

BRAMSHOTT & LIPHOOK PARISH PLAN
MINUTES OF SPORTS FACILITIES MEETING (VI.3)

Held in the Liphook Social Club on 29th November at 1930 hours

Panel:	Trevor Maroney Peter Williamson Jackie Poole Phil Jordan Jeanette Kirby	Treasurer & Panel Chairman Leader - Sports & Leisure PC Rep. - Sports and Leisure Chairman PC Recreation Committee Leader – Planning & Development
Speakers:	Laurence Fiddler Fred Powers John Wichall	Chairman Liphook & Ripsley Cricket Vice President Liphook United FC Hon. Secretary Liphook Tennis
Representatives:	Phil Avery Brian Knight Jude Simpson Helen Coyte Richard Gould Pam Robson Gillian Hall Mary Eyre Robin Young	Assistant Head Bohunt School Manager Bohunt Centre EHDC Rugby – London Wasps Tennis Tennis Tennis Tennis & Badminton Chairman BLPP
Apologies:	Martin Feast Tony Rudgard	Football Referee & Technical Advisor Parish Sports and Recreation

1.	<u>Administration.</u> The chairman welcomed everyone, gave an outline of the Parish Plan, explained the aim of the meeting, format, and agenda and highlighted safety procedures in the event of an emergency.	
2.	<u>Introductions.</u> The chairman introduced the panel and speakers. He added that it was an informal meeting and that questions could be raised at any time.	
3.	<p><u>Current Developments in Liphook.</u></p> <p>a. Using large maps of the Parish, Jeanette Kirby gave an overview of planned developments that had been approved or considered for future housing:</p> <p>(1) Those with planning permission:</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">(a) Silent Garden (off the Portsmouth Road and on the borders of the SDNP). This has permission for 128 houses.</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">(b) The old OSU site (off the Midhurst Road) which is allocated for part housing and part business use.</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">(c) Lowsley Farm (off the Longmoor Road) which has permission for 155 houses.</p> <p>(2) Sites included in the Strategic Housing Allocation Assessment (in order of size) are:</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">(a) Land south of A3. 12.06 Ha with potential for almost 500 houses.</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">(b) Land at Chiltley Farm. 4.1 Ha with potential for 160 houses.</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">(c) Land at Headley Road. 1.35 Ha with potential for 50 houses.</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">(d) Land at Little Boarhunt. 0.8 Ha with potential for 32 houses.</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">(e) Land in Bramshott. 0.31 Ha with potential for 5 houses.</p>	

	<p>b. She also pointed out those areas where planning consent had been rejected. These areas might be considered suitable for new sporting facilities:</p> <p>(1) Sites put forward by landowners but excluded by EHDC for housing include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) Bohunt Manor. 13.1 Ha excluded due to landscape impact. (b) Old Shepherds Farm. 7.42 Ha because the roads are unsuitable for increased volume in traffic. (c) West of Devils Lane. 7.24 Ha due to roads being unsuitable for increased volume in traffic. (d) West of Hollycombe Close. 9.6 Ha due to landscape and access constraints. (e) South West of South Road. 17.2 Ha, too large and isolated site. (f) Penally Farm, Hewshott Lane. 21.17 Ha, a large site, away from the main settlement. <p>(2) Other outlying sites include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) Land alongside the Passfield Road, (1.15 Ha) (b) Longmoor Road, Griggs Green (alongside the A3) (1.23 Ha) (c) Aston Wood, Hill House Hill (1.98 Ha) (d) Chase Villas, Bramshott Chase (0.2 Ha) (e) The Old Spaniard. (0.37 Ha) (2.0 Ha) (f) Lakehouse Cottages, Devils Lane. 	All
4.	<p><u>Rugby</u>. Helen Coyte gave a very informative overview on the current position on rugby and hockey locally: Alton, Haslemere, Midhurst and Petersfield were struggling for players. She felt that there would be insufficient players in the Parish to form a club and any attempt to do so would weaken the other clubs. The chairman confirmed that he had received a similar briefing from the secretary of Petersfield Club who added that there was quite a lot of interest from youngsters until they reached their teens. The chairman confirmed that this seemed to tally with the findings from the Youth Survey, conducted this summer. As a former rugby player, Peter Williamson endorsed this view. It was generally felt that the sport could be played by youngsters – boys and girls – locally on any patch of ground; posts would not be needed. As such, it was felt that provision of facilities for this sport should be left to Bohunt School.</p>	PA & BK
5.	<p><u>Hockey</u>. Although there was no speaker on hockey Brian Knight explained that his previous attempts to generate interest in hockey were unsuccessful. However, he confirmed that Bohunt School was teaching hockey. It was generally agreed that, like rugby, only the younger generation were interested in the sport but then found that the community was well served by the surrounding clubs in Haslemere and Petersfield. It was concluded that facilities for this sport should be provided in the grounds of Bohunt School.</p>	PA & BK
6.	<p><u>Bowling</u>. In the absence of a representative Phil Jordan offered his understanding of their current views. The club has recently suffered from vandalism and are concerned that this is a consequence of the location close to the “Little Rec” skate park, which has attracted an element of disruptive youth. The Police are aware of the situation and the Parish Council have removed the shelter to make the area less attractive as a “meeting point.” Despite this the club has a green and a purpose built pavilion; a vision of moving to alternative location might be attractive, but difficult to see as financially realistic.</p>	

7. Potential Sports & Leisure Centre with Swimming Pool. In introducing this item the chairman explained that EHDC had produced a Leisure Built Facilities 2012 – 2026 paper which focused on maintaining and updating swimming facilities in Alton, Bordon and Petersfield. The paper states that the community in Liphook is expected to travel to these population centres to use the pools. With the growth in Liphook's population the chairman felt consideration should be given to building a pool in the village, particularly since the youngsters, from the Youth Survey findings, are 2:1 in favour of having one. Although the paper covers the whole of East Hampshire, the chairman circulated copies of Appendix D (ii) to the strategy paper which identified key issues affecting the North East Area of the district which included Bramshott and Liphook. There was then a discussion on the subject:

- a. The older members present reminded the Panel that an appeal had been made to fund a swimming pool in the 1980's. Due to the anticipated high maintenance and running costs the project was cancelled.
- b. Phil Jordan pointed out that there are sports facilities in the Bohunt Centre which were slowly being updated due to funding constraints. Phil Avery confirmed that there were 2 sports halls. Following a grant of £85,000 from Sport England and Garfield Weston Foundation plus £65,000 from Bohunt School and Centre the floor, lighting and fixtures and fittings in the gymnasium had been replaced and additional cricket nets fitted during the summer recess. The badminton and tennis facilities have also been improved with new audio and visual equipment fitted. The chairman expressed concern that with the growth in pupil numbers and the confined site there might be pressure to convert some space into classrooms. Phil Avery refuted this, adding that further Centre facilities had been created and other renovated: two hard courts had been resurfaced and remarked, the Opie Conference Room had been refitted; the Drama Studio had its lighting and sound equipment restored to working condition and a projector installed; a new Dance Studio had been installed and a new Drama Rehearsal Space had been created. In the light of this Phil Jordan therefore suggested that the only additional requirement would be a swimming pool.
- c. Bearing in mind the poor public transport system the chairman felt that the Parish needed a swimming pool; indeed there was a need to generate more activities for the youngsters locally, a point made in the Youth Survey. He suggested that a pool might be viable if build as a project along with a bowling alley or, say, skate rink in partnership with a commercial company experienced in this field. This might require subsidising by the community and local schools. It was pointed out that as swimming no longer formed part of the National Curriculum it was unlikely that the Department of Education would provide funding for swimming lessons.
- d. The meeting concluded that whilst it would be nice to have a local swimming pool the community could not afford to fund it and, as such, the project should be considered low priority.
- e. There was then a discussion on ease of access to the existing sports facilities. There was concern that users' meetings had stopped. Phil Avery explained that as HCC funding had been removed and EHDC funding halved these meetings were discontinued. The meetings were part of the School's responsibilities for the higher levels of funding; the removal of funding negated the need. There was a general feeling that the state of repairs and cleanliness needed to be improved, a point borne out in the

	<p>Youth Survey. Phil Avery felt that the Repairs and refurbishment work, referred to in Item 7b above, should make cleaning much easier.</p> <p>f. Phil Jordan felt that there ought to be a purpose built keep fit suite, which might mean an extension to the existing suite.</p>	
8.	<p><u>Tennis.</u></p> <p>a. John Wichall said that they had 145 members, 65 of whom are juniors. They lease 3 grass and 3 hard tennis courts on the recreation ground from the Council. The public are allowed to use the hard courts on a play and pay basis when not in use by club members.</p> <p>b. They have been coaching juniors for more than 25 years running 4 sessions a week starting with 6 year olds. Members of U3A also use the courts. He added that they have adequate facilities for the current membership, but the junior section fully utilising the courts on Saturday mornings. As the village grows they could do with another hard court, but this is not seen as a priority at this time.</p> <p>c. The tennis club's main priorities are replacing the existing floodlights, which are over 20 years old and are in poor condition, and refurbishing or resurfacing the hard courts. The club has planning permission to replace the lights, which would be on lower supports, thus reducing the over-spill. The cost is estimated to be between £30k and £40k. The minimum cost of surface refurbishment of the hard courts would be between £7.5k and £15k.</p> <p>d. Phil Jordan asked where another hard court could go. If the Bowls Club relocated their grounds could be released for tennis.</p> <p>e. The chairman asked if a copy of their 5 year plan could be made available.</p>	JW
9.	<p><u>Cricket.</u></p> <p>a. Laurence Fiddler explained that the Cricket Club owned its own ground at Ripsley, on the right just beyond the Black Fox Inn. However, there was a limited amount of cricket that could be played there because of wear and tear on the cricket square. There were particular difficulties in accommodating youth cricket at Ripsley. The club uses another pitch at Stedham, which is shared with other cricket, stoolball and football clubs. Although a very good ground it is not convenient because of the distance from Liphook so the club would definitely be interested in being able to use another pitch in Liphook.</p> <p>b. There would be issues that needed to be addressed such as who would maintain any cricket square in Liphook, which requires specialised knowledge. The square at Stedham is maintained by a club member. The club used to use the recreation ground, but had to leave because drainage was put in badly that created an uneven outfield meant the ground would have been dangerous to play cricket on. The safety barriers for football spectators were put in after the club had left the recreation ground and would have to be removed if hypothetically cricket were to be played there again. There would also be the issue of who would maintain the square to be overcome if a return to the recreation ground was mooted.</p> <p>c. The club has 60 to 70 adults and more than 100 registered youth players. Both the first and second teams had achieved promotion last season and so the first team would be playing in the second division of the four divisions Southern Electric Premier Cricket League. This is the top recreational</p>	

	<p>cricket league in the area, covering Hampshire, Dorset, Wiltshire, as well as teams in Berkshire and Surrey.</p> <p>d. Phil Jordan pointed out that planning permission for both a football and cricket pitches on Bohunt Manor had been granted. Laurence explained that the developers had offered to discuss their plans with him.</p> <p>e. In response to Peter Williamson’s question, he confirmed that they require a 50 yard radius pitch for juniors and 65 yards for adults.</p> <p><i>[After note: Laurence Fiddler later confirmed that according to the league rules on adult cricket the boundary must be no less than 50 yards and no more than 90 yards from the nearer middle stump on the match pitch.]</i></p>	
10.	<p><u>Football.</u></p> <p>a. Liphook United FC submitted their 5 year Plan before the meeting. Fred Powers then confirmed that they had 330 members from age 6 upwards. They currently have a lease on the recreation ground pitch but owned the club house. This gave them one pitch slightly smaller than the regulations permitted. They used Bohunt’s pitches for junior matches, which they found expensive and, sometimes, not available.</p> <p>b. What they wanted was a site that would give them 3 pitches of differing sizes to meet the new regulations and a new pavilion. They needed land in a central position with good road and pedestrian access.</p> <p>c. The chairman asked about the suitability of the 2 pitches on MoD land at Bramshott. However, it was felt that access up the narrow Rectory Lane, Bramshott or off the A3 would not be ideal, plus it would be too far out from the village.</p> <p>d. In addition, Fred emphasized the Club’s success and, with it, the need for an upgraded pitch in order to gain justly earned promotion.</p> <p>e. Laurence Fiddler conceded that Liphook United’s needs should take priority as his cricket team were able to gain promotion without any major changes to the pitch at Ripsley.</p>	
11.	<p><u>Other Sports.</u></p> <p>a. Stoolball. Helen Coyte pointed out that some youngsters played stoolball. However she added that a flat area the size of a cricket pitch would suffice for this sport.</p> <p>b. Table Tennis. Peter Williamson confirmed that he had received notes on table tennis, adding that they had now moved to Rake.</p> <p>c. Outdoor Equipment. Helen Coyte asked if outdoor training equipment could be provided for runners to exercise on.</p> <p>d. Athletic. Due to an oversight the requirement for sports facilities for athletes was overlooked.</p>	
12.	<p><u>General Questions.</u> There were no other questions, the meeting ended at 2200 hours.</p>	

Signed:
Chairman

Date: