

## SPORT AND RECREATION PROVISION IN SONNING COMMON

The South Oxfordshire District Council Open Space and Recreation Facility Assessment and Audit 2008 identified some existing deficiencies in Sonning Common. What follows below is a list of the areas of current deficiency. Another list is added containing aspects on which Sonning Common's provision is seen to meet District standards. Notes are then added on the application of some of these standards to Sonning Common (marked with asterisks). It is assumed that some standards, for example provision of swimming pools, are not relevant to a single village.

Future development may add in the order of 10% extra households to the village which will create further deficiencies. Any necessary additions to reflect this with increased provision are outlined in italics and brackets.

### Standards Not Met

- Amenity Greenspace: Shortfall of 3.5 hectares. *(To be delivered, and for future standards, through the designation of site SON 1 as Local Green Space.)*
- Sports Halls: Provision in 'Henley and District' suggests a deficiency of c.400 sqm = to 2 badminton courts \* *(Though awaiting final confirmation, this will be addressed by provision of an improved or new shared space sports hall at Chiltern Edge School.)*
- Outdoor Tennis Courts. A deficiency of 1. *(2 will be needed in future, site to be agreed.)*
- MUGAs: A deficiency of 200sqm. *(A new area needed in future, site to be agreed.)*
- Village/Community Hall. \*
- Adult Football Pitches. A deficiency of 1/2 subject to access to private facilities. *(3 will be needed in future, site for 2 to be agreed, Rotherfield United Football Club to provide 1.)*
- Junior Football Pitches. A deficiency of 1 \* *(It is assumed that this is and will be met by provision at the Rotherfield United Football Club and Chiltern Edge School.)*
- Cricket Pitches \*

### Standards Met Currently

- Parks and Gardens
- Natural and Semi-natural Green Space
- Green corridors
- Allotments \* *(Further sites to be provided for future demand.)*
- Children's Play Areas
- Mini Soccer Pitches \*

### Application to Sonning Common

- **Allotments:** Though adequate in area these are regarded as poor in quality. Demand is currently high.

- **Sports Hall:** As above, the audit considers the provision in Sonning Common in the context of that for 'Henley and District'. This is not just an issue about the size and nature of physical provision. There are serious questions about the appropriateness of provision in Henley serving those in Sonning Common, primarily because of access/transport problems. Chiltern Edge Secondary School currently has a Sports Hall but this is considered by SODC to be seriously below standard, though it is likely to have to be improved as part of forthcoming improvements to the school as a whole, which is likely to include a requirement for greater community access.
- **Village/Community Hall:** The hall is too small by SODC standards and is not high enough for a range of appropriate uses. The hall also provides a resource for surrounding communities so that should be considered in assessing the degree of deficiency and hence any future or improved provision.
- **Pitches:** All existing pitches are either owned by Chiltern Edge School, with limited community access, or privately, by Rotherfield United Football Club. Additional provision (also for a MUGA and perhaps tennis courts) is currently anticipated to be delivered on site SON 3.