

Footpaths and Active travel

| Comment | Proposed Response |
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| I would like to see a designated cycle path to connect North and South Tunbridge without cyclists having to go down the dangerous High Street. | Comment noted. Project 62 in the plan commits to a review of cycling provision on-site. No change proposed. |
| Dedicated cycling path so they keep away from pedestrians. | Comment noted. There is already a designated cycle route on-site and Project 62 in the plan commits to a review of cycling provision on-site. No change proposed. |
| The footpaths are not a cycle paths, except the well-marked cycle path in Deacons Field. Please add signage to tell cyclist not to cycle on the footpaths. Often cyclists seem to think that they have right of way on the footpaths, which is inconsiderate, and at times dangerous. | Comment noted, though no change proposed. As explained in the plan the site is on flood plain which has restrictions on building, so widening the paths all the way around the site is unlikely to be realistic. See Projects 6 and 20. Consideration will also be given to installing signage to promote awareness of other users. |
| It would be great if Tonbridge Park could incorporate elements of Gravesend cyclopark with areas for children to cycle. | Comment noted. Project 62 in the plan commits to a review of cycling provision on-site. No change proposed. |
| Could there be a design for a separate bike track. Mixing pedestrians with cyclists is unsafe and stressful for walkers especially with children. With a proper cycle track it might also get cyclists off the roads too, which are also too dangerous. It could be a money earner if done correctly. | Comment noted. Project 62 in the plan commits to a review of cycling provision on-site. No change proposed. |
| A separate cycle track is needed. | Comment noted. There is already a designated cycle route on-site and Project 62 in the plan commits to a review of cycling provision on-site. No change proposed. |
| I think active travel is missing from the list | <p data-bbox="847 1509 1469 1608">In the accessibility section of the plan (on pages 5 and 6) and on our website we list all the alternative methods of travel to the site.</p> <p data-bbox="847 1653 1469 1787">Accordingly in the plan there are projects covering a variety of methods of travel including Projects on cycling, car parking, and wayfinding pedestrian routes.</p> |
| Review cycling provision within the site (page 54). There is plenty of space within the park for additional (not shared use) paths specifically for cycles. Thinking mainly of children that intensively use the park, I think I'm right in saying technically they cannot ride their bikes with parents to the playground. Also, a cycle link avoiding the traffic of the High Street could be possible - when I cycle with my | Comment noted. Project 62 in the plan commits to a review of cycling provision on-site. No change proposed. |

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| children from north to south Tonbridge there is no quiet or traffic free route. | |
| The community do not want the car parks extended. Please stop paving over things. Add more bike racks instead. | Comment noted. Project 62 in the plan commits to a review of cycling provision on-site. No change proposed. |
| Improve active travel. | Comment noted. Project 62 in the plan commits to a review of cycling provision on-site. No change proposed. |
| The footpath around the Racecourse ground is not wide enough. In these times of accessibility and inclusivity it should be wide enough for two wheelchairs or pushchairs to pass. As it stands, there is sometimes hardly room for two pedestrians to pass without one or other walking in the grass which may be very muddy after heavy rainfall such as we have just seen. | Comment noted, though no change proposed - As explained in the plan, the site is on flood plain which has restrictions on building, so widening the paths all the way around the site is likely to be realistic. Project 6 will consider facility improvements and project 20 will assess the need for path repairs/improvements. |
| The paths around and running through the sportsground need to be widened to at least 3m where that is possible to allow runners and cyclists to mix safely with pedestrians. We should consider new downlit illumination along the main pathway between the Swimming Pool and Avebury Avenue to provide safe access but minimise light pollution. | Comment noted, though no change proposed - As explained in the plan, the site is on flood plain which has restrictions on building, so widening the paths all the way around the site is likely to be realistic. Project 6 will consider facility improvements and project 20 will assess the need for path repairs/improvements. |
| Prioritise the widening of the pathways throughout to encourage healthier lifestyles encourage cyclists and accommodate Tonbridge Park Run. | Comment noted, though no change proposed - As explained in the plan, the site is on flood plain which has restrictions on building, so widening the paths all the way around the site is likely to be realistic. Project 6 will consider facility improvements and project 20 will assess the need for path repairs/improvements. |
| I note the plan to make wider footpaths which is welcomed. | Comment noted, though no change proposed - As explained in the plan, the site is on flood plain which has restrictions on building, so widening the paths all the way around the site is likely to be realistic. Project 6 will consider facility improvements and project 20 will assess the need for path repairs/improvements. |
| Paths need widening for disabled buggy. | Comment noted, though no change proposed - As explained in the plan, the site is on flood plain which has restrictions on building, so widening the paths all the way around the site is likely to be realistic. Project 6 will consider facility improvements and project 20 will assess the need for path repairs/improvements. |
| Important that paths are wider. Far too narrow especially in winter when ground is wet / flooded and people can't get past each other. | Comment noted, though no change proposed - As explained in the plan, the site is on flood plain which has restrictions on building, so widening the paths all the way around the site is likely to be realistic. Project 6 will consider facility improvements and project 20 will assess the need for path repairs/improvements. |

Play Areas

| Comment | Proposed Response |
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| <p>I love the idea of improving the play area to include more sensory activities, maybe more "attractive" and natural looking play areas. Such as natural-looking boulders, tunnels to crawl through, more natural sandpits. Look to Priory Farm's Discovery Land, Hever Castle's playground and Hobbledown for inspiration when it comes to making play areas not jar with the environment around them.</p> | <p>Comment noted. The provision of sensory play equipment will be considered within projects 33-34. No change proposed.</p> |
| <p>Page 56/57- examples of new equipment. Adding something like a chess table is a great way to improve the variety of uses of the park. Sensory play equipment can be used by all visitors to the park, using the current park on a regular basis I see people interacting with the gym equipment and the interactive bird noise machines. Expanding on this with more sensory play equipment would be a benefit for everyone.</p> | <p>Comment noted. The provision of sensory play equipment will be considered within projects 33-34. No change proposed.</p> |
| <p>There absolutely should be water fountain in the children's play area, in the summer it gets really hot there.</p> | <p>Comment noted. Project 71 will investigate the feasibility of a water bottle filling station on-site. No change proposed.</p> |
| <p>I am happy with most of the plan. I would like to suggest that a water bottle refill station/drinking fountain be installed somewhere fairly close to the children's play area. If it is easier to install just outside the public toilets that would also be fine.</p> | <p>Comment noted. Project 71 will investigate the feasibility of a water bottle filling station on-site. No change proposed.</p> |
| <p>Generally speaking the sportsground is well used and popular, with an excellent children's play area. it is admired by visitors and residents alike and with a little improvement could provide an even better space for everyone to enjoy.</p> | <p>Comment noted. The plan identifies several projects that would improve the sportsground. No change proposed.</p> |
| <p>A covered bench close to the skate park area would held youth and parents with using this amenity.</p> | <p>Comment noted. A shelter already exists on-site. No change proposed.</p> |
| <p>The skate park is very basic and would benefit from an extension to be designed in partnership with the young people who use it.</p> | <p>Comment noted. See Project 34, which considers improvements to the play area, skate park and ballcourt.</p> |
| <p>Working with young people to design an improved skatepark and providing better places for visitors to meet than the very basic shelter.</p> | <p>Amend plan to include reference to the fact that the Council worked with young people on original layout, add design proposals to be considered by the public.</p> |
| <p>Reintroduce a drinking fountain/water filling station without further delay.</p> | <p>Comment noted. Project 71 will investigate the feasibility of a water bottle filling station on-site. No change proposed.</p> |
| <p>Project Number 71 (Water bottle filling station) - We would support this initiative and the sustainable and efficient use of water. We would welcome further engagement and dialogue with TMBC to see if this could align with any initiatives and water efficiency programmes that we are delivering.</p> | <p>Comment noted. Project 71 will investigate the feasibility of a water bottle filling station on-site. No change proposed.</p> |
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| Water bottle filling station (page 55). Yes. It seems crazy not to have a water fountain | Comment noted. Project 71 will investigate the feasibility of a water bottle filling station on-site. No change proposed. |
| We need a water fountain to refill water bottles in a more environmentally friendly way. | Comment noted. Project 71 will investigate the feasibility of a water bottle filling station on-site. No change proposed. |
| More sun protection in the playground especially over the sand pit. It's so exposed. | Comment noted. Project 22 commits to the planting of more trees and hedges to create shade. No change proposed. |

Public Safety

| Comment | Proposed Response |
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| <p>As a woman I do not feel that it is safe to walk through the park at night. It's completely dark and impossible to see anything. There should be more lighting, at least on the main path between the castle/swimming pool and the exit towards the High Street and Barden area.</p> | <p>Comment noted, amend plan to include a project to investigate additional lighting.</p> |
| <p>Policing of younger people smoking drugs can always smell it walking round yet no one does anything!</p> | <p>Comment noted. The support of the police is acknowledged in the plan, and the Council will continue to work in partnership with them to reduce anti-social behaviour in the park.</p> |
| <p>More streetlights</p> | <p>Comment noted, amend plan to include a project to investigate additional lighting.</p> |
| <p>To make it the best and safest Park, in the whole of Kent/SE. Just like the town</p> | <p>Comment noted.</p> |

Habitats & Biodiversity

| Comment | Proposed Response |
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| I think that it would be to have more trees, longer and more natural | Comment noted. Project 22 commits to planting new trees and hedges. Project 48 considers maintenance of the site boundaries however there are limited opportunities for planting on this site due to its primary use as sports pitches. No change proposed. |
| Plant mature trees around the edge and between the pitches. We desperately need more shade in the park. Plant mature trees around the edge and between the pitches. | Comment noted. Project 22 commits to planting new trees and Project 48 considers maintenance of the site boundaries however there are limited opportunities for planting on this site due to its primary use as sports pitches. No change proposed. |
| I love the idea of increasing biodiversity and planting more trees. | Comment noted. |
| More hedge rows to encourage biodiversity and reduce wind would be welcome. | Comment noted. Project 22 commits to planting new trees and hedges. No change proposed. |
| The footpath would also benefit from the planting of more trees, perhaps in groups to provide shade in summer and to soak up some of the water in periods of heavy rain. | Comment noted. Project 22 commits to planting new trees and hedges. No change proposed. |
| It is past time to please stop using pesticides, they kill wildlife indiscriminately. | Comment noted. By law and because of the water extraction on the site the council uses the minimal amount of pesticides necessary to achieve the objectives of providing surfaces for field sports. Project 47 reviews the use of existing chemicals and investigates alternative methods of weed control. Therefore no change proposed. |
| Interplanting clover with grass would keep the grassy areas greener and more usable during the summer. | Comment noted, though no change proposed – Whilst good for biodiversity unfortunately, clover would not provide a hard-wearing robust winter field sports surface. |
| More trees is an excellent idea. | Comment noted. Project 22 commits to planting new trees and hedges. No change proposed. |
| More bug hotels would be welcome, as well as log piles and underplanting trees with bulbs. Local children could be involved in these projects. | Comment noted. There is already a bug hotel at the site and more can be created. |
| I increase variety of tree planting and shrub planting to increase biodiversity. | Comment noted. Project 22 commits to planting new trees and hedges. Project 48 considers maintenance of the site boundaries however there are limited opportunities for planting on this site due |

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| | to its primary use as sports pitches. No change proposed. |
| Increased planting of trees and hedgerows to provide long term improvement in biodiversity and tree cover. | Comment noted. Project 22 commits to planting new trees and hedges. Project 48 considers maintenance of the site boundaries however there are limited opportunities for planting on this site due to its primary use as sports pitches. No change proposed. |
| More wildflowers around margins and inside miniature train track more trees all to promote wildlife. | Comment noted. Project 29 will consider alternative methods of habitat methods at the park. No change proposed. |
| Better nature planting | Comment noted, though no change proposed. Projects 22 (Plant more hedges and trees), 29 (Habitat Management), 48 (Review site boundaries) and 53 (River planting and bank protection) will all consider appropriate planting for the site. No change proposed. |
| <p>There is huge scope for significant biodiversity improvement throughout the sportsground. There could be a line of trees running alongside the perimeter pathways and an avenue running through the middle with additional planting in the hedgeline and another parallel to that.</p> <p>There could be a rewilding strip 5m wide on each side of the line of trees stretching from Tonbridge Juniors FC Clubhouse to the bank opposite Barden Boatyard.</p> <p>There is an opportunity to plant a wildlife garden next to the Riverside Bowls Club and we should encourage a Friends of Tonbridge Racecourse group to help manage this. We need to place biodiversity at the centre of future management and we could have strips running around the sportsground left uncut for the summer to encourage increasing the number of species in the sward to attract far more butterflies</p> | <p>Comment noted, though no change proposed. Projects 22 (Plant more hedges and trees), 29 (Habitat Management), 48 (Review site boundaries) and 53 (River planting and bank protection) will all consider appropriate planting for the site. No change proposed.</p> |
| We have to do much more to reduce the use of pesticides and herbicides in the Sportsground so that we do not have a space dominated with a sterile monoculture of grass with biodiversity confines to the edges. We could introduce more standard trees in the larger open spaces in a way that would not make maintenance any harder. | Comment noted. Projects 22 (Plant more hedges and trees), 29 (Habitat Management), 48 (Review site boundaries) and 53 (River planting and bank protection) will all consider appropriate planting for the site. Therefore, no change proposed. |
| There is a huge opportunity to increase biodiversity throughout | Comment noted. Projects 22 (Plant more hedges and trees), 29 (Habitat Management), 48 (Review site boundaries) and 53 (River planting and bank protection) will all consider appropriate planting for the site. Therefore, no change proposed. |
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| <p>Management of biodiversity - Himalayan Balsam seedlings and small plants can be pulled up in April / May very effectively. The root plate is very small, and little or no soil comes up with the root, therefore not damaging the soil, and river bank, which is ideal. Leaving control of these plants until later in the summer enables them to get more established and difficult to remove. Please consider controlling Himalayan Balsam in April / May not June.</p> | <p>Comment noted. The Council are reliant on volunteers to complete this task and aim to do this early in the year subject to resources.</p> |
| <p>Some of the trees need better management</p> | <p>Comment noted. Projects 15 and 16 commit to basic and expert tree inspections in accordance with the Councils Tree Safety Policy. No change proposed.</p> |
| <p>Whilst there is significant provision for wildlife, I wonder if there could be a more educational section or community space. A community orchard or food forest, a wildlife area for young kids to access easily in town with insect hotels, etc etc. Of course there is provision in many country parks, but that's not always accessible to all.</p> | <p>Comment noted. There is already a bug hotel at the site and more can be created. We encourage the community to use the site and nearby schools were invited to comment on the plan.</p> |
| <p>Regarding maximising the biodiversity potential (and also improving climate resilience), there are peripheral areas such as the area between the river and the tennis courts & skate park that could be meadow rather than amenity grassland. Similarly, other areas on the edge of the park could be improved for wildlife from this point of view. Longer vegetation helps prevent run-off and has a greater capacity to take in water than amenity grassland.</p> | <p>Comment noted. Project 29 considers appropriate biodiversity enhancements for the site. Therefore no change proposed.</p> |
| <p>Appendix 8 - it is positive that the use of chemicals is always under review, but I would question the use of chemicals on the playing fields and around the play areas given that children use these areas and are more sensitive to chemicals than others. Have any non-chemical alternatives been trialled or at the very least demonstrated?</p> | <p>Comment noted. Project 47 reviews the use of existing chemicals and investigates alternative methods of weed control.</p> |
| <p>We support the aims and objectives of the management plan in respect to it being well managed, safe and secure, well maintained and clean, environmentally managed and addresses biodiversity, landscape and heritage. These are objectives that align with our own aspirations and will ensure that proposals contained within the plan do not adversely impact on our current operations for the abstraction wells.</p> | <p>Comment noted.</p> |
| <p>Project Number 29 (Habitat Management) - As part of the development of the plan, we would welcome further engagement and dialogue with TMBC to investigate opportunities to create nature based solutions to protect groundwater quality, for example this could include wild grassland/wild meadowland in the immediate locality of our abstraction wells.</p> | <p>Amend the plan Make specific mention in Project 29 of the groundwater source protection zones (SPZs) around abstraction wells.</p> |
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| <p>Project Number 47 (Pesticide and chemical usage) - Compliance with the groundwater source protection zones (SPZs) around our abstraction wells is critical for us to ensure the water quality of our abstractions is maintained. As part of the development of the plan, we would welcome further engagement and dialogue with TMBC to investigate alternative pest, weed control methods and the chemicals used in the management of the sportsground.</p> | <p>Amend plan Project 47 add engage with SE water</p> |
| <p>Habitat Management (page 49) could be bolstered, particularly alongside "Sustainability". These suggestions appear vague.</p> | <p>Comment noted.</p> |
| <p>More tree, scrub and hedge planting</p> | <p>Comment noted, though no change proposed. Projects 22 (Plant more hedges and trees), 29 (Habitat Management), 48 (Review site boundaries) and 53 (River planting and bank protection) will all consider appropriate planting for the site. No change proposed.</p> |
| <p>Project - 71 water bottle refills facilities at key points is a great idea. Maybe someone creative could design children and adult (maybe dogs) bottles with a Race course/ Tonbridge logo for purchase in the cafe:)</p> | <p>Comment noted. Project 71 will investigate the feasibility of a water bottle filling station on-site. No change proposed.</p> |
| <p>Make the strip from the football club to the river wider and better protected, and have a corresponding one the other side, with a proper path next to it. Make all the paths wider. There are lots of joggers and dog walkers, in wet weather it's impossible to pass each other.</p> | <p>Comment noted, though no change proposed – Projects 6 (Facility Improvements) and 20 (Paths) consider improvements to facilities – including paths. The site is located on a flood plain which has restrictions on building, so widening the paths all the way around the site is likely to be unrealistic. Project 29 considers areas that would be appropriate for enhancement to increase biodiversity.</p> |

Flooding

| Comment | Proposed Response |
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| <p>The site is within the watershed catchment area for the Board and of arterial importance and so is a 'maintained watercourse'. Reminded us of the Byelaws that apply, including the consent required for certain changes and activities. Maintenance is carried out by the board to meet water level management requirements but not necessary annually.</p> | <p>Proposed plan amendment Amend the document to give a brief summary of functions of the UMIDB</p> |
| <p>No just keep the drainage in mind, and better security</p> | <p>Comment noted.</p> |
| <p>Leave it as it is unspoilt also acts as part of the flood plain</p> | <p>Comment noted.</p> |
| <p>Leave well alone this open space regularly floods even more these days with the overdevelopment of areas along the river bank</p> | <p>Comment noted.</p> |
| <p>There needs to be a specifically stated project to fix the problem with flooding of the Railway Entrance (no. 7) every time it rains heavily in winter. This is the only access point between the Sportsground and Barden Lake/Haysden Country Park, so is a very critical pathway, yet very often visitors are deterred from exploring further because of an inability to pass through the entrance without soaked and/or muddy footwear. If the inadequate drainage cannot be solved, maybe build a shallow bridge maybe only 6-12 inches high over the puddle?</p> | <p>Comment noted. Amend plan to include reference to the fact that this land is owned by Network Rail.</p> |

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| <p>Page 21 indicates that the play areas can hold flood water for weeks, however it often holds water for months because of poor drainage, rendering the play areas unusable for much of the year.</p> | <p>Comment noted, though no change proposed Flooding is recognised as an issue at the park given its status as a flood plain, although the duration of flooding can vary.</p> |
| <p>P61 the existing drainage at the play areas is not effective, meaning that the play areas are unusable, often for months. Access through the park from the play areas towards the swimming pool is also impacted. The council ought to look at methods of improving or replacing the drainage in this area to ensure flood water can be moved into the river after a flood event.</p> | <p>Amend plan - Consider bolstering section on flooding on Page 13 and explain that the EA control the river level and utilise the flood plain at their discretion. Explain that the Council have no control over this and that work has been carried out to improve the drainage following a flood event. The site has natural undulations which hold water and this would be difficult to remedy without reducing flood capacity and compensating elsewhere on-site.</p> |
| <p>The park is environmentally important as a flood plain but also provides recreational facilities for all ages</p> | <p>Comment noted.</p> |
| <p>Improve drainage near putting green to toilet area we walk there often flooded</p> | <p>Amend plan - Consider bolstering section on flooding on Page 13 and explain that the EA control the river level and utilise the flood plain at their discretion. Explain that the Council have no control over this and that work has been carried out to improve the drainage following a flood event. The site has natural undulations which hold water and this would be difficult to remedy without reducing flood capacity and compensating elsewhere on-site.</p> |
| <p>The route under the railway bridge must be maintained for access during wet weather. Currently is impassable during wet spells</p> | <p>Comment noted. Amend plan to include reference to the fact that this land is owned by Network Rail.</p> |
| <p>The park needs a viable drainage management plan. The park is flood too many times to mention and left unusable.</p> | <p>Amend plan - Consider bolstering section on flooding on Page 13 and explain that the EA control the river level and utilise the flood plain at their discretion. Explain that the Council have no control over this and that work has been carried out to improve the drainage following a flood event. The site has natural undulations which hold water and this would be difficult to remedy without reducing flood capacity and compensating elsewhere on-site.</p> |
| <p>Improve the recovery of the site after flooding</p> | <p>Amend plan – as above.</p> |

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| <p>The plan, needs to be sent to residents, but where you are at well you need to sort out the drainage as its bad. It needs a much better revamp</p> | <p>Amend plan – as above.</p> |
| <p>I would further like to see the ground level on the path under the railway bridge leading out to Haysden country park raised and/or drainage improved so that it isn't flooded so often.</p> | <p>Comment noted. Amend plan to include reference to the fact that this land is owned by Network Rail.</p> |

Waste Management

| Comment | Proposed Response |
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| Project 21 - additional bins which are emptied more frequently at weekends, holidays and special occasions would be great. | Comment noted, though no change proposed. The frequency of bin emptying can be reviewed if needed. |
| I would like bins for separate recyclable and ordinary rubbish. | Comment noted, though no change proposed. |
| We should be recycling waste at the bins in the sportsground especially as this has been requested by Mochafella. | Amend plan Under waste minimisation add an ambition to reduce waste from the site as opposed to recycling. Consider additional signage in play area to promote reductions in waste at the site. |
| Environmental management - please install larger dog poo bins, as the ones provided are often filled up, especially in the summer. Please also consider installing waste bins which include recycling bins for plastic, glass and tins. Both of the above are used in Wandsworth Council public areas, and the public do use them. | Comment noted. Project 25 considers the usage, capacity and location of general waste and dog waste bins at the site. No change proposed. |
| Well maintained and clean. Is of utmost importance. It needs more and bigger bins. That are emptied regularly, especially in the warmer months | Comment noted, though no change proposed. The frequency of bin emptying can be reviewed if needed. |

Use of Bowls Green

| Comment | Proposed Response |
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| <p>I see the bowling lawn is to be repurposed but no opportunities are proposed. Perhaps padel courts should be considered with suitable flooding mitigation measures. Padel courts have been suggested to TMBC before (a few years ago) and it is a shame this suggestion was not considered further as the private facility at Tonbridge Golf Centre is extremely popular so the demand is there and it would generate good income for the Council.</p> | <p>Comment noted. See Project 64 - reuse of the Bowling green area will be considered by Members of the Council. No change proposed.</p> |
| <p>Table 12, no 64 - new uses for the bowling green area - please don't put an ugly building on here. Consider instead turning the hut into a tearoom with a garden and a maze - children love mazes.</p> | <p>Comment noted, though no change proposed. – See Project 64 - reuse of the Bowling green area will be considered by Members of the Council</p> |
| <p>The Riverside Bowls Club should be repurposed to become a Sustainability Centre to host the Tonbridge Mens' Shed, Tonbridge Repair Cafe, Tonbridge Maker Space and Tonbridge Library of Things. There could be a cafe on the Riverside Bowls Club site to provide somewhere for young people to socialise safely especially through the dark winter afternoons and evenings.</p> | <p>Comment noted, though no change proposed. – See Project 64 - reuse of the Bowling green area will be considered by Members of the Council</p> |
| <p>The use of the Riverside Bowls Club should focus on community cohesion and environmental sustainability. We have an opportunity to create a vibrant spaces for multiple uses and provide a safe space for young people to call their own and fill the void left by the closure of the Teen and Twenty Club for older teenagers especially. This should also be financially sustainable.</p> | <p>Comment noted, though no change proposed. – See Project 64 - reuse of the Bowling green area will be considered by Members of the Council</p> |
| <p>The bowls club area should be the subject of a working group of members, officers and community groups to explore the possibility of establishing a Sustainability Centre.</p> | <p>Comment noted. Project 64 - reuse of the Bowling green area will be considered by Members of the Council. No change proposed.</p> |

Volunteer Engagement

| Comment | Proposed Response |
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| <p>Setting up a Friends of Tonbridge Racecourse Sportsground to help bring in volunteers to help maintain the largely empty bedding next to the bowls club and tennis courts to support wildlife friendly planting and improve amenity throughout the year through a well presented and flowering border.</p> | <p>Comment noted. Project 10 involves exploring volunteering opportunities at the site. Project 29 considers habitat management. No change proposed.</p> |
| <p>Encourage/plan more volunteers. Get together days/weeks so people can get involved making it part of the community</p> | <p>Comment noted. Project 10 involves exploring volunteering opportunities at the site. No change proposed.</p> |

Additional Comments

| Comment | Proposed Response |
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| <p>I think a main priority should be looking into a bigger cafe, or a second cafe with indoor seating in the park. It would be hugely popular and a big draw for the public. looking grasses and more attractive areas for the public to choose to sit.</p> | <p>Comment noted, though no change proposed. A project to consider a bigger café could be added to plan however this will be challenging due to the high water table, flooding and costs.</p> |
| <p>Project 6 - I've been to several south and north London parks where cafes have been a key focus of the environment bringing together friends and families. I'm sure that this would also generate funds at the same time. Maybe a building could be leased to an interested party. If the little coffee van is open when we walk round or through the park, we invariably stop to buy a seated area would be welcome although there are benches nearby.</p> | <p>Comment noted. Project 6 will consider improvements to facilities, therefore, no change proposed.</p> |
| <p>Road signage (page 52) this seems very slow in delivery. We need to connect the town (eg the station, High Street, River Walk) to the Racecourse. Many people comment that "they didn't know the Racecourse was there" when visiting the town, even though this is an amazing and special feature of Tonbridge.</p> | <p>The site is promoted on various websites. Appendix 13 the Interpretation and marketing plan includes projects to promote the site.</p> <p>There is already some road signage and pedestrian waymarking routes present around the town with maps in certain locations but we acknowledge that signage could be improved in Project 52</p> <p>Amend the plan Project 52 is proposed to be implement in 2027-28 amend to 2025-26.</p> |
| <p>Tennis courts:</p> <p>These are identified in the SWOT analysis as an opportunity area.</p> <p>As an active tennis player and committee member at Tonbridge Tennis Club I am pleased to see these poorly maintained courts, which flood most winters, are identified as an opportunity area. However, given the courts were noted as a number 1 priority area in the 2019-23 Management Plan, and no improvements have happened, I hope this is more than a token gesture.</p> <p>I have already suggested to Council officers that before there is significant capital investment in these courts there should be a discussion with Tonbridge Tennis Club to explore ideas and see both parties can work co-operatively to the benefit of both and the wider community i.e. better and more accessible facilities for all and at shared expense.</p> <p>Finally, I was recently asked to meet a Council appointed</p> | <p>Comment noted, though no change proposed – The SWOT and Project 28 already identifies opportunity for the tennis courts as priority 1 in Laison with the Leisure Trust.</p> <p>The Audit referred to will form part of the emerging Council's new Local Plan which is a Planning policy document, and so outside of the scope of this management plan at the current time.</p> |

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| consultant (Tony Ploszajski of Plc Leisure Consulting) who I understand was instructed to undertake an audit of sports facilities in the Borough and I very much hope this draft Management Plan has taken into consideration the findings of Plc Leisure Consulting rather than be produced independent of their conclusions. | |
| <p>Tennis courts:</p> <p>1. Table 12 (point 28)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Improvements were a priority in the 2019-23 plan but nothing has happened - The courts flood almost every year so is it prudent to invest significantly in resurfacing (this will cost about £75,000) and a smart gate (this will cost about £5,000). - Tonbridge Tennis Club would be interested in discussing coming together and exploring ideas around a new joint facility with member and community access. There could be numerous benefits to both parties." | Comment noted. Whilst a lot of projects were achieved in the last 5 years, we experienced a global pandemic during that period and funding was constrained. No change proposed. |
| I am actually blown away with the amount of time, consideration and effort that has been put into the plan. Like many well oiled wheels, the efficiency is just expected because it works without the public even thinking or knowing about all the work behind the scenes. I'm thinking particularly about general maintenance of the grounds including trees etc. | Comment noted. |
| Hard work for a layman to work through, this response needs to be simpler. | Comment noted. We have provided an executive summary of the plan. This is a detailed operational plan, which is necessary to achieve the Green Flag Award and run the site successfully. No change proposed. |
| There should be active management of the people using the slipway, they block the car park and especially the paths regularly. | Comment noted. There is a Licence in place which is monitored |
| A large, secure area for dogs to play/exercise - like you already have for children - would be just fantastic. | Comment noted, though no change proposed. |
| It is impossible to remember exactly which bit was where, there plan was so heavily written. Please consider making these plans more accessible. | Comment noted. We have provided an executive summary of the plan. This is a detailed operational plan, which is necessary to achieve the Green Flag Award and run the site successfully. No change proposed. |
| Part 3 Must be measurable | Comment noted. The objectives within the plan have been scheduled across the life of the plan. Progress is measured annually. No change proposed. |
| Improve toilets | Amend plan to include toilets in Project 6 Facility improvements |
| Its a great space, a valuable asset to the town and people's well being. | Comment noted. |
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| <p>The overall aim seems good, but wanting more money out of clubs when the whole community is in an economic crisis. Please do not ask for much.</p> | <p>Comment noted.</p> |
| <p>No extensions to the car parks, actively encourage and provide alternatives!</p> | <p>Comment noted. The plan contains projects around active travel and cycling provision. No change proposed.</p> |
| <p>Improved toilets</p> | <p>Comment noted. Project 6 considers facility improvements for the site. No change proposed.</p> |
| <p>There is very little for teenagers in town and of course in the summer months, they tend to hang out either in the park or (in some ways more dangerous) at the lock just outside. It would be nice to see that addressed by creating a more welcoming place for them to be teens without being in conflict with the playground for the younger kids and whilst being safe themselves (I have two teens myself). The plan seems to address all sorts of age groups that actually have more provision in town already.</p> | <p>Comment noted. A separate area for teenagers is already provided around the skatepark and ball court. Projects 34 and 70 will consider additional provision. Therefore, no change proposed.</p> |
| <p>An enclosed dog training area. There are too many dogs off lead that are not sufficiently trained and that approach either kids or other potentially reactive dogs (like ours) without recall. An area might address that as not everyone may be able to afford a dog field hire.</p> | <p>Comment noted, though no change proposed.</p> |
| <p>Looking back to my upbringing in Europe, such spaces are often more welcoming with more seating in larger groups as well, possibly some seating under cover as well as wind protected to enable people to utilise the park in more weather conditions (and makes it easier for parents that are waiting for their kids during matches/sport), it also creates a community space.</p> | <p>Comment noted. Projects 6 and 21 consider Facility improvements and seats. Therefore, no change proposed.</p> |
| <p>Continuously review to improve and implement what is needed</p> | <p>Comment noted. Progress is reviewed annually. Therefore, no change proposed.</p> |
| <p>Everyone should be working together to make it the best, along with the town. Keeping it all to a high, productive and positive standard. Plant more trees! Bird/bat boxes, hides and nature reserve sections.</p> | <p>Comment noted.</p> |
| <p>As South East Water, we maintain and operate the abstraction wells within the Tonbridge Racecourse Sportsground. As part of the development of the Management Plan, we would welcome further engagement and dialogue with TMBC to ensure that proposals contained within it do not adversely impact on our current operations for the abstraction wells.</p> | <p>Comment noted. SE water are an identified stakeholder in Table 10 of the plan and would be consulted on relevant projects. No change proposed.</p> |
| <p>The car parks don't need expanding, encourage public transport, run a bus service direct to the swimming pool.</p> | <p>Comment noted.</p> |
| <p>I would welcome additional areas of shade in the racecourse park, to enable more of the park to be used to the height of summer when it is too hot to be in the sun. Thanks.</p> | <p>Comment noted. Project 22 commits to the planting of more trees and hedgerows. Therefore, no change proposed.</p> |

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| <p>Facility Improvements (page 45) seems unambitious and lacks detail.</p> | <p>Comment noted.</p> <p>Any facility improvements identified within Project 6 (Facility Improvements) are dependent upon funding available over the period of the plan.</p> <p>More details for larger projects will be developed and considered by the members as projects progress via the capital plan evaluation process.</p> |
| <p>Tonbridge Canoe Club have requested an alternative description of their club on page 24 of the plan.</p> | <p>Amend the plan to read:</p> <p>Tonbridge Canoe Club – Formed in 1977, a small and vibrant Canoe Club, which promotes the various disciplines of canoeing from its base on the River Medway opposite Tonbridge Castle. The Club meets every Saturday morning throughout the year, and on various weekday evenings for race training and general Club sessions. The club assist with community river litter picks often getting to places inaccessible by land. During this plan period the club aims to develop the site and the clubhouse to provide improved sporting facilities and to facilitate enhanced use by other water sports organisations and local community groups. Their website can be found at http://www.tonbridgecanoecub.org.uk/.</p> |

Comments received that are not within the scope of the plan

| Comment | Proposed Response |
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| <p>I don't believe that extending the car park into the Castle fields will improve the town; and it will certainly destroy a lovely little playground for children. Why not put your car park on the playing fields? There's enough space there for car parking AND leisure activities.</p> | <p>Comment noted. This comment is outside of the scope of this consultation and outside the boundary. No change proposed.</p> |
| <p>I would like a confirmed cycle path with lighting between Slade and Barden. This is already used by cyclists frequently. If it could be different colored flooring to make a distinction between the area for cyclists and area for pedestrians and dogs that would be helpful. A line of white paint to make the distinction, as elsewhere, doesn't seem to work.</p> | <p>Comment noted. This comment is outside of the scope of this consultation and outside the boundary. No change proposed.</p> |