

**TONBRIDGE RACECOURSE SPORTSGROUND MANAGEMENT PLAN
SUMMARY OF CONSULTATION COMMENTS**

Respondent	Comment	Recommended Amendment
Riverside Bowls Club	The Plan should read 'lawn bowls' not 'flat rink bowls'	Amend Plan as requested.
	Could car parking be provided immediately adjacent to the bowling green accessing across the bridge from Avebury Avenue.	The Bowls Club is adequately served by the Council's existing car parks in Avebury Avenue, Bradford Street and Lower Castle Field. Financial concessions are already in place for car parking for the Bowls Club. No amendment proposed.
KCC Countryside Access	Suggest linking a separate map to the Access Audit Improvement Plan.	Amend Plan as requested.
	The Eden Valley Walk is no longer promoted by Kent County Council and therefore should be deleted from the Plan.	This route is fully managed and maintained by Kent County Council. Following a rationalisation of its routes the County Council no longer promotes the Eden Valley Walk. The Plan will be amended as requested.
	Appendix 2, show Public Right of Way MU24 in a different colour to make it stand out.	Amend Plan as requested.
Medway Valley Countryside Partnership	Extend the hedgerows where possible to link the patches of existing woodland.	Noted - Additional hedge planting is already recognised in the Plan to link to woodlands and close up gaps.

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Medway Valley Countryside Partnership (continued)	Increase the area of unimproved grassland.	The opportunity to improve the wildlife value of the site will be taken into consideration following initial baseline wildlife surveys, proposed for Year 1.
Roselands Football Club	<p>Access to the park by ambulance when the gate is locked.</p> <p>Considers that disabled access to the Junior Football Pavilion has not been fully considered and a paved access is required.</p>	<p>This issue has recently been reviewed in liaison with Tonbridge Sports Association and the Council's Health & Safety Officer. A revised procedure has been implemented following a Risk Assessment.</p> <p>The Disability Discrimination Act Audit for the site recognises the need for improved disabled access to the pavilion. The Club's comments regarding a paved access will be taken into consideration when bringing forward improvements.</p>
Kent Wildlife Trust	<p>Recommend that management be enhanced to attract greater biodiversity in line with the PPS9, SE Plan and TMBC Open Spaces Strategy.</p> <p>Notes the lack of ecological information for the site and recommends an ecological survey (potentially an extended Phase 1 Habitat Survey) to include reptiles, bats and otters.</p>	<p>Amend Plan - Add information to section 6.0 highlighting the Plans' position in relation to other relevant biodiversity/wildlife strategies/plans.</p> <p>The Plan already acknowledges the lack of ecological information for the site and baseline surveys are proposed for Year 1. The Trust's specific comments will be taken into account when selecting and commissioning survey work.</p>

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Kent Wildlife Trust (continued)	The Trust make several detailed comments in regard to wildlife and habitat enhancements for the site and recommends that a separate ecological management plan be developed and amended to address the management of woodland, hedgerows, riverside banks and ditches.	Following the completion of baseline surveys proposed in Year One, the Council will then be in a position to bring forward recommendations for site improvements or enhancements.
Mini Soccer Alliance	The SWOT analysis should include reference to the Open Space Strategy in the 'strengths' section and lack of road access to the central pavilion and absence of a floodlit synthetic playing surface within the 'weaknesses'	Amend Plan to include the Open Space Strategy within Table 9, the SWOT analysis. In regard to road access to the central pavilion this is not considered to be necessary and would have significant health and safety implications. This site is well served by a number of public car parks, concessions are in place for volunteer coaches, and limited vehicular access is available to appropriate club members. With regard to the floodlight synthetic playing pitch, the Council's policy is to seek provision on school sites where feasible in order to maximise use of the facilities throughout the day. Discussions are currently taking place with Tonbridge School and a report will be considered at the Finance & Property Advisory Board in January 2007 as part of the Capital Plan review.

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Mini Soccer Alliance (continued)	<p>Land allocated for approved events should not interfere with the use of the site as a Sportsground</p> <p>50% of the proceeds from commercial events should go to local charities and no alcohol should be sold as the site is used by children.</p> <p>Litter bins and seating is required adjacent to the pavilion.</p> <p>No mention of a floodlit synthetic surface, which could be installed instead of the Ball Court.</p> <p>The cost and timing of the Ball Court is not stated.</p> <p>More car parking is required to encourage parent participation and parking ticket concessions should continue to apply, with a maximum of £1 being applied.</p>	<p>Tonbridge Sports Association is consulted on all events on the Sportsground to ensure appropriate consideration is taken in regard to regular sports users. The number of approved events on the site is minimal.</p> <p>Each event is considered on its individual merits with Tonbridge Sports Association being a key consultee.</p> <p>New provision will be considered in the delivery of the Plan.</p> <p>See earlier comments.</p> <p>The cost of the Ball Court (£70,000) is being met in full from external funding contributions and the work is due to commence in spring/summer 2009. Details to be included in Plan.</p> <p>See earlier comments. Liaison is ongoing between Tonbridge Sports Association and the Director of Planning, Transport and Leisure regarding car parking concerns.</p>

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KCC Landscape Services	<p>Does the Sportsground have a dedicated website for information for the general public.</p> <p>Within the sustainability section, possibly comment on the contractors ISO14001 and use of low sulphur fuels, energy minimisation, electric vehicles and green waste.</p> <p>Welcomes the review of site signage and information points.</p> <p>Request that further pesticide minimisation is discussed with KCC Landscape Services.</p> <p>Increase information on tree management and maintenance.</p>	<p>There is a dedicated webpage and this will be referenced in section 8.0.</p> <p>Amend Plan as requested.</p> <p>Noted</p> <p>Noted and to be actioned.</p> <p>Amend Plan as requested.</p>
Tonbridge Junior Football Club	<p>Have no issue with linking the pavilion ramp with the existing path network and support this.</p> <p>Disappointed the Plan does not include a floodlit all weather sports pitch.</p>	<p>Noted.</p> <p>Noted. See earlier comments.</p>
Tonbridge Canoe Club	The Club runs three events per year from its base in the Sportsground.	Amend Plan - add reference to events in Table 7.

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Tonbridge Canoe Club (continued)	<p>Maintenance of trees along the river bank not included and causes problems for this user group.</p> <p>Would like to see the Council work towards a longer term lease for land the Club currently occupies (currently leased privately between SE Water and the canoe club) to give the Club firmer security of tenure.</p>	<p>Amend Plan - add reference to Table 9 and management proposals to the Action Plan.</p> <p>Whilst the Council supports the Club's aspirations and will offer appropriate assistance the current lease is with South East Water.</p>
Model Engineering Society	Felt the plan was very professional.	Noted.