



Dacorum Sport and Recreation Study

Indoor Facilities Assessment Report



March 2006

A Report by Knight, Kavanagh & Page



DACORUM SPORT AND RECREATION STUDY: INDOOR FACILITIES ASSESSMENT REPORT

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GLOSSARY

ACRE	Action with Communities in Rural England
DDA	Disability Discrimination Act
FPM	Facilities Planning Model
HSP	Hertfordshire Sports Partnership
IMD	Indices of Multiple Deprivation
KKP	Knight, Kavanagh & Page
LAs	Local Authorities
LEA	Local Education Authority
LTS	Learn to Swim
NGBs	National Governing Bodies of Sport
PCT	Primary Care Trust
SE	Sport England
DBC	Dacorum Borough Council
PPG17	Planning Policy Guidance Note 17
WSP	Whole Sport Plans

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PART I. INTRODUCTION

This is the Assessment Report considering supply and demand issues for indoor sports facilities and their ancillary facilities in Dacorum, Hertfordshire. This section of the report centres on provision of 'sports facilities' and the demand created for these facilities by sports clubs' use. In summary it evaluates the following types of facilities:

- Leisure centres.
- Community centres.
- Village halls.
- Schools.

Dacorum Borough Council (DBC) Planning Department commissioned the study in September 2004. The principal research was carried out between October 2004 to February 2005. This report sits alongside an assessment report covering outdoor sport and recreation facilities.

This report does not include strategic recommendations and policy objectives. This is included within the Strategy and Action Plan document.

Audit

Each facility is considered as 'like for like' facilities within its own facility type, in order that it can be assessed for adequacy. The report considers the distribution of, and interrelationship between, all built facilities in Dacorum and evaluates demand. It gives a clear indication of areas of high demand, where there is potential to provide improved and/or additional facilities to meet this demand and to, where appropriate, protect the current stock.

The term 'sport facilities' includes large, purpose built sports centres with Borough wide significance, local village facilities and facilities provided by both the education and private sectors. Within this framework, ownership and management are fundamentally important. They determine the effectiveness with which facilities serve the community and meet local need.

Each leisure centre and community centre was visited in order to further identify demand for improved or additional facilities. An assessment and audit of the village halls in the Borough was also carried out. This feeds into scoring criteria developed by Knight Kavanagh and Page (KKP) to enable DBC to develop a clear focus for these facilities and identify priorities for support and investment in the subsequent Strategy and Action Plan. DBC can also use it to estimate the effect of enhancing one facility on others in the study area.

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The assessment of facilities and demand identified within this report feeds into the Strategy and Action Plan.

Further detail on the assessment report methodology can be found in Section One, including detail of the pro-formas used to collate the audit information from parish councils and village halls.

Sports and clubs that are included within this report are considered in the context of both their developmental and facility requirements. Sports have been identified because it is understood that the development of opportunities to participate in them is being inhibited by facility related issues or have been identified as being significant sports in the Borough through consultation. All clubs identified by DBC and National Governing Bodies of Sport (NGBs) have been contacted either by telephone/face to face consultation or via questionnaires. The summaries included are from those clubs that responded.

Analysing the audit

Catchment areas

Catchment areas for different types of provision provide a tool for identifying areas currently not served by existing sport and recreation facilities. It is recognised that catchment areas vary from person to person, day to day, hour to hour. This problem has been overcome in PPG17 by accepting the concept of 'effective catchment', defined as the distance travelled by around 75-80% of users.

KKP uses a variety of methods in order to assess each form of provision's catchment area. Sport England surveys have found that 75-80% of the users of swimming pools and sports halls come from within a 15 minute drive time. Consultation with user groups and clubs included questions related to where users travel from or how far they would expect members to travel. This coupled with KKP's experience of working with leisure facilities and having completed such assessments for similar local authorities, has enabled the identification of accurate catchment areas for each facility in Dacorum in relation to the size and type of facilities it provides.

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Scoring criteria

The development of built facility studies has necessitated the production of a scoring criteria for comparing 'like for like' facilities, namely community centres, village halls and leisure centres. The scoring criteria model has been established by KKP and used in a number of local authority studies.

Its purpose is to identify the comparative importance of individual facilities within their own category (through a ranking). It has been set up as a mathematical model only to underpin the qualitative work completed during the course of the study. It is not necessarily a planning tool. It has been developed and amended according to the individual requirements of Dacorum in line with the Council's Community Plan objectives.

The basic level of analysis, which has been provided for DBC, includes the following categories:

Category	Justification
Under 16 population living within 1km of facility	Importance placed on the provision of (potentially) 'walk-to' facility for people, particularly young people.
Under 16 population living between 1 and 5km of facility	Importance placed on the availability of public/private transport facility for people, particularly young people.
Over 65 population living within 1km of facility	Importance placed on 'walk-to' accessibility of facility for older people.
Over 65 population living between 1 and 5km of facility	Importance placed upon accessibility of facility via public/private transport for older people.
Indices of multiple deprivation (IMD)	Importance placed on the role community sports and leisure facilities and opportunities can play in addressing social inequalities in Dacorum.

The criteria for village halls have been adapted slightly in that they do not include the population between 1km and 5km of the facility only within 1km, as this is seen as being more realistic of how far people travel to visit a village hall type facility.. It is deemed inappropriate to utilise this criterion, as invariably village halls are local community facilities often catering for their immediate catchment.

Each category is scored against a weighting of 10. The model is used, where necessary, as quantitative justification underpinning recommendations in the Strategy and Action Plan. However, it is important to note that this model is a mathematical one and does not take account of qualitative information gathered independently through consultation and site visits. It is not, therefore, at any time used in isolation. It does, however, add further verification to the research undertaken.

Due to the small number of leisure centre facilities, the analysis has only been developed for community facilities.

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Facilities Planning Model (FPM)

Specific to sport, the FPM was developed by Sport England, as a planning tool to inform the process of deciding if and where new community sports and leisure facilities are needed. It is referred to in the Companion Guide to PPG17. Although the methodology utilised can be, and has been, questioned, it has provided, based upon established demand patterns/use, objective assessments of the relationship between likely demand and the current or proposed supply of sports facilities in specific areas. It covers provision of sports halls (minimum three badminton courts), pools and synthetic turf pitches.

According to Sport England representatives, there have been no specific model runs in Dacorum. This is partly due to a lack of request from the local authority and partly due to administrative issues at Sport England. Past Regional Recreational Strategies have not identified any significant shortfalls in Dacorum's provision, so making use of the model was not considered a priority.

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PART 2: SPORT CONTEXT

The Borough provides a large range of leisure provision with a mixture of management styles e.g. council, education and private. There is also a significant level of provision of indoor sports facilities via its education stock, both private and local education authority (LEA). DBC owned facilities have achieved 1.6m visitors in the last 12 months.

The five local authorities adjoining Dacorum do not provide any significant facilities whose catchment overlaps with Dacorum. It is more likely that people travel to Dacorum from these more rural surrounding areas to access leisure provision.

DBC Sports Development and its facilities are managed by Dacorum Sports Trust (SportSpace). The new trust has a board of trustees with representation from councillors, local people and industry professionals. Facilities managed by SportSpace in Dacorum are as follows:

- ❑ Hemel Hempstead Sports Centre.
- ❑ Tring Sports Centre (Education site, managed by the Trust).
- ❑ Berkhamsted Sports Centre.
- ❑ Longdean Sports Centre (Education site, managed by the Trust).
- ❑ The Athletics Track.

The Trust also hires a number of other sites as part of its multi site programme. This includes sites in Kings Langley e.g. the Community Centre and local schools, to deliver the 'Learn to Swim' programme and other SportSpace initiatives.

SportSpace objectives include achieving financial stability and securing new funding contracts for improvements to facilities. As part of a more commercial approach, Hemel Sports Centre and Berkhamsted Sports Centre gyms have been refurbished with new equipment estimated at £200,000 across the two sites. The Trust will also seek to improve relationships with schools and management of community use.

Sport England (SE)

Sport England is the strategic lead for delivering the Government's sporting objectives in this country. Its vision is to make England an active and successful sporting nation. Its main objectives are getting people to:

- ❑ **Start** – to improve the health of the nation, particularly for disadvantaged groups.
- ❑ **Stay** – through a thriving network of clubs, coaches and volunteers, and a commitment to equity.
- ❑ **Succeed** in sport – via an infrastructure capable of developing world-class performers.

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It has set a target of making England an active nation by 2020 by achieving 70% participation in sport and physical activity, which has also been adopted as an objective for Sport England East Region.

Hertfordshire Sports Partnership (HSP)

HSP supports sport across the County. It is a partnership encompassing sporting organisations, clubs, coaches and officials, governing bodies of sport, local authorities, Sport England, education and health providers.

Currently in a transitional period, HSP is moving away from its traditional focus of Active Sports and is developing new sports and programmes to focus on and developing a more strategic role for sport in the County.

Sport England recently announced its four year funding for 31 priority and development sports in England. HSP is currently working with 19 of these sports, identified after consultation. In terms of indoor sports these are:

- ❑ Badminton.
- ❑ Netball.
- ❑ Swimming.
- ❑ Gymnastics.
- ❑ Squash.
- ❑ Table tennis.
- ❑ Tennis.

National Governing Body (NGB) Facilities Strategies

A number of NGBs have developed facilities strategies. Although the period of time covered by these strategies has expired, many of the aims and objectives remain valid. The main strategies relevant to this assessment are:

- ❑ Basketball Facilities Strategy (1999 – 2004).
- ❑ Badminton Development & Facilities Strategy (1999 – 2003).
- ❑ Netball Facilities Strategy (1999).
- ❑ National Swimming Facilities Strategy (2002 – 2005).
- ❑ Gymnastics Facilities Strategy (2003).

Analysis of the facilities strategies has been supplemented by consultation with regional officers. This has been used to identify current supply and demand issues.

Whole Sport Plans (WSP)

Sport England's new way of directing funding and resources to national governing bodies (NGBs) will be through delivery of WSP. Sport England is now working with the NGBs to assist the development and implementation of their WSP.



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WSP are plans for the whole of a sport from grass roots right through to the elite level that identifies how it will achieve its vision and how it will contribute to Sport England's "start, stay and succeed" objectives.

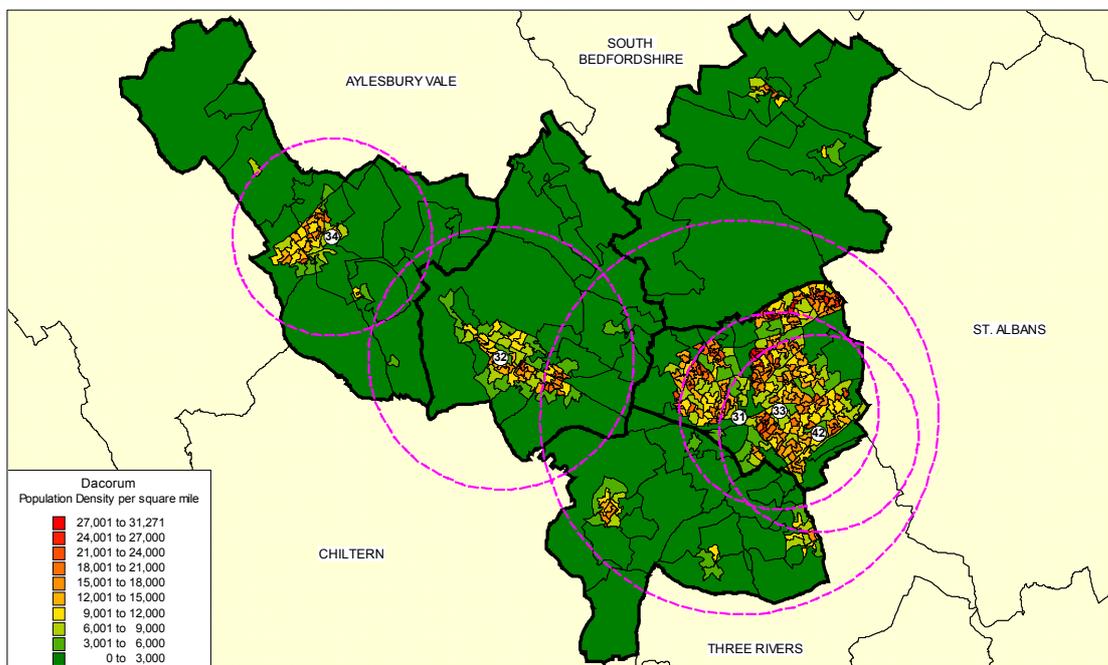
These plans will identify the help and resources NGBs need to deliver their whole sport plans, for example, partners such as county sports partnerships and programmes such as PE, School and Sport Clubs Links (PESSCL) and the Community Club Development Partnership (CCDP).

It will give Sport England the opportunity to measure how the NGBs are delivering their sports. The WSPs will allow Sport England to give focused investments to NGBs against the resources they need to drive their sport. WSPs will help create more links with regions and partners in all aspects of sport, benefiting all through shared best practice.

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PART 3: SUMMARY OF LEISURE PROVISION

Leisure centre distribution against population density in Dacorum:



Id	Site	Management	Catchment area¹	Population²
31	Hemel Hempstead Sports Centre	Sportspace	6km	102,067
32	Berkhamsted Sports Centre	Sportspace	4km	20,770
33	Leisure World	Private	3km	67,861
34	Tring Sports Centre	Sportspace	3km	13,517
42	Longdean Sports Centre	Sportspace	3km	46,505

¹ Catchment area identified during consultation with managers and users. 75% - 80% of users travel this distance to use the facility.

² Total population within the catchment area.

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3.1 Leisure centres

Hemel Sports Centre (HSC)

HSC is owned by DBC but leased to Sportspace to manage. Sportspace see it as its 'flagship' facility. This is a large, good standard facility, located close to Hemel town centre. There is a strong and varied network of clubs using the facility on a regular basis and good internal advertising of clubs using the facility. The Centre has developed a commercial feel since the Trust took over.

With six different areas of water space, this is by far the best swimming facility in Dacorum and significant on a regional level. Swimming pool facilities include:

- 25m competition pool.
- Water confidence pool (learner pool).
- Diving pool.
- 25m outdoor pool.
- Paddling pool.
- Flexi pool (moveable floor).

Hemel Swim Club is the main swimming club using the Centre as its home facility for approximately 12 hours per week and some additional shared pool time. It also has early morning squad training from 5am to 6am.

Centre staff and Sportspace Development Officers both agree that the volume of activity needs better coordination to provide a dedicated facility as a 'centre of excellence' in order to develop swimming to its full capacity. Sportspace is developing a new ICT system that links each sports centre booking system together, enabling people to be transferred between swimming lessons to take advantage of any available capacity at other sites.

Other indoor facilities at the Centre include:

- 90 station gym.
- Crèche.
- 4 squash courts.
- Martial arts room.
- Aerobics studio.
- Small hall – 3 badminton courts.
- Sports hall – 9 badminton courts.
- Weights room.
- Meeting rooms (utilised for martial arts groups).
- Gymnastics centre.
- Café .

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Hemel Sports Centre is home to Sapphire School of Gymnastics. The facility opened in 1996 and is a dedicated, permanent space operating as a 'centre of excellence'. It is managed during term time (9am – 3pm) by Sportspace and then all other available time is managed by the private gymnastics club. The Club is currently considering full time management options.

The Club used to hire the main sports hall for hosting Hertfordshire and East Region competitions, but due to heating problems this has now ceased. For the past ten years these competitions were held in Hemel, but have now been forced to move to Stevenage and Ipswich. The Club feels that this is having a detrimental effect on its chances of securing funding to extend the facility.

The Club is actively considering the options to extend the facility because it is currently operating at capacity. It must maintain 1,000 members in order to fund national standard members and continue to pay instructors. There is demand to develop a recreational area, therefore offering more beginners lessons/sessions and allowing further training opportunities required for elite training in the main hall. Some funding has already been raised internally.

All other facilities at the Centre are of a high standard and are currently operating to capacity. The gym has recently seen a refurbishment and equipment replacement.

Berkhamsted Sports Centre (BSC)

BSC is owned by DBC and leased to Sportspace to manage. Located in a built up area, overlooking Berkhamsted, this popular facility is home to a range of sports clubs. The facility is approximately 15 years old and is beginning to look internally dated due to damaged walls/ceilings and general wear and tear of ancillary facilities ie changing rooms and requires redecoration throughout.

Membership of the facility remains high, as there is no competition locally for pool and gym packages from the private sector. Facilities are booked to capacity at peak times and there are no current plans for further investment by Sportspace. The Centre has just benefited from new gym equipment. Indoor facilities include:

- Swimming pool – 25m x 6 lanes (competitive).
- Sports hall – 6 badminton courts.
- 1 squash court.
- 50 station gym.
- Dance studio.
- Soft play/aerobic room.
- Crèche.

The HSP Swimming Development Officer reports that the swimming pool facility is old and dated and in need of major refurbishment over the next six years in order to continue to adequately service swimming needs. This is also reflected in consultation with users including Berkhamsted Swim Club. KKP site visits would suggest that its general appearance would also reflect this.



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Berkhamsted Sports Centre Swim Club is the main swimming club using the facility as its home base. There are also a number of other clubs using the facility including Beavers Disabled Swim Club and Hemel Hempstead Swim Club.

Clubs, lessons and public swimming can all be accommodated adequately and the Centre reports no additional demand for pool time.

Centre staff report an increase in demand for martial arts in the area and is using all available space to accommodate clubs, including small meeting rooms.

Tring Sports Centre/School

This is a dual use site managed by Sportspace. Community use is available from 4pm weekdays and all weekend. It is situated on the outskirts of Tring and provides a selection of quality sporting facilities for both the students and the local community.

The facility is 25 years old and is the oldest sports centre in Dacorum. Despite this, it appears to be of adequate quality and in better condition than some other similar facilities in the area. It has been recently redecorated.

Prior to transfer to Trust management in April 2004, the buildings Condition Survey highlighted that the air handling and other associated plant equipment for the wet side facilities at Tring Sports Centre is in need of urgent repair or replacement. This is not a planning issue and would only be bought to light by a specialist condition survey, therefore it is suggested that the need for refurbishment of the wet side facilities is a high priority for the Trust and the Council.

There is no fitness or squash provision at this site but indoor facilities do include:

- Sports hall - 5 badminton courts.
- Swimming pool – 25m x 4 lanes (with viewing gallery).
- Dance studio (no community use).

The HSP Swimming Development Officer believes that the swimming pool facility will need major refurbishment in the next ten years. However, Tring Swim Club suggests that refurbishment is required before then. The Club reports that the pool facility could be improved through general pool side refurbishment of tiling and the air conditioning system is of poor quality resulting in condensation. Sportspace delivers the 'Learn to Swim' programme from the Centre, which in turn feeds into Tring Swim Club.

The sports hall is situated under a unique bubble roof, rated by staff as of adequate quality. It does not meet the specification for competitive badminton although five clubs use the facility for recreational purposes. There is extensive community use of the swimming pool and sports hall.



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Longdean Sports Centre/School

This is a dual use site managed by Sportspace. Community use is available from 4pm weekdays and all weekend. It is a significant provider of curricular and community use sports in the Hemel area. Indoor facilities include:

- Sports hall - 4 badminton courts.
- Aerobics studio.
- Fitness suite.

Further to the delivery of the school's curricular PE and sport programme, there is extensive community use of the facility with the sports hall being particularly popular with 5-a-side football teams in the evening. Woodhall Wanderers FC and a number of teams from the Berkhamsted Sunday League use the hall for training during the week. The hall also provides badminton and basketball court time for local teams on a regular basis. All facilities at the school are described as being in adequate/good condition with ample changing and parking facilities.

Leisure World

Leisure World is a privately funded leisure complex. It provides a range of entertainment facilities including Aquasplash, a leisure pool equipped with flumes and slides. It has a somewhat run-down external appearance but is popular with the young people in Dacorum.

The Centre used to provide the only major indoor bowls facility until it was replaced with bars and clubs. Sportspace staff believes it was somewhat out of place located next to Leisure World. However, the bowls clubs using it were grateful for the space. DBC did commit to build a replacement elsewhere if external funding could be generated but this has not yet been achieved and the clubs have dispersed, some into community centres whilst others have folded.

Summary

Hemel Sports Centre:

- Heating issues identified in the sports hall.

Berkhamsted Sports Centre:

- Increased demand for martial arts in the area.
- General refurbishment required in the next five/six years.

Tring Sports Centre:

- Major refurbishment of swimming pool facility required in the next eight/ten years. Some problems require earlier attention.
- Sports hall does not meet the specification for competitive badminton although five clubs use the facility for recreational purposes, indicating demand is present.

The Markyate and Flamstead areas fall outside the main catchment areas applied to leisure facilities in Dacorum. Due to the relatively small populations in these rural villages, it does not justify provision of new facilities. However, the various types of provision are explored in further detail within the relevant sections i.e. swimming pools, sports etc.



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3.2 Education provision (both LEA and private)

A summary of the provision, quality, usage and any identified latent demand from the schools is outlined in this section. All secondary schools were visited and consulted with during this process.

Adeyfield School

Located in Hemel Hempstead, this school has poor quality indoor sports facilities. It has one 1950's gymnasium. It is reported to be in poor condition and to be 'out of date'. The School feel that PE is massively restricted due to the small size and poor quality of the hall.

There is some, although limited use of the hall for community use. The School reports there is demand for further use but is limited to what it can offer. Current activities include circuit training and netball.

The indoor changing facilities are in the process of being redeveloped and the School is looking at options to secure funding to redevelop the hall facility too.

Ashlyns School

Located in Berkhamsted, this school has a lack of indoor provision, confirmed by Ofsted in its last report. The School is keen to update and extend its current sports facilities. Current indoor facilities include:

- ❑ Swimming pool – 25 yards.
- ❑ Gymnasium - 1 badminton court.
- ❑ Hall- 3 badminton courts.

The swimming pool is of adequate quality. However, the gymnasium is too small and cannot be used for competition sport. The School uses Berkhamsted Sports Centre for A-Level sport.

The School developed plans to build a new sports hall facility however, this was shelved when it gained language college status in 2004. The new facility would comprise the following:

- ❑ Sports hall - 4 badminton courts.
- ❑ Gym.
- ❑ Astro Turf Pitch.
- ❑ 4 changing rooms, all DDA compatible.
- ❑ 3 A-Level teaching classrooms.

The School also houses Berkhamsted Gymnastics Club. The development was planned jointly and would more than cater for the demand for indoor facilities from community users. Governors at the School are still keen to see the development completed.



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Astley Cooper School

The School has good sport facilities and in recognition of this it has been awarded the Sport England 'Sportsmark' to reflect its commitment to promoting the benefits of school sport and physical education.

Indoor facilities include the following:

- Swimming pool – 20m x 4 lanes.
- Gymnasium.
- Dance studio (new facility).
- Fitness suite.

The swimming pool appeared to be of adequate quality during site visits, although the roof requires on going maintenance. New ventilation has been installed, which was funded by DBC. However, Fifulits Swim Club representatives report that the pool is of poor quality and if an alternative venue could be found it would move. It reports that better quality changing rooms are required. The size of the pool is unsuitable for competitive galas.

Club use of the pool:

Group	Type	Weekly use
Fifulits (Fit for Life Swim Club)	Swim Club	6 hours per week
Swim Ability	Private Learn to Swim	1 ½ hours

It is also used on an ad-hoc basis during the day by its satellite primary schools.

Although the School has a fitness suite it has extremely limited equipment that needs replacing due to its age. For these reasons it is not available for community use.

Berkhamsted Collegiate School

This private school is located across three sites. The School offers extensive facilities for community use from 6.30pm every weekday and all day Saturday.

A new sports centre has recently been built on site. It incorporates:

- Swimming pool – 25m x 6 lanes with viewing gallery.
- Fitness suite - 15 stations.
- Sports hall - 4 badminton courts.

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Although the facilities are available for community use this is not well developed and is still in its early stages. The main issue is availability of changing accommodation for the amount of use that could be offered. There is only one male and one female changing room. School representatives recognise that there is capacity to increase community use and are keen to see sports development initiatives develop at the Centre.

The School has a second swimming pool, a smaller facility (20 yards x 4 lanes), which has more established community users including Berkhamsted Raiders Swim Club, using the facility as its home base. There is also a private 'Learn to Swim' teaching programme being delivered.

Bridgewater Middle School

The School reports a lack of indoor provision. The one hall is a multi use space and is used mainly for school gymnastics. It is used at capacity for after-school clubs and community use. For example, the Dacorum Symphony Orchestra uses the hall on a Tuesday evening and there is a karate club on a Thursday night.

Hemel Hempstead School

Indoor facilities at the School are limited and do not meet its needs or those of the community. However, it is located close to Hemel Sports Centre and could make better use of these indoor facilities.

Indoor facilities include the following:

- Gymnasium x 2.
- Hall - 2 badminton courts.

Basketball is a main target sport at the School, although the NSBA has declared the court is unplayable due to its small size and the lack of safety margins. The School plays predominantly away matches, something that has cost implications and is unsustainable in the long term.

John F Kennedy School

The indoor facilities at the School are severely limited and, according to staff, restrict both the quality of the curriculum offered as well as the variety. There are two small indoor hall facilities available for community use.

One is the main 'gym' and is marked for basketball. However, according to National Schools Basketball Association (NSBA) regulations the court is too small for competition, particularly the safety margins. This is true of other school facilities in the Borough and, as a consequence, there are few school basketball teams in Dacorum even though a competitive league is in operation in the County.



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The School has appointed a part-time fundraising manager with a view to generating finance for a new performing arts and indoor PE facility. The new facility will cost around £4.6million and the School has put in a bid to the DfES for funding, but will have to find a further 15-20%.

Three focus sports have been identified through the bid; basketball, netball and badminton. The new facility will adequately provide for these sports. The School is developing a number of links with clubs which it identifies as a possible partner for the facility.

Kings Langley School

Situated on the edge of Kings Langley, close to Three Rivers. There is no local authority provision in the area and therefore the School plays a critical role in meeting the needs of the local community. It provides extensive community use. It is keen to further develop its facilities. Sportspace hires the facilities on a regular basis to provide 'Learn to Swim' and other similar initiatives.

The swimming pool is located in a self-contained facility opposite the main school building. It is a traditional, old school pool that has been well maintained. It has recently had some improvements to the heating and ventilation system. The changing rooms are in need of refurbishment and improvements. Due to the extensive use during the day by schools and evenings by clubs there is significant wear and tear. Disabled access is poor and there is no dedicated disabled changing even though the clubs could attract disabled swimmers.

Club use of the pool:

Group	Type	Weekly use
Swim Ability	Private Learn to Swim	1 ½ hours
Starting Blocks	Private Learn to Swim	1 ½ hours
Kings Langley Swim Club	Club	9 ½ hours
Sportspace	Learn to Swim	11 hours
400 Club	Various activities	3 hours

A local canoe club has recently enquired about use of the pool but the School is unable to accommodate it.

There is a lack of indoor space to adequately accommodate both school use and community use. The School receives many enquires (from community groups wanting to use the space) that it turns away. Due to its size and poor quality it is only able to sustain minimal community use including Sportspace coaching and football training for Bovingdon FC. Indoor football use is reported as having the most impact on wear and tear.

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The gym is booked to capacity and there is reported demand for a sports hall. Indoor facilities include:

- ❑ Swimming pool – 25m x 4 lanes.
- ❑ Gymnasia.
- ❑ School hall.

Rudolf Steiner School

This private school, located in Kings Langley offers good quality facilities for community use each evening and weekend. Its main indoor facility is the four badminton courts sports hall with sprung floor. Changing rooms are available if required. It is a valuable facility as this is the main sports hall provision in Kings Langley.

Sportspace hires the sports facilities to deliver sessions to the community. Local badminton clubs also use the sports hall for matches and training.

It also houses a large and well equipped public theatre servicing the whole borough. There is tiered seating for 500 people and a large stage with fully programmable lighting. It is a popular venue for musical and theatrical productions, dance performances, talks and lectures.

The Cavendish School

Located in Hemel Hempstead, this school was awarded 'Sports College' status in 2001, the only such school in Dacorum.

The Sports College has recently benefited from a joint funded project between the Football Foundation, DSES and Sport England, building a two-floored classroom and changing facility, for the purposes of coach education, PE theory and curricular lessons.

The small sports hall is in poor condition and as such is reflected by sporadic community use. There is demand for further use if a bigger facility were available. This would include a number of initiatives that the School wishes to organise to increase school to club links. The School is in a particularly good position to deliver this, given its status. The swimming pool is of adequate quality and there is extensive community use. Indoor facilities include:

- ❑ Sports hall - 2 badminton courts.
- ❑ Swimming pool- 17mx7m.
- ❑ Dance studio.



DACORUM SPORT AND RECREATION STUDY: INDOOR FACILITIES ASSESSMENT REPORT

Thomas Coram Middle School

Situated in Berkhamsted, the School has limited indoor facilities. However, the small sports hall is available for community use. It is currently only used one night per week by the local judo club. The sports hall is a 60's build and is in poor condition, which is inhibiting its further community use. A school representative reports that if a better quality, larger sports hall (four badminton courts) were available there would be demand to fill it. Indoor facilities include:

- ❑ Sports hall – 2 badminton courts.
- ❑ Hall (used as a dance studio).

The School would like access to water time in a local pool.

Summary

It would appear that the majority of secondary school sites have limited indoor provision. Mainly focused on sports hall provision. All except one reports poor quality or limited sports hall provision for both school and community use.

- Thomas Coram – demand for a four badminton court sport hall.
- Cavendish School – demand for a bigger sports hall for both school and community use.
- Kings Langley – improvements to changing accommodate for swimming pool required to meet current demand for swim clubs. Demand for sports hall use by community groups.
- Astley Cooper – swimming pool requires ongoing maintenance to sustain quality. Small fitness facility of poor quality which could be utilised for some community use if improved.
- JFK – limited indoor facilities for both school and community use. Funding application in progress for new arts and PE facility.
- Hemel School – requires access to additional indoor facilities.
- Bridgewater School – limited indoor facilities and currently at capacity for community use.
- Ashlyns School – limited indoor facilities and are keen to up date current stock. Berkhamsted Gymnastics Club report demand to expand facilities.
- Berkhamsted Collegiate – New swimming pool that has spare capacity for community use.

DACORUM SPORT AND RECREATION STUDY: INDOOR FACILITIES ASSESSMENT REPORT

Primary school summary

All primary and junior schools were sent questionnaires and of the 43 in Dacorum, 56% replied. This is a relatively good response for a postal questionnaire. However, there were issues with distribution of questionnaires and a lack of support from HCC in doing so. The following table provides a summary of the indoor facilities at each site and its use, if any, by community groups:

Site	Indoor facilities	Community Use	Comments
Abbots Hill School	Gymnasium. Outdoor swimming pool (24m x 3 lanes).	No.	Adequate quality.
Aldbury Primary	Multi purpose hall with wooden floor.	Yes – football training for local clubs. Fitness classes throughout the week.	Insufficient space to effectively deliver the curriculum. Have to work with half a class at a time.
Arts Educational School (not exclusively primary aged)	8 dance studios.	No.	Used to have a swimming pool but has been closed due to poor state of repair. Lack of funds to redevelop.
Aycliffe Drive Primary	Multi purpose hall with wooden floor.	No not suitable.	With current class sizes, sufficient space to deliver curriculum – no room for growth.
Barncroft Primary	Multi purpose hall (30m x 15m).	Is available, but not currently being used.	Insufficient space to effectively deliver the curriculum – too small and has low ceiling restricting use.
Bishop Wood C Of E School	Multi purpose hall with wooden floor (1 badminton court).	Yes but not for sport. Brownies and Adult Education Classes.	Sufficient space to effectively deliver the curriculum.
Boxmoor Primary	Multi purpose hall.	No.	-
Egerton Rothesay School	Gymnasium – 1 badminton court size.	Is available, but not currently being used.	Adequate quality but need to use Berkhamsted Sports Centre for specialised sports use.
Francis House Prep School	Small hall.	No.	Adequate quality.
Gaddesden Row JMI School	Multi purpose hall.	No.	Insufficient space to effectively deliver the curriculum. Is too small.



DACORUM SPORT AND RECREATION STUDY: INDOOR FACILITIES ASSESSMENT REPORT

Site	Indoor facilities	Community Use	Comments
Gade Valley JMI School	Multi purpose hall with wooden floor.	Is available, but not currently being used.	Sufficient space to effectively deliver the curriculum.
George Street Primary	Multi purpose hall with wooden floor.	No.	-
Greenway First School	Multi purpose hall with wooden floor (2 badminton courts).	Yes – Berkhamsted Tennis Club and local football clubs for training.	Sufficient space to deliver curriculum and allow community use.
Holtsmere End Junior School	Multi purpose hall with wooden floor.	No.	Building due to start on Sports Hall in April 05.
Jupiter Drive JMI	Multi purpose hall with wooden floor.	No but would like to develop.	Sufficient space to effectively deliver the curriculum.
Kings Langley Primary	Multi purpose hall with wooden floor (12m x 12m).	Yes – Kings Langley FC	Insufficient space to effectively deliver the curriculum. Too small for the large classes.
Lime Walk Primary	Multi purpose hall with wooden floor.	Yes – local Karate Club.	Sufficient space to effectively deliver the curriculum but lack of storage.
Lockers Park School	Sports Hall (3 badminton courts). Outdoor swimming pool. 2 squash courts.	Yes - local badminton and squash clubs currently using.	Good quality
Markyate School	1 badminton court, multi purpose hall with wooden floor.	Is available but not currently being used.	Sufficient space to deliver curriculum and allow community use.
Nash Mills C of E School	Multi purpose hall with wooden floor.	Is available, but not currently being used, but restrictions depending on caretaker availability.	Sufficient space to effectively deliver the curriculum.
Pixies Hill Primary	Multi purpose hall with wooden floor.	Yes – football club training. Hemel Celtics FC and PB Soccer School.	Sufficient space to deliver curriculum and allow community use.
South Hill Primary School	1 badminton court, multi purpose hall with wooden sprung floor.	Is available, but not currently being used.	Insufficient space to effectively deliver the curriculum.

DACORUM SPORT AND RECREATION STUDY: INDOOR FACILITIES ASSESSMENT REPORT

Site	Indoor facilities	Community Use	Comments
St Bartholomew's C of E School	1 badminton court, multi purpose hall with wooden floor.	Yes – Church youth club.	Some restrictions on accommodating all types of sport required by the curriculum.
St Thomas More School	1 badminton court, multi purpose hall with wooden floor.	Limited use by local football clubs for training.	Sufficient space to effectively deliver the curriculum.

Summary

It would appear that generally there is good provision of multi use space for sports in primary schools.

Eight of the schools that responded are available for regular community use by community groups ranging from badminton clubs to adult education.

Six of the schools that responded report that their facilities are available for community use and could therefore with support increase facilities available to the local community.

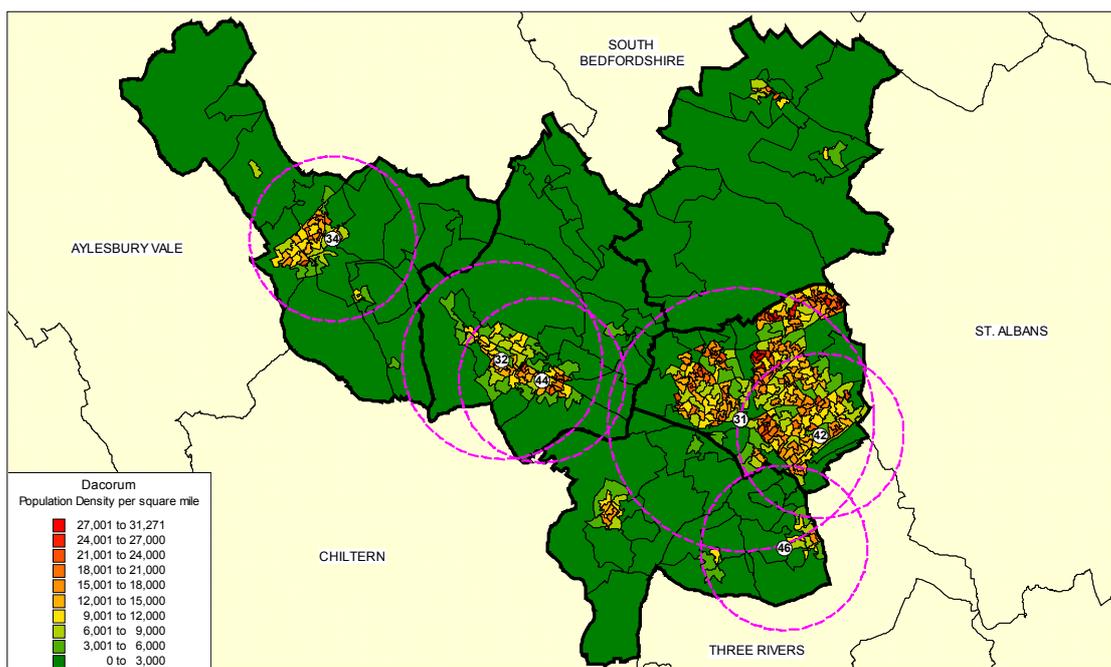
Five of the schools that responded report that facilities are insufficient to adequately deliver the sports curriculum.

DACORUM SPORT AND RECREATION STUDY: INDOOR FACILITIES ASSESSMENT REPORT

3.3 Sports halls

There are six adequately sized sports halls (defined as four badminton courts or more), which are available for community use within Dacorum. These consist of one 9 badminton court hall, one 6 badminton court hall, three 4 badminton court halls and one 5 badminton court hall. The majority of these are provided at school sites.

Distribution of (minimum specification 4 badminton courts) sports halls in Dacorum:



ID	Site	Size	Type	Catchment area ¹	Population ²
46	Rudolph Steiner School	4 badminton courts	Private school	2.5km	7,100
31	Hemel Sports Centre	9 badminton courts	Council	4km	80,683
32	Berkhamsted Sports Centre	6 badminton courts	Council	3km	19,181
44	Berkhamsted Collegiate	4 badminton courts	Private school	2.5km	17,752
42	Longdean Sports Centre	4 badminton courts	School	2.5km	37,826
34	Tring Sports Centre	5 badminton courts	School	2.5km	12,862

¹ Catchment area identified during consultation with managers and users. 75% - 80% of users travel this distance to use the facility.

² Total population within the catchment area.

DACORUM SPORT AND RECREATION STUDY: INDOOR FACILITIES ASSESSMENT REPORT

Gaps in provision

There is good coverage of sports halls across the Borough. A number of schools report a lack of indoor provision, including Hemel School, Bridgewater School and Ashlyns School. Whilst this is not really supported by identified demand from clubs/users for additional community facilities the key need is to support curricular or after school delivery. In some instances better use of other available facilities could be a better solution.

It is recognised that the majority of sites are school facilities and this is, of course, predicated upon the basis that schools with sports halls allow appropriately scheduled, balanced community use of their facilities. Given the move towards the Extended Schools agenda (please refer to Section One for more detail) it is deemed inappropriate not to consider school facilities in this equation. However, community use is presently offered at the discretion of the schools themselves and this, in itself, allows for discrepancies in use to occur.

Sport by sport

Basketball

The County's basketball is governed by the Hertfordshire Basketball Association (HBA). It works closely with HSP and its basketball development officer. The HBA runs the local men's and women's leagues and recently has been working with Active Sports to help develop junior basketball. Basketball in Hertfordshire has three main focus areas as follows:

- Coach education.
- Club development.
- Competitive development, particularly for the 11-14 age range.

There are two national league basketball clubs in the County, Essex & Herts Leopards and West Herts Warriors. West Herts Warriors is very prominent in the County and plays its senior league matches at Hertfordshire University. Junior basketball is particularly strong in the County and junior matches are played at Tring Sports Centre and Longdean Sports Centre. The Club has 132 junior members and 500 recreational members taking part in training and coaching.

The West Herts Warriors representative reports that there is demand for a double basketball court venue in Dacorum for junior matches for 11 hours each Saturday. The Club feels dispersed playing at such a large number of venues.

There are also primary school coaching sessions as well as secondary school district trials. However, the majority of basketball is delivered by Sportspace through sports development courses.

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Considering that schools are a major facility provider, there is currently a lack of school basketball being played. The HSP Basketball Development Officer believes that the lack of demand for basketball in the Borough is also due in part, to poor school/club links. Secondary school consultation highlighted that those schools with demand for basketball are constrained by poor facilities, usually where courts are deemed to be unsafe for competition i.e. poor safety margins.

The National Schools Basketball Association (NSBA) has declared some school courts as unplayable due to small sized or lack of safety margins. Those schools taking part play predominantly away matches, which has cost implications and is unsustainable in the long term. As a consequence few schools have basketball teams in Dacorum even though a competitive league is in operation in the County.

The Great Britain Wheelchair Basketball Association currently holds fixtures at Hemel Sports Centre including junior league and international league competitions. Although there are no clubs in Hertfordshire this is an ideal venue for the Association with double court availability coupled with good transport links and good local accommodation.

- Demand identified for a double basketball court venue in Dacorum for junior matches (11 hours each Saturday).
- Poor size and quality school basketball courts. Lack of school basketball being played.

Netball

Competitive netball in Dacorum is played outdoors. Consultation with clubs playing outdoors did not identify any demand for indoor courts. Parmiters School in Three Rivers provides the County base for netball and any indoor netball is played at this site.

A number of clubs raised concerns with facilities at Parmiters School during the consultation. These comments related to lack of car parking, poor quality outdoor courts and expensive hire charges for indoor courts.

The main club playing in Dacorum is Shelley Netball Club. It uses Hemel Sports Centre for its 'High 5' youth programme. It could extend this usage and believes there is demand to operate a summer youth league on a Tuesday evening but the Centre does not have the capacity.

Shelley Netball Club also uses Longdean Sports Centre to provide coaching courses. It reports that the facility is good quality but the Centre cannot provide enough court time to meet demand. Ideally the Club requires an additional two hours per week.

- Shelley Netball Club expressed demand for an additional two hours per week at Longdean Sports Centre and demand to provide a summer youth league at Hemel Sports Centre equating to an additional four hours per week.



DACORUM SPORT AND RECREATION STUDY: INDOOR FACILITIES ASSESSMENT REPORT

Badminton

The County is governed by Hertfordshire Badminton Association (HBA). As a new sport to HSP, it is likely that Badminton Association of England (BAofE) will provide a development officer based at HSP.

Badminton is relatively weak in West Hertfordshire compared to East and North. This is due in part to the age of facilities within the area, which according to the HBA officer require updating. The majority of badminton is played at Hemel Hempstead Sports Centre and Rudolph Steiner School. There are 20 teams from Dacorum playing in the South West Herts League. Approximately seven other clubs play on a recreational basis only throughout facilities in Dacorum.

The Hertfordshire Schools Badminton Association runs teams from U10 through to U23. Sportspace development work includes junior and senior courses/coaching that feed into a development squad for the Hertfordshire Youth Games.

According to Sportspace officers, casual badminton is not as popular as other sports and participation at peak time is declining. The only specific issue raised through club consultation is the lack of junior development and young people feeding into competitive clubs.

- No additional demand identified.
- Lack of junior development and young people feeding into competitive clubs.

Gymnastics

The County is governed by Hertfordshire Gymnastics Association (HGA) and works closely with HSP providing support including club development, community coach and school/club links. There are 12 clubs in Hertfordshire, which provide opportunities for recreational and competitive artistic gymnastics for men and women, pre-school, sports acrobatics, sports aerobics and disabilities.

Sportspace staff report that trampolining in Dacorum is to a good level. There is high demand for trampolining and current courses are full. There is potential to increase the number of courses, however, there is a lack of coaches to meet demand.

There are two main gymnastics clubs operating in Dacorum: Sapphire Gymnastics Club and Berkhamsted Gymnastics Club.

DACORUM SPORT AND RECREATION STUDY: INDOOR FACILITIES ASSESSMENT REPORT

Sapphire Gymnastics Club

The Regional Gymnastics Centre is based at Hemel Sports Centre with exclusive use by Sapphire Gymnastics Club. The Club considers itself to be the top club in the County and is keen to develop its facilities further to reflect this. It provides opportunities from beginners through to international standard with seven of its members at international standard. The Gymnastics development programme delivered by Sportspace also feeds into the Club.

The Club is actively considering the options to extend the facility because it is currently operating at capacity. The club must maintain 1,000 members in order to fund national standard members and continue to pay instructors. There is demand to develop a recreational area, therefore offering more beginners lessons/sessions and allowing further training opportunities required for elite training in the main hall. Some funding has already been raised internally.

Berkhamsted Gymnastics Club

The Club is based at Ashlyns School and has been running for the last 32 years. It uses a converted coal shed to the rear of the campus which is fully equipped to provide a range of disciplines. There is currently a dual use agreement with the School over a 60-year period. The School has access to the facility from 9am until 3pm and the Club uses the facility from 3pm until 10pm.

The ethos of the Club is based on both participation and performance. There are currently 172 members and there is a growing waiting list of approximately 40 juniors. Club representatives believe that the facility is too small to cater for the excess demand.

Sessions take place every night of the week. There is currently one full time coach supported by 20 volunteer coaches.

The Club has plans in place to expand the facility. This has been agreed with the School. It is intended to double the size of the gym space, creating a full size floor area, with appropriate pit, bar and run up areas. £100,000 is committed from the Club, the remaining funding is to be sought through match funding. It is unclear if the School will contribute at this stage.

- Demand identified for trampolining but a lack of coaches.
- Demand identified by Sapphire Gymnastics Club to provide a recreational hall for beginners lessons/sessions.
- Demand identified by Berkhamsted Gymnastics Club to double the available floor space in order to accommodate current waiting list demand.

DACORUM SPORT AND RECREATION STUDY: INDOOR FACILITIES ASSESSMENT REPORT

Table tennis

The County is governed by Hertfordshire Table Tennis Association (HTTA) and works closely with HSP to provide support including club development, community coach and school/club links. There are 26 table tennis clubs in Hertfordshire.

Sportspace officers suggest that competitive table tennis in Dacorum is thriving and that some clubs report demand for additional facility use. Great Gaddesden Village Hall and Cavendish School provide good opportunities for competitive table tennis through Dacorum Table Tennis Club. The Club is currently operating to capacity and expresses unmet demand for an additional four hours per week at Great Gaddesden Village Hall.

Provision of facilities for recreational table tennis is not necessarily an issue. School and village halls are often sufficient facilities. However, to progress to a competitive level, HTTA require use of sports halls in order to meet competitive specifications. Facility provision is not an issue in Dacorum, but the provision and storage of equipment are major issues to be resolved.

- Unmet demand expressed by Dacorum Table Tennis Club for an additional four hours per week at Great Gaddesden Village Hall.
- Provision and storage of equipment is a major issue.

Martial arts

Competitively, martial arts are governed by a number of different bodies/agencies, all falling within the same definition. Governance tends to be on a national level rather than regional. Martial arts covers the following:

- Aikido.
- Judo.
- Karate.
- Kendo.
- Tang Soo Do.
- Chinese Martial Arts.
- Ju Jitsu.
- Tai Kwon Do

There are approximately 15 clubs based in Dacorum. Sportspace staff report that there is high demand for space for martial arts and all clubs want peak time slots. Leisure centres are currently utilising all available space to accommodate clubs, including meeting rooms. Clubs often operate from two centres.

Judo is the only martial art operating competitively on a regional basis in Dacorum. Dacorum Judo Club uses Hemel Sports Centre for competitions but there is no identified unmet demand.



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- Clubs feeling dispersed due to making use of two centres to accommodate demand.
- Sports centres are currently utilising all available space to accommodate clubs, including meeting rooms.

Fencing

Fencing is governed by the British Fencing Association (BFA). Governance tends to be on a national level rather than regional.

Competitive fencing is administered through Dacorum Fencing Club, the main club in the Borough, playing at Hemel School and Leverstock Green Community Centre. It is predominately a senior club but is keen to further develop a junior section as the Club believes there is sufficient demand. The Club feels restricted by facility hire cost and would like to hire a larger facility to better accommodate its current stock.

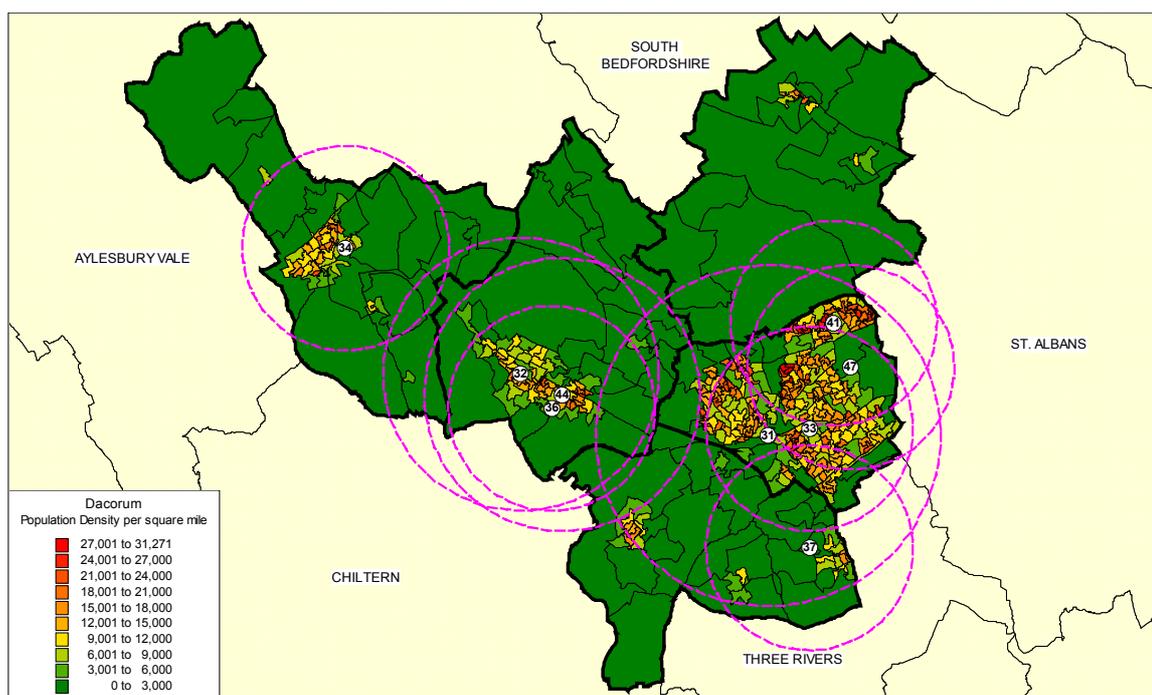
- Demand identified to develop a junior section. This would initially require an additional two hours per week at Hemel School.

DACORUM SPORT AND RECREATION STUDY: INDOOR FACILITIES ASSESSMENT REPORT

3.4 Swimming pools

There are ten swimming pools across nine sites in Dacorum. DBC provides two of these, all managed by Sportspace. The majority are provided by schools and two are private concerns.

Distribution of swimming pools in Dacorum:



ID	Site	Size	Type	Catchment area ¹	Population ²
31	Hemel Sports Centre	25m x 6 lanes	Council	5km	94,899
32	Berkhamsted Sports Centre	25m x 6 lanes	Council	4km	20,770
34	Tring Sports Centre	25m x 4 lanes	Dual use	3km	13,517
37	Kings Langley School	25m x 4 lanes	School	3km	17,899
41	Astley Cooper School	20m x 4 lanes	School	3km	39,614
36	Ashlyns School	25 yards	School	3km	18,489
44	Berkhamsted Collegiate	25m x 6 lanes 25 yards x 4 lanes	Private school	4km	21,591
33	Leisure World	Fun pool	Private	3km	67,861
47	Esporta Health Club	22m	Private	3km	55,188

¹ Catchment area identified during consultation with managers and users. 75% - 80% of users travel this distance to use the facility.

² Total population within the catchment area.

DACORUM SPORT AND RECREATION STUDY: INDOOR FACILITIES ASSESSMENT REPORT

Gaps in provision

Again, a significant proportion of swimming pools are provided by schools. Community use is presently offered at the discretion of the schools. Sportspace should be working closely with these providers to encourage further community use. Berkhamsted Collegiate School provides the newest facility and has identified spare capacity to develop community use further.

Leisure World is provided as a leisure pool facility and as such is not offered as a competitive outlet for clubs. Esporta Health Club provides a swimming pool for recreational use by its members only.

Swimming

County swimming is governed by the Hertfordshire Amateur Swimming Association (HASA) and works closely with HSP and its swimming development officer. There are 28 clubs across the County. There are six competitive clubs in Dacorum and a small number of non competitive friendly clubs.

HSP's Swimming Development Officer believes that Dacorum is 'well off' in terms of water space per population. However, he also believes that there are some issues where clubs require additional pool time. This was also apparent in club consultation and is summarised over the next few pages.

Competitive swimming appears to be healthy and thriving in Dacorum. The HSP Development Officer believes that further borough development officer time should be committed to swimming. Linked to this, from a regional point of view, is the wish to see a Dacorum swimming strategy in place to further develop swimming in the Borough. Relationships between borough development officers and regional officers could be developed further to maximise the development of swimming in this way.

The cost of water time is also a growing concern to clubs and regional officers. It is believed that Sportspace has increased fees and club consultation highlighted that there are fears that this will continue, making it difficult for smaller clubs to survive.

The need for a dedicated swimming 'centre of excellence' was highlighted during consultation with both officers and clubs. This would allow swimming to develop to its full capacity from one site. Given the current facility stock, this could be best achieved at Hemel Sports Centre.

Anecdotal evidence suggests that Dacorum has a strong reputation for swimming. Consequently, there appears to be a lot of movement into the Borough to access swimming facilities and lessons.



DACORUM SPORT AND RECREATION STUDY: INDOOR FACILITIES ASSESSMENT REPORT

Hemel Swim Club

The Club's home base is Hemel Sports Centre but it also has additional water time at Berkhamsted Sports Centre. It is the top performing club in Dacorum and is the second highest in the County. It currently has 280 members and has Swim 21 accreditation for 'skill development'. It is working towards accreditation for the 'competitive club' function.

The Club currently hires approximately 12 hours per week in the main pool. Club representatives report that is well below long term athlete development (LTAD) standards for pool time resulting in swimmers not getting enough water time. Ideally swimmers require an additional four hours swimming per week. Due to programming swimmers have some one hour sessions, which should, ideally be two hours.

The Club has no formal links with the 'Learn to Swim' programme. Although there is some throughput of swimmers this could be improved if this was formalised.

Tring Swim Club

The Club's home base is at Tring Sports Centre. Although it reports there is demand for additional pool time it considers that there are no other pools in Dacorum, which can be accessed. Tring is a similar size to Hemel Swim Club but does not have the same support structures in place i.e. coaching staff.

The Club currently hires approximately 10 hours per week. Some of these sessions are limited to 50 minutes or have a reduced number of lanes. The size of the pool (20m) is restricting training. The Club reports that the pool facility could be improved and that the air conditioning system is of poor quality creating condensation.

Swimmers are reportedly not progressing quickly enough due to a lack of training hours. The Club accommodates more swimmers per lane than it should in order to meet demand. The Club reports demand for an additional five hours training time per week.

Berkhamsted Swim Club

The Club's home base is Berkhamsted Sports Centre. As a teaching club attached to a sports centre, its aim is to provide a structured link between formal swimming lessons and competitive swimming.

Membership has grown considerably over the last two years, from around 60 to 100. It hires the pool free of charge but now requires more water time to meet increased demand. It currently only has pool time one night per week and some weekend sessions. The Club has estimated that it currently requires an extra two hours of pool time per week.



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HSP's Swimming Development Officer believes that the club structure is not particularly strong and members do not get adequate water time to develop and progress further. The Club is working towards 'Swim 21'. The need for pool time is already very acute and this will only increase as it pursues 'Swim 21' further.

Kings Langley Swim Club

This teaching club is based at Kings Langley School. It has over 100 members and has recently, due to increased demand, started its own 'Learn to Swim' (LTS) programme. There is already a waiting list of 30 people.

The Club hires around eight hours of water time per week for training and reports that there is demand to increase this by two hours. The pool is at capacity with community use and there are already two other LTS programmes being delivered privately.

There are some concerns expressed about the quality of the facility. Disabled access is poor and the Club reports that this affects the number of disabled members it can accommodate. Changing rooms are in need of major refurbishment.

FIFOLITS Swim Club

This small club has its home base at Astley Cooper School. The Club aims to help people enjoy swimming and achieve or maintain a level of fitness and also teaches lifesaving.

At present there are around 50 members. This is reportedly a significant reduction from around 120 due to pool closures for maintenance and refurbishment. The Club was unable to find an alternative pool to continue training.

Pool hire accumulates to nine hours per week training and it also runs its own swimming lessons to increase membership. The Club would like to increase senior membership further to be able to compete locally.

Club representatives report that the pool is of poor quality and if an alternative venue could be found it would move. It reports that better quality changing rooms are required.

Berkhamsted Barracudas

This club used to be the Dacorum squad but since losing its coach now operates as a standard swimming club. Its home base is Berkhamsted Collegiate School, using the old school pool with some access to its new pool.

This small club has a membership of around 35. It reports no current demand for additional pool time and if required believes there is capacity in the new pool to accommodate this.



DACORUM SPORT AND RECREATION STUDY: INDOOR FACILITIES ASSESSMENT REPORT

'Learn to Swim' (LTS)

The LTS programme is delivered in the main, by Sportspace at its own centres and Kings Langley School. Demand is so high for swimming lessons that a number of private companies are now competing for water time to deliver similar schemes.

There are currently 2,000 people registered on LTS through Sportspace. Processes are in place to develop a new ICT system that links all centres' booking systems together. This would enable people to be transferred between lessons in order to better use up any available capacity. HSP's Swimming Development Officer believes that in general terms there is a poor movement between LTS and clubs; this is backed up by some club consultation.

Esporta Health Club provides private LTS which it reports is very popular and is operating at capacity. HSP Development Officer recognises this as an area for increasing communication with the private sector. This type of course, which is increasingly popular in Dacorum, could therefore increase demand for competitive swimming.

Summary

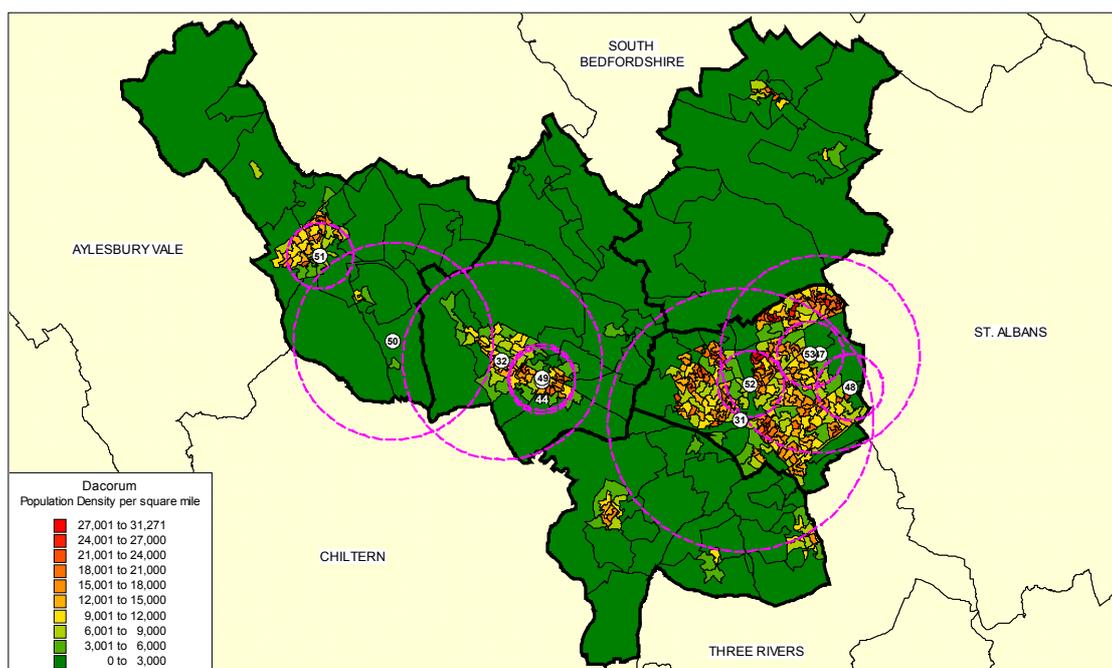
- The majority of clubs report demand for additional water time. Many believe they are operating below minimum training standards. The bigger clubs also suggest that a minimum of two hour sessions are required. A summary of demand is as follows:
 - Hemel Swim Club – 4 hours per week.
 - Tring Swim Club – 5 hours per week.
 - Berkhamsted Swim Club – 2 hours per week.
 - Kings Langley Swim Club – 2 hours per week.
- This totals expressed latent demand for an additional 13 hours per week of water time in Dacorum. However, this does not equate to enough demand for a new pool.
- Some consultees report that swimming in Dacorum could be better managed and coordinated on a strategic level. LTS processes could be managed better with improved links between LTS and clubs.

DACORUM SPORT AND RECREATION STUDY: INDOOR FACILITIES ASSESSMENT REPORT

3.5 Fitness facilities

There is a good spread of fitness provision across the Borough provided by a mixture of management styles. DBC, through Sportspace, is the largest provider at Hemel Sports Centre and Berkhamsted Sports Centre.

Distribution of fitness provision in Dacorum:



ID	Site	Size	Type	Catchment area ¹	Populations ²
31	Hemel Sports Centre	90 stations	Council	4km	80,683
32	Berkhamsted Sports Centre	50 stations	Council	3km	19,181
44	Berkhamsted Collegiate	15 stations	Private School	1km	7,839
47	Esporta Health Club	50 stations	Private	3km	55,188
48	Spirit Health Club	unknown	Private	1km	4,652
49	Kings Arms Hotel	unknown	Private	1km	8,781
50	Champneys Health Resort	unknown	Private	None given	-
51	Harvey's Health & Fitness Studio	unknown	Private	1km	7,524
52	Marlowes Fitness Centre	unknown	Private	1km	12,018
53	Body Image	unknown	Private	1km	7,530

¹ Catchment area identified during consultation with managers and users. 75% - 80% of users travel this distance to use the facility.

² Total population within the catchment area.

DACORUM SPORT AND RECREATION STUDY: INDOOR FACILITIES ASSESSMENT REPORT

Please note that we have also identified two other fitness facilities: Fitness First in Berkhamsted and Exclusively Ladies in Tring. However, insufficient information was available at the time to add to the catchment map. It is not anticipated that these facilities will have any impact on the current catchment areas.

Gaps in provision

There appear to be no significant gaps in provision of fitness facilities in Dacorum. Some smaller, rural populations are not served by any provision and are located some distance away from the catchment areas of other facilities. These communities are located in the catchment areas of other types of provision such as village halls and community centres. It does not equate to enough demand to require new provision. However, some fitness provision could be made at community facilities for use for GP referral (exercise on prescription schemes) and cardiac rehabilitation schemes, currently run by the Primary Care Trust (PCT) in such facilities.

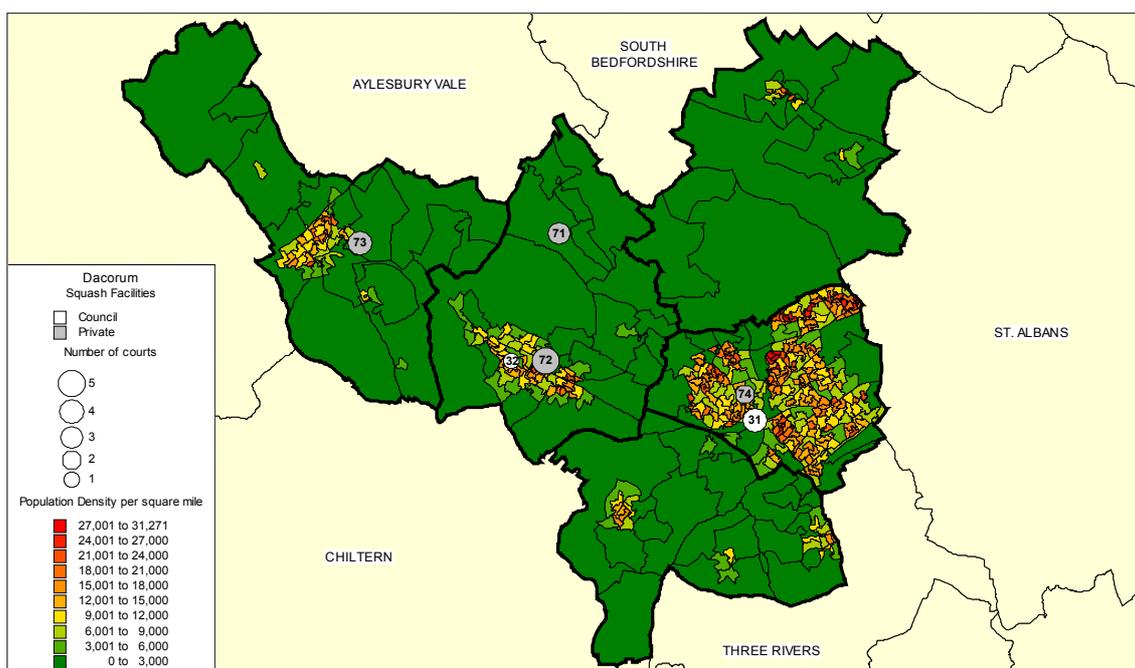
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3.6 Squash courts

In 2000 the Squash Rackets Association published its National Facilities Strategy for 2000-2005. The Strategy identified a national over-supply of courts and concludes that the focus of the sport should be one of consolidation and upgrading of existing facilities rather than new build.

As a nationwide trend, many squash courts located in leisure centres have been converted into other more popular uses. Dacorum is no exception with a reduction in courts at Berkhamsted Sports Centre to provide gym space.

Dacorum currently has a total of 21 squash courts. Private sites are the biggest provider of squash courts. Courts are located at the following venues:



ID	Site	Size	Type
31	Hemel Sports Centre	4 courts	Council
32	Berkhamsted Sports Centre	1 court	Council
71	Ashridge Business School	3 courts	Private
72	Berkhamsted Racquets Club	5 courts	Private
73	Tring Squash Club	4 courts	Private
74	Lockers Park School	2 courts	Private

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The County is governed by Hertfordshire Squash (HS). This is a voluntary organisation and its aim is to promote squash at all levels throughout Hertfordshire. HSP works with HS and provides support including club development, community coach and school/club links.

According to Sportspace, courts are booked to capacity with casual users but there is a lack of squash clubs/leagues utilising the sports centres. The majority of competitive squash is played at the following outlets:

- Berkhamsted Racquets Club.
- Tring Squash Club.

Berkhamsted Racquets Club

This large, private club provides high quality facilities for squash including four squash courts, one which is a glass backed show court, bar, sauna, pool table and clubhouse.

There are around 1,000 members in combined tennis and squash membership.

During winter, the Club runs one ladies and four men's teams which play in the Hertfordshire leagues. There are four men's teams playing in the summer Hertfordshire leagues. Local schools use the squash courts during off-peak hours. Junior coaching is available during free sessions at the weekends. Casual squash is played by any members booking the courts in advance.

Tring Squash Club

Pendley Sports Centre is home to Tring Squash Club. The Club operates as a stand alone, self financing activity and is managed by members. It provides good quality squash courts (4) with balcony viewing, lounge, bar, pool table and darts. Competitively, there are men's, ladies, vets and junior teams all playing in the Hertfordshire League.

Summary

- No identified demand.
- Given that courts are booked to capacity with casual users there is a lack of squash clubs/leagues utilising the sports centres.



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3.7 Indoor tennis

Hertfordshire Lawn Tennis Association (HLTA) administers tennis across the County. The majority of tennis provision in Dacorum is provided by privately owned facilities. Although there are many outdoor tennis courts located in Dacorum, there are currently only two indoor courts. These are located at Down Under Tennis Club.

As a national and county priority, the LTA strongly support the building of additional indoor courts in Dacorum, whether located within the traditional members club or commercial sector. Due to recent commitment of LTA funds to support new indoor courts at Berkhamsted, it is possible that the LTA would defer committing further funds towards the building of additional indoor courts in Dacorum within the next 2 to 3 years unless a strong case is presented.

Berkhamsted Racquets Club

This large private club provides high quality facilities for squash and outdoor tennis, including 12 outdoor tennis courts, bar, sauna, pool table and clubhouse. There are around 1,000 members in combined tennis and squash membership.

As supported by the LTA, the Club has plans in place to provide an indoor tennis facility on site, consisting of two indoor courts. Planning permission has been granted and funding is currently being confirmed. Building will start immediately once funding is arranged.

Down Under Tennis Club

As a commercial tennis academy, this private facility provides good quality indoor and outdoor tennis facilities. The indoor courts are housed in a temporary bubble structure and include two tennis courts (synthetic felt), lounge, shop and small internet cafe. There are also three adjoining good quality outdoor courts and there is good car parking at the facility.

Operating as a 'centre of excellence', it has teams playing in the Watford & District League. The Club provides coaching at all levels and operates many initiatives including the schools liaison scheme. Abbots Hill School uses the facility on a daily basis from 9-10am. The Club is keen to open links with Woodfield School in Leverstock Green, which is a school catering for special needs, but a lack of available court space means that this cannot currently be accommodated.

The Club has a wide catchment area. Members travel to the facility locally from Hemel, Watford and Abbots Langley, but also as far as London and Essex. The Club believes this is due to the high quality coaching on offer.



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Planning permission for four additional indoor courts has recently been refused on Green Belt grounds. The Club believes that this decision will restrict the growth, both commercially and developmentally, of the current facility. Representatives also suggest that if more courts were available then many more league matches could be played and the schools liaison scheme could also be enhanced. The Club is keen to pursue and resubmit the application.

Summary

The LTA recognises that there is currently a deficiency of indoor courts in Dacorum and it is therefore a priority to support plans to meet this demand.

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3.8 Indoor bowls

Indoor bowls is governed by the English Indoor Bowls Association (EIBA). There are currently over 330 indoor bowling clubs in England being a mixture of privately owned, members' and local authority administered clubs, with a combined membership of 110,000 men and 54,000 women. The age profile ranges from as young as seven through to 80 years plus.

Nationally, clubs' premises are mainly purpose built varying in size from three to ten rinks. The National Lottery has enabled the building of a number of new facilities during the past ten years. However, there are currently no specific, dedicated indoor bowls facilities in Dacorum.

Based on the current supply of indoor facilities in England as a whole, the EIBA considers that provision of indoor bowling facilities in Hertfordshire is not a priority. However, this should not be considered as a 'definitive statement' and the EIBA reports that it is pleased to consider the inclusion of further locations.

Watford Indoor Bowls Club is the closest facility to access from Dacorum. It opened in 1991 and provides a six rink facility with ancillary facilities. It has a membership of just under 600 and there is rink space for all types of play.

Leisure World, located at Jarman Park used to provide the only major indoor bowls facility in Dacorum until it was replaced with bars and clubs. The facility included seven rinks, bar, seating arena and changing rooms. Sportspace staff believe it was somewhat out of place located next to Leisure World. However, the bowls clubs using it were grateful for the space. DBC did commit to build a replacement elsewhere if external funding could be generated but this has not yet been achieved and the clubs have dispersed, some into community centres and others have folded.

Consultation with community centres highlighted that there is still high demand for indoor bowls. In order to meet demand from the closure of the Jarman Park facility, Sportspace provides weekly 50+ bowling sessions at all community centres. The majority of these are currently operating at capacity. In addition, some centres have resident bowls clubs playing short mat bowls. These include:

- Leverstock Green Bowls Club - Leverstock Green Community Centre.
- Bennetts End Bowls Club – Bennetts End Community Centre.
- Kings Langley Bowls Club – Kings Langley Community Centre.
- Warners End Bowls Club – Warners End Community Centre.
- Evergreen Bowls Club – Highfield Community Centre.

Summary

No specific demand was identified for replacement of a major indoor bowls facility in Dacorum. Clubs have dispersed into other provision or have now folded. Further investigation and feasibility would be required to confirm this position.

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3.9 Extreme sports

According to development officers, Dacorum has seen a dramatic increase in the popularity of 'extreme sports' and 'urban games' and particularly in skateboarding.

There is currently no indoor facility providing for these types of sports in Dacorum. This growth sport is increasingly demanding indoor provision across the country. Facilities of this type would allow for the development of the sport in a safe and controlled environment. Taking the sport indoors would also help to reduce the issue of skateboarding being a nuisance on the streets.

Hemel Ski Centre is located on St Albans Hill. As a nationally recognised dry ski slope, it currently provides all outdoor facilities:

- 180 metre Main Slope.
- Training & Nursery Slopes.
- Three Ski Lifts.

There are also a number of facilities at the complex including:

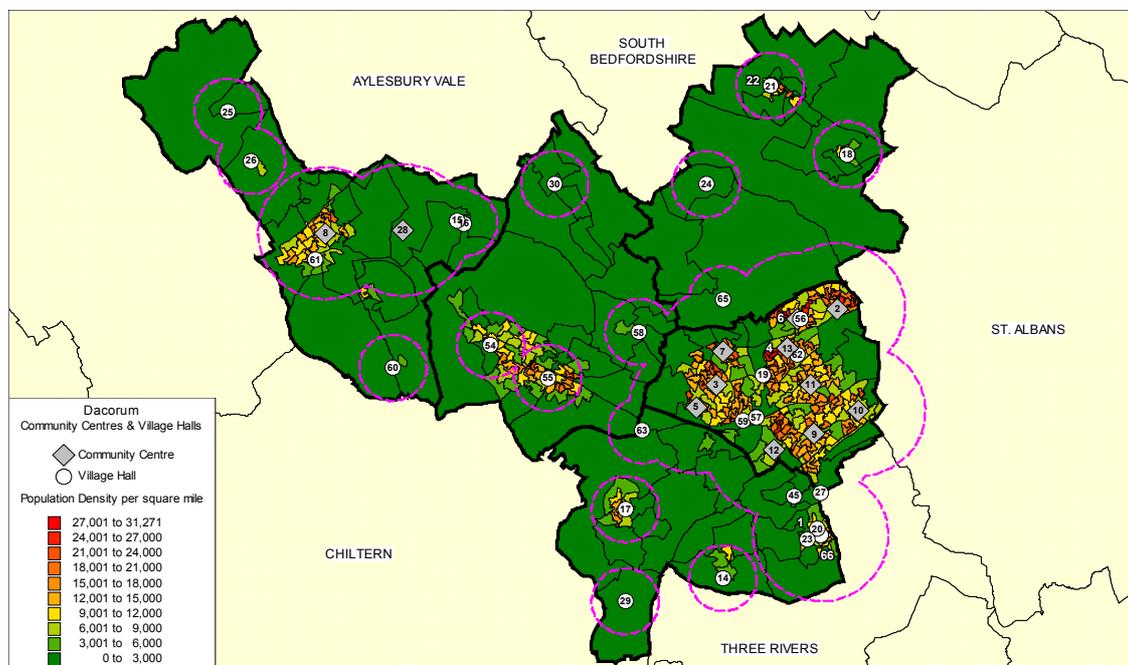
- Café Bar.
- Function rooms for hire.
- Conference facilities.

The Ski Centre has submitted a planning application to enclose the existing slopes, creating an indoor snow centre.

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PART 4: SUMMARY OF COMMUNITY PROVISION

Distribution of community centres and village halls mapped against population density in Dacorum¹:



Id	Site	Id	Site
1	Kings Langley Community Centre	23	Kings Langley Parish Hall
2	Woodhall Farm Community Centre	24	Gaddesden Row Community Hall
3	Warners End Community Centre	25	Long Marston Village Hall
4	Highfield Community Centre	26	Wilstone Village Hall
5	Chaulden Community Centre	27	Nash Mills Village Hall
6	Grovehill Community Centre	28	The Iron Room
7	Gadebridge Community Centre	29	Flaunden Village Hall
8	Tring Community Centre	30	Little Gaddesden Village Hall
9	Bennetts End Community Centre	45	Rucklers Lane Village Hall
10	Leverstock Community Centre	54	Northchurch Social Centre
11	Adeyfield Community Centre	55	Gable Hall
12	Apsley Community Centre	56	Grove Hill Youth Centre
13	Heights Community Hall	57	St John's Church Hall
14	Chipperfield Village Hall	58	Potten End Village Hall
15	Aldbury Memorial Hall	59	Boxmoor Playhouse
16	Aldbury Club Hall	60	Wigginton Village Hall

¹ Catchment areas: community centres - 2km and village halls - 1km.

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Id	Site	Id	Site
17	Bovingdon Memorial Hall	61	Corpus Christi Church Hall
18	Flamstead Village Hall	62	St Paul's Church Hall
19	St Mary's Church Hall	63	Bourne End Village Hall
20	Kings Langley Methodist Church Hall	65	Great Gaddesden Parish Hall
21	Markyate Village Hall	66	Christchurch Baptist Hall
22	Y2K Hall		

4.1 Community centres

Nationally, community centres traditionally offer basic adult education activities and various developmental opportunities for older people. Many host some sort of nursery or pre-school provision. This can be through hiring out space to voluntary or commercial groups, or through the development of their own provision. Community centres are by their very nature a place where local social and political activity takes place (again often via groups hiring their rooms) and they continue to provide a facility where local people can organise social and family events. In some urban areas community centres have been able to develop substantial programmes of work by tapping into regeneration monies and making use of other funding streams in the context of early years provision and continuing and lifelong learning.

A community centre may be defined as *“a building which serves a community organised in an association which is responsible for the management of the building; and provides facilities for the development of the recreational, cultural and personal welfare of members of that community; and constitutes a meeting place for voluntary organisations or other groups in the community which need accommodation.”*

A community association may be defined as *“a voluntary association of neighbours democratically organised within a geographical area which constitutes a natural community, who have come together, either as members of existing organisations or as individuals, or in both capacities, to provide for themselves and their community the services which the neighbourhood requires”*¹

The community association and centre movement in Britain has as its objective, 'the creation of a network of all-purpose and all-embracing neighbourhood organisations.' However, there is to date, no national framework offering comparisons or minimum provision for the physical attributes of community buildings. This is, to some extent inappropriate anyway for such community provision, as it is often a reflection of the characteristics of the community involved and provision is on a local context basis.

¹ Smith, M. K. (2002) 'Community centres (centres) and associations', the encyclopaedia of informal education.



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In 1997 some 18,809 community buildings in England and Wales were identified. More than a third were village halls, a quarter were community centres and one in twelve were church buildings. It is estimated that 4.4 million people - equivalent to almost 10 per cent of the total population of England and Wales - use community buildings every week. About 235,000 people were involved in their management as committee members or trustees (this figure does not include all the other volunteers who run activities within the buildings).

Recent debates surrounding community centres focuses on the significant contributors to the generation of social capital. DBC is committed to developing community centres. It considers that they are the key to thriving communities. They offer the opportunity for social and cultural regeneration at a neighbourhood level.

Provision

Community Centres in Dacorum are provided by DBC and managed by volunteers. These Voluntary Community Associations are independent registered charities setting up their own programmes and activities. They are responsible for all internal maintenance, meeting expenses and operating programmes. The 13 centres are:

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Adeyfield Community Centre | <input type="checkbox"/> Highfield Community Centre |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Apsley Community Centre | <input type="checkbox"/> Kings Langley Community Centre |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bennetts End Community Centre | <input type="checkbox"/> Leverstock Green Community Centre |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Chaulden Community Centre | <input type="checkbox"/> Tring Community Centre |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Gadebridge Community Centre | <input type="checkbox"/> Warners End Community Centre |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Grovehill Community Centre | <input type="checkbox"/> Woodhall Farm Community Centre |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Heights Community Hall | |

Gadebridge Community Centre is DBC's showcase facility. It feels that it has the right combination of facilities to maintain bookings and bring sustainability. It was refurbished eight years ago and is currently being managed by DBC. The Council is seeking to lease this facility back to the Community Association in the near future.

Gaps in provision

There are no community centres located in Berkhamsted. Consequently, DBC officers report that the Berkhamsted area is seen by many residents as having a deficiency in provision of community centres. Although the area is serviced by two small community hall facilities, two large council estates have campaigned for new provision. The Salvation Army headed a campaign for a new facility, which eventually fell through.

According to DBC officers, there is a high concentration of centres in the Hemel area. In particular this is focused around three centres: Warners End, Chaulden and Gadebridge. This is also identified in the mapping exercise. This is not seen to be over provision as each centre provides something different for the community and are, apart from Chaulden, operating at close to peak time capacity.

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The majority of centres are not however operating to full capacity at peak times. Officers are concerned in general that centres could have stronger, better structured management. All find attracting volunteers to be a main issue and committees tend to comprise of only three or four members when really these should be up to 12. The Council is keen to support and encourage centres to be self financing.

The Community services department has highlighted the need for additional facilities for use by ethnic minority groups. Part of their remit is to establish one new minority ethnic group per year. There are already approximately eleven established, including the Asian Sports Group. Regular activities for these groups include dancing, cultural activities, cookery and yoga. There is also a luncheon club in Grovehill and two language classes in local schools.

As these groups become more active some problems are arising with groups being run from people's homes due to a lack of neutral venues. Communities Together Forum has a sub group researching multi-cultural facilities and is visiting different centres to see what can be achieved.

At present many groups are using community halls but there are restrictions and they cannot be hired at short notice. It is difficult to accommodate religious functions e.g. ablution blocks. The mosque on St Albans Hill is operating over capacity and requires larger premises. A separate building for events and activities is required.

The areas identified as having a lack of such facilities include Bennetts End, Grovehill, Woodhall Farm and Highfield. There is believed to be a shortage of a 'cultural resource centre' which would include a hall, meeting rooms, kitchen, ablution blocks, IT facilities and a library.



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Summary of provision

Site	Facilities	Issues	Programme
Adeyfield Community Centre	<p>Modern facility located in the heart of the community.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Main hall (150 capacity). • 2 meeting rooms. • Kitchen. • Bar (operating as a ltd company). • Games room. <p>One room is a dedicated pre-school facility.</p>	<p>Good quality and was refurbished four years ago.</p> <p>The main hall floor will need refurbishing in the next two years.</p> <p>No space capacity at peak times. Limited availability at other times.</p>	<p>Mainly activities for older people but also provides a daily pre-school.</p>
Apsley Community Centre	<p>Old church building converted into a community centre.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Main hall (120 capacity). • 2 meeting rooms. • Kitchen. 	<p>Adequate quality.</p> <p>No specific car parking.</p> <p>No disability access to upstairs meeting room.</p> <p>Some spare capacity at peak times.</p>	<p>Provides a range of activities and private bookings.</p>
Bennetts End Community Centre	<p>Modern facility providing a range of facilities.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Main hall (150 capacity). • 2 meeting room. • Conference suite. • Café. • Lounge area and tea bar. 	<p>Good quality.</p> <p>Require more financially stability – lease has not yet been signed.</p> <p>More prominent entrance required on the main road.</p>	<p>Good practice – new scheme - adults with learning difficulties are currently managing the café two days per week.</p> <p>Good range of activities including opportunities for ethnic minority groups.</p>
Chaulden Community Centre	<p>Good quality centre.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Main hall (150 capacity). • Meeting room. • Kitchen. 	<p>No specific issues identified, no refurbishment required.</p>	<p>Provides a range of activities and private bookings. Spare capacity at peak times.</p> <p>Use is spread more throughout the day than other centres.</p>
Gadebridge Community Centre	<p>DBC showcase facility providing facilities on two floors.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Main hall (120 capacity). • 2 meeting rooms. • 2 kitchens. <p>One room is a dedicated pre-school facility and a small hall for after school club.</p>	<p>Currently managed by DBC but looking for Community Association to take over.</p> <p>Good quality facility refurbished five years ago.</p> <p>No specific car parking available.</p> <p>Looking to provide an internet café – demand from young people.</p>	<p>Good range of activities from parent and toddler groups to short mat bowls.</p> <p>Booked to capacity at peak times.</p>



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Site	Facilities	Issues	Programme
Grovehill Community Centre	<p>Good quality facility.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Main hall (250 capacity). • 2 meeting rooms. • Kitchen. 	<p>Only community centre with a fully operational industrial kitchen for meals on wheels.</p> <p>Are considering the options to have partitions in the main hall to provide more capacity. Currently turning groups away in particular a local bridge club and a yoga class.</p>	<p>Good use by local groups including an after school club and karate club.</p> <p>Currently turning groups away including a local bridge club and a yoga class.</p>
Heights Community Hall	<p>Small localised facility.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Main hall (60 capacity). • Meeting room. • Kitchen. 	<p>DBC took over management from The Salvation Army. Developing a similar approach to management of Gadebridge.</p>	<p>Limited range of resident hall groups and private bookings but looking to expand the range of users.</p> <p>Plenty of spare capacity.</p>
Highfield Community Centre	<p>Dated facility with basic provision of rooms.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Main hall (150 capacity). • Meeting room. • Kitchen. 	<p>Adequately meets the needs of the users but there is a poor variety of facilities.</p> <p>Main hall is marked with a badminton court but is not used as such due to lights hanging too low.</p> <p>Heating problems occurred which could mean replacement of boiler in next 12 months.</p>	<p>Accommodates a good range of users including table tennis and bowls clubs.</p> <p>Popular playgroup but there is no specific dedicated space to house them.</p> <p>Spare capacity for bookings during the day.</p>
Kings Langley Community Centre	<p>Main income for this facility is use as a theatre.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Main hall (seating for 240) with stage and lighting. • Meeting room. • Kitchen. 	<p>Foyer/reception area recently refurbished.</p> <p>Difficult to sustain regular bookings due to irregular theatre use. Theatre accounts for 50% income.</p>	<p>Mainly activities for older people for example bridge club and bowls clubs.</p>
Leverstock Green Community Centre	<p>Modern building providing a range of activities.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Main hall (230 capacity) with stage, lighting and balcony. • 2 meeting rooms. • Kitchen. 	<p>Good quality. 30 year old building, extended 10 years ago.</p> <p>Kitchen is located in between two rooms and the small hall cannot be accessed when the play group is present because the kitchen must stay locked. This therefore reduces the capacity of the building.</p> <p>Funding applications currently being made to provide additional space.</p>	<p>Good range of activities provided from badminton to ballet to kung fu.</p> <p>Cannot meet current demand – turn user groups away. Believes there is demand to expand the play group.</p>

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Site	Facilities	Issues	Programme
Tring Community Centre	<p>Modern facility with good range of facilities.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Main hall (180 capacity). • Small hall (80 capacity). • Meeting room. • Kitchen. 	<p>Adequate quality. Heating needs to be improved.</p> <p>The Community Association has been managing the Centre for one year.</p> <p>One meeting room is occupied by the British Legion.</p>	<p>Good range of the expected activities. Provide a daily pre school.</p> <p>65% booked, rare availability at peak times.</p>
Warners End Community Centre	<p>Good range of facilities available.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Main hall (180 capacity) with stage and bar area. • 2 meeting rooms. • Kitchen. 	<p>Good quality facility in need of general redecoration only.</p>	<p>Good range of activities.</p> <p>Booked to capacity at peak times.</p>
Woodhall Farm Community Centre	<p>Old converted house, located on two floors.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Main hall (180 capacity). • 6 meeting rooms. • Basic kitchen. 	<p>Good management structure in place that has lots of ideas to run the facility innovatively.</p> <p>Looking to refurbish the kitchen.</p> <p>No disabled access upstairs.</p>	<p>Daily pre school provided.</p> <p>The facility has lots of potential recognised by the management. Believes there is demand to provide more sport and arts activities.</p>

Summary

- Identified need for further support to increase the sustainability of centres and to encourage the centres to be self financing. Issues to be addressed regarding volunteers, management structures and making centres more business minded.
- Identified deficiency of provision in Berkhamsted, where there are currently no community centres.
- Although there may be close to an over supply of community centres in Hemel, consultation highlighted that each of those centres is operating at close to peak time capacity.
- Generally the centres of a good quality, meeting the needs of the users. Although there are some isolated reports of additional demand i.e. Leverstock Green reports that it cannot meet current demand for facilities, this can be addressed internally and does not equate to the need for new buildings.

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Scoring mechanism – quantitative summary

The development of built facility studies has necessitated the production of a scoring criteria for comparing 'like for like' facilities, namely community centres and village halls. Please refer to Part I for more detail.

This scoring mechanism is a good way of being able to prioritise such a large number of facilities for investment and development. However, it is only a quantitative mechanism and is intended to be a supplement to qualitative local assessment and evaluation.

A high score means that the facility most fulfils the defined agenda. Therefore, it is located within an important catchment area i.e. most deprived area or most young people within its catchment area. The category agenda is explained further in Part I.

This scoring mechanism has been run for community facilities using the overall community facility mathematical prioritisation model for the Borough. All facilities, regardless of management, have been included.

The priority attached to community centre facilities across the Borough is as follows:

Dacorum Community Centres	Ward	Total score	% Total score	Priority Rank
Adeyfield Community Centre	Adeyfield East	42.21	52.7%	3
Apsley Community Centre	Apsley	31.81	39.7%	9
Bennetts End Community Centre	Bennetts End	42.09	52.6%	4
Chaulden Community Centre	Chaulden & Shrubhill	27.30	34.1%	12
Gadebridge Community Centre	Gadebridge	31.55	39.4%	10
Grovehill Community Centre	Grove Hill	36.79	45.9%	6
Heights Community Hall	Highfield & St Pauls	44.41	55.5%	1
Highfield Community Centre	Highfield & St Pauls	44.41	55.5%	2
Kings Langley Community Centre	Kings Langley	20.71	25.8%	13
Leverstock Village Hall	Leverstock Green	31.84	39.7%	8
Tring Community Centre	Tring Central	27.63	34.5%	11
Warners End Community Centre	Warners End	41.07	51.3%	5
Woodhall Farm Community Centre	Woodhall	32.06	40.7%	7

Heights Community Hall and Highfield Community Centre score the highest within the scoring criteria indicating their potential importance to the category agendas as set out in Part I.

Heights Community Hall is the smallest community centre facility, recently taken over by DBC and has spare capacity to develop its activities and bookings further.

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There is potential for this facility to provide more social support activities i.e. mother and toddler groups, youth club or after school clubs for example.

Highfield Community Centre provides basic community facilities, adequately meeting the needs of the users but there is poor variety of facilities. Heating problems have occurred which could mean replacement of boiler is required. There is some spare capacity during the day.

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4.2 Village halls

Village halls are important to residential neighbourhoods and rural areas for supporting social benefit and interest. These types of facilities are not primarily for use as sports facilities, although many are utilised for such activities as badminton, table tennis, martial arts and keep fit classes. Within this section, facilities are considered not only for their sporting benefit but also their general recreation value. Assessing the need for them is essential in order to help promote sustainable communities.

Action with Communities in Rural England (ACRE) is a national charity whose purpose is to support sustainable rural community development. It provides a national platform for its founder member rural community councils, other bodies and individuals which work at local, county, regional and national level to alleviate rural disadvantage in England. ACRE's aim is to facilitate the development of thriving, diverse and sustainable communities throughout rural England. ACRE's definition of a village hall is:

“Community facilities are normally owned, as well as managed, by the local community. They provide a focus for activities which improve the social cohesion of rural life including activities that are essential to the maintenance and improvements in delivering services that, in most urban areas, are considered to be the function of local authorities and statutory agencies.”

ACRE has recently carried out a study in rural areas exploring the roles played by different village halls within the community. It looked at the different types of activity taking place and developed five classes of use, which focussed on the reasons why people were using the hall. The classes are explained below with examples of types of activity:

Table 1: ACRE's classes of use:

Class 1	Governance and participation Includes community events, fetes and festivals, activity such as community planning and community governance, contributing to the civic renewal agenda within government.
Class 2	Social benefit Functional delivery of advice, aid and services or support to individuals which has a direct outcome in learning, financial benefit, health and personal welfare contributing to the health and well-being of residents and addressing issues of social inclusion.
Class 3	Social support Basic clubs and activities that could attract diverse attendance and may produce individual benefit but through group participation e.g. youth clubs, luncheon clubs, elderly persons' club, and mother and toddler.
Class 4	Social interest This is group activity where people are meeting because of a specific shared interest and contributes to the wider social capital of the community e.g. bowls, drama, uniformed youth groups and structured social groups such as WI.
Class 5	Private events Events run for private benefit and other events not open to the public.

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Although Dacorum has rural areas it may not necessarily be classified as a 'rural' area. However, ACRE classifications have been used because more often than not, the purpose of village halls remains the same regardless of location. It is therefore on this basis that the village halls in Dacorum have been classified. It is a useful tool to gain a clearer understanding of the roles of such facilities and how potentially this can be developed further.

Provision

KKP has identified 30 community hall facilities in Dacorum. These have a variety of management styles ranging from facilities left in trust, to those operated by parish councils and churches. There are 12 facilities classified as traditional village hall facilities. The remaining comprise church and community halls.

The majority of sites are rated by representatives of the facility as good quality and only one facility is rated as poor quality, Aldbury Club Hall. The facility is not DDA compliant. General refurbishment is required throughout the building but in particular the toilets are of poor quality. Match funding is currently being sought to make the required improvements.

Many facilities reported that they would like to have more groups using the facility, particularly during the daytime. This would suggest that the majority of facilities are being used to peak time capacity. However, there are no identified demand issues and it can be surmised that demand is being met by the current supply of community and village halls.

The majority of community facilities provide a mixture of social support and interest (classes 3 and 4) and although there are some community facilities providing social benefit (class 2) for example Grovehill Youth Centre, there are no multi-functional facilities (one stop shops) providing the majority of ACRE classes on one site. Although some sites in Dacorum are utilised by the Primary Care Trust (PCT) for clinics and advice services for example Little Gaddesden Village Hall and St John's Church Hall, none are specifically aimed at delivering ACRE classification 2. This would include 'drop in' services, advice and counselling services, adult education, and health services/clinics etc.

Gaps in provision

There is a good spread of village hall type community provision across the whole Borough. The only areas not covered by a facility catchment are located on the outskirts of Berkhamsted. The biggest of these areas has a population of between 3,000 and 6,000 people. Provision of a community centre facility, as identified in the community centre section, would adequately service these areas.

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Summary of provision

Site	Ownership	Facilities ¹	Issues	Programme	ACRE class
Aldbury Club Hall	Trust	Rated as poor quality. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Main hall (80 capacity). Kitchen. 	Not DDA compliant. General refurbishment required - toilets highlighted in particular. Match funding being sought to make improvements.	Groups and private functions. Bookings include: theatre group and keep fit class.	4 & 5
Aldbury Memorial Hall	Trust	Rated as good quality. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Main hall (100 capacity) with stage. Kitchen. Small storage room. 	Programme of refurbishment is currently underway.	Mainly private functions.	5
Bourne End Village Hall	St John's Church	Rated as a good quality facility. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Main hall (100 capacity). Kitchen. 	General redecoration required.	Classes and private functions. Bookings include keep fit, dog training and ballet.	4 & 5
Bovingdon Memorial Hall	Trust (Parish Council)	Rated as good quality. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Main hall (160 capacity). Meeting room. Kitchen. 	Redecoration required. Some small DDA updating required. Planned redevelopment of adjacent Fire Station may impact on hall, not yet confirmed.	Bookings include: pre school, mat bowls and youth club.	3, 4 & 5
Boxmoor Playhouse	Theatre Company	Rated as good quality. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Main hall (200 capacity) with stage. 2 meeting rooms. Workshop. Kitchen and bar. 	No specific issues raised.	Six performances per year. Hall let out at weekends for additional income.	5

¹ Quality as rated by a representative of the facility – on a scale of Good, Adequate, Poor – definitions of these types of quality were given to the representatives and can be found in the Appendix.



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Site	Ownership	Facilities ¹	Issues	Programme	ACRE class
Chipperfield Village Hall	Charitable Trust	Rated as good quality. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Main hall (200 capacity) with stage. Meeting room. Kitchen. 	Newly laid floor in main hall. Main hall was refurbished in 2003.	Bookings include: bowls club, art classes, WI and theatre group.	3, 4 & 5
Christ Church Baptist Hall	Church	Rated as adequate quality. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Main hall (80 capacity). Meeting room. Small kitchen. 	Recently redecorated the main hall. Operating at capacity.	Mainly meetings. Limited user groups. Bookings including church groups and a dance group.	4
Corpus Christi Church Hall	Church	Rated as adequate quality. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Main hall (60 seating capacity). Basic kitchen. 	Plans in place to replace current hall with a bigger facility – awaiting funding confirmation. Mainly to be used for Church but will allow bookings to continue.	Mainly church groups use. Bookings include: mother and toddler group.	3 & 4
Flamstead Village Hall	Charitable Trust	Rated as adequate quality. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Main hall (80 seated capacity) with stage. Meeting room. Kitchen. 	Kitchen is currently in poor condition and in need of refurbishment.	Bookings include: table tennis club, mat bowls and play group.	3, 4 & 5
Flauden Village Hall	DBC	Rated as a good quality facility. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Main hall (120 seating capacity) with stage. Kitchen. 	Self financing facility. Plan to extend committee room to provide additional ancillary facilities.	Bookings include: indoor bowls, theatre group and yoga.	3, 4 & 5
Gable Hall	DBC	Rated as adequate quality. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Main hall (50 capacity). Kitchen. 	Reports that many of the user groups are outgrowing this small facility. Spare peak time capacity identified.	Bookings include: karate club, yoga and dance group.	4 & 5

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Site	Ownership	Facilities ¹	Issues	Programme	ACRE class
Gaddesden Row Community Hall	Trust (DBC and parish Council)	Rated as good quality. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Main hall (80 seating capacity). Kitchen. 	Lack of volunteers for the committee. New families moving to the village and not using the hall. Spare peak time capacity.	Bookings include: badminton club, dance group and aerobics.	4 & 5
Great Gaddesden Parish Hall	Parish Council	Rated as a good quality facility. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Main hall (80 seating capacity). Kitchen. 	Looking to become a charitable trust. Recently improved DDA access.	Bookings include: table tennis club, yoga. Cycling Club starting in summer.	4 & 5
Grovehill Youth Centre	DBC	Rated as adequate quality. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Main hall (50 seating capacity). Kitchen. 	Redecoration required. Not operating at full capacity.	Classes organised by the Youth Centre rather than private bookings and include youth club and judo club.	2, 3 & 4
Kings Langley Methodist Church Hall	Church	Rated as good quality. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Main hall. 2 meeting rooms. 	Refurbishment ongoing. Outside redecoration required. No caretaker, so limited hours of usage.	Bookings include: music club, weight watchers and yoga class.	3 & 4
Kings Langley Parish Hall	Parish Council	Rated as good quality. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Main hall (50 seating capacity). Kitchen. 	No specific issues raised.	Bookings include yoga and aerobics classes.	3, 4 & 5
Little Gaddesden Village Hall	Parish Council	Rated as good quality. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Main hall (190 capacity). Meeting room. 2 kitchens. 	Redecoration currently underway.	PCT uses for a doctors' surgery fortnightly. Bookings include: badminton club, mat bowls and playgroup.	2 - 5
Long Marston & Puttenham Village Hall	Trust	Rated as adequate quality. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Main hall (200 seating capacity) with stage. Kitchen. 	Not fully DDA compliant. Plans in place for additional storage and building extension as identified in the 'Parish Plan'.	Bookings include: pre school group, mother and toddler and dog training.	3, 4 & 5



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Site	Ownership	Facilities ¹	Issues	Programme	ACRE class
Markyate Village Hall	DBC	Rated as good quality. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Main hall (100 capacity). Meeting room. Kitchen. 	No specific issues raised.	Groups and private functions. Bookings include: playgroup, mat bowls and keep fit.	4 & 5
Nash Mills Village Hall	Trust (DBC)	Rated as good quality. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Main hall (150 capacity). Kitchen. 	Have recently submitted a grant request to the Parish Council to provide a meeting room attached to the hall.	Bookings include: dog training and square dancing.	4 & 5
Northchurch Social Centre	Association	Rated as good quality. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Main hall (80 capacity). Small hall. Kitchen. 	Partition available between the two halls. Maintenance is ongoing.	Bookings include: chess club and bridge club. Provide sessions on stroke support.	2 - 5
Potten End Village Hall	Trust	Rated as good quality. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Main hall (150 capacity) with stage. Meeting room. Kitchen. 	Scout hut attached.	Used by various village groups.	3 & 4
Rucklers Lane Community Hall	Trust (DBC)	Rated as adequate quality. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Main hall. Kitchen. 	Limited access for disabled users. Public car parking only.	Activities held at the hall include: bingo and luncheon club.	3
St John's Church Hall	Church	Rated as adequate quality. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Main hall (90 seating capacity). 3 storage rooms. Kitchen. 	No specific car parking.	Mainly used for meetings. Dacorum PCT also hires. No private bookings for functions.	2, 3 & 4
St Mary's Church Hall	Church	Rated as good quality facility. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Main hall (70 capacity). Office. Kitchen. 	Not fully DDA compliant.	Bookings include: Brownies, mother and toddler and yoga class.	4 & 5
St Paul's	Church	Rated as	Heating will require	Only available in	4 & 5



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Site	Ownership	Facilities ¹	Issues	Programme	ACRE class
Church Hall		adequate quality. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Main hall (capacity 100). • Meeting room. • Kitchen. 	updating in the next 12 months.	the evenings due to Church use in the day. Bookings include: Brownies and dog training.	
The Iron Room	Trust	Converted church facility rated as adequate quality. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Main hall (75 capacity). • Kitchen. 	Refurbishment is ongoing. Heating is in need of replacement.	Meetings and events. Bookings include table tennis club	3 & 4
Wigginton Village Hall	Church	Rated as good quality. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Main hall (100 capacity). • Meeting room. • Kitchen. 	Poor public transport links and limited car parking available.	Bookings include: pre school, WI, drama group and children's parties.	3, 4 & 5
Wilstone Village Hall	Trust	Rated as good quality. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Main hall (150 capacity). • Meeting room. • Kitchen. 	Last year upgraded all existing facilities through lottery grant.	Bookings include: scouts, toddler group and dog training.	3, 4 & 5
Y2K Hall	Markyate Parish Council	Rated as good quality. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Main hall (50 capacity). • Kitchen. • Games room. • Lounge. 	No specific issues raised.	Bookings include: Youth club, citizens' advice, mother and toddlers. PCT use for sessions. Also booked for children's parties.	2 - 5

Summary

- There is no identified demand for additional facilities.
- Aldbury Club Hall is the only facility rated as poor quality and requires major refurbishment.



DACORUM SPORT AND RECREATION STUDY: INDOOR FACILITIES ASSESSMENT REPORT

Scoring mechanism – quantitative summary

The development of built facility studies has necessitated the production of a scoring criteria for comparing 'like for like' facilities, namely community centres and village halls. Please refer to Part I for more detail.

This scoring mechanism is a good way of being able to prioritise such a large number of facilities for investment and development. However, it is only a quantitative mechanism and is intended to be a supplement to qualitative local assessment and evaluation.

A high score means that the facility most fulfils the defined agenda. Therefore, it is located within an important catchment area i.e. most deprived area or most young people within its catchment area. For full details of the category agenda, this is explained further in Part I.

This scoring mechanism has been run for village halls using the overall community facility mathematical prioritisation model for the Borough All facilities, regardless of management, have been included.

The priority attached to village hall facilities across the Borough is as follows:

Dacorum Village Halls	Ward	Total score	% Total score	Priority Rank
Aldbury Club Hall	Aldbury and Wigginton	16.42	20.52%	13
Aldbury Memorial Hall	Aldbury and Wigginton	16.42	20.52%	14
Bourne End Village Hall	Bovingdon, Flaunden & Chipperfield	8.28	10.35%	27
Bovingdon Memorial Hall	Bovingdon, Flaunden & Chipperfield	17.15	21.44%	9
Boxmoor Playhouse	Boxmoor	27.25	34.06%	5
Chipperfield Village Hall	Bovingdon, Flaunden & Chipperfield	10.50	13.12%	24
Christchurch Baptist Hall	Kings Langley	16.23	20.29%	16
Corpus Christi Church Hall	Tring West	24.59	30.74%	7
Flamstead Village Hall	Watling	12.16	15.20%	23
Flaunden Village Hall	Bovingdon, Flaunden & Chipperfield	8.47	10.59%	26
Gable Hall	Berkhamsted East	26.16	32.70%	6
Gaddesden Row Community Hall	Watling	10.31	12.89%	25
Great Gaddesden Parish Hall	Watling	14.19	17.74%	19
Grovehill Youth Centre	Grove Hill	34.66	43.33%	3
Kings Langley Methodist Church Hall	Kings Langley	17.02	21.27%	10
Kings Langley Parish Hall	Kings Langley	16.39	20.49%	15

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Dacorum Village Halls	Ward	Total score	% Total score	Priority Rank
Little Gaddesden Village Hall	Ashridge	12.68	15.84%	22
Long Marston Village Hall	Tring West	7.63	9.53%	29
Markyate Village Hall	Watling	15.81	19.77%	17
Nash Mills Village Hall	Nash Mills	17.01	21.27%	11
Northchurch Social Centre	Berkhamsted West	21.71	27.14%	8
Potten End Village Hall	Ashridge	13.76	17.20%	20
Rucklers Lane Village Hall	Kings Langley	12.72	15.90%	21
St John's Church Hall	Hemel Hempstead Central	30.72	38.40%	4
St Mary's Church Hall	Hemel Hempstead Central	36.65	45.81%	2
St Paul's Church Hall	Highfield & St Pauls	41.86	52.32%	1
Wigginton Village Hall	Tring East	7.53	9.42%	30
Wilstone Village Hall	Tring West	8.26	10.33%	28
Y2K Hall	Watling	15.81	19.77%	18
The Iron Room Community Centre	Aldbury and Wigginton	16.43	20.54%	12

St Paul's Church Hall, St Mary's Church Hall and Grovehill Youth Centre all score the highest within the scoring criteria indicating their potential importance to the category agendas.

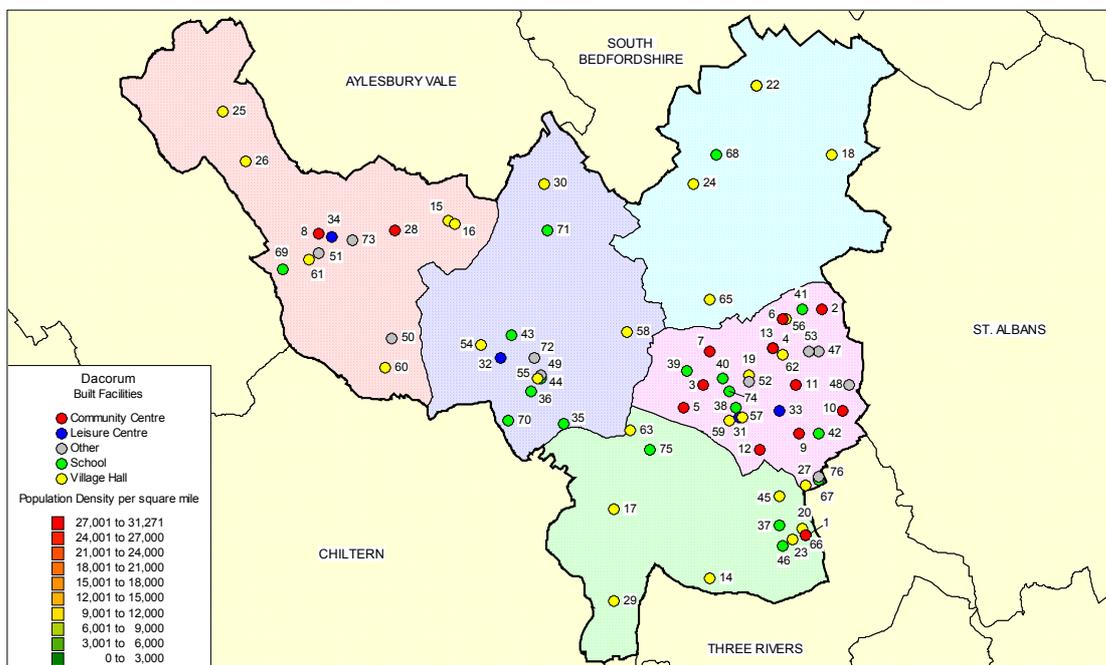
Of the two church hall facilities, St Paul's Church Hall is a bigger facility but is limited as to its availability due to church commitments. However, St Mary's Church Hall is of good quality, although not fully DDA compliant. It has good range of users and activities which probably could be increased.

Grovehill Youth Centre is the highest ranked DBC owned and managed facility. This youth centre is not currently operating to full capacity although it does provide a good range of activities. It is in need of general redecoration to make it a more inviting place for young people.

DACORUM SPORT AND RECREATION STUDY: INDOOR FACILITIES ASSESSMENT REPORT

PART 5: SUMMARY OF PROVISION

Distribution of all built facilities within Dacorum mapped against population density:



Id	Site	Type	Id	Site	Type
1	Kings Langley Community Centre	Community	38	Hemel Hempstead School	School
2	Woodhall Farm Community Centre	Community	39	John F Kennedy RC School	School
3	Warners End Community Centre	Community	40	The Cavendish School	School
4	Highfield Community Centre	Community	41	Astley Cooper School	School
5	Chaulden Community Centre	Community	42	Longdean School	School
6	Grovehill Community Centre	Community	43	Bridgewater Middle School	School
7	Gadebridge Community Centre	Community	44	Berkhamsted Collegiate School	School
8	Tring Community Centre	Community	45	Rucklers Lane Village Hall	Village Hall
9	Bennetts End Community Centre	Community	46	Rudolph Steiner School	School
10	Leverstock Village Hall	Community	47	Esporta Health Club	Other
11	Adeyfield Community Centre	Community	48	Spirit Health Club	Other
12	Apsley Community Centre	Community	49	Kings Arms Hotel	Other

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Id	Site	Type	Id	Site	Type
13	Heights Community Hall	Community	50	Champneys Health Resort	Other
14	Chipperfield Village Hall	Village Hall	51	Harvey's Health & Fitness Studio	Other
15	Aldbury Memorial Hall	Village Hall	52	Marlowes Fitness Centre	Other
16	Aldbury Club Hall	Village Hall	53	Body Image	Other
17	Bovingdon Memorial Hall	Village Hall	54	Northchurch Social Centre	Village Hall
18	Flamstead Village Hall	Village Hall	55	Gable Hall	Village Hall
19	St Mary's Church Hall	Village Hall	56	Grovehill Youth Centre	Village Hall
20	Kings Langley Methodist Church Hall	Village Hall	57	St John's Church Hall	Village Hall
21	Markyate Village Hall	Village Hall	58	Potten End Village Hall	Village Hall
22	Y2K Hall	Village Hall	59	Boxmoor Playhouse	Village Hall
23	Kings Langley Parish Hall	Village Hall	60	Wigginton Village Hall	Village Hall
24	Gaddesden Row Community Hall	Village Hall	61	Corpus Christi Church Hall	Village Hall
25	Long Marston Village Hall	Village Hall	62	St Paul's Church Hall	Village Hall
26	Wilstone Village Hall	Village Hall	63	Bourne End Village Hall	Village Hall
27	Nash Mills Village Hall	Village Hall	65	Great Gaddesden Parish Hall	Village Hall
28	The Iron Room	Village Hall	66	Christchurch Baptist Hall	Village Hall
29	Flauden Village Hall	Village Hall	67	Abbots Hill School	School
30	Little Gaddesden Village Hall	Village Hall	68	Beechwood Park School	School
31	Hemel Hempstead Sports Centre	Leisure Centre	69	Francis House Prep School	School
32	Berkhamsted Sports Centre	Leisure Centre	70	Haresfoot Prep School	School
33	Leisure World	Leisure Centre	71	Ashridge Business School	Management College
34	Tring Sports Centre/Tring School	Leisure Centre	72	Berkhamsted Lawn Tennis & Squash Club	Other



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Id	Site	Type	Id	Site	Type
35	Thomas Coram School	School	73	Tring Squash Club	Other
36	Ashlyns School	School	74	Lockers Park School	School
37	Kings Langley School	School	75	Westbrook Hay Prep School	School
38	Hemel Hempstead School	School	76	Down Under Tennis Club	Other

DACORUM SPORT AND RECREATION STUDY: INDOOR FACILITIES ASSESSMENT REPORT

APPENDIX I - Community Centre and Village Halls – quality definitions

Good Quality:

- Multi purpose facility with a variety of rooms available.
- Variety of facilities on offer.
- New facility or refurbished in the last five years.
- Welcoming facility.
- Spacious.
- Good storage.

Adequate Quality:

- Variety of rooms available to hire.
- Facility fit for purpose.
- Some internal redecoration is required.
- Old building but well maintained.
- Small reception area.

Poor Quality:

- Major refurbishment required.
- Building in poor state of repair.
- Additional rooms need to meet demand.
- Lack of investment.

DACORUM SPORT AND RECREATION STUDY: INDOOR FACILITIES ASSESSMENT REPORT

APPENDIX 2 - strategy & action plan

The identified shortfalls from this report will be addressed within the Strategy and Action Plan document and will be produced following the 'sign off' of this document. It will also address a number of refurbishment options also relating to maintaining current usage at sites that have been considered of poor quality. It will include:

- Aims and objectives.
- Targets.
- Summary of demand from the Assessment Report.
- Development of standards.
- Action plans.