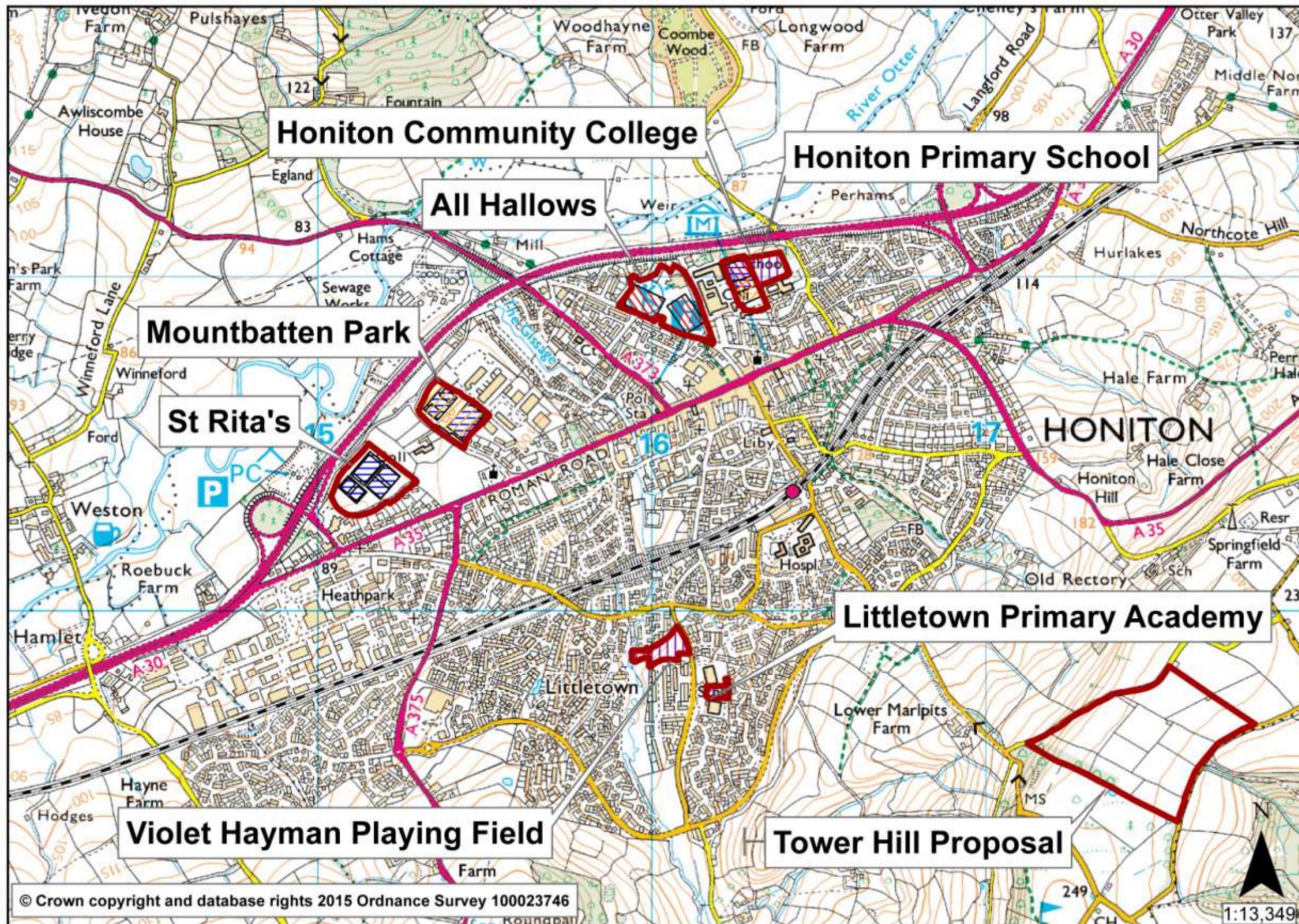


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Map showing pitch sites in Honiton



Introduction

East Devon District Council Cabinet, October 2014

When the first draft of the Playing Pitch Strategy was taken to East Devon District Council's Cabinet in October 2014 Members felt that Honiton's needs had not fully been addressed and there were certain key elements of supply and issues that had been incorrectly recorded. Members asked for these issues to be resolved ahead of a draft Playing Pitch Strategy being published for wider consultation, but they specifically asked that Honiton clubs were consulted to ensure that the correct information was recorded. The first draft had been compiled based on the information provided at the time, however despite great effort to gather all of the information from all of the relevant clubs, some had not responded and this meant key information had been missed.

Local representatives meeting, November 2014

Following October's Cabinet, a meeting was arranged in Honiton (6pm at the Community Use Building, Thursday 20th November) to discuss these issues with local club representatives. The meeting was attended by representatives of Honiton Town Football Club, Honiton Youth Football Club, Honiton Rugby Football Club, Honiton Cricket Club, Honiton Hornets Hockey Club, Dunkeswell Rovers Football Club, Offwell Rangers Football, Awliscombe United Football Club, Feniton Football Club, Honiton Running Club, Honiton Tennis Club, Honiton Community College, Honiton Town Council, the Football Association, England Netball, the Midweek Herald, local District Councillors and officers from East Devon District Council so potentially all of the key players were there to discuss issues.

The key outcomes of the meeting were:

1. Some of the data that went into the evidence base is incorrect / outdated;
2. Clubs felt that generally there was a need for more pitches in Honiton wherever they might be located;
3. Clubs were not totally averse to the idea of Tower Hill, however, if it were to be the preferred option then it must provide the right facilities. Clubs were concerned about access to the site especially for kids from families without access to a car. Tower Hill also has a number planning related issues not least regarding developing in the AONB and these need to be fully considered and addressed if Tower Hill is to become a realistic prospect. If these issues can't be addressed then Tower Hill may well be a non-starter;
4. All involved want to have a definitive decision taken on the direction; be that Tower Hill, staying in town, or finding alternative new pitch sites nearby;
5. There was a need to consider producing a wider sports strategy to take account of other sports such as netball, tennis, running etc;
6. Clubs are unable to diversify and offer ladies teams, disabled teams etc because they have no spare capacity.

Key issues raised by attendees at the meeting were:

Rugby

The rugby club want to ensure that both seniors and juniors stay on the same site and are happy to move to Tower Hill if it means that is how facilities need to be provided but equally happy to stay in

town. They have plans to improve existing facilities but don't want to be doing this if the club is going to move.

Senior Football

The cricket and football situation at Mountbatten can be coped with but is far from ideal and means that football have to cut short their season by playing 3 matches per week in April to allow for the cricket season to start on time. This often means performances are compromised and members get disillusioned as there is no real prospect of winning the league / getting promoted / developing as a club and leads to players moving elsewhere. The pitches are overused and there may be a need for more pitches. Having said that, the club are happy at Mountbatten but feel there are issues with drainage and changing facilities that are not currently recognised by the strategy.

Junior/Youth Football

The youth football club need more pitch space. Pitches are currently being marked out where the club train and poor quality of the surfaces due to rabbit and badger damage is a major issue. Should they have access to training facilities in the town then potentially all pitch needs *could* be met at St Rita's with enough work to the site (levelling, drainage, changing facilities, access route to the site, security of tenure).

Cricket

Cricket cannot progress through leagues as they share the pitch with football. They effectively lose a third of their season each year due to this.

Hockey

Hockey desperately need a facility in town, preferably linked to the college so that the college can offer hockey as part of the curriculum and raise interest. All other clubs in Honiton want to support plans to provide a sand-based pitch in the town for the hockey club to call home which could also be available for floodlit and wet weather training for football and rugby clubs in the vicinity.

College

The college need an artificial pitch in order to deliver the curriculum as they lose much of the year to waterlogged pitches. A sand-based pitch would not be suitable from their point of view because school football and rugby matches would have to continue being played on All Hallows which is only adding to the issues of overuse on the field already. A 3G would mean that all of the college's sports needs could be met on the one pitch at the school plus availability to outside users.

At the meeting and in correspondence with attendees following it, the planning policy officer requested that all clubs that were in attendance took the time to respond to the Playing Pitch Strategy survey which was still available on the Council's website even if they had done so previously to ensure that all of the correct information was gathered. They were encouraged to read through the relevant sections of the Draft PPS and provide comment if any specific things needed amending. The responses to the survey that were received at this stage are attached to this report as appendices.

1 Football in Honiton

Quantity

The letters in the ‘Community Use’ column signify the following as set out in Sport England’s latest Playing Pitch Strategy Guidance, October 2013.

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

Table 1.1 – Football pitches in Honiton

Parish	Owner / Manager	Name	Comments	Adult football	Junior football 11v11	Junior 9v9	Mini 7v7	Mini 5v5	Community Use
Honiton	EDDC	Mountbatten Park	Mini pitches overmark 2 nd adult pitch	2			2		A
Honiton	Other	St Rita’s	1x 9v9 overmarks one of the 11v11s 2x 7v7s overmark the other 11v11 2x 5v5s overmark the other 9v9		2	2	2	2	A
		Honiton Total		2	2	2	4	2	

Table 1.2 – Football pitches at schools in Honiton

Parish	Owner / Manager	Name	Adult football	Junior football 11v11	Junior 9v9	Youth 7v7	Mini 7v7	Mini 5v5	Football/Rugby (seasonal)	No information	Community Use
Honiton	Education	Honiton Community College							1		C
Honiton	Education	Honiton Primary School	Generic grass field (large)								
Honiton	Education	Littleton Primary Academy	Generic grass field								
Honiton	Education	Mill Water Community School								X	

Table 1.3 – Community use of football pitches at schools in Honiton

Name of educational establishment	Please indicate the type(s) of pitch(es) available	Which external pitches do you use?	How many hours are the pitches currently available for community use?	If no community use, are there any particular reasons why not?	Who uses the pitches and what is the nature and extent of this use?	If capacity to accommodate any / more community use, please give details.	What additional provision is needed?
Honiton Community College	Seasonal football / rugby / athletics not generally available for community use	All Hallows	Very few	The pitch is not available to outside hire as it would cut up too bad and make it unplayable/unusable for the College. We have to think of providing the correct resources for learning and teaching.	Junior rugby and we also allow the Primaries to use the sports pitch for sports days.		We would be open to discussions for the placement of a sand dressed pitch on the College site which the College would then run and maintain. The community would be welcome to use this sand dressed pitch. The pitch would be available to community groups outside of College hours Monday to Friday, all of the school holidays and at weekends. If the College's grass pitch is replaced by a sand dressed pitch we would still however have to have access to a grassed area in order that we could still play full contact rugby and football and also still run an athletics program.

Name of educational establishment	Please indicate the type(s) of pitch(es) available	Which external pitches do you use?	How many hours are the pitches currently available for community use?	If no community use, are there any particular reasons why not?	Who uses the pitches and what is the nature and extent of this use?	If capacity to accommodate any / more community use, please give details.	What additional provision is needed?
Honiton Primary School	Large grass field			No changing and toilet facilities without accessing whole school building, & no separate access to pitches (problems with security)			
Littleton Primary Academy	Generic playing field			Has happened in past, but problem is that no toilet facilities if school is not open	N/A		This is difficult to assess. Depends on government plans for sports education. Our grounds are used to capacity at present.
Mill Water Community School	No response						

Quality

All football pitches in the Honiton sub-area were visited by a member of the Playing Pitch Strategy Steering Group to assess their quality in Autumn/Winter 2013. Clubs were asked to respond to a survey

Table 1.4 – Football pitch quality ratings for Honiton

Ground	Officer site audit (Autumn/Winter 2013/14)			Club survey response					
	Pitch quality score / rating	Built facilities score / rating	Notes from site audit	Club responding	Summary of club rating of pitch maintenance	Has quality of your pitches changed?	Why?	Interior / exterior	Any specific problems
Mountbatten Park	66/ Standard	63/ Standard	Good quality pitch. Maintenance unknown. Shared with cricket outfield. Good clubhouse on site	Honiton Town FC	Good			Adequate/ Adequate	Poor drainage means pitch is very soft and many matches are cancelled. Puts unacceptable position on number of matches later in season. All home games must be completed by 30 th April.
St Rita's	59/ Standard	63/ Standard	Reasonable pitch but some rabbit and badger damage and litter about. Use main pitch changing facilities	Honiton Town Youth FC	Poor	Slightly poorer	Due to extra matches played	Adequate/ Adequate	Rabbits moles and badger damage. Lack of fencing near dual carriageway. Overuse of pitches increasing wear on them.

Demand

Table 1.5 – List of football clubs and teams in Honiton (as at December 2014) and recorded trends in membership

Club	Adult Men Total	Adult Ladies Total	Junior Girls Total	U18s	U16s	U15s	U14s	U13s	U12s	U11s	U10s	U9s	U8s	U7s	Grand Total	Increase/decrease trends over last three years (if info supplied)
Honiton Town FC	2														2	
Honiton Town YFC					1	1	1		1	3	1	1	1	1	11	Increased
TOTAL	2				1	1	1		1	3	1	1	1	1	13	

Table 1.6 – Information on training by clubs in the Honiton sub-area

Club	Please state if your teams train on the pitch or elsewhere on the ground	How many hours are the pitches used for any other informal use?	Do you have demand for additional training facilities?	If yes, what type of facilities would be required?	If yes, where would the facilities be sited?	If yes, who would manage the facilities?
Honiton Town FC	Elsewhere on the ground for most of season but at St Ritas for pre-season due to cricket at Mountbatten. Weekly at Ottery St Mary sand based AGP from Oct-March.	Cricket use May – August	No response	No thoughts	No response	No response
Honiton Town YFC	On the pitch and elsewhere on the ground – 10 teams training for a total of 15 hours per week	0	Yes	3G or astro for winter training	Local to the town (struggle to book sessions on existing astro facilities early evenings during the week)	?

Club	Please state if your teams train on the pitch or elsewhere on the ground	How many hours are the pitches used for any other informal use?	Do you have demand for additional training facilities?	If yes, what type of facilities would be required?	If yes, where would the facilities be sited?	If yes, who would manage the facilities?
Awliscombe Utd FC	On the pitch – only in the summer months, using during the winter would make it unplayable	None	Yes	3G OR AGP would be great as we currently have to train on either Allhallows and Cullompton AGP	Anywhere in Honiton would be great	N/A
Dunkeswell Rovers FC	Training on pitch only in pre season as no floodlighting	None	Yes	3G or astro facilities, as currently travelling to Cullompton as that is the nearest floodlight astro facility available	Anywhere in the Honiton area. School?	School
Upottery FC	No response	No response	No response	No response	No response	No response
Offwell Rangers FC	No response	No response	No response	No response	No response	No response

Capacity

Table 1.7 – Capacity scores based upon pitch quality

Agreed pitch quality rating	Number of match equivalent sessions a week		
	Adult football pitch	Youth football pitch	Mini soccer pitch
Good	3	4	6
Standard	2	2	4
Poor	1	1	2

Table 1.8 – Current community use of Mountbatten Park

	Honiton Town FC	Honiton Town Youth FC	Total
Mountbatten Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assumed 2x adult football teams play at home once every fortnight Assumed train elsewhere on the ground (i.e. not on the pitch) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assumed no play at Mountbatten for most of the season. Normally “borrow” the mini pitches from Sept-Oct and March-April but not able to currently due to “collapse” of drainage 	
Match equivalent sessions per week	1	0	1

Table 1.9 – Current community use of St Rita’s

	Honiton Town Youth FC	Total
St Rita’s	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assumed 11x youth and mini football teams playing at home once every fortnight (5.5 match equivalent sessions) Assumed 11 teams training on the pitches. (Using FA guidance equates to 5.5 match equivalent sessions) 	
Match equivalent sessions per week	11	11

Table 1.10 – Capacity at football pitch sites in Honiton

A Site name	B Type of community use	C Pitch type	D No of pitches	E Current carrying capacity for community use	F Current community use	G Difference (E-F) i.e. extent of spare capacity for community use during the week	H Assessment	I Extent of any spare capacity for community use during the peak period (match equivalents)	J Capacity issues and views
Mountbatten Park	Secured Community Use	Adult football with 2x mini 7v7s overmarking 2 nd adult pitch	2	4	1 (2x Sat pm)	3	Potentially able to sustain more play on Saturdays and Sundays	0.5 (Sat pm)	Drainage “collapse” since quality audit means that carrying capacity probably lower than assumed here and minimal spare capacity if any.
St Rita’s	Secured Community Use	2x Youth 11v11s and 1x Youth 9v9 with other youth and mini pitches overmarking	3	6	11 (11x Sat am plus midweek training)	-5	Significantly overused and over capacity	0	Over capacity with current arrangements of pitches overmarking each other combined with training on the pitches.

Key observations and comments on capacity

Mountbatten Park

The quality audit carried out in November 2013 suggested that pitches at Mountbatten were of standard quality. Feedback from Honiton Town FC and Honiton Town Youth FC in December 2014 highlighted that there is now a problem with drainage on the site which potentially brings the pitch quality down to poor. This being the case there is minimal if any spare capacity on the site. Honiton Town FC want to start up a third team next season and this will take up any spare capacity that does exist. Honiton Town Youth FC would normally “borrow” the mini pitches each week but due to the drainage and capacity issues they are not currently able to. The football pitches also get little if any time to recover over the summer months due to the cricket outfield covering both the football pitches.

St Rita's

11 youth teams play on 3 youth pitches (with other youth and mini pitches overmarking. If no training took place on the pitches then the site would be just under capacity in terms of carrying capacity for the week but would still be at/over capacity at the peak time (Saturday mornings). When training is accounted for as well the site is significantly over capacity. The club has also indicated that it would like to significantly increase the number of teams it has but is currently unable to do so due to lack of capacity.

Key issues for football pitches in Honiton

Mountbatten

- Football and cricket sharing Mountbatten means that the football club have to squeeze their end of season home matches into much shorter time frame in order to complete by 30th April. No pre-season games can be played and pre-season training has to take place at St Rita's. Also, the club cannot develop their pitch (stand etc) due both to space and sharing.
- Drainage issues at Mountbatten limiting capacity.
- Changing facilities at Mountbatten could be improved including better showers.
- Club unable to maintain Mountbatten as well as would like due to unreliable equipment.

St Rita's

- Lease due to expire in 2015.
- St Rita's significantly overused due to training on pitches and also pitch arrangements (overmarking etc) plus club want to increase number of teams.
- No changing facilities at St Rita's.
- Rabbit, mole and badger damage
- Poor quality access to St Rita's pitches from the road.

General

- All clubs in the Honiton area are keen to see a floodlit all weather pitch installed in the town.

2 Cricket in Honiton

Quantity

The letters in the ‘Community Use’ column signify the following as set out in Sport England’s latest Playing Pitch Strategy Guidance, October 2013.

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

Table 2.1 – Cricket pitches in Honiton

Site Name	Owner/Manager	Grass wickets (non-turf wicket)	Community Use	Shared sites
Mountbatten Park (Honiton Cricket Club)	EDDC / leased to CC	10 (1)	A	Football
Honiton Community College	Education	(1)	C	Football / Rugby
	TOTAL	10 (2)		

Quality

Table 2.2 – Quality of cricket sites with community use in Honiton (officer non-technical assessment)

Site Name	Devon League	Quality % score						Potential rating (poor, standard, good)	Notes from site audit	Summary of club rating and comments (OPQ = overall pitch quality; CHF = changing facilities)
		Cricket outfield	Artificial wickets	Grass wickets	Changing pavilion	Non-turf practice nets	Overall score			
Mountbatten Park (Honiton Cricket Club)	D	93	100	100	72		91	Good	Slight slope. Good grass. Practice cage on artificial wicket edge of square due to 'fairy ring' fungal infection.	OPQ = Standard CHF = Very Poor

Table 2.3 – Overall quality of cricket pitches in Honiton (combined non-technical assessment, club response to Devon Cricket Board survey and ECB umpire score where available)

Site Name	Non-technical rating (from above table)	Club overall pitch quality	ECB Umpire rating	Overall
Mountbatten Park (Honiton Cricket Club)	Good	Standard	None given	Good

Demand

Table 2.4 – Cricket clubs and teams playing in Honiton

Club	Adult	Youth	Ladies	Girls	Total
Honiton Cricket Club	2	2	0	0	4

Table 2.5 – Pattern of play of Honiton cricket teams

Club	Teams	Mid Week	Sat PM	Sun PM
Honiton Cricket Club	1 st XI, 2 nd XI, Juniors x2	2	2	0

Table 2.6 – Training needs of Honiton cricket teams

Club	Venue for training	Do you have demand for additional training facilities?	If yes, what type of facilities would be required (e.g. grass pitch, non-turf practice nets or mobile net cages etc)
Honiton Cricket Club	University of Exeter indoor practice nets	Yes	Permanent practice nets (2 full lanes)

Capacity

A good quality wicket (which should be aspired to) should be able to take:

- 5 matches per season per grass wicket (adults);
- 7 matches per season per grass wicket (juniors);
- 60 matches per season per non turf wicket (adults); and
- 80 matches per season per non turf wicket (juniors).

Table 2.7 – Site specific usage and capacity: cricket pitches in Honiton

Site	Pitch type	No. of wickets	Quality Assessment / %score	Home games per season (advised by club)	Theoretical capacity grass wicket (+ artificial)	Comparison
Mountbatten Park (Honiton Cricket Club)	Grass + artificial	10+1	Good/91%	45 – (2x senior teams plus friendly/Sunday XI play 25-30 home games per season, 2 youth teams play 15 home games per season on adult wickets)	50-70 (60-80)	Potentially able to accommodate additional play

Key observations and comments on capacity

Mountbatten Park (Honiton Cricket Club)

Capable of accommodating further play if necessary.

Key issues for cricket pitches in Honiton

- The clubhouse/changing is poor – affects ability to attract new members and ability to raise sides each year.
- Sharing ground with football means that cannot play home games for six weeks (quarter) of the season each year.
- Practice facilities are sub-standard – require permanent practice nets (2 full lanes).
- “Fairy ring” fungal infection on cricket square.

3 Rugby in Honiton

Quantity and quality

The letters in the 'Community Use' column signify the following as set out in Sport England's latest Playing Pitch Strategy Guidance, October 2013.

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

Table 3.1 – Rugby pitches in Honiton with quality ratings and ratings by clubs

Site	Owner / manager	Adult rugby	Junior rugby	Mini rugby	Community use	Shared site?	Rating M / D	Comments VQA	Club rating / comments
All Hallows Recreation Ground (Honiton RFC)	Local Authority	2			A	No	M0/D0	Badly worn & boggy; looked unplayable. Unrestricted public access. Clubhouse facilities not up to league standards	Drainage and increased use by both HRFC and Honiton Community College. The upkeep of the pitches provided by EDDC is not sufficient to manage the ongoing use of these pitches with the current weekly usage. Dog foul – constant problem. Drainage – loss of games and training due to being too wet and unplayable.
Honiton Community College	Education	1			C	Seasonal rugby pitch only (shared football / rugby)	M1/D0	No community use	

Demand

Table 3.2 – Rugby teams playing in Honiton

Club	Adult Men Total	Colts	Ladies Total	Vets	Girls	U17s	U16s	U15s	U14s	U13s	U12s	U11s	U10s	U9s	U8s	U7s	U6s	TOTAL
Honiton RFC	2	1		1			1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1		14

Table 3.3 – Trends in membership for Honiton RFC

Club	Senior (19-45 ages)	Youth (13-U17 ages)	Colts (U18-U19 ages)	Mini-midi (U7-U12 ages)	If there has been change, please indicate: how many teams; the nature of the team and the reasons for the change
Honiton RFC	Stayed same	Increased	Stayed same	Increased	Our senior sides have stayed the same holding a 1 st and 2 nd side which play in league structures with an occasional 3 rd team playing friendlies. We hold a full complement of Under 13s-U16s and have a large squad of colts holding a U17 and U18 side which play in a colts league and cup competitions. We have a full range of teams from U7-U12 with numbers increasing year on year. We do not have any girls teams due to the limited facilities we offer, however mini-midi teams are dual gender.

Capacity

Senior rugby is played on Saturday afternoons; mini and junior rugby is on Sunday mornings.

Table 3.4 – Pattern of play in Honiton

Club	Saturday PM	Sunday AM
Honiton RFC	2x adult teams 1x colts team	11x junior / mini / midi teams
Total	3	11

Table 3.5 – Training arrangements in Honiton

Club	Where does training take place?	For how long?	If off-site please provide the address of the facility where you train	Do you have demand for additional training facilities?	If yes, what type of facilities would be required?
Honiton RFC	On the competitive pitch and off-site.	Each junior side trains for 1 and a half hours per week – totalling 15 hours per week. Colts and seniors train for 4 hours per week, with a total of 12 hours. TOTAL 27 hours of training per week	Occasional use of LED hard court facilities - £19 per hour and usually only available to hire for half an hour a week.	Yes	Rugby prepared grass pitch with floodlighting and appropriate maintenance or 4G artificial playing surface.

Table 3.6 – Combined usage of All Hallows Recreation Ground

Site	Junior teams	Senior teams	Club training	School use	Total
All Hallows Recreation Ground	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 10 junior teams • Assume play on half a pitch for each match • Assume each team plays once every fortnight • Assume 0.25 match equivalent sessions per week per team 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3 senior teams • 1 vets team but only occasional friendlies so not counted • Assume play on whole pitch for each match • Assume each team plays once every fortnight • Assume 0.5 match equivalent sessions per week per team 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Club response suggested a total of 27 hours training, however, advice from RFU that: • 2 adult teams training on Tues and Thurs = 2 match equivalents • U13 + U14 training on Weds night = 1 match equivalent • U15 + U16 training on Fri night = 1 match equivalent • U18 (only) training on Tues and Thurs could equate to 2 x 0.5 match equivalents (= 1 match) • U7s-U12s should train OR play a match once a week, not both. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • School matches / training 2 – 3 hours per week (estimated and dependant on their pitch condition) • Assumed 1 match equivalent session = 80 minutes 	
Match equivalent sessions per week	2.5	1.5	5	2.25	6.25 (+5 match equivalent sessions training on pitches)

Table 3.7 – Theoretical pitch capacity ratings (RFU)

		Maintenance		
		Poor (M0)	Standard (M1)	Good (M2)
Drainage	Natural inadequate (D0)	0.5	1.5	2
	Natural adequate (D1)	1.5	2	3
	Pipe drained (D2)	1.75	2.5	3.25
	Pipe and slit drained (D2)	2	3	3.5

Table 3.8 – Site capacity

Site	Pitches	Pitch maintenance (as per PQA)	Drainage as per PQA	Match equivalent carrying capacity for community use	Match equivalent current community use	Match equivalent difference	Peak time capacity	Key issues and views
All Hallows Recreation Ground	2x adult	M0	D0	1 (2x 0.5)	11.25	-10.25	Peak time is Sunday AM. Pitches overused and worn out.	2x senior, 1x colts and 10x youth/mini teams plus a veterans team playing occasional friendlies run off just 2 adult pitches, plus school use and training use. Additional pitches required.

Key issues for rugby pitches in the Honiton sub-area

- Honiton RFC tries to run 2x senior, 1x colts, 10x youth/mini and 1x veteran teams off just 2 senior rugby pitches. The pitches are of poor quality and massively over played.
- The pitches are very poorly drained and maintained.
- The club cannot expand into womens rugby or develop further youth teams due to available pitch space.
- Club need to improve their facilities but don't want to invest in this if they will be moving to a new site.
- Club desperately need access to all weather floodlit training facilities.
- Ancillary facilities are poor and not up to league standards.
- Honiton Community College also use the pitches.
- Pitches also used by local football teams for summer training and occasionally matches if their pitches unplayable (unquantified amount of usage)

4 Hockey and AGPs in the Honiton sub-area

Hockey – sand-based AGP demand

There are currently no surfaces suitable for playing hockey in the Honiton sub-area. The closest sand-based artificial grass pitches (AGPs) to Honiton town are found in Ottery St Mary (6.4 miles), Colyton (7.8 miles), Sidmouth (8.3 miles) and Cullompton (11.5 miles). Despite this, Honiton does have a hockey team: Honiton Hornets Hockey Club who play matches at the AGP in Ottery St Mary on Saturday mornings but train at Exeter School for an hour on Monday evenings.

The club currently only field one senior women's team, however have aspirations to start up a senior men's, senior mixed, junior girls and children's team, however, lack of facilities is stopping this from happening. The club struggles to retain existing and recruit new members because of the lack of facilities in the town which means a long journey for training and matches. The club suggest that basing a hockey compliant AGP at Honiton Community College would be a good idea as this would encourage young players into the club and also mean that returning players don't have as far to travel. . In addition to this it is worth noting that the Needs Assessment suggests that whilst 351 people currently play hockey in East Devon (district wide), a further 208 people would like to play (or play more). This is an increase of 59% and if some of that unmet demand is located in Honiton (quite likely) then there is even more of a reason to provide a sand based surface in the town.

A hockey compliant AGP would also be able to be used for non-contact training by local football and rugby clubs who currently have to travel to one of the other existing AGPs for all weather training, and would mean the school have a pitch capable of being used for sports all year round. Honiton Community College have stated an interest in running and maintaining a sand-based AGP at the school, however, they would require continued and guaranteed access to the grass pitches at All Hallows in order to play full contact football and rugby matches as well as run their athletics program.

3G AGP demand

A number of local football and rugby clubs have stated that they would like to have access to an all weather floodlit artificial playing surface in Honiton. Whilst 3G would be preferable as this is the surface most suitable for football and rugby, clubs seem most interested in simply having access to somewhere they can train off their own grass pitches that is floodlit and can be used throughout the year. At the public meeting in Honiton in November 2014 all local sports clubs voted that they would prefer to see a sand-based pitch that could provide a home for Honiton Hornets Hockey Club and could accommodate their own all-weather, floodlit training needs than a 3G surface that would force the hockey club to continue playing in Ottery St Mary and Exeter.

Should a sand-based surface be installed in Honiton, if clubs still wanted to access a 3G surface then the new full size football compliant 3G AGP due to be installed in Axminster, as well as the 3G surfaces proposed by the Draft Playing Pitch Strategy in Cranbrook, Exmouth and the training pad in Sidmouth could cater for this.

5 Accounting for future population growth in the Honiton sub-area

Population projections

The population of the parish of Honiton was recorded as 11,608 by the 2012 PPSA population estimates. No official 2014 or 2024 population projections exist on a parish scale. Assuming the population of Honiton grows at the same rate as the district population according to the ONS 2012-based population projections (May 2014), the 2014 projected population would be 11,694 and the 2024 population of Honiton would be 12,419. This is shown in the table below.

Table 5.1 – Population growth in East Devon and Honiton 2012 – 2024

Geography	2012 estimated population	2014 projected population	% change from 2012-2014	2024 projected population	% change from 2012-2024
East Devon (district)	134,400 ¹	135,400 ²	0.74%	143,800 ³	6.99%
Honiton (parish)	11,608 ⁴	11,694		12,419	

Simply taking the above projections it may seem appropriate to assume that because the population is increasing by 6.99% between 2012 and 2024 then the supply of pitches should altogether also increase. However, the population structure of East Devon is projected to change slightly over the next ten years to 2024. The table below has been adapted from Table 1.6 in the Exeter and East Devon Playing Pitch Strategy Needs Assessment to show the percentage change in sporting age group populations from 2014 to 2024.

Table 5.2 – Population change in East Devon by pitch sport age groups: 2014-2024

Age group	Change in population	% Change in population
Mini pitch sports (5-9)	+533	+8.4%
Youth/junior pitch sports (10-19)	+1,040	+7.5%
Adult pitch sports (20-34)	-809	-5.1%
Adult pitch sports (35-45)	-305	-2.0%
Adult pitch sports (46-54)	-1,969	-13.2%
Adult pitch sports (55-69)	+1,965	+6.5%
Overall 'active participation' age groups (5-69)	+475	+0.5%
Total population	+8,385	+6.2%

Taking the above population structure changes into account one can assume that by 2024 there will be more mini, youth/junior and veterans teams but less adult/senior teams in East Devon and it is

¹ ONS (2014) "2012-based Subnational Population Projections for Local Authorities in England"

² Ibid

³ Ibid

⁴ PPSA (2012) "2012 PPSA population estimate for East Devon"

reasonable to apply this same logic to Honiton. That being the case it is especially important that mini/youth/junior pitches are well catered for.

6 Summary of pitch requirements in Honiton

Football

Meeting the football pitch requirements for Honiton in 2014

In order to meet the needs of the clubs and teams that currently exist in Honiton in 2014 the following pitches would be required. This assessment assumes that all pitches are of standard quality.

Table 6.1 – Football pitch requirements for Honiton in 2014

Pitch type	Match equivalent sessions per week supported by a “standard” quality pitch	Teams currently in existence in Honiton	Assumed match equivalent sessions per week generated	Pitches required
Adult 11v11	2	2	1	1
Youth 11v11	2	3	1.5	2
Youth 9v9	2	4	2	2
Mini 7v7	4	2	1	1
Mini 5v5	4	2	1	1

The above table assumes that each team generates 0.5 of a match equivalent session per week (they play at home every other week). In all of the above cases, the match equivalent sessions generated per week are the same as or lower than the number of pitches required.

This being the case, in order to meet existing football team demands in Honiton the following pitches are required:

1x adult 11v11

2x youth 11v11

2x youth 9v9

1x mini 7v7

1x mini 5v5

None of the youth/mini pitches could overmark one another as all of the pitches would be required for 1 home team at the peak time of Saturday mornings. Potentially, the mini pitches could overmark the adult pitch if it was of at least standard quality.

The above assessment assumes that no training takes place on the pitches.

Meeting the future football requirements in Honiton to 2024

Taking account of the projected change in population structure between 2014 and 2024 as outlined in section 5 of this report, and of the aspirations of the senior and youth football clubs it would be appropriate to assume that the following additional pitches will be required in Honiton:

1x adult 11v11

1x youth 9v9

1x mini 7v7

1x mini 5v5

An additional adult 11v11 pitch would be required as there would not be spare capacity at the peak time to support a third adult team on 1 adult pitch. HTFC have aspirations to develop a third team in coming seasons. Changes in population structure are likely to see additional youth and mini teams start up across all ages, however there would be spare capacity for an additional youth 11v11 team in the above assessment so there would potentially only be a need arising for additional 9v9, 7v7 and 5v5 pitches.

So, in order to meet the requirements of football teams in Honiton up to 2024 the following combined pitches would be required:

2x adult 11v11

2x youth 11v11

3x youth 9v9

2x mini 7v7

2x mini 5v5

Potentially, 2 mini 7v7 pitches could overmark one of the adult pitches and the 2 mini 5v5s could overmark one of the 9v9s. No other overmarking would be possible.

This assessment assumes no training on the pitches. In order to ensure this, grass training areas and access to an all-weather floodlit training surface would be necessary.

Cricket

Meeting the cricket wicket requirements for Honiton in 2014

In order to meet the needs of the clubs and teams that currently exist in Honiton in 2014 the following number of wickets would be required. This assessment assumes that all wickets are of good quality, the senior teams play a combined 30 home games per season and junior teams play a combined 15 home games per season.

Table 6.2 – Cricket wicket requirements for Honiton in 2014

Team	Match equivalent sessions per season supported by a “good” quality wicket	Teams currently in existence in Honiton (including friendly XI)	Assumed match equivalent sessions per season generated	Grass wickets required
Senior	5	3	30	6
Junior	7	2	15	2.1

Clearly, you cannot have 2.1 wickets, therefore, the demand arising from teams currently existing in Honiton requires a cricket ground with at least 6 senior grass wickets and room for at least 3 junior grass wickets to be cut into the outfield, or, if juniors are using the senior grass wickets then a minimum of 8 senior grass wickets.

Meeting the future cricket requirements in Honiton to 2024

Taking account of the projected change in population structure between 2014 and 2024 as outlined in section 5 of this report, and of the aspirations of the cricket club it would be appropriate to assume that there should be space for additional junior grass wickets.

So, in order to meet the requirements of cricket teams in Honiton up to 2024 there would need to a stand-alone cricket ground with at least 6 senior grass wickets and room to cut 5 junior grass wickets into the outfield, or, if juniors are using the senior grass wickets then a minimum of 11 grass wickets.

This assessment assumes that the club has access to an artificial grass wicket for training purposes.

Rugby

Meeting the rugby pitch requirements for Honiton in 2014

In order to meet the needs of the clubs and teams that currently exist in Honiton in 2014 the following pitches would be required. This assessment assumes that all pitches are of standard quality.

Table 6.3 – Rugby pitch requirements for Honiton in 2014

Pitch type	Match equivalent sessions per week supported by a “standard” quality pitch with pipe drainage	Teams currently in existence in Honiton (excludes vets that only play occasional friendlies)	Match equivalent sessions per week generated	Pitches required
Senior and Junior (13+ age ranges playing on senior pitches)	2.5	6	3	2
Mini/Midi (7-13 age ranges playing on mini/midi pitches)	2.5	7	3.5	2

The above table assumes that each team generates 0.5 of a match equivalent session per week (they play at home every other week). In both cases, the match equivalent sessions generated are higher than the number of pitches it suggests are required. Out of the 6 teams playing on the senior pitches, 3 of these (the adult teams and colts) will play on Saturday afternoons and 3 (the junior teams) will play on Sunday mornings. This means that 2 senior pitches are sufficient for these teams. However, all of the 7 teams playing on mini/midi pitches will play on Sunday mornings, meaning that on any one weekend, you will have 3 or 4 teams playing at home on mini/midi pitches. Assuming that kick offs cannot be staggered this means that an additional 2x mini/midi pitches would be required.

This being the case, in order to meet existing rugby team demands in Honiton the following pitches are required:

2x senior pitches

4x mini/midi pitches

None of these could overmark one another because every other weekend junior teams would need to use both senior pitches on Sunday mornings at the same time as access to the mini/midi pitches was required. This also supposes no training on the pitches and no school use of the pitches.

Meeting the future rugby requirements in Honiton to 2024

Taking account of the projected change in population structure between 2014 and 2024 as outlined in section 5 of this report, and of the aspirations of the rugby club to increase numbers of youth and mini/midi teams and also expand into womens rugby it would be appropriate to assume that the following additional pitches will be required in Honiton:

1x senior rugby pitch

1xmini/midi rugby pitch

So, in order to meet the requirements of rugby teams in Honiton up to 2024 the following combined pitches would be required (none of which overmark):

3x senior pitches

5x mini/midi pitches

This assessment assumes no training on the pitches. In order to ensure this, grass training areas and access to an all-weather floodlit training surface would be necessary. It also assumes that the school do not use the same pitches as the rugby club.

Hockey

Honiton Hornets currently only field one ladies team. Membership of the club has declined rapidly in recent years and there is no way of introducing new potential members to the team in Honiton due to the lack of facilities. Providing a sand-based AGP in Honiton would enable the club to expand its membership and hopefully offer a senior men's, senior mixed, junior girls and children's team.

In order to meet the requirements of the hockey club in 2014 and to 2024 a sand-based AGP must be provided in Honiton.

7 Action Plan for resolving key issues in the Honiton sub-area

Overview	Site	Issue	Action Ref.	Sport	Action	Priority	Who should deliver the action?	
PROVIDE	All Hallows Recreation Ground, Honiton	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The pitches are of poor quality and massively over played. The pitches are very poorly drained and maintained. The club cannot expand into womens rugby or develop further youth teams due to available pitch space. Club desperately need access to all weather floodlit training facilities. Ancillary facilities could be improved. 	HO.1	R	Explore possibilities for the rugby club to move to a new site capable of providing a total of 3x senior pitches, 5x mini/midi pitches, floodlit grass training areas and appropriate ancillary facilities preferably all on the same site. Definite plan of action to be agreed through the ongoing PPS Steering group by December 2015. If no alternative options are found to be deliverable then Tower Hill proposals should be explored more fully. Should the rugby club stay at All Hallows, efficient drainage must be installed.	1	Club, EDDC, RFU, SE, Honiton Town Council	
			See Action Refs. HO.20 and SI.6					
				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Honiton Community College use the pitches at All Hallows and if they are to install an AGP on their own grass pitch will need to use All Hallows even more potentially. 	HO.2	O	Ensure that All Hallows remains available for Honiton Community College to use.	1

Overview	Site	Issue	Action Ref.	Sport	Action	Priority	Who should deliver the action?	
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Site open to public access 	See Action Ref. G.1					
ENHANCE	Dunkeswell Football Field	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Poor quality pitch 	HO.3	F	Encourage remarking of pitch to correct dimensions and the filling in of holes and dips to create a safe playing surface.	3	Club, FA	
PROVIDE	Greenway Lane, Awliscombe	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pitch only site in the middle of nowhere. Teams have to change at village hall in Awliscombe and then drive for a few miles to reach the pitch. 	HO.4	F	Encourage the provision of a new pitch with appropriate changing facilities and car parking alongside any potential housing development at Awliscombe village.	2	EDDC, Awliscombe Parish Council, Club, FA, SE	
PROVIDE	Honiton Community College	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> School currently use All Hallows Recreation Ground in addition to their own playing field The college has aspirations for an AGP on site replacing the grass football/rugby pitch. The school would still continue to need to use the pitches at All Hallows. 	See Action Ref. HO.2 and HO.20					

Overview	Site	Issue	Action Ref.	Sport	Action	Priority	Who should deliver the action?
PROVIDE	Mountbatten Park, Honiton	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Football and cricket sharing Mountbatten means that the football club have to squeeze their end of season home matches into much shorter time frame in order to complete by 30th April and cricket also cannot play home games for 6 weeks of the season. No pre-season football matches can be played and pre-season training has to take place at St Rita's. Also, the football club cannot develop their pitch (stand etc) due both to space and sharing Drainage issues for football pitches at Mountbatten limiting capacity 	HO.5	F C	Explore the possibility of moving the senior football club to a new site capable of providing 2 stand-alone, well-drained football pitches with suitable ancillary facilities. Cricket and mini football pitches could remain at Mountbatten. Definite plan of action to be agreed through the ongoing PPS Steering group by December 2015. If no alternative options are found to be deliverable then Tower Hill proposals should be explored more fully.	1	Clubs, EDDC, Honiton Town Council, FA, SE
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> "Fairy ring" fungal infection on cricket square 	HO.6	C	Treat fungal infection.	3	Club

Overview	Site	Issue	Action Ref.	Sport	Action	Priority	Who should deliver the action?
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The clubhouse/changing is poor – affects ability to attract new members and ability to raise sides each year. 	HO.7	F C	Support club in improving existing / replacing clubhouse and changing rooms.	2	Club, EDDC, ECB, SE
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cricket practice facilities sub-standard – require permanent practice nets (2 full lanes). 	HO.8	C	Support club in procuring new practice nets and artificial wickets for training.	2	Club, EDDC, ECB, SE
PROTECT	Offwell Recreation Ground	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Poor quality pitch – uneven and subject to rabbit damage 	HO.9	F	Support club in addressing evenness and rabbit issues.	2	Club, EDDC, Offwell Parish Council, FA, SE
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> New permanent village shop potentially proposed to be constructed on part of the existing playing field. 	HO.10	F C	Planning application received and subsequently withdrawn. Should a new planning application be received the proposals should not impact on the existing adult football pitch, training areas, ability of Offwell Rangers FC to expand and lay out a youth/mini football pitch on site in addition to the adult pitch, or the ability to reinstate the cricket pitch at some point in the future.	1	EDDC, Offwell Parish Council, Club, FA, ECB, SE
PROVIDE	St Rita's Centre, Honiton	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lack of changing facilities on site. Teams have to change at Mountbatten Park and walk round to pitch 	HO.11	F	Explore the possibility of developing changing facilities at St Rita's.	2	Club, EDDC, land owners, FA, SE

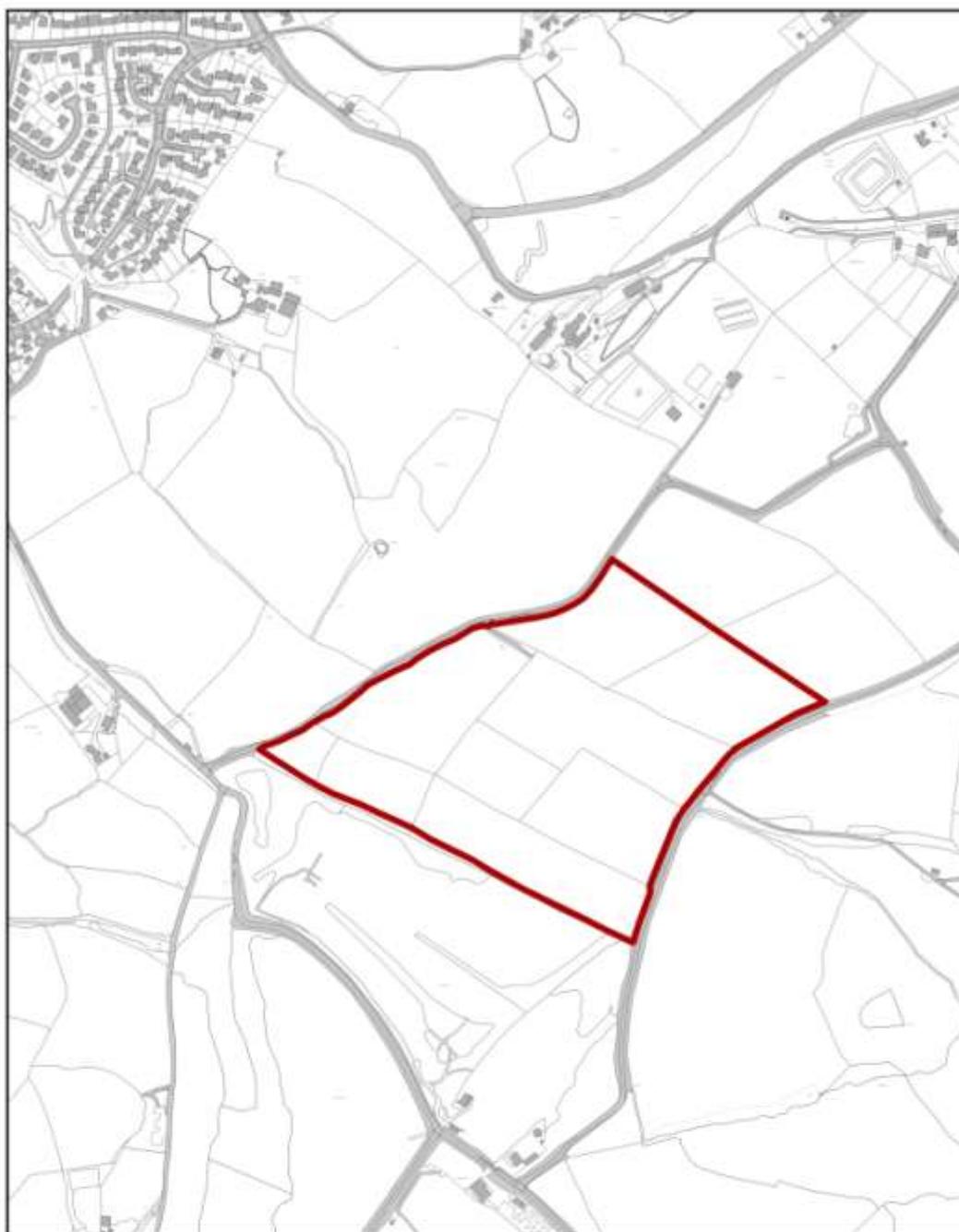
Overview	Site	Issue	Action Ref.	Sport	Action	Priority	Who should deliver the action?	
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Poor access to St Rita's pitches from the road along a track in need of resurfacing. Lack of parking. 	HO.12	F	Explore possibility of installing lighting and suitable surface for the track leading to the pitches plus potential for additional car parking.	2	Club, EDDC, DCC, Honiton Town Council	
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pitches significantly overused due to training on pitches and also pitch arrangements (overmarking etc). 	HO.13	F	Explore options for delivering additional youth football pitches at St Rita's and levelling and draining existing pitches. If this is not possible then consider alternative options. Definite plan of action to be agreed through the ongoing PPS Steering group by December 2015.	1	Club, EDDC, land owners, Honiton Town Council, FA, SE	
		See Action Ref. HO.20						
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lease due to expire in 2015 	HO.14	F	Encourage Honiton Town Youth FC or Honiton Town Council to take on the lease of the St Rita's Centre pitches when lease is up for renewal.	1	EDDC, Club, Honiton Town Council	
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rabbit, mole and badger damage 	HO.15	F	Support the club in installing rabbit and badger proof fencing around the border of the site.	3	Club, EDDC, land owners, FA, SE	
ENHANCE	Stockland Cricket Club	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No nets 	HO.16	C	Support the club in procuring cricket nets should they wish to do so.	3	Club, ECB, SE, EDDC, Stockland Parish Council	

Overview	Site	Issue	Action Ref.	Sport	Action	Priority	Who should deliver the action?
ENHANCE	Upottery Cricket club	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No nets or artificial wicket 	HO.17	C	Support the club in procuring cricket nets and artificial wicket should they wish to do so.	3	Club, ECB, SE, EDDC, Upottery Parish Council
PROVIDE	General	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Honiton Development Trust has plans to develop a sports hub site out of town on Tower Hill incorporating significant football, cricket and rugby provision. 	HO.18	F C R H O	Explore the possibility of addressing all Honiton pitch issues on alternative sites better related to the existing town and outside of the AONB first but if there are no realistic alternatives then some pitches may need to be delivered on Tower Hill.	1	Steering Group
			See Action Refs HO.1, HO.5, HO.10, HO.12, HO.13, HO.14 and HO.15				
			HO.19	F C R H O	Only support the development of such a facility if all clubs involved are willing to move, a sustainable travel plan can be developed and it would not adversely affect existing clubs, viability of other clubs and facilities in the area and access to open access pitches in Honiton and surrounding villages.	2	Steering Group
PROVIDE		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Honiton Hornets Hockey Club train in Exeter and play matches at The Kings School AGP in Ottery St Mary. This is significantly stymieing the club's development and retention of players. 	HO.20	H O	Encourage and support the provision of a full size, floodlit, <u>sand-based</u> AGP at Honiton Community College available for community use outside of school times, along with suitably accessible changing facilities for such community use (accessible without the main school building being open). Pitch must be suitable for local football and rugby teams to conduct non-contact all weather floodlit training.	1	School, DCC, Clubs, EH, SE, FA, RFU, Honiton Town Council, EDDC,

Overview	Site	Issue	Action Ref.	Sport	Action	Priority	Who should deliver the action?
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lack of all weather training facilities in Honiton 					

8 Tower Hill

Honiton Development Trust have long-standing proposals for a sports hub-club at the top of Tower Hill, however, prior to a Playing Pitch Strategy being in place there has been little evidence available to support this as a project. This report specifically considers the supply and demand of pitches in Honiton as part of the Playing Pitch Strategy.



Tower Hill

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1:5,624

This report clearly shows that the current pitch situation in Honiton is not sufficient and additional pitches are necessary. That being said, a key part of the consultation with clubs in the Honiton area was to discuss the Tower Hill proposals. Below are the thoughts of the various sports clubs in Honiton on the Tower Hill proposals. Clubs either presented these thoughts at the meeting in Honiton in November 2014 or in their survey responses in December 2014.

Honiton Town FC

“The feeling within the club, from the Chairman and Managers was an overwhelming reaction against Tower Cross”

“People do walk to the club and the site does not help that”

“Also if we want to move to a higher league then would there be space for a small stand etc”

“There would also be a need for floodlights as at one point we had planning permission at our current site but had no funds”

“Parking etc seems very restricted”

Honiton Town Youth FC

Raised the issue that many of the kids playing in their teams come from families without access to a car and many of them do walk to St Rita’s.

Honiton Cricket Club

“We are not adverse to moving to get the facilities we need but have reservations over the Tower Hill proposals due to the location, so we are not saying no but we would want to see much more detail on what facilities might be available”

Honiton Rugby Club

The rugby club want to ensure that both seniors and juniors stay on the same site and are happy to move to Tower Hill if it means that is how facilities need to be provided but equally happy to stay in town.

The above thoughts of the football, cricket and rugby clubs highlight that there is some support for developing facilities on Tower Hill, however, it is certainly not unanimous and what support there is seems to be dependent on being able to deliver the clubs’ needs.

From a District Council planning point of view, a range of issues exist with Tower Hill as a proposed site for sports pitches, not least that fact that the site is located within the East Devon Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB). This means that the quality and local distinctiveness of the natural and historic landscape character must be conserved and enhanced. Additionally, development will only be permitted within the AONB where it can be shown that it cannot reasonably be accommodated elsewhere, outside of the AONB. That being the case, it is important to consider alternative sites for new pitches before assuming that they must be accommodated at Tower Hill.

The action plan (section 7 of this report) sets out in action refs HO.1, HO.5, HO.12, and HO.17 that Tower Hill will be explored as an option only if no other sites that are better related to the town and outside of the AONB exist and are deliverable. The PPS Steering Group will continue to work through these options and come to a decision on the most appropriate way to resolve issues by December 2015.

As set out in section 6 of this report, the following pitches are required in Honiton to meet all of the town’s pitch sport needs up to 2024:

Sport	Pitches	Comments
Football	2x adult 11v11 2x youth 11v11 3x youth 9v9 2x mini 7v7 2x mini 5v5	Potentially, 2 mini 7v7 pitches could overmark one of the adult pitches and the 2 mini 5v5s could overmark one of the 9v9s. No other overmarking would be possible. This assessment assumes no training on the pitches. In order to ensure this, grass training areas and access to an all-weather floodlit training surface would be necessary.
Cricket	11 grass senior wicket stand-alone cricket ground	Assumes juniors playing on senior grass wickets. Assumes that the club has access to an artificial grass wicket for training purposes
Rugby	3x senior pitches 5x mini/midi pitches	No overmarking. This assessment assumes no training on the pitches. In order to ensure this, grass training areas and access to an all-weather floodlit training surface would be necessary.
Hockey	1x full size, floodlit, sand-based AGP	Must be available for local football and rugby club all weather training as well.

Over the course of 2015, the Steering Group will work through potential alternative sites for sports pitches, meet with land owners and work up a strategy for delivering the pitches that Honiton needs. It is unlikely that there will be one site outside of the AONB and better related to the town that could take all of the pitches required to meet Honiton’s needs so a combination of sites may be required. If by December 2015 it has not been possible to find suitable and deliverable alternative sites for pitches then Tower Hill proposals will be considered.