

20<sup>th</sup> May 2024



## SEVENOAKS TOWN SPORTS STRATEGY (STSS) WORKING GROUP

To be held in the Council Chamber, Town Council Offices,  
**Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> May 2024 at 6.00pm**

Town Councillors are reminded that they have a duty to state a Declaration of Interest prior to the appropriate agenda item and to consider the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 s.17 when reaching a decision.

Meeting open to members of the public, and membership open to any sporting organisation/group within Sevenoaks Town.

### Working Group Members:

Cllr Gareth Willis <b>(Chair)</b>	Cllr Dr Peter Dixon <b>(Vice-Chair)</b>
Cllr Catherine Daniell	Cllr Dr Marilyn Canet
Cllr Victoria Granville	

### AGENDA

1	<u>APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE</u> To receive and note apologies for absence.	-
2	<u>REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATIONS</u> To consider written requests from Members which have previously been submitted to the Town Clerk to enable participation in discussion and voting on items for which the Member has a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest. (s.31 & s.33 of the Localism Act 2011).	-
3	<u>DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST</u> To receive any declarations of interest from members in respect of any items of business included in this agenda.	-
4	<u>MINUTES OF THE SEVENOAKS TOWN SPORTS STRATEGY WORKING GROUP HELD ON 21ST MARCH 2024</u> To receive and sign the Minutes of the Sevenoaks Town Sports Strategy Working Group meeting held on 21 <sup>ST</sup> March 2024.	Attached

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Sevenoaks Kent TN13 3QG

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web: [sevenoakstown.gov.uk](http://sevenoakstown.gov.uk)



Town Clerk

5	<u>SEVENOAKS TOWN SPORTS STRATEGY – RESULTS</u> To review the summary of survey responses received.	Attached
6	<u>SCHOOLS AND SPORTS FACILITIES TO HIRE</u> To receive and review the sports facilities offered by schools for external hire and use by the general public.	Attached
7	<u>DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS</u>	
8	<u>PRESS RELEASE</u> To consider any agenda item considered appropriate for a press release.	–

**Minutes of the Sevenoaks Town Sports Strategy Working Group meeting held at the Sevenoaks Town Council Chambers on 21<sup>st</sup> March 2024, 6:00pm.**

**In attendance:**

Sevenoaks Town Council	<b>Cllr Dr Marilyn Canet – Chair of OS&amp;L</b>
Sevenoaks Town Council	<b>Cllr Nick Varley – Vice Chair of Planning Committee</b>
Sevenoaks Town Council	<b>Cllr Dr Peter Dixon</b>
Sevenoaks Town Council	<b>Cllr Granville</b>
Sevenoaks Town Council	<b>Cllr Gustard</b>
Sevenoaks Town Council	<b>Linda Larter MBE – Town Clerk</b>
Sevenoaks Town Council	<b>Georgie Elliston – Planning Committee Clerk</b>
Everyone Active	<b>Robert Hutton</b>
Sevenoaks Vine Cricket Club	<b>Hugo Tudor</b>
Sevenoaks Suns Basketball	<b>Phil Webb</b>
Sevenoaks Indoor Bowls Club	<b>Richard Pursell</b>
Sevenoaks Indoor Bowls Club	<b>Alan Hogg</b>
West Kent Sport & Wellbeing	<b>Steve Rowley</b>
Sevenoaks School	<b>Steve Brenchley, Director of Sport</b>
Sevenoaks Hockey Club	<b>Susan Acott</b>
Sevenoaks Rugby	<b>Stephen Fitzmaurice</b>
Holmesdale Cricket Club	<b>William McDowell</b>
Sevenoaks Bowling Club	<b>Ray Russell</b>
Sevenoaks Bowling Club	<b>Audrey Franks</b>
Knole Squash, Sevenoaks Padel	<b>Michael Wright</b>

**1. Welcome and Introduction**

Cllr Dr Canet as Chair opened the meeting and welcomed both new and returning attendees.

**2. Apologies for absence**

**Aaron Wilkinson** (Sevenoaks District Council), **Edward Oatley** (Sevenoaks Sports Council), **Derrick Rodger** (Sevenoaks Indoor Bowls Club)

**3. Minutes**

a) The Minutes of the previous STSS meeting held on 4<sup>th</sup> October 2023 were received.

b) The Planning Committee Clerk noted request from the Sevenoaks Indoor Bowls Club to correct the spelling of their Club's name, to read "Bowls", not "Bowles".

c) The Minutes were agreed with the above amendment.

**4. Sevenoaks Town Sports Strategy - Results**

a) The Group received and discussed the results of the Sports Facility Survey sent to all members on 24<sup>th</sup> January 2024, summarised by the Town Clerk. The most prevalent needs were noted as capacity issues, desire for Padel, 3G pitches, and basketball facilities.

b) While the feedback received from members was valuable, it was noted that a summary column showing each group's main priority actions would be useful. It was agreed that the groups would send their **1-3** main priority actions for collating on this list. These to include

how prospective funding organisations can help to deliver these actions, as the Sports Strategy will be used as an evidence basis for future funding requests.

c) Members noted that the following organisations/sports were not represented in the responses, and it was agreed that the survey deadline be extended until 30<sup>th</sup> April 2024. Sevenoaks Town Council (STC) and other members to reach out to any contacts or groups within Sevenoaks that can be found to cater to these sports:

- Golf, football, swimming, sailing, netball, badminton, lacrosse, triathlon/running, boxing.
- Schools: to ask what facilities they have and an update on what groups they share the spaces with and when, as well as any capacity for additional sharing

d) Also noted that the Rugby Club's dual response would be collated into one, and that any organisation not included in the above list who has not submitted a response yet may also do so.

e) Copy of the Town Council's boundary was requested (see below link, as well as attached), however it was noted that there is scope to work collaboratively with neighbouring parishes to deliver sports provision to their residents. This because some sports facilities within the Town may be used by residents outside of Sevenoaks, and Sevenoaks residents may use sports facilities outside of the Town.

- <https://shared.xmap.cloud/?map=9c669602-a9fb-4e90-ab7e-c52e8c683a61>

f) Members were made aware that Sevenoaks District Council (SDC) hold funding of £150,000 provided by STC via a planning application condition, earmarked strictly for indoor cricket provision. This cannot be repurposed for any other use or sport, and had been held for some time due to not being applied for.

g) It was noted that more dialogue is needed with the District Council to ensure joined up thinking – for instance with repurposing the Leisure Centre into an indoor sports hall should they decide to demolish it.

h) Some members discussed having their contact details shared with all group members, and it was agreed that the STC would email all members for confirmation of consent, before collating and sharing these.

i) Copy of the initial responses to the audit survey will be forwarded to SDC with request that they be considered with their consultant's findings, with the final audit results to be sent again following closure of the survey on 30<sup>th</sup> April 2024.

## 5. **Requests from Local Sports Organisations Regarding Town Council Owned Facilities**

a) The Group received and discussed requests received from Sevenoaks Lawn Tennis Club and Sevenoaks Rugby Club, with context that these would impact each other due to sharing a space.

b) It was noted that provision of Padel Courts for the Tennis Club would impact usable space for other groups that use the sports fields. The latest update is that talks are being had with the District Council's Planning team about whether planning permission could be achieved for this, as the site is Green Belt land and had been rejected planning permission for a 3G



pitch previously due to impact to other sports. Pre-planning advice is needed before a decision can be made to invest.

c) The Rugby Club's request for temporary floodlights was noted. The request was due to their usual pitch needing to recuperate, and they had not been able to find an alternative pitch elsewhere having been found. STC had made provision on a different area of the field, however training time for the Club is impacted due to lack of floodlights on this pitch. The latest update is that additional research is required.

**6. Update on Sevenoaks District Council's emerging Sports Strategies**

a) The Group received and discussed update received from SDC Officer Aaron Wilkinson on the progress of SDC's Indoor and Outdoor Sports Strategy.

b) Members noted with confusion the lack of mention of basketball, bearing in mind the Sevenoaks Suns Basketball Club, which has been known for some time to be deficit of facilities, and which had recently lost a national women's team due to this lack of facility.

c) Members commented that the SDC Sports Strategy appears to be more of an audit of their own facilities, as opposed to a strategy on how to deliver and improve sports provision within the District. It was also commented that a large amount of the District's sports provision relies on schools sharing their facilities, as opposed to creating more spaces.

**7. Sevenoaks Bowling Club's support request**

a) This request having originated from the Open Spaces & Leisure Committee, the Sevenoaks Bowling Club explained their difficulties in attracting membership numbers high enough to cover their outgoings. Despite applying for grants and holding activity days to attract new members, they reported having lost £5,000 per year for the last two years.

b) Audrey Franks summarised the Club's engagement activities and requested advice from Group members on how to improve their numbers. Their two Open Day events – 6<sup>th</sup> May and 26<sup>th</sup> May were noted, with the flyer to be circulated separately.

c) Members contributed thoughts, including an offer from Steve Rowley to discuss advertisement in West Kent Sport & Wellbeing, and the idea to hold multi-sport events with other Group members to encourage people to try new sports and cross-club membership sharing.

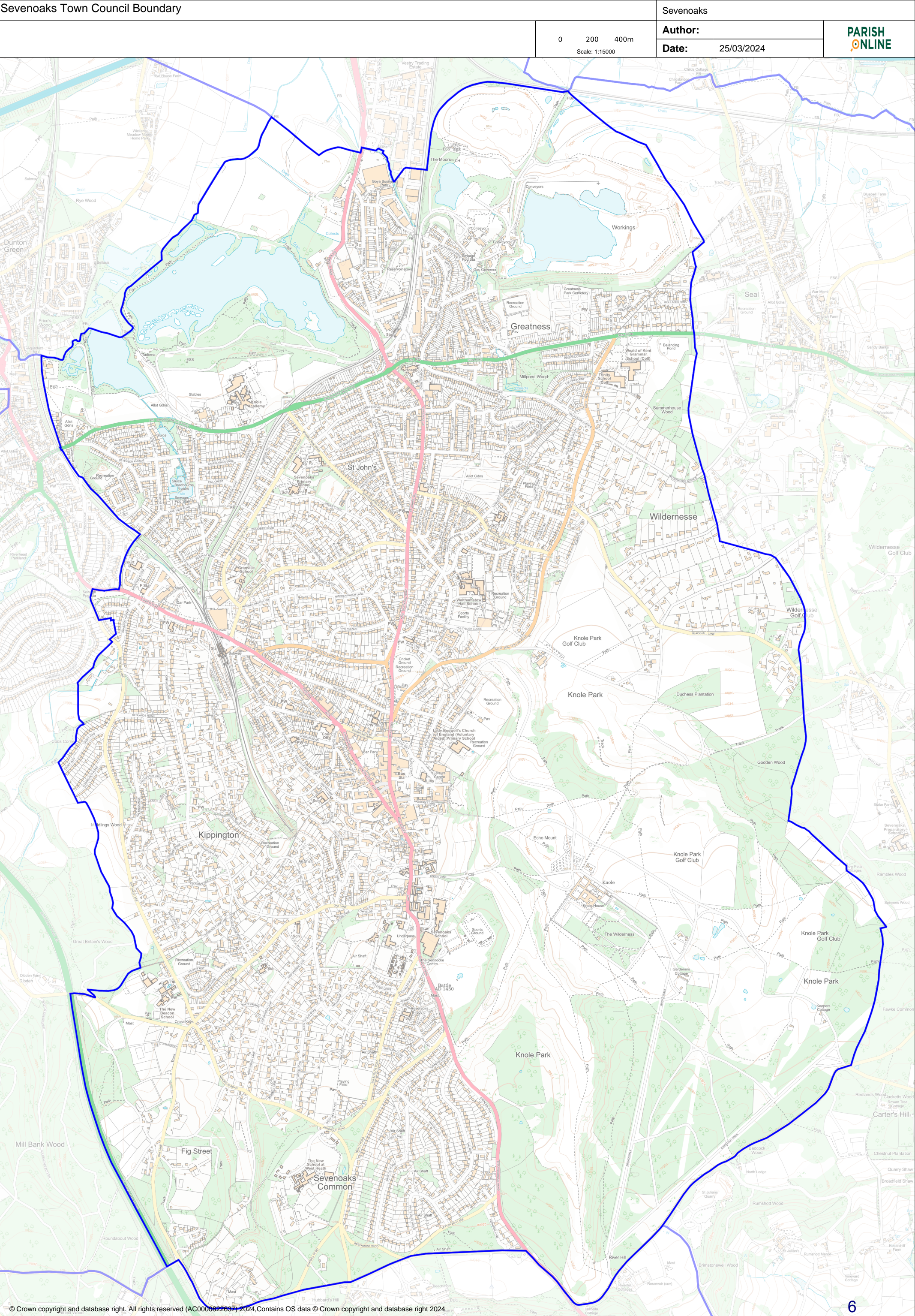
**8. Dates of future meetings**

It was agreed that the next meeting would take place Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> May 2024 at 6:30pm. This would discuss the final collated responses from the Sports Facilities audit, including update from members on their main priority actions hoped to be output from this Sports Strategy exercise.

**Meeting concluded at 6:45pm.**



Sevenoaks Town Council Boundary





## STC Sports Strategy Review – Summary

Ref	Sports Organisation	Identified Need	Priority	Approximate £	STC Initial Comments	Initial Actions
1	Hollybush RA	Public Open Space retained for the future for general family activities  Free access to sports facilities			Hollybush Recreation Ground is owned and managed by SDC.	
2	Sevenoaks Indoor Bowls	More Bowls  Disability Equipment  Kitchen Equipment  Infrastructure to building needs addressing – heating, carpeting, ceiling, roofing  Solar roof panels  Suspended Ceiling		Tbc  Tbc  tbc  £81,600  £118.590  £70 - £80,000	It is noted that the building is owned by SDC who have a programme to make its assets carbon neutral.	
3	Sevenoaks Dance, Fitness & Yoga	Studio full time enabling permanent fixed equipment				
4	Sevenoaks Outdoor Lawn Bowling	Expanding changing rooms				
5	Sevenoaks Vine Cricket Club	Facilities to move to 5 Saturday men's sides  Grass nets at Otford			Sevenoaks Vine Cricket Club have a long lease on the Vine and manage the cricket pitches.	
6	Taiji & Qigong	N/A			STC would be pleased to support the promotion of the sport within the town.	

STC Sports Strategy Review – Summary

Ref	Sports Organisation	Identified Need	Priority	Approximate £	STC Initial Comments	Initial Actions
7	Sevenoaks Rugby Club	<p>Insufficient playing pitches for membership and teams</p> <p>Affordable rent of additional pitches.</p> <p>Playability of pitches from significant use.</p> <p>1 x 3G Pitch at Knole Paddock – free access and SRFC management.</p> <p>Need to expand women's and girls' rugby.</p>		£500,000	<p>The Raleys Field / Knole Paddock is currently at full capacity.</p> <p>STC pitches are at a fair rent – it is difficult to obtain additional pitches at similar or lower cost.</p> <p>Due to full capacity the pitches are often 'over played' resulting in poor quality. The problem with finding alternative or additional pitches has resulted in STC having to delay improvement works.</p> <p>STC invested considerable resources into trying to obtain planning permission for a 3G rugby pitch which was not successful.</p> <p>If STC paid for a 3G pitch using public funds it would not hand over to a third party to use free of charge. It would be renting out to recoup public funds.</p> <p>This would of course be supported dependent on being able to address practicalities.</p>	

STC Sports Strategy Review – Summary

		<p>Ability to have portable floodlights to move around site.</p> <p>*Women's and girls' changing and shower facilities.</p> <p>*Disabled changing facilities.</p> <p>*Specific disabled bathrooms.</p> <p>*Gender neutral toilet.</p> <p>*Extend kitchen space and the space behind the bar to deliver an improved Clubhouse experience.</p> <p>Temporary mini stand and dug out areas for coaches.</p> <p>Fixings for advertising banners.</p> <p>Electronic scoreboard</p> <p>Additional storage for junior rugby playing kits.</p> <p>Central pavilion (STC) benefit from upgrade.</p>			<p>Health and Safety, insurance, and impact on nearby residents need to be considered.</p> <p>It is hoped that the club will be able to remodel its current building to accommodate some of these requirements. Or is an alternative required?</p> <p>This would be subject to planning and considering the impact to other users of the site and public open space.</p> <p>This is subject to planning and considering the impact to other users of the site and public open space.</p> <p>Could this be affixed to the current clubhouse?</p> <p>Not sure what this requires?</p>	
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STC Sports Strategy Review – Summary

		<p>Reconfigure car park with diagonal parking bays</p> <p>Storied car park</p>			<p>STC pavilion refurbish subject to funds available.</p> <p>Substantial work is required to car park to address tree roots. Diagonal bays could be considered as a future option.</p> <p>Subject to planning permission and considerable requirement of funds.</p>	
8	Sevenoaks Lawn Tennis Club	<p>Two additional courts</p> <p>Padel courts</p> <p>Increased social and viewing space</p> <p>More private changing space – cubicles within the changing rooms</p> <p>Ramp from car park to enable access to clubhouse</p>			<p>Is their space within current leased area for 2 more courts? Or is another site needed?</p> <p>Obtain pre planning advice in relation to providing on adjacent Raleys Field.</p> <p>All other needs supported subject to planning permission and funding.</p>	

## STC Sports Strategy Review – Summary

		Improved changing space for juniors.				
Ref	Sports Organisation	Identified Need	Priority	Approximate £	STC Initial Comments	Initial Actions
9	Hollybush Tennis Centre	Increased space for café  Increased space for changing facilities			The building is owned by SDC.  Supported subject to owner, SDC permission, Planning and funding.	
10	Sevenoaks Padel	4 – 8 Padel Courts (with disabled access)  Indoor facilities within Sevenoaks District  Small changing rooms (most players change at home)			See 8 above  It is understood that this is progressing at Polhill.  A planning application has been submitted by at Hollybush Tennis Centre, for 2 existing outdoor tennis courts to be converted into 3 outdoor padel tennis courts. This includes new posts, glass walls, mesh fencing and floodlights. Applicant is Mr J Heuerman from The Tennis Academy.  STC will comment on this via Planning & Environment Committee on 20 <sup>th</sup> May 2024 and it is due to be decided by SDC on 3 <sup>rd</sup> July 2024.	
11	Sevenoaks Town Rugby Club	See 7				
12	Sevenoaks Suns Basketball Club	More courts availability for more sessions.  Facilities equipped with more baskets.			To date STC has not been able to assist the club with providing a potential site for its ambitious plans.	

## STC Sports Strategy Review – Summary

		<p>Baskets with adjustable heights.</p> <p>Purpose built community basketball (and multi-sport) facility and outdoor courts and changing rooms.</p> <p>Disability provision</p>			<p>It is understood that plans are currently being worked up with Knole Academy for this.</p> <p>There was an agreement with Sencio to provide these.</p> <p>See above</p>	
13	Sevenoaks Town Football Club	New clubhouse – improved changing facilities, gym, café with shared community use.		£2,500,000	<p>STC &amp; STFC submitted a CIL bid and with STC match funding were successful with just over £800,000 obtained.</p> <p>Additional external funding needs to be sought.</p> <p>Planning permission obtained. Due to seek tenders May 2024.</p> <p>STFC have long term leases at Greatness Recreation Ground and manage the provision of the football pitches.</p>	
14	Samsara Bike Club	<p>More range of sizes of pads and softer skateboard bushes for younger children.</p> <p>Pump track or off road bike trails. Further development to Greatness Skatepark.</p>				



STC Sports Strategy Review – Summary

		WC  Training volunteer support.  Adapted bikes for disabled users.				
Ref	Sports Organisation	Identified Need	Priority	Approximate £	STC Initial Comments	Initial Actions
15	We Make Footballers Sevenoaks	Larger capacity for sports players.				
16	MX Fencing	Sports halls  Greater audience capacity  Fencing kits for beginners  Fencing salle				
17	Invicta Karate Academy	Dedicated Karate Dojo Hall and room complex with changing rooms.				
18	Sevenoaks Town Golf Club	Trial club sets and equipment for potential new members.  Extension to bar, kitchen and changing room/showers .  Access ramp to main building and disabled toilet.				
19	Hildenborough Junior Badminton Club	More facilities to facilitate new influx of members- additional sports hall will be necessary.				
20	Sevenoaks Hockey Club	2 pitches with floodlights, possibility of sharing. Replace existing seating. A club house facility/ changing rooms.				

**Schools and sports facilities to hire**

<b>Schools in Sevenoaks</b>	<b>Ref Number</b>	<b>Sports facilities available for hire to non-schools</b> (information gathered from school websites)
Sevenoaks School	K1*	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 25m six-lane swimming pool,</li> <li>• fitness suite and weights room,</li> <li>• studio,</li> <li>• three glass-backed squash courts,</li> <li>• three indoor tennis courts,</li> <li>• an eight-court sports hall,</li> <li>• rock and rope climbing area,</li> <li>• physiotherapy room</li> <li>• servery/meeting room,</li> <li>• athletics track,</li> <li>• tennis courts,</li> <li>• floodlit hard courts</li> <li>• Astro &amp; grass pitches with pavilions</li> </ul>
Walthamstow Hall Senior	K2	Note the Website does not mention hiring of Facilities for external use.
Walthamstow Hall Junior	K8	Note the Website does not mention hiring of Facilities for external use.
Knole Academy	K3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sports Hall- Cricket (4 Nets), indoor Hockey, Basketball (full Sized court), Badminton (4 Courts).</li> <li>• Rock Climbing wall- (those using need experience check/Qualifications or can provide instructor.</li> <li>• Fitness Suite- Weekdays during school term: 4pm-10pm Saturday during school term: 8am-4pm Sunday during school term: 9am-5pm Weekdays during school holidays: 8am-10pm Saturdays during school holidays: 8am-4pm Sundays during school holidays: 9am-5pm.</li> <li>• Dance hall- (spinning, Circuits, Zumba, Pilates)</li> <li>• 3G Sports pitch</li> </ul> <p><i>It should also be noted they are part of a Sports partnership with primary schools in the area ( St. Thomas's, St. Johns, Lady Boswells, Sevenoaks Primary).</i></p>
Wilderness School	K4	<i>(Permanently closed)</i>

**Schools and sports facilities to hire**

		To note SDC have proposed the creation of playing fields & Sports facilities for schools to use called: Wilderness Schools Project.
West Heath School	K5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sports Hall- Available for Children's Birthday party's &amp; local Clubs.</li> <li>• Tennis Courts</li> <li>• Swimming pool- Available for weekend hire.</li> </ul>
New Beacon (primary)	K6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Astro pitch can be divided into two smaller pitches,</li> <li>• Swimming pool</li> <li>• Sports Hall</li> <li>• Studio</li> </ul>
Graville (primary)	K7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Swimming pool- only for current students</li> </ul>
Sevenoaks Primary	K9	None
St. Johns (primary)	K10	None
St. Thomas (primary)	K11	None, useful to note they partner with other schools.
Lady Boswell (primary)	K12	None

\*K1 has been assigned to Sevenoaks School as in the Considerations page of the Neighbourhood plan they are the only school not mentioned by name.

Schools in Sevenoaks not included in the original document under section K:

<b>Schools in Sevenoaks</b>	<b>Ref Number</b>	<b>Sports facilities available for hire to non-schools</b> (information gathered from school websites)
Weald of Kent Grammar school (Sevenoaks site)		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All Weather Pitch- 2G Pitch, 11-a-side football, 9-a-side football, 7-a-side football,</li> <li>• Dance Studio</li> <li>• MUGA- Netball Courts, Tennis Courts</li> <li>• Sports Hall- Badminton courts, Gymnastic equipment, Basketball court.</li> </ul>
Trinity school		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sports Hall- 5-a-side football, Basketball hoops, Gymnastics equipment, Hockey pitches, Badminton, Handball, Netball, Cricket nets, Trampolines</li> <li>• MUGA- Used currently for Netball hires (up to 3 Courts),</li> <li>• Field- Rugby goals, no external lighting at the field site.</li> </ul>

**Schools and sports facilities to hire**

Tunbridge Wells Boys Grammer		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 3G pitch- Football (Can accommodate up a 11-a-side matches), Rugby, Hockey, fitness classes,</li> <li>• MUGA- Tennis nets, Badminton, Basketball,</li> <li>• Main Hall/Theatre- Dance/ Performing Arts.</li> </ul>
Solefield (primary)		Noted that on the website they mention sharing school facilities with other schools and the wider community but could find not further information.