

## Appendices

### Appendix 18: KEY FINDINGS BSF TIVERTON

#### 1 INTRODUCTION AND FACILITIES

1.1 Tiverton is the principal town and administrative centre of Mid Devon District Council with a population of 21,897 and lies 26 miles to the north of Exeter. Its sub area for the purposes of the Playing Pitch Methodology (the same as the Market Town Area Catchment) encompasses the central area of Mid Devon District and comprises a further 27 parishes in total with a population (excluding Tiverton) of 14,557.

1.2 Pitch and court facilities are as follows:

Site Name	Access	Adult football	Junior football	Mini soccer	Cricket	Rugby	Junior rugby	STP full size	STP half size	MUGA	Tennis courts	Netball courts
Tiverton East Devon College – pitches	A3	1	1									
Tiverton High School - courts	C										9	
Tiverton High School - pitches - across Bolham Road	A3	1					1					
Tiverton High School - pitches - school site	A3		2		1		1					
Tiverton RFC	A2					2						
Tiverton Town FC, Ladysmead	A2	1										
Tiverton Youth Centre court	A1									1		
Tiverton, Amory Park - courts	A1										6	
Tiverton, Amory Park - pitches	A1	2	1									
Tiverton, Blundells School - courts	C										6	
Tiverton, Blundells School – pitches	B				1							
Tiverton, Blundells School - STPs	B							2				
Tiverton, Elmore FC	A2	1										
Tiverton, Exe Vale Leisure Centre – courts	A1										4	
Tiverton, Exe Vale Leisure Centre – STP	A1							1				
Tiverton, Knighthayes	A2				1							
Tiverton, Moorhayes - court	A2									1		
Tiverton, Moorhayes - pitches	A2		2									
Tiverton, West Exe	A1	1										
<b>TOTALS</b>		<b>7</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>0</b>

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### 1.3 Football

There are six football pitch sites in Tiverton with established community use:

- Westexe One adult pitch, home to Westexe Rovers with 2 Saturday sides and also used by Moors Youth U11s on Saturday mornings.
- Amory Park This is the main football site in the town with 2 adult pitches and 1 junior pitch and accommodates 2 adult teams and 24 youth and mini teams. Most of the 15 youth teams (run by Twyford Spartans and Moors Youth) play on Sunday mornings in the Taunton Youth League. The 9 mini teams are split between play on Saturday and Sunday mornings.
- Petroc (East Devon) College One adult and one junior pitch, where 3 youth (including 1 girls' team) and 2 mini teams play for Tiverton Town Youth FC.
- Horsdon Park Elmore FC's ground, who field 2 Saturday sides and an U18 XI.
- Ladysmead Tiverton Town FC's home ground (the most senior club in the area) who also field 2 junior teams and an U18 XI.
- Moorhayes A relatively new site with 2 junior pitches; main base of Moors Youth where they play one U12s girls team and 11 mini teams.

There are also a considerable number of football pitches at Blundell's, but as these pitches are for the exclusive use of their students, they have thus been omitted from the PPM calculations

### 1.4 Cricket

There are two cricket pitches in Tiverton with community use:

- Kingtshayes Court, Bolham: Tiverton Heathcoat CC are based here and field five adult teams, two junior and two mini teams.
- Blundell's Tiverton & Bickleigh CC play their 1<sup>st</sup> XI at Blundell's and their 2<sup>nd</sup> XI at Happy Meadow, Bickleigh. The arrangement at Blundell's may not be secure. They used to play at East Devon College but that pitch has been redeveloped for housing.  
Old Blundellian CC play friendlies on Sundays.

### 1.5 Rugby

Tiverton RFC run 4 adult and 10 junior and mini teams. They are based at Coronation Field, Bolham Road in Tiverton, where they have 2 adult pitches and a small training area. They also make occasional use of the neighbouring Tiverton High School pitch and STP for training.

### 1.6 Hockey

Tiverton White Eagles' home matches are played at Exe Valley Leisure Centre on Saturdays. The club field 3 ladies teams and 4 junior teams.

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### 1.7 Outdoor Courts and MUGAs

#### Courts

There are 9 tennis courts (5 netball courts) at Tiverton High School which do not appear to have community use: they are not floodlit, plus one basketball court.

There are 6 tennis courts and a netball court (3x 5-a-side pitches) on the tarmac hardcourt at Amory Park and 4 all-weather surfaced tennis courts at Exe Vale Leisure Centre, all of these are floodlit.

There is a basketball court at Tiverton Youth Centre, Park Hill and a MUGA at Moorhayes, floodlighting for which has recently been approved.

### 1.8 STPS

Exe Valley Leisure Centre, Full size sand based.

After school use starts at 6.00pm

Term time weekdays: Used by Tiverton White Eagles for hockey training for 2 hours on Wednesday night, balance of time between 6 and 9 each evening is predominantly football 7-a-side and training. Generally not used after 9pm.

Term time weekends: TWE hockey on Saturdays; some spare slots. Youth football training early evening. Sundays – occasionally five a side tournaments, otherwise spare capacity.

Summer programming is much quieter (as with all ATP's)

Blundell's, 2x full size sand based pitches.

Term time: Tiverton RFC training on Monday and youth football early Friday evenings.

The school receive many requests to hire out the STP's, but pitches have considerable school use and they understandably wish to protect from undue wear and tear.

### 1.9 Education Facilities

#### *Tiverton High School*

The School has 1,300 pupils, from age 11 to 16 years. The Current pitch provision consists of:

On School side of Bolham Road: 2 junior football pitches, 2x 6-a-side pitches, 1 full size rugby (+ grids) + athletics track and softball. 2 separate court areas: school 6x tennis courts and 2x. Tarmac surface, neither floodlit. Good condition fencing. No community use recorded

Across Bolham Road: 1 football, 1 rugby + artificial cricket strip. Dual use of football pitch with Tiverton Town FC on split maintenance basis.

#### *Petroc College (Sixth Form/Further Education)*

The former East Devon College has one adult and one junior football pitch. Both these pitches enjoy community use.

### 2 ISSUES AND CONSIDERATIONS

- Whether through design or coincidence, a sporting hub in Tiverton has centred on Bolham Road.
- Only three dedicated junior football pitch in Tiverton with full community use.
- Tiverton is home to three large, thriving youth football clubs – Moors Youth, Tiverton Town Youth and Twyford Spartans.
- Very vibrant footballing town. Much youth football in area – 34 junior football teams. Wide perception that insufficient pitches to meet existing demand, particularly after bad weather.
- League secretaries testify to buoyant growth in junior teams
- Absolute shortage of junior pitches impacts upon development of senior clubs wishing to run more teams.
- Tiverton High School has requests for use of its facilities from the community which it cannot meet.
- The overuse and poor drainage of the rugby pitches at Coronation Field constrict club's development.
- Not enough rugby pitches to meet the demand from junior teams.
- Several football clubs expressing desire to run more teams, particularly youth and girls/ladies, which is currently frustrated by lack of pitches.
- Tiverton and Bickleigh CC's ability to continue playing home matches in Tiverton (at Blundell's) is dependent upon the school's continuation of its community use policy.
- The commendable addition in recent years of two junior pitches at Moorhayes has generated its own momentum as demand now outstrips supply even more.
- Overuse of pitches and poor drainage (especially at Amory Park) gives no scope for rest and recuperation.
- Popularity of Exe Valley STP equates to an overall shortage of training provision and results in further pitch wear.
- Surface at Amory Park hard court area is not considered suitable for football training.
- Tiverton High School courts also considered to be in a poor state and need re-laying and marking

### 3 ASSESSMENT UNDER PPM

**Football:** If we remove education pitches (i.e. the pitches at Petroc College and Tiverton High School) this means that in total the demand is from 9 adult, 22 youth and 22 mini teams and there 5 adult and 3 junior pitches available. This shows a shortfall in junior pitch provision on Saturday mornings which can only just be met by using adult pitches; it also shows a deficit of junior and mini pitches on Sunday mornings. Bringing the education pitches into the equation does alleviate some of the shortfalls but not all.

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Tiverton's population is scheduled to rise by up to 4,000 by the allocation of 2,180 dwellings in the period to 2026. This will increase demand for pitches, especially youth football provision.

**Cricket:** The PPM shows a slight shortfall for cricket provision on Saturday afternoons; this is partly due to Tiverton & Bickleigh CC 2<sup>nd</sup> XI playing outside the town at Happy Meadow, Bickleigh.

**Rugby:** Calculations from the PPM show less than one pitch to play with/left over – however the PPM does not consider demand from mini teams (of which Tiverton RFC has around 8).

**Hockey:** The PPM shows pitch almost fully utilised on Saturdays

## 4 ACTION POINTS

- 4.1 Redevelopment of Tiverton High School campus should take account of Petroc College and develop both together in tandem as a sports hub within the town.
- 4.2 Pitch provision at campus should also include (as a minimum) two rugby pitches and an artificial cricket wicket with full community use
- 4.3 Improved drainage at rugby club is essential for a thriving club on a restricted site.
- 4.4 There is a need for all weather training facilities for football and rugby, to take pressure off pitches and the existing STP. Demand certainly exists for at least a 60m x 40m 3G training area suitable for these sports and should be provided as part of the new school build. A 3G pitch would also enable development of girls' football which currently takes place on such artificial surfaces.
- 4.5 Artificial surfaces need to be appropriate for purpose. For example, the courts at Amory Park are not suitable for football training and are underutilised. Opportunity exists for Amory Park to develop as a youth football hub in the same way as Moorhayes.
- 4.6 There is a shortfall of football pitches in Tiverton. At least an additional 2 adult, 2/3 junior and 2/3 mini pitches are required, some of which could be accommodated on the new school site.
- 4.7 Ideally dedicated pitches should reflect the ages they cater for and a hierarchy developing from mini to junior and then senior pitches should exist.
- 4.8 According to standards of provision suggested by the LTA, Tiverton area probably has sufficient tennis courts if school courts are included but quality needs improving.