

Have your say on the Draft Masterplan of Improvements for Southampton's Outdoor Sports Centre.

Southampton City Council would like your views on proposals for the Outdoor Sports Centre. You can find out more about the proposals and get involved to give us your views by taking part in this questionnaire.

The questionnaire is also available to complete online at **www.southampton.gov.uk/outdoorsportscentre** The consultation will be open until **31 October 2021**

Background

The Outdoor Sports Centre first opened in 1938 with a far-sighted objective:

"to promote health to untold numbers and prove to be one of the outstanding assets of a town."

After World War II broke out in September 1939, the Outdoor Sports Centre was used for military occupation and as a temporary base ahead of D-Day. During the war, the Outdoor Sports Centre was also the location of a great open-air service of prayer and intercession as well as providing a military store for food and vegetables. With the end of the War and Victory in Europe celebrations, it is said that 'the Outdoor Sports Centre could justifiably claim to have affected, in a small way, the great military events of the Second World War.'

Since the Outdoor Sports Centre opened in 1938, a number of changes, improvements and modifications have been made. We recognised that there was considerable interest in establishing a future vision for the Outdoor Sports Centre by developing key areas for improvement to enhance its offer for both competitive sports and leisure users.

To help inform a draft masterplan of improvements and get us to where we are now, we have run community engagement activities and a public consultation in recent years. There has also been further work and evaluations to help develop proposals. In November 2013, a series of ten drop-in sessions were held at a range of community venues with the aim of engaging local people and sports clubs to identify what they liked and disliked about the Outdoor Sports Centre and to identify areas of suggested improvement. The high priority suggestions included: the development of a Club Hub and sports facilities; the creation of further physical activity options such as running routes; infrastructural improvements across the site; and the development of open spaces.

Following the engagement in 2013, we developed a draft improvement plan which covered key topics including car parking, recreational activities, sports facilities, and the ski centre. In 2015, this improvement plan along with a proposed vision for the Outdoor Sports Centre went through a 12-week public consultation where local residents, sports clubs and organisations, and a wider audience could review and comment on the proposals.

Key findings from 2015 consultation:

- 93% of respondents agreed that the existing Southampton Outdoor Sports Centre facilities would benefit from significant improvement.
- 89% of respondents agreed with the suggested priority areas for improvement. (Development of Hub(s); development of sports facilities; creation of physical activity opportunities; and infrastructural improvements)
- A large majority of those who currently used the Outdoor Sports Centre once a month or less stating that they would use the facility more if improvements were made.
- 85% of respondents felt that the Southampton Outdoor Sports Centre should be at least a regional centre.

The next milestone in the project was the appointment of 'Places for People' in 2016 who carried out further work to take the project forward by refining the proposals in line with the consultation responses and developing a viable plan.

In 2017, we expanded our feasibility work to include all elements of the scheme including a detailed evaluation of the football elements and a new 'Hub'. This work generated a list of recommendations which were then incorporated to form this Draft Masterplan of Improvements.

Long-term benefits of improving the Outdoor Sports Centre

There are many long-term benefits to improving Southampton's Outdoor Sports Centre including:

- Transforming and improving facilities
- Increasing opportunities for communities across the Southampton to increase their activity
- Supporting and hosting Sports Clubs and their community initiatives
- Supporting City initiatives such as Cycling and Active travel
- Helping to develop a City of Culture. Sport is a key element of a thriving City of Culture
- Supporting target groups such as women, girls, and young people to help tackle inequalities
- Provide a legacy project from the UEFA Women's Euros held in July 2022
- Opportunities to provide health improvement and clear physical and mental health outcomes which meet the following strategies:
 - o Sport and Physical Activity Strategy 2017-2022
 - o Southampton Health and Wellbeing Strategy

More people choosing an active and healthy lifestyle to improve their physical and mental health is a key objective in our Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2017 – 2025. The strategy focuses on our ambition to significantly improve health and wellbeing outcomes and reduce citywide health inequalities in Southampton by 2025.

The Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2017 – 2025 also feeds into the Southampton Physical Activity and Sport Strategy which identifies three key priorities for our city. These include:

- Active Places: the availability of green/open spaces, environments and facilities (including sports facilities) that encourage physical activity support people to live healthy, independent lives.
- Active Communities: Improving participation in physical activity and sport raises aspiration, creates community cohesion and builds city pride.
- Active Everyday: Being physically active everyday provides lifelong health benefits.

Following a more recent review of the proposals, it was decided that a further public consultation on the latest proposals would be undertaken to ensure the Draft Masterplan of Improvements for the Outdoor Sports Centre remained in line with community aspirations.

This consultation is seeking your views on the areas identified from the latest Draft Masterplan of Improvements for the Outdoor Sports Centre and will inform any designs ahead of a formal planning application. Q1. To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statement: "I would like to see improvements at the Outdoor Sports Centre"

- Strongly agree
- Agree
- Neither
- Disagree
- Strongly disagree

Use of the Outdoor Sports Centre

Firstly, we would like to understand a little more about how you use the current facilities.

Q2.	How regularly do you use Southampton Outdoor Sports Centre? Please think about the last two
	years to include time before the COVID-19 pandemic and March 2020 too.

Every day	2-6 times a week	Once a week
Once a fortnight	Once a month	Once every 3 months
Once every 6 months	Once a year	Less often than once a year
Never		

Q3. Which of the following do you regularly do or take part in at the Southampton Outdoor Sports Centre and at other locations? Please tick all that apply in both columns.

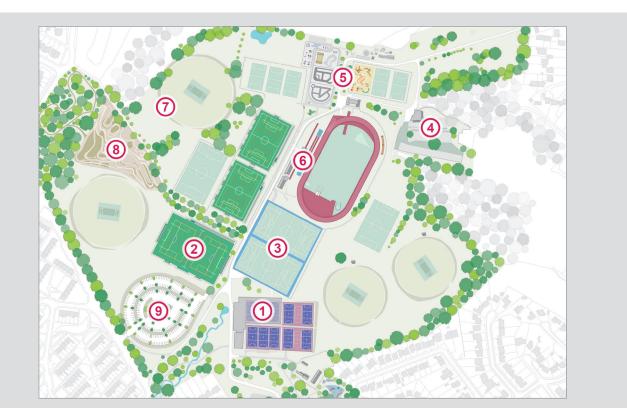
	Southampton Outdoor Sports Centre	Another location(s)
Walking/dog walking		
Children's Play Area		
For picnics		
To meet friends and family		
Cycling		
Track cycling		
Bike Park		
Running & Jogging		
Athletics		
Football		
Skiing / snow sports		
Netball/basketball		
Gym		
Racquet sports i.e. tennis/squasł	n 🗌	
Hockey		
Cricket		
Rounders		
Rugby		
Bowls		
Other, please specify:		

Our proposed plan

The following diagram highlights key proposed changes to the Outdoor Sports Centre. Subsequent parts of this questionnaire will go into more detail on each of these proposals and give you the opportunity to provide feedback on them specifically. We will also ask for your feedback on your thoughts on the proposed changes to the site as a whole.

- 1. New 'hub' offering changing facilities, gym, café and three new indoor tennis and netball courts
- 2. New artificial grass football pitches
- 3. Improvements to the hockey pitches
- 4. Improvements to the snow sports centre including a new ski lodge
- **5.** Transformational use of the north of the site with a new 'family zone' providing an outdoor gym, skatepark, children's play area and more
- 6. New enlarged grandstand and clubhouse for events and officials at the athletics track
- 7. Changes and improvements to cricket pitches
- 8. Improvements to cycling provision across the site
- 9. New additional car parking

There will also be general improvements throughout the site (e.g. paths, seating, lighting, environmental suggestions) There are currently no changes planned within the draft masterplan of improvements to the following facilities at the Outdoor Sports Centre: The View; Pleasure Park; Bowls Green and Obstacle course. However this will be kept under review.



New 'Hub'

Previous public engagement identified that the development of a 'Hub' with sports facilities was a high priority:

- 48% of respondents agreed that a new hub/pavilion should have changing rooms, hard courts, community space and an indoor sports hall.
- 74% of respondents said the development of a 'hub' with changing facilities, meeting rooms, café area and spectator stand was one of their top five priorities for improvements to the Outdoor Sports Centre.

Further to this, research also identified the need for new changing accommodation for all sports.

We are therefore proposing:

- 1. To replace the existing mini-golf, changing room and toilets with a new 'Hub' facility
- 2. Three new indoor/covered tennis and netball courts



With the aim of supporting year-round use and providing a genuine 'Hub' for many clubs and the public to use at the Outdoor Sports Centre, the new 'Hub' would benefit from:

- New changing facilities including showers, lockers, toilets and baby changing
- A 40-station gym
- Multi-purpose rooms for small classes, training courses and clubrooms
- Café for indoor and outdoor use
- Viewing areas externally across the south end of the site, including hockey, the new full-size football pitch and internally across 3 covered tennis and netball courts
- Courtyard with safe cycle storage and electric charging

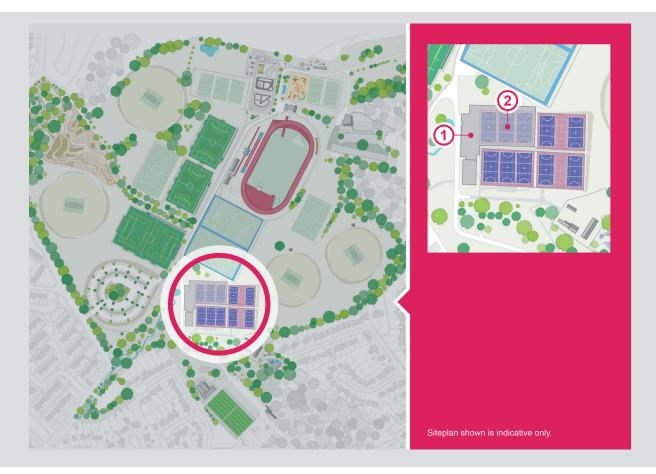
This new 'Hub' is planned to front the new covered tennis/netball courts so that it maximises its location in the Outdoor Sports Centre.

Q5. To what extent do you agree or disagree with the proposals for the new 'Hub'?

- Strongly agree
- Agree
- Neither
- Disagree
- Strongly disagree
- Q6. If you disagree with any of the proposals we have outlined in this section, or have any comments, impacts, suggestions or alternatives you feel we should consider, please provide details:

Tennis/Netball Courts

The need for covered tennis courts was identified in previous public engagement where 61% of respondents included indoor sports facilities within their top five priorities for improvements to the Outdoor Sports Centre.



- 1. New 'Hub' facility
- 2. Three indoor/covered tennis and netball courts

We are proposing to cover three of the outdoor tennis and netball courts which will promote year-round use and support successful tennis programme and netball leagues in the city. The three covered tennis/netball courts will sit alongside nine existing outdoor tennis courts and seven of the existing netball courts. Therefore, the total number of tennis/netball courts will remain the same.

The new covered indoor tennis and netball courts will benefit from:

- Year-round use, for Netball leagues in particular
- An ideal base for children's activities after school and during school holidays
- A training base for other resident clubs such as Southampton Athletics Club
- This area will be also be considered for other sports such as Padel tennis, one of the fastest growing sports in Europe
- The area will not be suitable for multi-purpose, for sports such as football and badminton

Q7. To what extent do you agree or disagree with the proposed changes to the tennis and netball courts?

- Strongly agree
- Agree
- Neither
- Disagree
- Strongly disagree

Q8. If you disagree with any of the proposals we have outlined in this section, or have any comments, impacts, suggestions or alternatives you feel we should consider, please provide details:

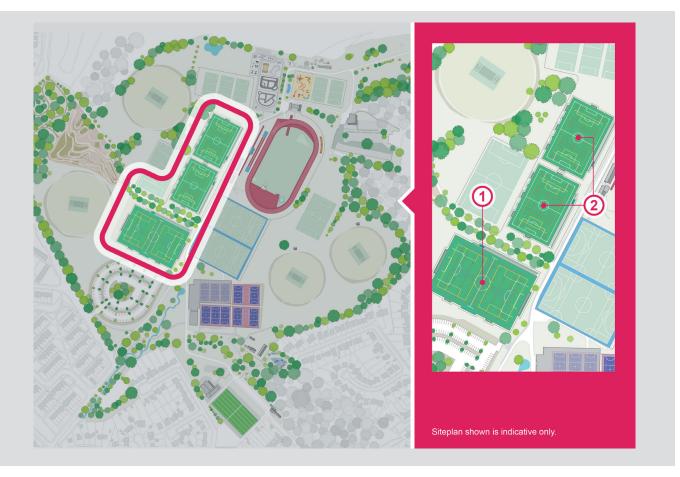
Football Pitches

We have been working in partnership with Hampshire FA and the Football Foundation to draw up improvement plans to ensure the site is able to support club football. Research also identified that improved quality grass pitches and 3G artificial grass pitches are required to do this.

Due to a shortage of all-weather pitches in the city, it was identified that the Outdoor Sports Centre would be a suitable site to provide 1 x full size and 2 x 9v9 3G artificial grass pitches to provide a central venue site for 9v9 play across the City and teams in neighbouring authorities.

Our Draft Masterplan of Improvements proposes significant enhancement of the football pitches where some of the grass pitches will be replaced with floodlit all-weather pitches to allow for increased year-round usage, and increased opportunities for junior, womens and girls.

The current facilities provide five grass adult football pitches, one grass junior pitch and six small grass pitches. New surfacing and floodlights will enable more use, fewer cancellations and a surface which will attract newcomers to football.



The improvement proposals include:

- 1. One new full size (106m x 70m) floodlit artificial grass pitch which can also be subdivided into four 5v5 pitches
- 2. Two new 9v9 size (79m x 52m) floodlit artificial grass pitches which can also be subdivided into three 5v5 pitches on each pitch

Two Junior and five small grass pitches would be retained. One small grass pitch would be replaced by a play area in the 'Family Zone'. The three new artificial grass pitches would become a central venue for Junior Football in the city.

Q9. To what extent do you agree or disagree with proposed changes to football pitches?

- Strongly agree
- Agree
- Neither
- Disagree
- Strongly disagree

Q10. If you disagree with any of the proposals we have outlined in this section, or have any comments, impacts, suggestions or alternatives you feel we should consider, please provide details:

Hockey

There are currently two artificial grass hockey pitches at the Outdoor Sports Centre and a flourishing Southampton Hockey Club. Research into the hockey provision at the Outdoor Sports Centre found that the current provision for hockey pitches provides sufficient match and training equivalent slots for hockey now and in the future. The pitches do not currently need re-surfacing as they have been more recently replaced.

Improvements to the hockey pitches has been identified which would enable additional training. It is proposed to improve the floodlighting and storage facilities which will support local hockey clubs and bookings. The adjacent new 'Hub' building will also provide them with a social base.



Q11. To what extent do you agree or disagree with proposed changes to the hockey pitches?

- Strongly agree
- Agree
- Neither
- Disagree
- Strongly disagree
- Q12. If you disagree with any of the proposals we have outlined in this section, or have any comments, impacts, suggestions or alternatives you feel we should consider, please provide details:

Snow Sports



With the aim of being one of the best snow sports facilities in Southern England, significant improvements are proposed for the Alpine Snowsports Centre.

The proposals include (as per the image above):

- 1. New Ski Lodge including changing rooms, equipment hire, toilets and function room
- 2. Three slopes (for varied proficiency)
- 3. One new learner slope

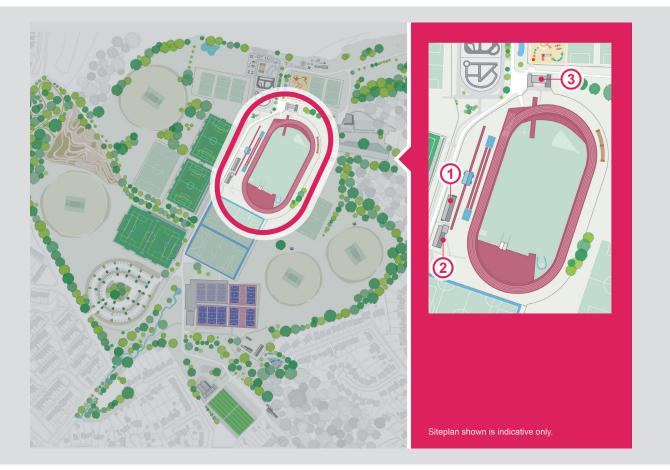
We are also proposing to replace the surfacing of the slops and provide new ski lifts.

Q13. To what extent do you agree or disagree with the proposals for the snow sports facilities?

- Strongly agree
- Agree
- Neither
- Disagree
- Strongly disagree

Q14. If you disagree with any of the proposals we have outlined in this section, or have any comments, impacts, suggestions or alternatives you feel we should consider, please provide details:

Athletics



To allow Southampton Athletics Club to compete on a national level and attract a broader user range, it is proposed to provide a larger grandstand and clubhouse for events within the athletics track area.

Improvements include (as labelled on the diagram):

- 1. New 240 seat grandstand with storage facilities
- 2. New clubhouse for events and officials

The family zone pavilion will also benefit from storage for athletics track (number 3 in above image)

The new Athletics Clubhouse for events and officials will include:

- An official's room
- Club-room
- Scoring/announcements room
- Toilets

The new enlarged grandstand will include:

- 240 seats (current grandstand has capacity for 120)
- Equipment storage
- Field referee room

Q15. To what extent do you agree or disagree with the proposals for a new athletics clubhouse?

- Strongly agree
- Agree
- Neither
- Disagree
- Strongly disagree

Q16. To what extent do you agree or disagree with the proposals for a new grandstand?

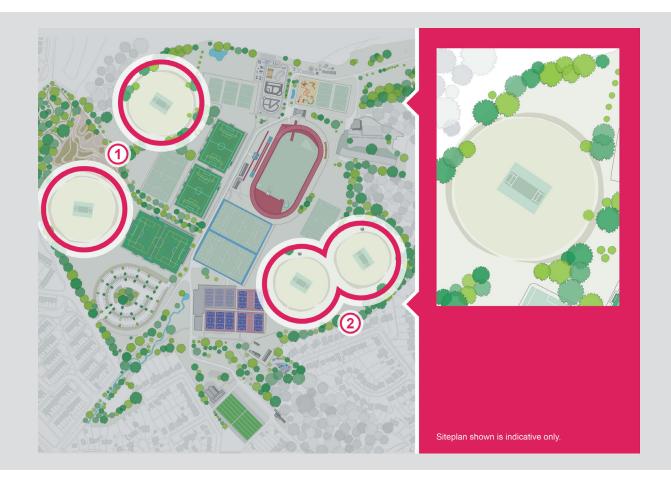
- Strongly agree
- Agree
- Neither
- Disagree
- Strongly disagree

Q17. To what extent do you agree or disagree with the proposals for athletics overall?

- Strongly agree
- Agree
- Neither
- Disagree
- Strongly disagree
- Q18. If you disagree with any of the proposals we have outlined in this section, or have any comments, impacts, suggestions or alternatives you feel we should consider, please provide details:

Cricket Pitches

To accommodate more on-site parking, it is proposed to reduce the number of cricket pitches from five to four. Further research identified that investment to improve the remaining four pitches will be required. Therefore, it is proposed that the four remaining pitches will be improved in quality with new artificial wickets and drainage improvements.



- 1. Two adult cricket pitches
- 2. Two junior cricket pitches
- Q19. To what extent do you agree or disagree with the proposal to reduce the number of cricket pitches from five to four?
- Strongly agree
- Agree
- Neither
- Disagree
- Strongly disagree
- Q20. To what extent do you agree or disagree with the proposed changes to the cricket pitches (new artificial wickets and drainage improvements)?
- Strongly agree
- Agree
- Neither
- Disagree
- Strongly disagree

Q21. To what extent do you agree or disagree with the proposals for the cricket provision overall?

- Strongly agree
- Agree
- Neither
- Disagree
- Strongly disagree

Q22. If you disagree with any of the proposals we have outlined in this section, or have any comments, impacts, suggestions or alternatives you feel we should consider, please provide details:

Family Zone

In previous consultation, 36% of respondents said that facilities for wheeled sports and skate parks was in their top 5 improvements. In addition, increased and improved cycling facilities was one of the most frequently mentioned topics in free text comments.



The Draft Masterplan of Improvements proposes an exciting new area of the Outdoor Sports Centre. The 'Family Zone' features a transformational use of the north of the site which will create a zone for the whole family, all ages and abilities, promoting movement in all its forms. As part of the 'Family Zone', we are proposing new (as labelled on the previous page):

- 1. Outdoor gym equipment (available for casual use)
- 2. Skateboard area
- 3. Cycling pump track
- 4. Learn-to-ride cycling track
- 5. Splash pad
- 6. 'Family zone' pavilion
- 7. Children's play area (replacing one small grass football pitch)

The new pavilion will benefit from:

- Bicycle maintenance, store and electric charging
- Tea/coffee servery
- Toilets including baby changing facilities
- External store for the athletics track

Q23. To what extent do you agree or disagree with the proposals within the 'family zone'?

	Strongly agree	Agree	Neither	Disagree	Strongly disagree
Outdoor gym					
Skatepark					
Splash pad					
'Family Zone' Pavilion					
Children's play area					

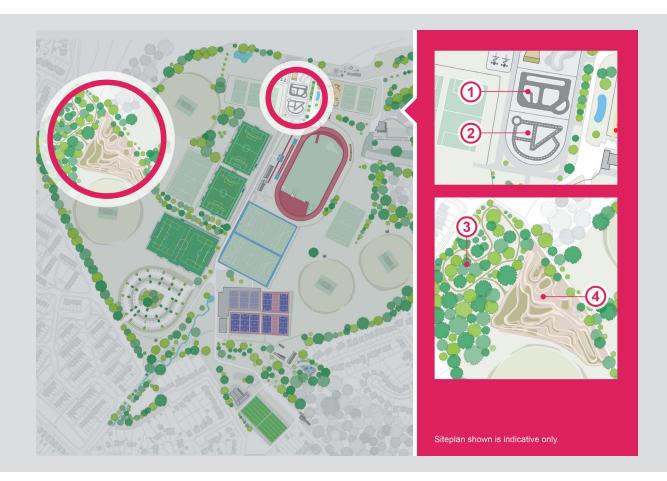
Q24. To what extent do you agree or disagree with the overall 'Family Zone'?

- Strongly agree
- Agree
- Neither
- Disagree
- Strongly disagree

Q25. If you disagree with any of the proposals we have outlined in this section, or have any comments, impacts, suggestions or alternatives you feel we should consider, please provide details:

Cycling

When asked about other improvements to the Outdoor Sports Centre in previous consultation, 25% said they wanted to see increased and/or improved cycling facilities in their free text comments.



To help provide an integrated cycling offer and support citywide cycling events and active travel, we are looking into the possibility of:

1. New Pump track

- Suitable for BMX / scooters and skateboards
- Asphalt wearing course / riding surface

2. New learn-to-ride area

- Road way with road markings and roundabout
- Elevated track section, "hump back bridge"
- Mock road signs and road crossings
- To accommodate cycling proficiency

3. Woodland zone

- Resurface existing woodland bike path
- Installing drainage where necessary
- Dust wearing course/riding surface

4. BMX bike park

- Resurface existing bike park
- Reprofiling of existing dual slalom track and table top jump line
- Enhanced safety works including low-level fencing

We are also investigating cyclocross features (incl. table top mound / wave section).



Example pump track

Q26. To what extent do you agree or disagree with the proposals for cycling provision?

	Strongly agree	Agree	Neither	Disagree	Strongly disagree
1. New Pump track					
2. New learn-to-ride area	a 🗌				
3. Woodland zone					
4. BMX bike park					
5. Cyclocross features					

Q27. To what extent do you agree or disagree with the overall proposals for cycling provision?

Strongly	agree

- Agree
- Neither
- Disagree
- Strongly disagree

Q28. If you disagree with any of the proposals we have outlined in this section, or have any comments, impacts, suggestions or alternatives you feel we should consider, please provide details:

Car parking and travel to the site

Q29.	How do you usually travel to the Outdoor Sports Centre?
	Walk
	Cycle
	By car
	By taxi
	By public transport
Other,	please specify:

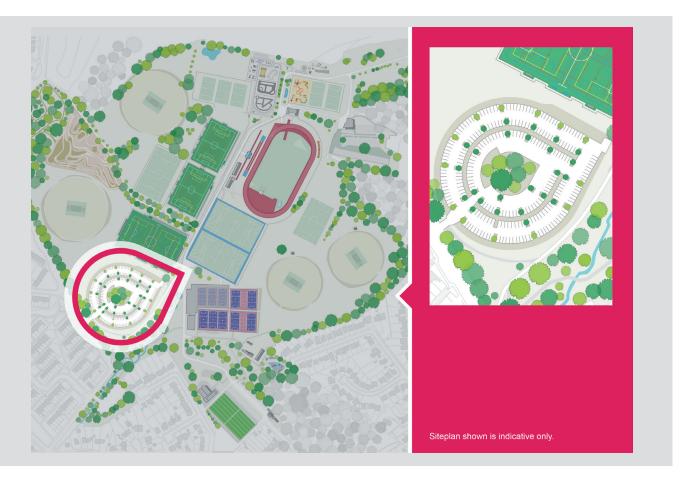
Q30. How easy is it for you to travel to the Outdoor Sports Centre?

- Very easy
- Fairly easy
- Neither
- Fairly difficult
- Very difficult

Q31. What do you think about the current parking offered at the Outdoor Sport Centre?

- There is not enough
- There is the right amount
- There is too much

In previous engagement and consultation exercises, improvements to car parking was deemed a high priority. 58% of respondents said expanding the existing car parking and/or the creation of new car parking was one of their top five priorities.



To resolve on street parking issues surrounding the Outdoor Sports Centre and accommodate an increase in holding sporting events, it is proposed to increase the number of parking spaces provided from around 169 to approximately 375 (final number to be confirmed).

This would include replacing one of the cricket pitches with a new woodland car park which would be accessed via Dunkirk Road and provide 280 new car parking spaces to the south-west of the site. Coach parking will remain in the dedicated spaces off Thornhill Road.

This new woodland car park would also benefit from new tree planting.

Other features of the new proposed car parking include:

- Electric car charging points
- Close to the 'Hub', the proposed car park will provide well-lit safer parking
- Priority spaces will be given to disabled parking and for parents and children.

Q32. To what extent do you agree or disagree with the proposal to increase the number of car parking spaces at the Outdoor Sports Centre?

- Strongly agree
- Agree
- Neither
- Disagree
- Strongly disagree
- Q33. To what extent do you agree or disagree with the proposal to include electric car charging points within the new parking provision?
- Strongly agree
- Agree
- Neither
- Disagree
- Strongly disagree

Q34. To what extent do you agree or disagree with the proposals for car parking overall?

- Strongly agree
- Agree
- Neither
- Disagree
- Strongly disagree
- Q35. If you disagree with any of the proposals we have outlined in this section, or have any comments, impacts, suggestions or alternatives you feel we should consider, please provide details. Please also use this space to tell us about any local potential impacts on traffic and parking near to the Outdoor Sports Centre or anything that would make travel to the site easier.

General improvements / sustainability

In addition to specific proposals for certain areas of the Outdoor Sports Centre, we are also proposing several general improvements to the site.

Proposed general improvements across the Outdoor Sports Centre site include:

- Improvements to pathways
- Increased seating
- Increased picnic benches / tables
- Lighting and signage improvements
- Dedicated areas for informal recreational
- Outdoor table tennis
- Cycle storage

Q36. To what extent do you agree or disagree with site improvements outlined?

- Strongly agree
- Agree
- Neither
- Disagree
- Strongly disagree

In addition, we are also investigating the introduction of sustainable measures to support our environment in line with our Greener City commitments.

The design and construction of any proposed changes will be to "BREEAM Excellent" standard. Following consultation and any final decisions, more detailed designs will be undertaken to incorporate the following aspects of the Green City commitments:

- 1. Sustainable Energy and Carbon Reduction
- 2. Delivering Clean Air
- 3. Our Natural Environment
- 4. Resources, Waste and Water Management
- 5. Sustainable Travel

Q37. Please use the following space to tell us about any measures you would like to see or suggest that we investigate further:

Q38. If you disagree with any of the proposals we have outlined in this section, or have any comments, impacts, suggestions or alternatives you feel we should consider, please provide details:

Overall feedback

Q39. To what extent do you agree or disagree with proposals for the Outdoor Sports Centre overall?

- Strongly agree
- Agree
- Neither
- Disagree
- Strongly disagree
- Q40. If the proposed changes outlined in this consultation were implemented, what impact do you feel this may have on the following?

	A very positive impact	A slightly positive impact	No impact	A slightly negative impact	A very negative impact	Don't know
You and your family						
Your community						
Your level of physical activity						
Your mental health and wellbeing						

- Q41. If the proposed changes to the Outdoor Sports Centre were implemented, do you feel your use of the Outdoor Sports Centre would change?
- Increase a lot
- Increase a little
- No change
- Decrease a little
- Decrease a lot
- Q42. Please use the following space for any final comments, impacts, suggestions or alternatives you feel we should consider:

A few	questions about you
Q43.	Which of the following best describes your interest in this consultation? (tick all that apply)
	As someone that visits or uses the Outdoor Sports Centre
	As a resident of Southampton
	As a resident elsewhere
	As someone who works or studies in Southampton
	As a private business
	As a public sector organisation (E.g. NHS, Police, Fire and Rescue, local authority)
	As a third sector organisation (Sports Clubs, Voluntary groups, Community groups, Charities)
	As an employee of Southampton City Council
	As a political member
Other,	please specify:

Only to businesses and organisations (including sports clubs and national governing	bodies of spor	t)
Can the name of your business or organisation be attributed to your response?	Yes	No
Can we contact you about your response to this consultation?	Yes	No

Q44. If yes, please provide the following details:

Business or Organisation name:	
Contact person:	
Contact email:	

Q45. (Residents only) What is your postcode? (This is used for geographical analysis only and will not be used to contact or identify you)

Q46. (Residents only) How would you describe your gender?

E Female

- Male
- □ In another way
- Prefer not to say

Q47. (Residents only) What is your age?

- Under 18
- 18 24
- 25 34
- 35 44
- 45 54
- 55 64
- 65 74
- □ 75 +
- Prefer not to say

Q48. (Residents only) How would you describe your ethnic group?

- Asian / Asian British
- Black / African / Caribbean / Black British
- Mixed or Multiple ethnic groups
- White British
- White Other
- Other ethnic group
- Prefer not to say

Q49. Where did you hear about this consultation on the draft masterplan of improvements for the Outdoor Sports Centre? (tick all that apply)

- Newspaper
- Letter
- Radio
- elevision
- Social media

If yes -

- Facebook
- Twitter
- Instagram
- LinkedIn
- Nextdoor
- Email bulletin
- Digital advertising screen
- Southampton City Council website

Other, please specify:

What happens next?

The consultation closes on **31 October 2021.** After this date, all feedback will be analysed and considered before any final decisions are made.

Thank you for your time.

Please hand completed surveys back into a Southampton library or alternatively post to Consultations, First Floor West Wing, Civic Centre, Southampton, SO14 7LY

The information collected about you during this survey will only be used for the purposes of research. We may use it to contact you about this. We will only share your information with other organisations or council departments if we need to. We may also share it to prevent, investigate or prosecute criminal offences, or as the law otherwise allows. Please be aware that any comments given on this form may be published in the report. However, the council will endeavour to remove any references that could identify individuals or organisations. Our Privacy Policy (http://www.southampton.gov.uk/ privacy) explains how we handle your personal data, and we can provide a copy if you are unable to access the Internet.