

## **Sevenoaks Town Sports Strategy (STSS) Working Group**

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

**Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> March 2024 7:00pm**

**Sevenoaks Town Council Chamber, Bradbourne Vale Road, TN13 3QG**

### **Agenda**

**1. Welcome and Introduction**

**2. Apologies for absence**

**3. Minutes** (pages 2-5)

To receive and accept the minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> October 2023 which had outlined the purpose and role of the STSS Group.

**4. Sevenoaks Town Sports Strategy – Results** (pages 6-42)

To receive and review the results of the Sports Facility Survey sent to all members on 24<sup>th</sup> January 2024.

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

To receive and review the below two requests for potential inclusion in the next sports strategy document.

- Sevenoaks Lawn Tennis Club's proposal for padel courts at Raley's.
- Sevenoaks Rugby Club's request for use of temporary floodlights at Raley's field.

**6. Update on Sevenoaks District Council's emerging Sports Strategies (To follow)**

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

To consider issues facing the Sevenoaks Bowling Club.

**8. Dates of future meetings**

To discuss potential dates for future STSS Group meetings.

**Minutes of the Sevenoaks Town Sports Strategy Working Group meeting held at the Council Chambers on 4<sup>th</sup> October 2023, 6:30pm.**

**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 Claire Shea – Mayor</b>
Sevenoaks Town Council	<b>Cllr Tony Clayton – Chair of F&amp;GP</b>
Sevenoaks Town Council	<b>Cllr Dr Peter Dixon</b>
Sevenoaks Town Council	<b>Cllr Chloe Gustard</b>
Sevenoaks Town Council	<b>Cllr Gareth Willis</b>
Sevenoaks Town Council	<b>Cllr Catherine Daniell</b>
Sevenoaks District Council	<b>Cllr Roderick Hogarth – Public Realm</b>
Sevenoaks District Council	<b>Aaron Wilkinson – Senior Planning Officer</b>
Sevenoaks Town Football Club	<b>Paul Lansdale</b>
Everyone Active	<b>Robert Hutton</b>
Sevenoaks Vine Cricket	<b>Hugo Tudor</b>
Sevenoaks Vine Cricket	<b>Claire Ralph</b>
Sevenoaks Suns Basketball	<b>Rick Boomgaardt</b>
Sevenoaks Indoor Bowles Club	<b>Derrick Rodger</b>
Sevenoaks Indoor Bowles Club	<b>Richard Pursell</b>
West Kent Sport & Wellbeing	<b>Stephen Rowley</b>
Sevenoaks Tennis Club	<b>George Booth</b>
Sevenoaks Tennis Club	<b>David Bishop</b>
Sevenoaks School	<b>Sally Walmsley</b>
Sevenoaks Hockey	<b>Susan Acott</b>
Knole Park Golf Club	<b>Michele Desmond</b>
FORM Personal Training	<b>Joe Birch</b>

**1. Welcome and Introduction**

Chaired by Cllr Dr Canet prior to the election of a Chair for the Sevenoaks Town Sports Strategy (STSS) Group.

**2. Apologies for absence**

**Cllr Victoria Granville** (Sevenoaks Town Council), **Adam Bowman** (Sevenoaks Rugby Club), **Edward Oatley**, **Steve Brenchley** (Sevenoaks School)

**3. Terms of Reference**

The Group received and approved the Terms of Reference, which outline the purpose of the STSS Group. These as signed off by the Planning Committee on 11<sup>th</sup> September 2023.

**4. Election of Chair**

STC Cllr Dr Canet was elected to be the Chair of the STSS Group.

**5. Election of Vice Chair**

STC Cllr Nick Varley was elected to be the Vice Chair of the STSS Group.

**6. Sevenoaks Town Sports Strategy – A review**

a) The Group received and discussed a report reviewing the output of the first STSS, which was produced in 2015.

b) It was noted that most of the priorities had been delivered, however the Town Clerk clarified that these would not always have necessarily been by the Town Council; the STSS provides an evidence base of identified sporting need, which the Town Council, as well as other providers including Kent County Council, has explored on a project by project basis. The Town Council would as a minimum facilitate and promote projects, but may not necessarily be the body which delivers them.

c) The Town Clerk clarified that STC does not have an annual budget to deliver STSS projects, and will instead start with identifying a project and then pursue funding avenues. This includes identifying and allocating funding within its own budget, which then strengthens bids for further funding from outside sources.

d) It was noted that not all items from the previous Sevenoaks Town Sports Strategy have been delivered yet. These would therefore be carried over for consideration in the updated Strategy and used as a starting point.

#### 7. **Formation of STSS Group Membership**

a) All present attendees were registered as members of the STSS Group, with membership to remain fluid to allow new members and representatives.

b) It was noted that many local sporting groups/organisations were not represented at the meeting, and agreed that attendees would share the information of the group with their contacts to encourage their participation.

c) It was agreed to extend an invitation to Sports England to speak at a future meeting.

#### 8. **Declarations of Interest**

None.

#### 9. **Topics for consideration**

a) Members were asked to state the biggest needs of the group/organisation that they were representing. These were as follows:

- **Sevenoaks School:**
  - Fuller utilisation of their facilities via sharing with other organisations
  - Floodlights on the astroturf, including support in obtaining planning permission. This again to maximise potential utilisation
  - An additional indoor sports hall for use during term time and regular Saturday afternoons, to allow inclusive, easy access, indoor competitive sports
- **Health & Wellbeing:**
  - A full understanding of what facilities and services are existing and available
- **Sevenoaks Hockey Club:**
  - Enough pitches and clubhouses to maintain existing use and future growth
  - Pitch facilities to allow shelter from weather e.g. for parents
  - More sharing of other groups' and schools' facilities with potential for offering support in return

- **Everyone Active:**
  - Identifying ways that Everyone Active can support community sporting activities outside of the Leisure Centre
  - Limited resources to restore Leisure Centre facilities
- **Cricket Club:**
  - Has seen a large spike in female membership, which has doubled the potential membership. Need therefore for facilities and pitches
- **Knole Park Golf Club:**
  - Are applying for planning permission for a reservoir to secure the future of the club as water shortages continue
  - Have a lack of female players and only 2 schools that use the facilities, and would like to promote women in golf and integrate it into the local community more
- **Sevenoaks Tennis Club**
  - Need for more courts, as membership has grown to 700 people and a highly popular active junior programme. Currently with 7 available courts available.
  - Would like Padel tennis facilities and support in transitioning the sport to be more inclusive
  - The Group has self funded significant projects over the last 20 years
- **Sevenoaks Basketball Club**
  - Lack of own facilities, with most of the club's budget being spent on court hire, which is unreliable due to potential for cancellations from the hiree.
  - Lack of available appropriate space required for the sport, including proper run-offs, spectator seating and correct roof heights
- **Sevenoaks Indoor Bowles Club:**
  - Encouraging younger people to engage in the sport, with a lack of volunteers available to run a regular Childrens Club.
  - Lack of a recognisable shopfront and local knowledge of the location
  - Funding is needed to continue capital replacements which are needed
- **Sevenoaks Town Football Club:**
  - Lack of facilities and pitches causing the club to have to turn down enquiries, with up to 450 new enquiries per season.
  - The increase in female players has encouraged mixed-teams, however these require separate changing facilities
- **FORM Personal Training:**
  - Shared indoor spaces for sports including Padel tennis, which has seen a large growth in popularity.
  - Commercial units are especially hard to rent for this, as they can be rented out at a higher cost for warehouse use.
- **7 Oaks Triathlon Club:**
  - A viable leisure centre is crucial to the club's viability in hosting events. Triathlons are a big earner for the club but cannot be completed without swimming facilities.
  - Attracting younger participants
- **West Kent Sport & Wellbeing**
  - Local sports groups/organisations to engage and consult with each other more in order to share experiences, advice, and facilities

b) In addition to the above, Aaron Wilkinson provided a summary of Sevenoaks District Council's progress in providing a District-wide Sports Strategy to evidence the Local Plan:

- Both an indoor and outdoor Strategy are being developed to update the existing Playing Pitch Strategy and Built Facilities Strategy
- SDC are currently auditing all indoor and outdoor sporting facilities, including participation rates and trends
- This would inform policies in the Emerging Local Plan that can facilitate planning permissions where need is identified
- Winter Sports facility audits had begun, with draft results expected February 2024 and a resulting Strategy for this in Summer 2024.
- Summer Sports facility audits would begin April 2024.

c) On request of the Mayor, Aaron Wilkinson agreed to share with the Group what the scope of the District Council's sporting facilities audit is, to ensure that work undertaken by STC on a Town level is not duplicated or contradictory.

d) It was noted that some of the issues with regards to acquiring planning permission may be supported via the completion of this second Sevenoaks Town Sports Strategy. If the STSS can demonstrate the local need, it will be provide a convincing argument for approval of permissions at the planning application stage, especially since any resulting Sports Strategy will require public consultation and local approval.

e) The next steps were summarised as follows:

- An audit of existing facilities and their usage, to identify activity and any potential under-utilisation of sites
- An audit of existing need which is currently not being met
- An audit of additional facilities required to meet the existing need
- An audit of additional types of sporting provision desired by the community
- An audit of *projected* sporting provision and need, as per upcoming local developments. This including Sevenoaks Quarry, which recently received Outline planning permission (consent in principle, pending approval of details) for up to 800 residential units and 150 elderly care provision.

The above to be carried out via a Questionnaire, which will be produced in consultation with Sevenoaks District Council so as not to duplicate questions/results when they carry out their own audit.

#### 10. Dates of future meetings

It was agreed that the next meeting be scheduled to take place in approximately 6-8 weeks time to evaluate the results of the upcoming audits.

**Meeting concluded at 7:49pm.**

# #1

**COMPLETE**

**Collector:** Web Link 1 (Web Link)  
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**Time Spent:** 00:15:09  
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## Q3

Representing which Sport?

Recreational activities for local residents

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## Q4

Name of Sports Club

N/A

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## Q5

How many adult members do you have?

400 households

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## Q6

How many junior members do you have?

included in (5)

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## Q7

**Yes**

Would you be willing to participate on working up the new Sevenoaks Sports Strategy by attending meetings etc?

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## Q8

Capacity for sports players

Current Provision

**Hollybush Recreation Ground + adjacent open spaces**

Future Need

**Open access for all to enjoy informal recreation.  
Imperative that current open space is retained for  
general family activities**

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**Q9**

Capacity for sports audience

Current Provision **N/A**

Future Need **N/A**

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**Q10**

Equipment available

Current Provision **Hockey, bowling (indoor & outdoor), tennis only available through club membership or pay to use**

Future Need **Free access to activities for general public**

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**Q11**

Building available and details of provision

Current Provision **See above**

Future Need **None**

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**Q12**

Changing rooms quantity and type

Current Provision **None**

Future Need **None**

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**Q13**

Details of disabled accessibility

Current Provision **Accessible**

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**Q14**

Any shared-use of facilities

Current Provision **Other than listed in (10) all have use of current facilities**

Future Need **Limit facilities that require club membership and widen facilities for all**

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**Q15**

Do you also use sports facilities outside Sevenoaks Town? Please provide details.

N/A

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## #2

**COMPLETE**

**Collector:** Web Link 1 (Web Link)  
**Started:** Wednesday, January 24, 2024 5:15:37 PM  
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**Time Spent:** 00:37:43  
**IP Address:** 217.155.16.13

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### Q3

Representing which Sport?

Indoor Bowls

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### Q4

Name of Sports Club

Sevenoaks Indoor Sports Club

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### Q5

How many adult members do you have?

300+

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### Q6

How many junior members do you have?

0

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### Q7

**Yes**

Would you be willing to participate on working up the new Sevenoaks Sports Strategy by attending meetings etc?

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### Q8

Capacity for sports players

Current Provision **600**

Future Need **600**

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**Q9**

Capacity for sports audience

Current Provision	100
Future Need	100

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**Q10**

Equipment available

Current Provision	Satisfactory for current membership
Future Need	More bowls, disability equipment, kitchen equipment

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**Q11**

Building available and details of provision

Current Provision	inadequate in many ways. Heating, carpeting, ceiling, roofing
Future Need	To make major alterations to the building. Funding required.

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**Q12**

Changing rooms quantity and type

Current Provision	ladies and gents changing room and locker room
Future Need	Current quantity and type OK

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**Q13**

Details of disabled accessibility

Current Provision	Good disabled access. parking, access ramps and lifts
Future Need	Current provision good for the future

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**Q14**

Any shared-use of facilities

Current Provision	Meeting rooms, lounge, changing rooms used by 200+ others
Future Need	Current provision good for the future

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**Q15**

Do you also use sports facilities outside Sevenoaks Town? Please provide details.

No

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### #3

**COMPLETE**

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**Last Modified:** Friday, January 26, 2024 1:04:36 AM  
**Time Spent:** 00:07:53  
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#### Q3

Representing which Sport?

dance pilates yoga

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#### Q4

Name of Sports Club

sevenoaksdancefitnessyoga

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#### Q5

How many adult members do you have?

60+

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#### Q6

How many junior members do you have?

0

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#### Q7

**Yes**

Would you be willing to participate on working up the new Sevenoaks Sports Strategy by attending meetings etc?

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#### Q8

Capacity for sports players

Current Provision

**bat and ball center**

Future Need

**studio full time**

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**Q9**

Capacity for sports audience

Current Provision **no audience applicable**

Future Need **no audience applicable**

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**Q10**

Equipment available

Current Provision **various poetable fitness equipment**

Future Need **if have a studio permanently fixed equipment**

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**Q11**

Building available and details of provision

Current Provision **hire bat and ball center**

Future Need **own studio**

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**Q12**

Changing rooms quantity and type

Current Provision **none**

Future Need **if have studio small space designated for this**

---

**Q13**

Details of disabled accessibility

Current Provision **full accessibility to venue**

Future Need **full accesibility to venue**

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**Q14**

Any shared-use of facilities

Current Provision **bat and ball center**

Future Need **own studio or continue hire bat and ball center**

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**Q15**

Do you also use sports facilities outside Sevenoaks Town? Please provide details.

yes. various community or school premises.

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## #4

**COMPLETE**

**Collector:** Web Link 1 (Web Link)  
**Started:** Saturday, January 27, 2024 9:54:15 AM  
**Last Modified:** Saturday, January 27, 2024 10:12:12 AM  
**Time Spent:** 00:17:57  
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### Q3

Representing which Sport?

Outdoor Lawn Bowling

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### Q4

Name of Sports Club

Sevenoaks Bowling Club

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### Q5

How many adult members do you have?

c80

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### Q6

How many junior members do you have?

1

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### Q7

**Yes**

Would you be willing to participate on working up the new Sevenoaks Sports Strategy by attending meetings etc?

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### Q8

Capacity for sports players

Current Provision	<b>80</b>
Future Need	<b>120</b>

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**Q9**

Capacity for sports audience

Current Provision	<b>up to 100</b>
Future Need	<b>100</b>

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**Q10**

Equipment available

Current Provision	<b>bowls; shoes</b>
Future Need	<b>no change</b>

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**Q11**

Building available and details of provision

Current Provision	<b>clubhouse; ladies changing room; men's changing room</b>
Future Need	<b>enlargement</b>

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**Q12**

Changing rooms quantity and type

Current Provision	<b>2 - ladies changing room; men's changing room</b>
Future Need	<b>enlargement</b>

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**Q13**

Details of disabled accessibility

Current Provision	<b>assisted access to green, clubhouse &amp; changing rooms</b>
Future Need	<b>no change</b>

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**Q14**

Any shared-use of facilities

Current Provision	<b>none</b>
Future Need	<b>none</b>

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**Q15**

Do you also use sports facilities outside Sevenoaks Town? Please provide details.

no

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## #5

**COMPLETE**

**Collector:** Web Link 1 (Web Link)  
**Started:** Saturday, January 27, 2024 12:52:49 PM  
**Last Modified:** Saturday, January 27, 2024 1:05:00 PM  
**Time Spent:** 00:12:11  
**IP Address:** 86.186.210.194

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### Q3

Representing which Sport?

Cricket

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### Q4

Name of Sports Club

Sevenoaks Vine

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### Q5

How many adult members do you have?

130

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### Q6

How many junior members do you have?

200

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### Q7

Yes

Would you be willing to participate on working up the new Sevenoaks Sports Strategy by attending meetings etc?

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### Q8

Capacity for sports players

Current Provision

**4 men's Saturday teams 2 women's teams plus age group cricket for both boys and girls at u18 u15 u13 u11 and minis**

Future Need

**Likely to move to at least 5 Saturday men's sides**

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**Q9**

Capacity for sports audience

Current Provision **130 senior members and 200 juniors**

Future Need **160 seniors and 250 juniors**

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**Q10**

Equipment available

Current Provision **Members own their own equipment**

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**Q11**

Building available and details of provision

Current Provision **Pitches at Sevenoaks Vine and Otford and artificial nets at Otford**

Future Need **Grass nets at Otford and further ground**

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**Q12**

Changing rooms quantity and type

Current Provision **Both clubhouses have changing rooms and showers**

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**Q13**

Details of disabled accessibility

Current Provision **Ramp access at the Vine**

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**Q14**

Any shared-use of facilities

Current Provision **Vine pavilion shared with hockey club**

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**Q15**

Do you also use sports facilities outside Sevenoaks Town? Please provide details.

No

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## #6

**COMPLETE**

**Collector:** Web Link 1 (Web Link)  
**Started:** Monday, January 29, 2024 10:48:20 AM  
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### Q3

Representing which Sport?

Tai Chi & Qigong

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### Q4

Name of Sports Club

Taiji & Qigong

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### Q5

How many adult members do you have?

200-250

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### Q6

How many junior members do you have?

0

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### Q7

**No**

Would you be willing to participate on working up the new  
Sevenoaks Sports Strategy by attending meetings etc?

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### Q8

Capacity for sports players

Current Provision **20-25**

Future Need **25-30**

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**Q9**

Capacity for sports audience

Current Provision **N/A**

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**Q10**

Equipment available

Current Provision **N/A**

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**Q11**

Building available and details of provision

Current Provision **Vine Baptist Church Hall & St. Luke's Church Hall**

Future Need **N/A**

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**Q12**

Changing rooms quantity and type

Current Provision **N/A**

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**Q13**

Details of disabled accessibility

Current Provision **Both venues on the ground floor**

Future Need **N/A**

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**Q14**

Any shared-use of facilities

Current Provision **N/A**

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**Q15**

Do you also use sports facilities outside Sevenoaks Town? Please provide details.

Yes:

New Ash Green Village Hall

Basil Jellicoe Hall in Euston, London

The Abbey Community Centre in Westminster, London

East Finchley Methodist Church Hall, London

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#7

COMPLETE

**Collector:** Web Link 1 (Web Link)  
**Started:** Thursday, February 08, 2024 12:37:42 PM  
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**Time Spent:** 01:10:33  
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**Q3**

Representing which Sport?

Rugby

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**Q4**

Name of Sports Club

Sevenoaks Rugby

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**Q5**

How many adult members do you have?

480 (excludes parents of juniors that don't play, but which have associated membership, therefore in reality this is >1000)

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**Q6**

How many junior members do you have?

c750

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**Q7**

Yes

Would you be willing to participate on working up the new Sevenoaks Sports Strategy by attending meetings etc?

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## Q8

### Capacity for sports players

#### Current Provision

Insufficient for our 23 Different Groups (NB all Mini and Youth provision is run by volunteers) - Mini Rugby for boys and girls Under 5 to U11 (6 age groups), Youth Boys Rugby for U12 to U15 (4 age groups), Youth Girls Rugby for U11&12, U13&U14 and U15&U16 (3 age groups, mostly mixing with other clubs in Kent). Academy Boys Rugby for 3 age groups. A Single Academy Girls Team. 1 x Senior Women's Team (1st year). 3 Senior Men's Saturday teams and 1 Men's Veterans Side. Also Mixed Adult touch rugby provision mid week. All Mini, Youth and Academy train and play on Sunday mornings. We pay for the use of the pitches at knole paddock, but we have insufficient playing surfaces available throughout the season, so we often have teams playing on pitches which are too small, not clearly marked. We also have to rent the use of Lady Boswell's grounds and lease a single 3G pitch at TWGSB for 3 hours each week - again this is often shared by multiple groups in smaller space and/or for less time than is recommended. Likewise We have to rent a 3G pitch on Wednesday evenings for our Youth age groups, but we cannot afford to book for the entire season and cannot afford to book more time/days or locations therefore we squeeze age groups into less than recommended space and for very short sessions. This has resulted in some groups seeking to train with clubs outside the area. STC is also aware of the ongoing discussion of pitch maintenance at the Paddock and occasions when we've had to cancel or move fixtures resulting in lost revenue to the Club and Town. The same is true for Sundays and Mid week - we often have to move/cancel activity at home which impacts Club income but also the sense of community.

#### Future Need

Need for at least one 3G pitch at Knole Paddock which the club can have free access and management thereof. Future need to expand Women's and Girls' Rugby, so we have our own teams rather than shared. Also expansion of women's teams. Continued organic growth of the boys and men's game.

### Q9

#### Capacity for sports audience

Current Provision

**No fixed capacity but limited by access around pitch and Balcony**

Future Need

**TBC**

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### Q10

#### Equipment available

Current Provision

**All equipment (except from the floodlights, posts and pitch rails) is funded by the club and ranges from balls, cones, bibs, contact tops, tackle pads, tackle bags, post protectors and flags to gym equipment and scrum machines.**

Future Need

**Portable floodlights and permission to use would enable better pitch management for what we do have for use by adults. But doesn't resolve the overarching pitch capacity/availability challenge.**

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### Q11

#### Building available and details of provision

Current Provision

**Clubhouse available (also have storage shed)**

Future Need

**Kitchen capacity is potentially insufficient to meet future demands to cater for club events.**

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### Q12

#### Changing rooms quantity and type

Current Provision

**5 changing rooms in clubhouse with a single shared shower space. No specific women's changing facility. We also have to pay additional fees to use the Cricket Pavilion which is run down, too small for older age groups and need of TLC.**

Future Need

**Women and Girls' Specific Changing and Shower Facilities.**

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### Q13

Details of disabled accessibility

Current Provision

**Ramp access to clubhouse on both levels**

Future Need

**Disabled Changing Facilities, Specific Disabled bathrooms.**

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### Q14

Any shared-use of facilities

Current Provision

**We share use of football pitch with Orpington Ocelots - which presents no issue other than additional pitch usage. Also, There are two cricket squares, but their usage is primarily by clubs outside the town and service only a handful of adults, rather than the hundreds of local children we are supporting to access sports.**

Future Need

**Having a 3G on site would necessitate a change in respect of Cricket.**

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### Q15

Do you also use sports facilities outside Sevenoaks Town? Please provide details.

Our girls teams often use facilities at Ashford and Dartford Valley due to the reasons cited above.

We would be extremely open to join the strategy team and work collaboratively with STC and other sports Clubs to get as many children and adults playing sport, engaging in the community and keeping physically and mentally fit.

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## #8

COMPLETE

**Collector:** Web Link 1 (Web Link)  
**Started:** Tuesday, February 20, 2024 10:43:28 AM  
**Last Modified:** Tuesday, February 20, 2024 1:53:32 PM  
**Time Spent:** 03:10:03  
**IP Address:** 86.140.219.134

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### Q3

Representing which Sport?

Tennis

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### Q4

Name of Sports Club

Sevenoaks Lawn Tennis Club

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### Q5

How many adult members do you have?

495

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### Q6

How many junior members do you have?

221

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### Q7

Yes

Would you be willing to participate on working up the new Sevenoaks Sports Strategy by attending meetings etc?

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## Q8

### Capacity for sports players

Current Provision

We have 7 tennis courts, 6 of which are floodlit, providing facilities from dawn until 9.30pm under floodlights (or dusk in Summer). At peak times we frequently have all courts in use, with demand outstripping capacity. We have 495 adult and 221 junior members, with a split of about 55% male and 45% female.

Future Need

If there were suitable space, we believe the club has sufficient demand to justify at least two additional courts, as well as to provide better facilities for juniors. However, we feel that offering a different sport, in the form of Padel, that is more accessible to a wider demographic, is the initial priority. It will give a complimentary (racquet sport), yet diversified offering, that sits well within a tennis club.

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## Q9

### Capacity for sports audience

Current Provision

Balcony, clubhouse and terraces both allow viewing of courts. Space is relatively limited considering the number of members. The Club funded significant improvements to the clubhouse in 2014, which now provides a much better viewing space.

Future Need

Additional platform under Committee consideration to provide better viewing opportunities as well as more social space for members. This remains a minor priority compared to improving or adding playing facilities.

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## Q10

### Equipment available

Current Provision

6 floodlit clay courts, 1 macadam court

Future Need

Padel courts and additional tennis courts

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## Q11

### Building available and details of provision

Current Provision

Clubhouse offering basic kitchen and seating space, as well as toilets and a shower.

Future Need

Increased social and viewing space

### Q12

Changing rooms quantity and type

Current Provision

**Male and Female changing rooms below the clubhouse**

Future Need

**More private changing space – cubicles within the changing rooms**

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### Q13

Details of disabled accessibility

Current Provision

**Access to courts along the private road adjacent to the club. Currently no step-free access to the clubhouse**

Future Need

**Ramp from car park to allow access to the clubhouse**

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### Q14

Any shared-use of facilities

Current Provision

**Sevenoaks Tennis Centre use the courts for their junior programme during the Summer term (April to July) and from September to the October half term (weekdays approx. 4-7pm), when they move indoors. They also use courts in the school holidays (varied hours as can be accommodated). This keeps the cost of junior squads down for parents, as they do not have to cover higher costs of indoor venues throughout the year. Lady Boswells primary school use the courts once a week in the Summer term for junior tennis coaching.**

Future Need

**Improved changing space for juniors**

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### Q15

Do you also use sports facilities outside Sevenoaks Town? Please provide details.

No

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## #9

**COMPLETE**

**Collector:** Web Link 1 (Web Link)  
**Started:** Wednesday, February 21, 2024 4:32:43 PM  
**Last Modified:** Wednesday, February 21, 2024 4:38:57 PM  
**Time Spent:** 00:06:14  
**IP Address:** 86.177.189.30

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### Q3

Representing which Sport?

Tennis

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### Q4

Name of Sports Club

Hollybush Tennis Centre

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### Q5

How many adult members do you have?

100+

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### Q6

How many junior members do you have?

250+

---

### Q7

**Yes**

Would you be willing to participate on working up the new Sevenoaks Sports Strategy by attending meetings etc?

---

### Q8

Capacity for sports players

Current Provision

**6 Tennis courts**

Future Need

**3-6 Padel Tennis Courts**

---

**Q9**

Capacity for sports audience

Current Provision	<b>none</b>
Future Need	<b>undecided</b>

---

**Q10**

Equipment available

Current Provision	<b>hire racquets</b>
Future Need	<b>none</b>

---

**Q11**

Building available and details of provision

Current Provision	<b>Cafe and changing facilities</b>
Future Need	<b>Increased space for cafe and changing</b>

---

**Q12**

Changing rooms quantity and type

Current Provision	<b>Men's and Ladies</b>
Future Need	<b>increase in space and quality</b>

---

**Q13**

Details of disabled accessibility

Current Provision	<b>access to 3 tennis courts</b>
Future Need	<b>none</b>

---

**Q14**

Any shared-use of facilities

Current Provision	<b>none</b>
Future Need	<b>changing rooms</b>

---

**Q15**

Do you also use sports facilities outside Sevenoaks Town? Please provide details.

Kemsing Lawn Tennis cLUB

---

# #10

**COMPLETE**

**Collector:** Web Link 1 (Web Link)  
**Started:** Wednesday, February 28, 2024 9:03:17 AM  
**Last Modified:** Wednesday, February 28, 2024 10:39:33 AM  
**Time Spent:** 01:36:15  
**IP Address:** 94.2.140.32

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## Q3

Representing which Sport?

Padel

---

## Q4

Name of Sports Club

Sevenoaks Padel

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## Q5

How many adult members do you have?

50

---

## Q6

How many junior members do you have?

0

---

## Q7

**Yes**

Would you be willing to participate on working up the new Sevenoaks Sports Strategy by attending meetings etc?

---

## Q8

Capacity for sports players

Current Provision

**Two padel courts in Tonbridge**

Future Need

**Four to eight courts**

---

### Q9

Capacity for sports audience

Current Provision

None

Future Need

Space around courts to view play. Show courts for tournaments.

---

### Q10

Equipment available

Current Provision

Rackets generally available to hire low cost of entry

Future Need

New padel centres must provide balls and rackets

---

### Q11

Building available and details of provision

Current Provision

None

Future Need

Indoor facilities within Sevenoaks District

---

### Q12

Changing rooms quantity and type

Current Provision

None

Future Need

Only limited to small changing rooms as most players tend to shower at home.

---

### Q13

Details of disabled accessibility

Current Provision

None

Future Need

Courts and their surrounds should be designed to allow for disabled access

---

### Q14

Any shared-use of facilities

Current Provision

None

Future Need

Linking padel courts to existing clubs makes sense

---

**Q15**

Do you also use sports facilities outside Sevenoaks Town? Please provide details.

We use the two courts at Tonbridge as these are the closest courts available to us. Our aim is to set up an indoor Padel club in the Sevenoaks District.

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# #11

**COMPLETE**

**Collector:** Web Link 1 (Web Link)  
**Started:** Wednesday, February 28, 2024 1:46:47 PM  
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**IP Address:** 165.225.80.237

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## Q3

Representing which Sport?

Rugby Union

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## Q4

Name of Sports Club

Sevenoaks Rugby Club

---

## Q5

How many adult members do you have?

2,000

---

## Q6

How many junior members do you have?

750

---

## Q7

Yes

Would you be willing to participate on working up the new Sevenoaks Sports Strategy by attending meetings etc?

---



**Q8**

Capacity for sports players

## Current Provision

**Current Rugby Offering to Sevenoaks Town & District**

Sevenoaks Rugby's mission is to deliver the sport of rugby in the best possible environment to the broadest possible mix of gender, ages, background and abilities. We offer rugby to 750 boys and girls aged from 5 to 18 years old and 250 adults. The Junior Section, which is run by over 100 volunteers, provides an important physical and mental health and wellbeing to our local community. In addition, our juniors, volunteers and our adult players benefit from improved social connections and the positive mental health and wellbeing effects of being involved in rugby - from boosting self-esteem and confidence to reducing stress and anxiety. The current offering involves:

- Tuesday and Thursday Midweek Academy and Senior Men's and Women's Rugby Training
- Wednesday midweek training for junior players aged 12+
- Wednesday evening social touch rugby for Men and Women
- Saturday Senior Men's Rugby Matches
- Sunday Senior Women's Rugby Matches
- Sunday Academy and Junior Rugby Training and Matches.

**Current Pitch Provision:** The grass pitches playing provision at Knole Paddock comprises:

- two full-size Rugby Union pitches
- a Three-quarter sized Rugby Union pitch
- a football pitch
- 5 x training grids.

The current pitch provision at Knole Paddock is not adequate for the playing cohort of 750 Juniors (ranging from 5 to 18 years old) and 250 Adults, especially when we would ideally be growing the playing provision – particularly for women and girl's rugby. Lack of suitable environments was listed as a major inhibitor of women's sport in a recent study of the link between sport and women's mental health by ASICS Corporation. We work closely with Sevenoaks Town Council to manage wear and tear; and rest the pitches to the extent possible throughout the rugby season. The quality of surfaces can be improved in a way that would benefit all users of the Paddock, football, cricket and rugby. The process we evolved during Covid-19 of rotating Sunday morning training slots is continued to enable sufficient space for players to enjoy, and be coached, rugby effectively at Knole Paddock, and to manage wear and tear otherwise sustained by too many players in too small a space over a short period of training time.

Overall, the quality of the surfaces does not match the current requirements or future aspirations of the Club's 1000+ playing members. To address the shortcomings, while acknowledging the additional resources required and the current best efforts of the grounds team, we would recommend:

- a forward-looking investment plan in the shape of rolling five-year programmes of work for

the playing provision for rugby at Knole Paddock on which the Club would joint venture with STC plus other relevant stakeholders. • absent or as part of this programme, further resources to be invested in the management and maintenance of the surfaces at Knole Paddock – throughout the year. The higher standard of provision will further our Club's mission, to deliver the sport of rugby in the to the broadest possible mix of gender, ages, social background and abilities.

**Additional rental and mitigations to lack of space** We take two main steps to mitigate the inadequate capacity at Knole Paddock: • rent additional facilities at TWGS for Boys / Sevenoaks Weald of Kent and on occasions elsewhere midweek and on Sundays; • rent additional facilities at Lady Boswells on Sunday mornings throughout the season; • work closely with other Clubs to manage our fixture schedule; and • As a last resort, and only having exhausted/maximised all other options above, we have had to cancel some age groups training on several occasions.

**Climate change** The weather seems to be worsening in recent years, with a knock-on impact on the quality of the surfaces and number of sessions cancelled because of extreme weather.

**2024/25 season / floodlights** The training pitch that is under floodlights has been over-used in recent years (to compensate for the quality and availability of other pitches and requires investment. Next season we will require an alternative provision since the training pitch is scheduled for some maintenance, and we are in discussions with STC on the use of mobile floodlights on the other Paddock pitches in rotation.

**Failed planning application for an artificial rugby pitch** Unfortunately, a planning application for a game-changing artificial rugby pitch at Knole Paddock was nixed by a UK sports body – a provision that would have hugely supported our programme to deliver the sport of rugby to the broadest possible playing cohort as well as potentially providing an additional low-cost all-weather surface to other members of the public in the local community. The artificial pitch would also have generated rental income for STC and alleviated the wear and tear on other Knole Paddock surfaces, enabling a more sustainable approach to delivering high quality grass playing surfaces.

Future Need

**Future need: The Club requires surfaces to be delivered to a higher standard at the Paddock to support its ambition to be a centre of excellence for sport. The ideal scenario would be access to: • one floodlit all-weather rugby pitch at RFU standards; • two high quality full-size grass rugby union pitches, one of which floodlit; and • two high quality Junior size grass pitches. We would like to have mobile floodlights to enable proper rotation across the various Paddock pitches and thus give the designated training pitch under fixed floodlights more opportunities for rest and recovery from wear and tear.**

---

## Q9

Capacity for sports audience

Current Provision

**Sevenoaks Rugby Club's Clubhouse comprises two floors, an upstairs bar and dining area and downstairs changing facilities, physio room, gym, gents toilets, changing room and toilet for the use of match officials, storage, laundry and cellar. Upstairs provision: Upstairs there is a bar, a function / dining room, a kitchen, a storage room, the Club shop, bar, toilets for ladies and gentlemen, and a committee room. The Bradshaw-Pearl Balcony extends down the length of the Clubhouse and represents a welcoming environment to take food and refreshments, and from which to watch rugby on Pitch 1, and is supported by a small outside bar. Outdoor Spectating: 1,000 – including the Clubhouse Bradshaw-Pearl Balcony (two-thirds covered) and then (grass) standing around the 1st XV pitch. There is also (grass) standing for spectators around the other pitches.**

Future Need

**We would value extending the kitchen space and the space behind the bar to deliver an improved Clubhouse experience for members and guests. We might also extend the Clubhouse out and across the car park yet leaving space below the extension for car parking. A temporary mini stand and dug out areas for coaches might also be beneficial.**

---

## Q10

### Equipment available

Current Provision

**floodlights on the training pitch, which cast light on roughly three-quarters of the pitch. Guard rails and posts are up. There is a lean-to storage unit which accommodate some of the Club's coaching equipment such as tackle bags and for post protection. There is also a shed for storage of post protectors and related pitch dressing items, plus advertising banners.**

Future Need

**mobile floodlights to offer a full pitch of light and improved full-pitch coverage of floodlights on pitches beyond the training pitch. Fixed / better fixings for advertising banners. Electronic scoreboard. Additional story for Junior rugby playing kit.**

---

## Q11

### Building available and details of provision

Current Provision

**The Clubhouse is a decent facility from a sports audience perspective, however there is inadequate disabled access and no separate disabled or gender-neutral toilet.**

Future Need

**Disabled access, disabled toilet and a gender-neutral toilet.**

---

## Q12

### Changing rooms quantity and type

Current Provision

there are five changing rooms, two large sized, three smaller ones. The separate men's showers require an upgrade since there are often issues with accessing running hot water. There is also a physio room, small changing room area and toilet for the match officials, storage spaces and a small gym. On several Sundays throughout the year, we have to rent 2 small changing rooms in the cricket pavilion to facilitate both girls' and boys' fixtures to be played concurrently. These changing rooms have showers which are only suitable for 1 or 2 people per team and needs refurbishment. There is also a safeguarding risk in that members of the public could look through the changing room windows (which we currently mitigate on a weekly basis by covering the windows internally and standing watch outside).

Future Need

a major upgrade of the changing rooms, enhanced showers and an extension that would present capacity to include female (girls and women) changing rooms, showers and toilets and accessible changing and toilet facilities.

---

## Q13

### Details of disabled accessibility

Current Provision

See above

Future Need

See above

---

## Q14

### Any shared-use of facilities

Current Provision

Central pavilion offered for shared use and car park, which quickly fills on busy Saturdays and Sundays to accommodate players and spectators – however access to the spillover small car park space within the Paddock environs is useful.

Future Need

Central pavilion would benefit from an upgrade / refurbishment as it feels very tired and dated. The car park would value from a reconfiguration for diagonal parking bays and potentially and a storied car park.

**Q15**

Do you also use sports facilities outside Sevenoaks Town? Please provide details.

See above. In addition, naturally the Club will use facilities outside the Town when playing away fixtures.

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# #12

**COMPLETE**

**Collector:** Web Link 1 (Web Link)  
**Started:** Wednesday, March 06, 2024 4:31:16 PM  
**Last Modified:** Monday, March 11, 2024 11:10:38 AM  
**Time Spent:** Over a day  
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Page 1

## Q3

Representing which Sport?

Basketball

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## Q4

Name of Sports Club

Sevenoaks Suns Basketball Club

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## Q5

How many adult members do you have?

25

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## Q6

How many junior members do you have?

350

---

## Q7

**Yes**

Would you be willing to participate on working up the new Sevenoaks Sports Strategy by attending meetings etc?

---

## Q8

Capacity for sports players

Current Provision

**The sessions we run are at or near capacity**

Future Need

**More court availability for more sessions**

---



### Q9

Capacity for sports audience

Current Provision

**very little**

Future Need

**Almost all school venues have little if any capacity for spectators**

---

### Q10

Equipment available

Current Provision

**The facilities we have baskets available**

Future Need

**Facilities equipped with more baskets and baskets with adjustable heights**

---

### Q11

Building available and details of provision

Current Provision

**We use mutilple venues, some in Sevenoaks town and some outside**

Future Need

**purpose built community basketball (and multi sport) facility and outdoor courts**

---

### Q12

Changing rooms quantity and type

Current Provision

**Adequate at current facilities**

Future Need

**All facilities used will require adequate changing facilities**

---

### Q13

Details of disabled accessibility

Current Provision

**We don't currently offer specific session for those with disabilities**

Future Need

**The club is currently examining plans to start disability sessions**

---

**Q14**

Any shared-use of facilities

Current Provision

**All of the facilities we use are shared use**

Future Need

**We expect all facilities will be multi-use**

---

**Q15**

Do you also use sports facilities outside Sevenoaks Town? Please provide details.

Yes, we use multiple facilities elsewhere in Sevenoaks District, Tonbridge and Tonbridge Wells and are looking at using facilities even further away to meet demand.

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