

**Epping Forest District Council
Built Facility Strategy**

Sports Club Survey Summary

4 global Consulting

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It is not possible to guarantee the fulfilment of any estimates or forecasts contained within this report, although they have been conscientiously prepared on the basis of our research and information made available to us at the time of the study.

The author(s) will not be held liable to any party for any direct or indirect losses, financial or otherwise, associated with any contents of this report. We have relied on a number of areas of information provided by the client, and have not undertaken additional independent verification of this data.

1 Introduction

- 1.1.1 In order to gain an understanding of the facility provision and sufficiency for non-PPS sports, a survey was undertaken across all sports organization in Epping Forest. The objective of the survey was to gain further information on the quality of indoor and outdoor facility provision and whether this satisfied the demand of the individual organisations.

2 Sports Club Survey Analysis

2.1 Overall Response Summary

- 2.1.1 Table 3.1 and 3.2 below summarises the responses collected through the Sports Club Survey

Table 3.1: Response Data Summary

Completion Stage	Number of sports clubs
Fully completed responses	13
Partially completed responses	0
Number of unique sports	11

Table 3.2: Responding Organisations

Completion Stage	Number of sports clubs
Fully completed responses	Epping Forest Netball Club North Weald Station Bowls Club Shooters Walking Football Epping Gymnastics Club Epping Horizons Petanque Club Loughton Taekwondo Theydon Bois Lawn Tennis Club Harlow Bowmen Archery Club Epping Squash Club – Juniors Epping Forest Sportability Club Casablanca CGT Epping Squash Club Epping Blazers Netball

2.2 Response Analysis

“WHICH SPORT DOES YOUR CLUB PARTICIPATE IN”

Sports were spread evenly across the respondents with only Netball and Gymnastics having multiple responses.

“IS YOUR ORGANISATION AFFILIATED TO A NATIONAL GOVERNING BODY OR ASSOCIATION?”

11 out of the 13 respondents (85%) indicated that their club was affiliated to a national governing body or association

“PLEASE SELECT THE FACILITY TYPE YOUR CLUBS USES MOST FREQUENTLY?”

Sports Halls proved to be the most popular answer with 31% of respondents using them. Second was Squash Courts (16%), with the rest of responses spread between netball courts, Artificial Grass Pitches and other informal facilities and areas.

“PLEASE NAME THE FACILITY YOUR CLUB USES MOST FREQUENTLY?”

Epping Sports Centre is currently utilised by 3 of the clubs, with the rest of respondents spread across education facilities such as Debden Park High School, Epping St Johns, Oak View School and Casablanca GST.

“IS THIS YOUR PREFERRED FACILITY?”

It was evident from the results that the majority of the clubs (65%) use their preferred facility. Only Loughton Taekwondo and Epping Gymnastics Club identified that they were not utilising their preferred facility. Epping Gymnastics Club were the only club to provide a reason for this, stating that they ‘desperately need to expand to a full time facility of our own’.

“DO YOU USE ANY OTHER FACILITIES FOR TRAINING OR COMPETITION?”

69% of respondents indicated that they used other facilities, which is a common trend for urban areas, where facilities are located close to each other and accessible by a large number of local residents.

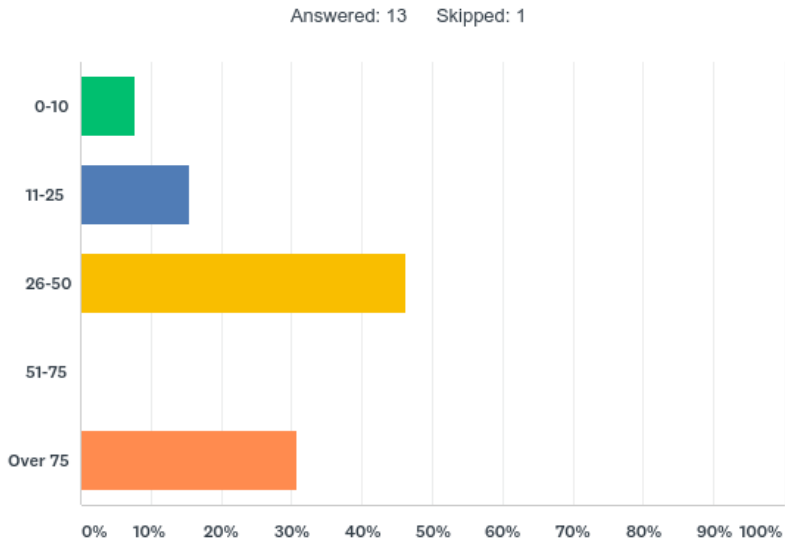
Clubs were asked to expand where this was the case, with a number of interesting findings emerging;

- Epping Blazers Netball export demand outside of the District to Leventhorpe School and Redbridge Sports Centre
- Epping Forest Netball Club also export demand to Harlow Sports Centre

“HOW MANY ACTIVE MEMBERS DOES YOUR CLUB HAVE?”

The highest response rate came in the 26-50 category which illustrates that there are a high proportion of ‘medium sized’ clubs. Clubs of this size are unlikely to be large enough to sustain their own facility, however they would be expected to have a strong internal structure and potential for further growth.

Q10 How many active members does your organisation have?



“APPROXIMATELY WHAT NUMBER OF ACTIVE MEMBERS FALL INTO THE CATEGORIES; CHILDREN (0-11), YOUTH (12-18), ADULT (19-59) AND SENIOR (60+)”

There were in total 1975 approximate members within respondent clubs. Result illustrated that the greatest proportion of these members are defined as children, followed by Youth and Adult members. These statistics are dominated by the two Gymnastics Clubs who complete the survey and states that they had 1000 children registered between them

Age Group	Responses
Children (0-11)	57%
Youth (12-18)	21%
Adult (19-59)	14%
Senior (60+)	9%

“HOW DO THE MAJORITY OF YOUR ORGANISATION’S MEMBERS TRAVEL TO THIS FACILITY?”

83% of clubs stated that the majority of their members utilise car as their primary method of travelling to facilities, with only 17% suggesting that walking is the most popular transport method. This is in line with the findings from the Strategic Context, which identify high car ownership throughout the District.

“HOW HAS THE NUMBER OF CLUB MEMBERS CHANGED OVER THE LAST 3 YEARS?” AND “PLEASE PROVIDE THE MAIN REASON FOR THE ABOVE ANSWER”

Of the 13 respondents for this question, only 2 clubs identified that their membership has decreased over the last 3 years. 1 of these clubs identified that the quality of facilities was the main reason, with the other club citing participant’s available leisure time as the main reason.

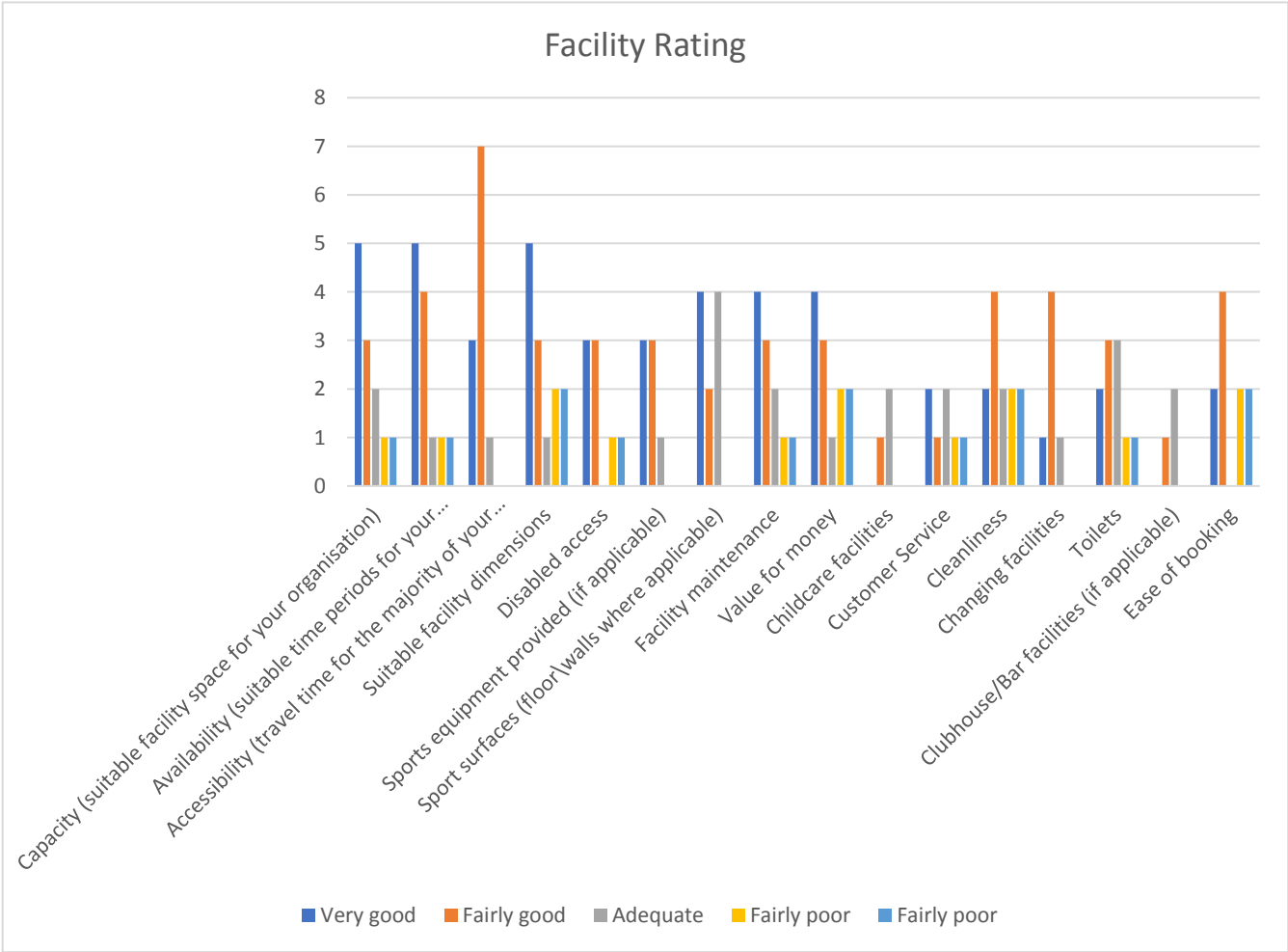
The remaining 18 clubs identified that their membership base has increased in the previous 3 years. This demonstrates a growing demand for sports facilities across the local authority, which will be addressed as part of the main report.

“ON BEHALF OF YOUR ORGANISATION, HOW WOULD YOU RATE YOUR FACILITY IN THE FOLLOWING AREAS?”

When amalgamating all responses across the different parameters, 64% of responses identified facilities as either fairly good or very good.

Capacity, Availability, Accessibility and Facility Maintenance had the highest proportion of positive feedback, with only Value for Money, Cleanliness and Ease of Booking have 4 of more Poor or Very Poor responses.

See the detailed breakdown per parameter below.



“HOW LIKELY IS IT THAT YOU WOULD RECOMMEND THIS FACILITY TO OTHER SPORTS CLUBS? (1-VERY UNLIKELY; 10 – VERY LIKELY)”

This question represents an industry standard way of testing customer’s opinions, by testing whether a customer likes a facility (or product) enough to recommend it to others.

The average rating for this question was slightly over 7, which represents a neutral score (residents are neither likely to recommend or dissuade other club from using the facility?).

“IF YOU HAVE ANY FURTHER COMMENTS REGARDING YOUR ORGANISATIONS MAIN FACILITY”

Only 7 responses were received for this question, with the following being the main points captured as part of the consultation.

Epping Squash Club Juniors: Changes are currently in the pipeline that will change our facility in such a way that the continued activity of the junior squash club may have to cease, so the future of our club is in doubt.

Epping Gymnastics Club: Please help support us expand our club to a full time facility. We are struggling with the demand. Our waiting list is a 18 month wait!

Epping Blazers Netball: It (Epping Upper Clacton RFC) has potential and it is in a great central location but only one court means you can't hold tournaments and I've noticed the surface has began to 'crumble' a bit in places Q21 and 22: “How is the number of club members projected to change over the next 3 years?” and “By how many new members/teams are you projecting to join your club in the next 3 years”?

“IN ORDER TO ACHIEVE YOUR ASPIRATION (POTENTIAL) OF YOUR ORGANISATION, WHAT PARTNER SUPPOR WILL YOUR REQUIRE OVER THE NEXT THREE YEARS?”

The following requirements for support have been identified in response to this question:

Age Group	Responses
Epping Forest Sportability Club	Potentially some funding assistance, our aim for more members will help drive self-sufficiency. If there was a way to get the message out to schools, particularly primary schools, and to children with mild to moderate disabilities in particular about the club then that would be the biggest help. If there was a forum where school SENCOs and organisations like ours could share information then I think it would be mutually beneficial
Epping Squash Club - Juniors	Retention of the current facilities (4 squash courts). Also, drive to put on more classes and recruit and train in-house coaches.
Epping Squash Club	We need the support of PfPL and EFDC to add to the support from England Squash to increase.
Epping Horizons Petanque Club	Council is always very supportive. Hopefully our future needs can be considered.
Loughton Taekwondo	Ability to access funding to bring in and train more coaches to assist with delivery of sessions. More halls in

Age Group	Responses
	the local area that we can on convenient nights to hold Taekwondo and that are affordable
Casablanca CGT	With such a large waiting list we could in theory fill and run the gymnastic facility at North Weald with support from EFDC
Epping Blazers Netball	Funding for specialist facilities like the one at Gloucester park north in Basildon
HarlowBowmen Archery Club	Provision of a dedicated Field and Heated Building for Exclusive use for Archery
Epping Gymnastics Club	Support is needed to facilitate growth into a purpose built facility.