

## Appendix 19 REPORT ON RUGBY AND FOOTBALL IN CREDITON

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There are three rugby clubs in Mid Devon – Crediton RFC, Cullompton RFC and Tiverton RFC. Each of the clubs has a registered playing membership in the region of 500. Over one third of Cullompton and Tiverton’s membership is made up from junior players aged between 7 and 12 years (Crediton’s percentage of junior membership is 21%). It is believed that these 3 clubs are some of the largest sporting organisations in the district.

### 1 Pitch Supply in Crediton

	Ownership	Use	Adult football	Junior football	Cricket	Rugby	Rugby Training
Lord’s Meadow	MDDC	Crediton Utd FC	1	0	0	0	0
Lord’s Meadow	MDDC	Crediton Youth FC	2	1	0	0	0
Creedy Bridge	Crediton RFC	Crediton RFC	0	0	0	1	0
Blagdon	Crediton RFC	Crediton RFC	0	0	0	1	1
QECC Lord’s Meadow (the Rec)	Devon County Council (QECC)	QECC, Crediton RFC	0	0	0	2	0
Forches Cross (QECC)	Devon County Council (QECC)	QECC, Crediton Saints Youth FC	2	0	0	0	0
Barnfield (QECC Lower site)	Devon County Council (QECC)	QECC, Crediton Saints Youth FC	0	2 + training grids	0	0	0
Alexandra Rd (QECC)	Devon County Council (QECC)	QECC	0	1			
		<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>1</b>

### 2 Rugby in Crediton

Crediton RFC run 4 adult teams and 8 junior and mini teams. Their clubhouse is at Blagdon, Crediton where they have one adult pitch and a training pitch. They also own one adult pitch at Creedy Bridge and make use of two rugby pitches on land owned by QECC/Devon CC at Lords Meadow, known locally as ‘the Rec’.

1<sup>st</sup> XV play at Blagdon, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>s and Colts on Rec opposite club; all junior teams on Rec and occasionally use of Blagdon and river pitch. They train on the training pitch and the river pitch. The pitches are used by archery club and Devon RFU for Colts training.

The club state that their existing facilities are no longer adequate; in particular the layout and size of the changing facilities at Blagdon mean they are unable to accommodate any girls’ rugby and they have also outgrown the clubhouse and car parking facilities. Clubhouse often used by local groups and organisations.

The club would like to run a ladies and a veteran’s team, and mention the reasons preventing them from doing so primarily comprise the overuse of existing facilities for both playing and changing requirements.

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They would ideally like to move to a purpose built, dedicated rugby site within the town. The club has presented a robust plan for their development and its progress is dependent upon the planning authority's designation of land and proposed location for future educational or residential development in the town.

### Quality of rugby pitches

In assessment for the Devon Playing Fields Study:

- Blagdon rugby pitch scored 73% (good)
- Creedy pitch – scored 'satisfactory' (60%) – low lying, no changing.
- QECC pitches at Lord's Meadow (the 'Rec') scored 54% (poor), with comment 'room and faint markings for football pitch or 3<sup>rd</sup> rugby'

### 3 Playing Pitch Methodology - Rugby

The PPM analyses rugby teams on the following age ranges; figures for Crediton are entered:

Teams	Age range	No of teams
Mini rugby – mixed	8-12 years	5
Junior rugby – boys	13 – 17 years	3
Junior rugby – girls	16 – 17 years	0
Men's rugby	18 – 45 years	4
Women's rugby	18 – 45 years	0
TOTAL (ex mini)		7

The methodology does not run for mini teams.

The PPM can be run with various scenarios – see table below:

#### *Scenario A:*

4 adult and 3 junior teams using 2 senior pitches, with 100% adult play on Saturdays and 100% junior play on Sundays.(i.e. non school pitches only)

#### *Scenario B*

4 adult and 3 junior teams using 4 senior pitches (Blagdon, Creedy Bridge and two on QECC ground), with 100% adult play on Saturdays and 100% junior play on Sundays (i.e. including non school pitches)

Scenario	Shortfall or surplus of pitches									
	SAT AM (Senior)	SAT PM (Senior)	SAT AM (Junior)	SAT PM (Junior)	SUN AM (Senior)	SUN PM (Senior)	SUN AM (Junior)	SUN PM (Junior)	M/W (Senior)	M/W (Junior)
A	2	0	0	0	2	2	-1.5	0	2	0
B	4	2	0	0	4	4	-1.5	0	4	0

The methodology shows a shortage of dedicated junior rugby pitches on a Sunday morning as there are no dedicated junior rugby pitches. The PPM does not reassign the junior games to the adult pitches; if it did, it would show a spare 'half a pitch' on a Sunday morning if 2 pitches available, and a spare 2.5 pitches on a Sunday morning, if 4 pitches available. Also this does not include minis use.

### **Assessment**

In reality, the situation for rugby is that:

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- If there are 4 pitches available – these can accommodate 4 adult teams on a Saturday afternoon (home and away basis) and 3 junior teams on a Sunday morning. However:
- This does not take account of minis, who play on the QECC pitches and occasionally Creedy river pitch, but add to wear and tear on the main pitches
- During poor weather, inadequate drainage means some pitches are out of action (and games are cancelled). The club itself mentions that sometimes there are 3 senior games at home on a Saturday and 4 junior games on a Sunday. If the weather is not good, this has caused cancellations in the past.
- If school pitches – whose future availability cannot be guaranteed - are not included and there are only 2 pitches in use, these pitches would be supporting all 4 adult teams playing on Saturdays, followed by 3 juniors and minis on Sundays, when the pitches would be overused.
- Training takes place on the training pitch and occasionally Creedy river pitch.

### 4 Football in Crediton

Crediton Utd FC run 2 adult teams on their own pitch at Lord's Meadow

Crediton Youth run 5 junior boys teams and 4 mini teams on two adult pitches and one youth pitch (sometimes) leased by them from MDDC at Lord's Meadow. (They also run two girls teams who play home games away on artificial pitches)

Crediton Saints run 3 junior boys teams and 1 mini team and play on 2 minimum size adult pitches and 1 junior pitch on QECC land at Forches Cross and Barnfield.

#### Quality of football pitches

In assessment for the Devon Playing Fields Study:

- Crediton FC's pitch scored 73% (good)
- Lord's Meadow football pitches scored 67% (satisfactory)
- Forches Cross (QECC) pitches scored 57% (satisfactory) - minimum adult dimensions and one has smaller goals

### 5 Playing Pitch Methodology – Football

The PPM analyses football teams on the following age ranges; figures for Crediton are entered:

Teams	Age range	No of teams
Mini football – mixed	6 - 9 years	5
Junior football – boys	10 – 15 years	8
Junior football – girls	10 – 15 years	0
Men's football	16 – 45 years	2
Women's football	16 – 45 years	0
TOTAL (ex mini)		15

#### Scenario A:

2 adult teams, 8 junior boys and 5 mini on 3 adult pitches and 1 junior (i.e. only non-school pitches). Both adult teams play Saturday afternoons, Juniors play 50/50 Saturday mornings and Sunday mornings and Minis play Sunday morning, with one team on a Saturday morning.

#### Scenario B:

2 adult teams, 8 junior boys and 5 mini on 5 adult and 4 junior pitches (i.e. including school pitches).

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Scenario	Shortfall or surplus of pitches									
	SAT AM (Senior)	SAT PM (Senior)	SAT AM (Junior)	SAT PM (Junior)	SUN AM (Senior)	SUN PM (Senior)	SUN AM (Junior)	SUN PM (Junior)	M/W (Senior)	M/W (Junior)
A	3.0	2.0	-1.0	1.0	3.0	3.0	-1.0	1.0	3.0	1.0
B	5.0	4.0	2.0	4.0	5.0	5.0	2.0	4.0	5.0	4.0

A + B plus shortfall of 1 mini pitch on Saturday mornings and 4 mini pitches on Sunday mornings.

### Assessment

- Football teams vibrant; steady interest in junior football. Constraints to football expansion through lack of volunteers and people to run the teams, not through lack of keen players.
- With inclusion of school pitches, sufficient pitches to meet demand.
- If school pitches are excluded then there is a shortage of junior pitches on Saturday and Sunday mornings, although these could be reassigned to the adult pitches

### 6 STPs/Training facilities

- Football clubs are training on Lord's Meadow hardcourt area or going to the MUGA at Waie Inn, Zeal Monachorum.
- Rugby teams train on pitch
- People wishing to play hockey generally join teams in Exeter.

As a result of analysis of existing training and STP facilities in the Mid Devon area and Sport England data, and research and consultation for the Strategy, the Report supports the provision of a full size STP in Crediton, catering for demand and need from rugby and football.

### 7 SUMMARY OF ISSUES

- Quality of pitches is fair to good; some issues around drainage, especially Creedy river rugby pitch
- All teams very vibrant, both in football and rugby. Rugby wishes to run more teams, but constraints through inadequacy of existing facilities. Constraints to growth of junior football clubs mainly concerned with lack of volunteers.
- Teams cannot play without a pitch; there are sufficient pitches in Crediton for existing rugby and football clubs. However, 2 out of 5 adult football pitches, 3 out of 4 junior pitches and 2 out of 4 rugby pitches are on school land i.e. 54% of provision on school sites – 50% of rugby; 40% of adult football and 75% of junior football.
- Without pitches on school sites, rugby pitches are under great pressure particularly, and youth football would struggle to be accommodated.
- Growth in participation in rugby and football will result in additional pressure on pitch provision.
- Existing allocation and availability of land in Crediton for playing pitch use (both public, club and education sites) should be protected.
- There is an identified need for a full size STP in Crediton catering for demand for football and rugby.