are free to access as is the case at Carlton Park, Darton Park, Mapplewell Park and Locke Park. Demand for such provision is generally at its highest during summer months, especially following events such as Wimbledon, but significant capacity is likely to exist outside of this.
- ◀ In Barnsley, currently there are no LTA initiatives taking place.

Summary – Athletics

- ◀ In Barnsley, supply is considered sufficient to meet demand, with only two track and field clubs currently based in the Borough (Barnsley Athletic Club, Penistone Footpath Runners & Athletic Club and Pontefract Athletics Club). All other clubs are primarily road running clubs that do not access the track facilities.
- ◀ Priority should be placed on protecting the facility at Dorothy Hyman Sports Centre and ensuring that quality remains sufficient to accommodate the level of demand.

Supply

- ◀ There is one formal athletics track in Barnsley located at Dorothy Hyman Sports Centre, which is an eight lane, synthetic 400 metre track.
- ◀ The track is fully sports lit and provides all accompanying field event facilities including a hammer cage, javelin, high jump, long jump and shot put area.
- ◀ The track at Dorothy Hyman Sports Centre is owned by the Council, However, is managed by a company called Barnsley Premier Leisure (BPL).

Quality

- ◀ The non-technical assessment undertaken by KKP identified the track and accompanying track and field facilities as good quality, with maintenance carried out to a high standard.
- ◀ The ancillary provision at Dorothy Hyman Sports Centre is rated to be of good quality, with no major issues raised.

Demand

- ◀ Four clubs have a current focus on athletics and/or running activity in Barnsley.
- ◀ Barnsley Athletic Club, Penistone Footpath Runners & Athletic Club and Pontefract Athletics Club both use Dorothy Hyman Sports Centre as its base.
- ◀ Locke Park and Penistone Recreation Ground currently host Park Runs and Junior Park Runs in the Borough.
- ◀ All clubs are seen actively looking to grow membership, whilst England Athletics also believes that demand is likely to increase in the future, particularly for initiatives such as Park Run.
- ◀ Sport England's Segmentation Tool identifies significant latent demand amounting to 4,732 people in Barnsley, which represents approximately 1.9% of the Borough's population compared to a national average of 2%.
- ◀ None have waiting lists in place, and they are all actively looking for new members, on social media and club websites.

Summary - Multi Use Games Areas (MUGA's)

- ◀ **The South Analysis Area is the most well served analysis area for MUGAs, with the Dearne Analysis Area the next best serviced, with the Central Analysis Area just behind it. All other analysis areas have 60% of its population catchments not within a 700m walking catchment.**

Supply

- ◀ Across Barnsley there are a total of 58 MUGAs with most of this provision located within the South Analysis Area with 16 MUGAs (28%), followed by Central Analysis Area with 11 MUGAs (19%). Penistone Analysis Area accommodates nine MUGAs and the North East and Central analysis areas all have eight MUGAs each, the North Analysis Area has the least number of MUGAs with six.
- ◀ In the previous Barnsley LFFP, no sites were identified for MUGA developments.
- ◀ Of the 58 MUGAs across Barnsley, all the courts are managed by either parish councils or Barnsley Borough Council.

Quality

- ◀ In total across Barnsley, 25 MUGAs are assessed as good quality, 29 MUGAs are assessed as standard quality, whilst four are assessed as poor quality with significant issues surrounding grip, court markings and evidence of moss/lichen.

Demand

- ◀ A total of 53% of the Borough's population (or 131,021 people) has no MUGA facility within the 700m metre catchment.
- ◀ Analysis suggests that the Centre, Dearne and South Analysis Areas have over 50% of the population within a 700 metre walking distance to a MUGA, with the North Analysis Area having 40%. All the remaining analysis areas have less than 35% of the population within a 700 metre walking distance to a MUGA.

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