

**Tonbridge Racecourse Sportsground Management Plan 2019-2023
Summary of Consultation Comments**

| Respondent | Comment | Recommended Amendment/Reason for no Change |
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| 1. Tonbridge Juddians Rugby Football Club | Tonbridge Juddians Rugby Football Club submitted updated information on the Club in relation to page 24 of the draft Plan. | Proposed Plan Amendment – Plan amended to reflect updated information provided. |
| 2. Tonbridge Mini Soccer Alliance | No consultation has taken place with Key Stakeholders, all of whom have been requested to submit their comments in the same format as for the general public - with no provision being made to reply. It is suggested that face to face discussions with Key Stakeholders be scheduled prior to final publication. | No Change Proposed – Key Stakeholders are identified and received a copy of the draft Plan to comment on. There are no plans to hold individual meetings with each Stakeholder. |
| 3. Tonbridge Mini Soccer Alliance | Overall, this Plan seems to concentrate on achieving the Green Flag award, rather than focusing on the needs of the Sportsground users. It is a Sportsground, not a Heritage site. Approximately 50% of the development plan relates to the Green Flag award, which understates the importance of the site as a Sportsground | No Change Proposed – It is felt that achieving the objectives of the Green Flag Award will benefit all users of the site, including those using it for formal sports. The Green Flag criteria are used in all the Council's Management Plans. |
| 4. Tonbridge Mini Soccer Alliance | The document is too vague. There is no detail in the overall aim i.e. what is the balance of use between formal vs informal. Again in the | Comment Noted – The Plan aims to achieve a balanced use between informal and formal (sports) users. Areas of usage |

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| | objectives there is no detail or vision of what the sports ground will look like or how its usage will be split/defined. Without such detail we cannot understand the impact and therefore cannot provide informed comment on the proposal. | are described in Part 1 (page 34) and shown in Appendix 2. It is felt the site is important to the whole community and this is reflected in the draft Plan. |
| 5. Tonbridge Mini Soccer Alliance | Another concern is who will be consulted for the detail in the 5 year work programme/projects. It is very vague in the document, yet this is where all the key detailed decision making will be. Stakeholders need to be consulted regarding proposals which affect Compartment 2. | Comment Noted – The Five Year Plan will provide clear guidance and steer. The Council Officers attend 6 weekly liaison meetings with the Chairman of Tonbridge Sports Association, which provides the link between the Council and the Sports Clubs. |
| 6. Tonbridge Mini Soccer Alliance | Add Mini Soccer and Young'uns skills training, each weekend September – May on page 1 | No Change Proposed – These activities are not events. |
| 7. Tonbridge Mini Soccer Alliance | Core values should include Sports Development on page 2 | Proposed Plan Amendment – Sports Development reference to be added. |
| 8. Tonbridge Mini Soccer Alliance | Demand for mini soccer football pitches exceeds supply, and has done for the past 3 years. It is not a case of fluctuating demand, as requests for additional pitches have been declined. | Comment Noted – Available space is limited by the site boundaries though a significant proportion of the site is utilised for football and rugby. In the 2018/19 season the site accommodated a total of 49 pitches (football 12, mini football 23, rugby 4, mini rugby 10). Annual meetings are held to discuss pitch layout to ensure maximum use of these areas and agreed in liaison with Clubs and the Tonbridge Sports Association. |
| 9. Tonbridge Mini Soccer Alliance | More litter bins are required in Compartment 2, particularly on the pavilion side, which has far more footfall than other areas. Compartment 2 is the largest area, yet despite there being 35 litter bins on the Sportsground, less than 5 are located | Comment already included in draft Plan – Project 20 does identify the review of litter bins and the comments made will be taken into consideration. Within Tenancy Agreements it is, however, the |

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| | on the pavilion side of the central path, and none next to the pavilion despite requests to do so. | responsibility of Clubs to clear their own litter. |
| 10. Tonbridge Mini Soccer Alliance | Page 6 Table 2. Mini Soccer tenancy period should be September - May, to comply with the implied agreement with the Football Association grant to build the pavilion. | No Change Proposed – The extent of the playing seasons are agreed in liaison with the Tonbridge Sports Association and at the current time there are no plans to alter these. It is essential to rest pitches and undertake pitch renovation. |
| 11. Tonbridge Mini Soccer Alliance | Page 12. Neither the Rugby Club Pavilion nor the Mini Soccer Pavilion are owned by the Council | Proposed Plan Amendment – Text on Page 12 to be amended accordingly. |
| 12. Tonbridge Mini Soccer Alliance | Page 24, TJFC website should be amended to www.tjfc.co.uk | Proposed Plan Amendment – Text on Page 24 to be amended accordingly. |
| 13. Tonbridge Mini Soccer Alliance | Page 31 Table 10. Stakeholders for the Sportsground should include Tonbridge Mini Soccer Alliance, TJFC, TJFC (Girls section), West Kent Football Training Academy and Tonbridge Angels Junior FC | No Change Proposed – Tonbridge Mini Soccer Alliance are included as a stakeholder due to their built facility on site (pavilion). Other Clubs are represented by Tonbridge Sports Association. |
| 14. Tonbridge Mini Soccer Alliance | Page 31, The budget to take into account ALL income from Sportsground users, including income received by TMLT and (say) 90% of all weekend car parking receipts at Lower Castle Fields car park. | No Change Proposed – Trust income is confidential and cannot be shown in this public document. It is not possible to estimate income taken in the car park from the sites users (90% is considered to be significantly overstated, taking into account the public using Tonbridge Pool). |
| 15. Tonbridge Mini Soccer Alliance | Page 31, Car parking. Concessions, which used to allow users to pay for 2 hours but stay all day have been discontinued. We believe that this short sighted approach has had limited benefit to the Council, as most of our 1400+ parents now restrict the time they spend at the Sportsground on Saturday morning to the 2 hours they | No Change Proposed – Changes to car parking concessions were considered by Council Members and approved by the Council Overview and Scrutiny Committee. Clubs were compensated through a reduction in their tenancy fees |

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| | previously paid. This frustrates the overall aim of healthy living. | in order that they could then pass on these savings to their Club Members. |
| 16. Tonbridge Mini Soccer Alliance | Page 33, Compartments. We believe that Compartment 2 should be sub-divided to show 2a = Football (fixed goals) and 2b = mini soccer | No Change Proposed – All of Compartment 2 is designated for football. It is not felt that any further sub-division is needed and currently allows flexibility to amend pitch layouts each year in liaison with Clubs. |
| 17. Tonbridge Mini Soccer Alliance | Page 37 SWOT weaknesses. TJFC now has over 100 volunteers willing to give their time to a good cause. | Proposed Plan amendment – The SWOT will be amended to reflect the significant support given to Clubs by volunteer helpers. |
| 18. Tonbridge Mini Soccer Alliance | Page 37 SWOT weakness. Car Parking capacity at peak times has been made worse by allowing the Park Run on site as a second major activity on Saturday mornings between 08.30 -10.00. This conflicts with the heavy usage by mini soccer players / parents attending from 09.30 onwards | No change proposed – The Parkrun starts at 9am and has been a major initiative in addressing healthy living for all ages. The popularity of the Lower and Upper Castle Field car parks will be considered as part of the current Parking Review. |
| 19. Tonbridge Mini Soccer Alliance | Page 37 SWOT weakness. Whilst additional parking would be applauded, there seems little point in providing for such a limited period if the timing of the Park Run, or its start point could be amended. | See comment 18 above. The timing of the Parkrun is set nationally. |
| 20. Tonbridge Mini Soccer Alliance | Page 39 Community involvement TJFC now has over 100 volunteers willing to give their time to a good cause. Concessions, which used to provide volunteers with a parking permit have been limited to the equivalent of 12 permits. We believe that this approach is short sighted. | See comments 15 and 17 above. |

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| 21. Tonbridge Mini Soccer Alliance | Page 46 Suggest the visitor survey be conducted on Saturday / Sunday mornings. | No change proposed – Survey is currently undertaken at varying times and days (including weekends) to ensure the broadest range of users and views are captured. |
| 22. Tonbridge Mini Soccer Alliance | Page 48 The mini soccer pavilion has all the equipment required to provide catering facilities to the general public. | Comment Noted. |
| 23. Tonbridge Mini Soccer Alliance | Page 53 project 54. Footfall counters could be installed at the Pavilion to assess Compartment 2 usage. | Comments Noted – The siting of visitor counters has yet to be agreed but would need to encompass both sports and causal users of the site. |
| 24. Tonbridge Mini Soccer Alliance | Page 53 project 56. Nets are not provided | Proposed Plan Amendment – amend accordingly. |
| 25. Tonbridge Mini Soccer Alliance | Page 53 project 60. This is a Sportsground, not a heritage site. | Comments Noted – Any accreditation would need to benefit all users. |
| 26. Member of the Public | I am a careful cyclist. I was dismayed to read that cycling is prohibited in the park except along the cycle route | Proposed Plan Amendment – Add a new project 'Review cycling provision and current restrictions within the site'. It would be the intention to review the current approach adopted though careful consideration would need to be given to ensure existing users are not detrimentally affected. |
| 27. Tonbridge Bicycle Users Group | On page 6 we read that 'The Tudor Trail Regional Cycle Route 12' runs through the Racecourse, linking Tonbridge Castle, Haysden Country Park, and Penshurst Place. The cycle route runs along the northern boundary of the Racecourse following the River Medway. This route was the subject of an Order under the | See 26 above |

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| | <p>Cycle Tracks Act, however, cycling is prohibited in all other areas of the Racecourse. ' There are many people use the path between the swimming pool and Avebury Avenue to cycle between Slade area and the station, or to reach the swimming pool and beyond from Barden area. It is a safe and less polluted alternative to the High Street. It is also popular with families with children as a means to reach the play area and practice cycling. I feel this path has sufficient visibility and width to make it safe as a shared pedestrian/cycle path.</p> <p>Only one of our members mentioned his concern about cyclists using this path at weekends, when it is used by many families with small children. It would be possible to have a sign saying 'pedestrian priority' or 'cyclists look out for small children' to get around this difficulty.</p> <p>At this time when both government and KCC are suggesting to promote Active Transport it seems to me that cycling should be encouraged rather than prohibited.</p> <p>We would like that path to become a recognised cycle route. Ideally, we would like there to be some lighting to make it safer and more useful for commuters on dark winter mornings and evenings.</p> | |
| <p>28. Riverside Bowling Club Member</p> | <p>Page 54 project 53. In regard to the Bowls Club and bowling green. The club is small and due to the lack of facilities other private clubs enjoy they are unlikely to be in a position to maintain the</p> | <p>Comments Noted – Any amendments to the management of the facilities would only be considered following liaison and</p> |

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| | green themselves. There is also the problem of if maintained privately, it would have to be for their exclusive use. | agreement with the Club and Tonbridge Sports Association. |
| 29. Riverside Bowling Club Member | Page 12. Mowing and maintaining of the bowling green. Given the stated details of the green maintenance, the green is not in good condition. | Comment Noted. |
| 30. Tonbridge Junior Football Club | The Plan appears to be very broad at this stage with limited detail available to review and comment. It would be beneficial to involve the key stakeholders in the detailed discussions to support the development of the 5 year work programme/projects. | See 2 and 5 above. |
| 31. Tonbridge Junior Football Club | The Plan includes some good proposals including supporting events, increasing car parking and replacing goals and nets. | Comment Noted. |
| 32. Tonbridge Junior Football Club | There is no detail in the overall aim i.e. what is the balance of use formal vs informal. In the objectives there is no detail or vision of what the sportsground will look like or how its usage will be split/defined. Without the detail we cannot understand the impact this proposal may have on TJFC and therefore cannot provide informed comment on the proposal. | See 4 and 5 above. |
| 33. Tonbridge Junior Football Club | There is an increased requirement for mini soccer and youth football for both boys and girls - currently the facility to provide this is restricted by applications for pitch marking, pitch use, extensions to the playing season being declined which has resulted in fluctuating use rather than fluctuating demand - this has been out of TJFC control. We would like and are committed to | See 8 and 10 above. |

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| | continue to promote football for all at the Sports ground in conjunction with TMBC. | |
| 34. Riverside Bowling Club | Our main concern is about car parking for members and guests. At weekends we have an arrangement to use the Adult Centre to park, but on weekdays they have to use the public car parks. All the parking in town centre seem to be at capacity with the new developments. On Wednesdays we use Bradford Street which is often very full. We no longer use Avebury Avenue which was convenient. As many of the users are elderly they have difficulty walking to far. We are not a large group and would like users of the green to be able to park inside the Racecourse grounds nearer the green. | Comment Noted – Unfortunately parking is not permitted within the sportsgrounds itself due to access arrangements and the health and safety of other public users. The comments regarding parking will be taken in to consideration in the current wider review of parking provision in the town. |
| 35. Riverside Bowling Club | We have noticed that litter being thrown around the site is a problem. We understand that the council is doing what it can to clean up. We want to know what can be done about the public abusing the site' and dropping the litter? | Comment Noted – Litter picking at the site is undertaken daily through the Council's Grounds Maintenance contractor and additionally through its Ranger and volunteers. The Council also has the ability to issue fines under the Clean Neighbourhoods Environment Act. |
| 36. Riverside Bowling Club | The club have been impressed by changes we have made in the park in last few years and think they are brilliant and the park is so good for the town. | Comment Noted – with thanks. |