



**REPORT FOR DRAYTON PARISH COUNCIL AND DRAYTON 2020
BY OXFORDSHIRE PLAYING FIELDS ASSOCIATION**

SPORTS NEEDS ANALYSIS

SEPTEMBER 2016



OXFORDSHIRE PLAYING FIELDS ASSOCIATION

Oxfordshire Playing Fields Association, founded in the 1930s, is a registered charity (no. 304398). We work across Oxfordshire and surrounding areas where necessary. Our aim is to ensure that people of all ages, including people with disabilities, have access to good quality local outdoor sport and recreational facilities, including children's play.

A major part of our day-to-day work is devoted to helping community-based organisations, especially in the rural areas of our county, to provide, preserve, improve and adequately maintain outdoor recreational and children's play facilities. The OPFA is the only non-commercial organisation in the county able to provide a comprehensive and impartial playing space advice service for local Oxfordshire groups.

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1. BACKGROUND TO THIS REPORT

Drayton Neighbourhood Development Plan passed referendum in March 2015. It identified that there is currently a lack of recreational infrastructure in the village and so a project has started to provide new pitches, a multi-use games area (MUGA), and a new pavilion with associated parking. This will be at the new housing development at Barrow Road. Alongside this, the existing village hall will be refurbished.

During May and June 2016 Drayton Parish Council and Drayton 2020 (NDP Steering and Implementation group) asked the village to complete a detailed Sports Needs questionnaire to understand what the village would like to see from improved recreation facilities; in particular what sports/leisure activities they would like the new facilities to provide for. They intend to use the results to inform their design, as well as provide evidence of need for any funding applications that may need to be made.

OPFA has been commissioned by Drayton Parish Council to review the results obtained from the questionnaire and write a summary report.

Nicole O'Donnell

Community Development Officer, Oxfordshire Playing Fields Association

September 2016

2. CURRENT POSITION

Currently Drayton has a small football pavilion with only one football pitch with domestic style floodlighting. This is situated next to the village hall. The pavilion is 40 years old and does not now meet the needs of the village, which has grown in size since it was built, and is due to grow further, starting with 73 homes at the Barrow Road site.

The single pitch is a designated village green, which means that it cannot be maintained properly as a pitch, as it cannot be dedicated for sole use by the football club.

The single pitch does not allow for simultaneous play and practice and there is no provision for female sports or those with disabilities. The consequence is that young people are required to travel outside of the parish if they wish to play outdoor sports other than football, and furthermore that the possibilities for playing football in the parish are severely limited.

There are possibilities for playing indoor sports at the village hall. This will be increased when the planned refurbishment of the village hall takes place. The new facilities must complement the village hall, and there is the intention to look at the possibility of running the two facilities under the same umbrella.

There is also the possibility for the community to use the primary school facilities. However this is only outside of school hours and any activities must have the appropriate supervision, insurance and permissions in place.

There are two further smaller meeting spaces in the parish but these are not large enough to cater adequately for indoor or outdoor sports.

It is clear that the current facilities do not meet the needs of the current population; if they remain as they are they will certainly not meet the needs of a future expanded population. The Drayton NDP states that 'the village has a general deficit of recreational infrastructure with certain age groups (e.g. teens) and sports (e.g. cricket and tennis) lacking any dedicated facilities'.

To this end, the parish council and Drayton 2020 have put plans in place for new sports pitches, a pavilion and a MUGA (multi use games area). These will be sited at the new housing development (Walnut Meadow) on Barrow Road. The pitches will be provided by the developer and further \$106 money will be used as a starting point for the pavilion and a MUGA. The existing

football provision will move to this new site, which will cater for expanded team football and other sports and sporting facilities.

3. WHY ARE SUCH PROJECTS IMPORTANT FOR OUR LOCAL COMMUNITIES?

OPFA works to help communities provide good quality and accessible local facilities for sport and recreation. We have long understood that if communities have facilities on their doorstep or within walking distance then they are more likely to be active. Likewise, if these facilities are welcoming, good quality and safe then more people are likely to use them.

Good quality recreation facilities are vital community assets. They provide opportunities to have fun, enhance physical and mental health, improve social cohesion and combat isolation. Our nation is facing an increasing inactivity epidemic that will have far reaching consequences if it is not tackled; a recent report found that children spend less time being physically active outdoors than an average prisoner.

In December 2015 the government published a new sport strategy, 'Sporting Future: A New Strategy for an Active Nation'.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/sporting-future-a-new-strategy-for-an-active-nation>.

This sees a clear shift of focus away from purely sport to understanding the need for physical activity of all types. The Drayton project will meet this need for the community.

It is very positive to see that the importance of green spaces for outdoor sport and recreation has been recognised in the strategy, not only for formal sport but also generally to enable people to take part in physical activity. This has been recognised at several levels, including the fact that people do not travel far to take part in sport and therefore local green space with associated facilities such as a MUGA or pavilion is vital. As such, the report stresses the fact that the planning system needs to support this, and that local government, in partnership with other organisations has a responsibility for this. The report says that 'The opportunities to realise the multiple benefits that can be achieved for communities by investing in green spaces and routes as venues for sport and healthy activity should be considered whenever they arise.' Furthermore all sports grounds must meet accessibility targets meaning they should be available for all.

The importance of being outdoors has been recognised and the distinction between sport and physical activity has been removed. Jane Ellison, Minister

for Public Health says in the report that: 'Promoting physical activity is a core part of our strategies to improve the health of the nation. Sport is only a part of the picture but it is an important part. In particular, encouraging inactive people to take up physical activity in any form, ranging from walking to sport, can have a hugely beneficial effect.' In other words, our local playing field spaces that offer opportunities to our communities for play, informal sport, walking or just the opportunity to be outdoors will be an integral part of the success of this strategy. The importance of facilities such as playing fields and pavilions came up strongly in the consultation that informed the strategy: 'A large number of respondents commented on the importance of providing facilities in the right place, open at the right time, offering the right opportunities at the right cost, and maintaining them to a good standard.'

Drayton Parish Council are therefore right at the forefront of current thinking in looking to put provision in place that will meet the needs of the population as it grows. It is vital that this project takes place and all aspects of the facility are carefully considered. Without this new facility, the parish council will not be able to meet the needs of the population and therefore will not be able to meet government targets for getting our communities more active.

4. WHAT DOES THE COMMUNITY WANT?

The evidence of need for these new facilities has been drawn up from both the Drayton Neighbourhood Plan, which passed referendum in March 2015, and a subsequent more detailed Sports Needs survey, that was distributed through the village during May and June 2016.

The Neighbourhood Plan gave the parish council a mandate to embark upon a project to improve existing sports facilities.

The Sports Needs survey explored further to ascertain exactly what the village would like to see in the new facilities. Residents had the opportunity to complete the questionnaire online or on paper. The questionnaire asked for details for each member of the household to ensure that all requirements were captured. This report deals with the results from the Sports Needs survey.

- Responses were obtained from a broad spectrum of the community with details for each member of the household. 119 questionnaires were returned, including the views of 346 people; respondents were able to give responses for each member of their household.
- 51% of responses were for male members of the household and 49% for female. (See Appendix 2)

- Ages of household members whose needs were identified in the questionnaire ranged from 0 – 65+, again demonstrating that results take the whole community into consideration. The highest response rate was for those aged 45-64 (30%), followed by 25-44 (22%). See Appendix 1.

It is clear that the village fully supports a project to improve existing facilities:

- 97% of respondents said that they would prefer sports/leisure facilities in Drayton rather than having to travel elsewhere.
- 90% agreed with the statement ‘A new sports pavilion/playing fields is important to Drayton.
- Furthermore 89% said that they would like to be able to watch local sport in Drayton.
- 92% would support part funding for the facilities coming from their precept.
- When also considered against the fact that currently only 30% of respondents stay in Drayton to do sports, (Appendix 4) and the majority of the 70% who travel elsewhere to do sport, do so by car (60%), (Appendix 5) it is very clear to see that new facilities would be a very positive thing for the community.
- 43% of respondents are members of a sports/leisure club or team (Appendix 6), and only 9% are involved in organising sports teams or facilities (Appendix 7). However, 14% would be prepared to start up or assist new sports or leisure activities in Drayton if facilities existed, (Appendix 8) suggesting that more people would be prepared to get involved locally than they are when they have to travel to do so. Again, this can only be viewed as positive for the village.

Residents want to be able to do sport locally to them. New facilities would enable them to do this, with all the attendant social and community development benefits, as well as cutting down on the carbon footprint of the residents and thereby benefitting the environment too.

Residents who are currently active participate in a wide range of sports. (See Appendix 3) The top 10 most popular in order are:

Walking (including dog walking) 20%
Swimming 16 %
Aerobics/gym/keep fit 8%
Jogging 7%
Football 6%
Tennis 6%

Other 4% (details given in Appendix 3)
Dance 3%
Gymnastics 3%
Skateboarding 2%

When asked what activities they would like to see at Barrow Road and the refurbished village hall, the top 10 most popular responses in order are:

Tennis 12%
Aerobics/Gym/Keep Fit 11%
Football 9%
5 a side football 6%
Badminton 6%
Table Tennis 5%
BMX Biking 5%
Cricket 5%
Skateboarding 5%
Dance 5%

See Appendix 9.

There are several conclusions that can be drawn from these trends.

- It is clear from the colour coding that there are trends in what people are currently doing and what they would like to see new facilities cater for; both questions have yielded very similar responses. This is also backed up by the figures mentioned previously that suggest that people would like to be able to stay in the village to do their sport and leisure activities.
- Those highlighted in yellow are currently provided by the village hall and this will continue to be the case.
- It is clearly not possible to provide a swimming pool in the village and residents are not asking for this.
- Given that walking is currently the pastime enjoyed by the highest number of respondents, and jogging is also high on the list it is important to put in good walking/ jogging paths to and around the new site.
- The Barrow Road site needs to cater as a minimum for tennis, football, 5-a-side football, cricket and basketball.
- **There needs to be a separate project, maybe at a later stage, to look at providing a skate park/ BMX track.**

When asked what other facilities should be provided, answers, in order of importance are as follows:

Car parking	19%
Floodlighting	15%
Outdoor gym equipment – joint 3rd	14%
Party/disco area – joint 3rd	14%
Internet	13%
Bar	12%
Meeting Rooms for hire	8%
Amateur dramatics facilities	5%

See Appendix 10.

Under 'other', respondents mention walking routes – which refers back to the fact that walking is the top pastime, cycle routes, a tennis court – which will be covered by the MUGA, and again, a skate park.

At the end of the questionnaire, respondents were asked for any comments on areas that might not have been covered elsewhere. This was intended as a 'catch-all' to ensure that nothing else had been overlooked. Analysis of the answers shows that most areas have already been covered by the questionnaire responses from other questions. People refer to the need for tennis courts, football for youngsters, a play area – covered by the Barrow Road development, cycle paths and walkways. There is a request for benches and picnic tables in order that the space can be used by residents purely for leisure purposes rather than just for sport.

5. RECOMMENDATIONS AND CONCLUSIONS; PUTTING THE RIGHT FACILITIES IN PLACE FOR THE FUTURE

Having studied the data in detail, OPFA draws the following conclusions:

- There is a clear desire for the improvements to existing facilities and the provision of a new pavilion and associated sports pitches and MUGA. Results from the Sports Needs Survey show that they are overwhelmingly backed by the parish.
- Residents are keen to be able to stay in the village for their sports and leisure activities. They support the project as it will enable them to do so, including by partly funding this through their precept.
- There is a need to cater for a mix of both indoor and outdoor sports, therefore there is a definite need to ensure that the village hall complements the new pavilion and the two are able to work together to ensure that people can access the facilities they need.
- The new pavilion needs to meet facility requirements for both cricket and football.
- There is a clearly demonstrated need for a MUGA, as people wish to be able to play tennis and basketball in the village. Netball is also currently played at the school and it may be the case that the netball club wishes to move to the new facility. The surface of the MUGA must meet these needs as a minimum.
- The pitches and the MUGA need to be floodlit, in order to get maximum usage from them during the winter months.
- The design of the pavilion needs to ensure there is adequate car parking. This comes up clearly as important to residents. In addition this will increase the possibility of hiring out the pavilion for events. Sport England guidance states there should be enough spaces for 70 cars and 20 bicycle racks. The car park should be lit.
- The village is keen to be able to use the pavilion as a social and meeting place as well as a place to play sport; this must be taken into account in the design.
- There should be designated and well maintained walking/jogging routes to and around the new site, given the fact that walking is the top pastime, and jogging is also very popular.
- Residents would like to have some outdoor fitness equipment stations around the edge of the site. This was the third most

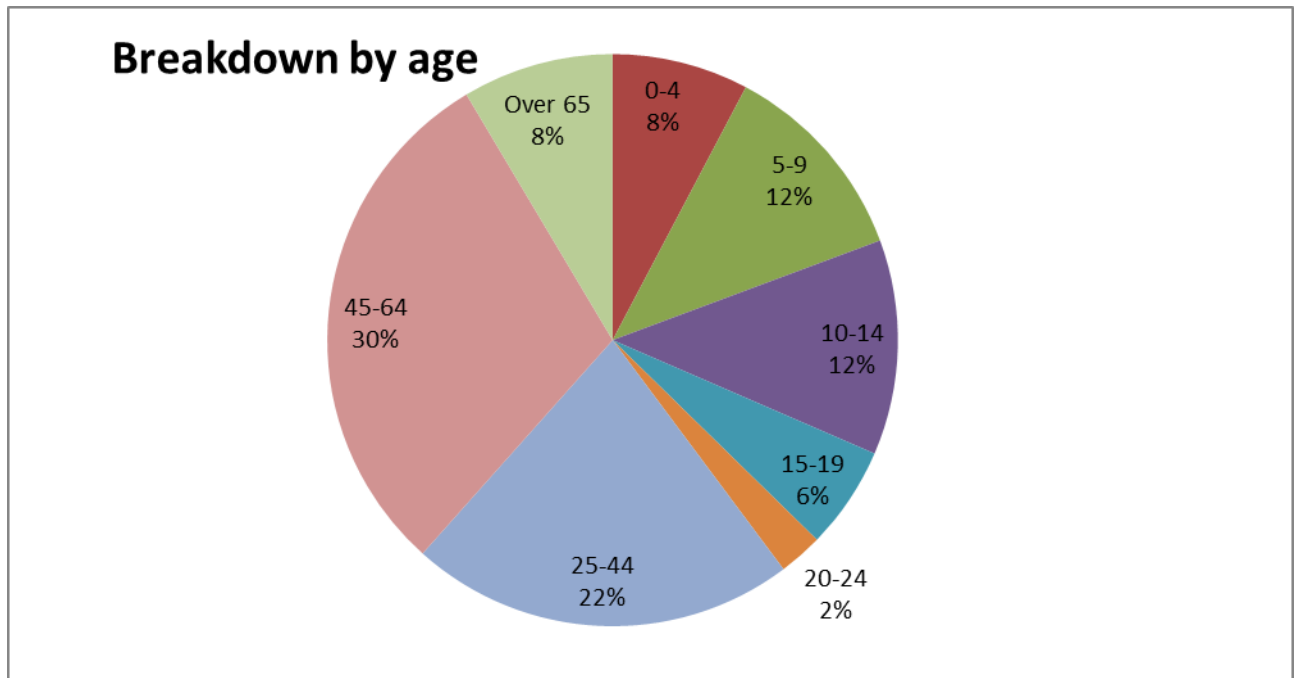
important thing to them after the provision of a car park and floodlighting. There are different options for outdoor fitness equipment. Calisthenics equipment is static, and enables upper body workouts intended to increase body fitness, strength and flexibility. Alternatively there is the possibility to install outdoor fitness equipment stations, with moving parts – effectively an outdoor gym. Outdoor fitness equipment must meet the new European standard EN 16630. It should be noted that any outdoor fitness equipment should be sited at a minimum distance of 25m away from children's play equipment. OPFA can give further advice on this separately should the parish council need it.

- The site should be easily accessible, including by bike; residents have also asked for a cycle path around the edge of the site.
- There is a clear desire for a skate park/ BMX facility in the parish, which should be considered as a separate project.

OPFA fully supports this project and gives its backing for any funding applications. This is a much needed facility, which will make up the shortfall in provision that exists currently, and help in meeting government targets in getting more of the population active. Furthermore, it will serve to bring the community closer together and to help integrate new members of the community. Drayton Parish Council and Drayton 2020 should be commended for their foresight in considering this as a multi-sport/leisure facility that can be flexible to meet changing needs over time. The provision of a MUGA, pavilion and refurbished village hall will ensure that any future needs can be met should there be a desire for different sports in years to come.

Appendix 1 – Break down of responses by age

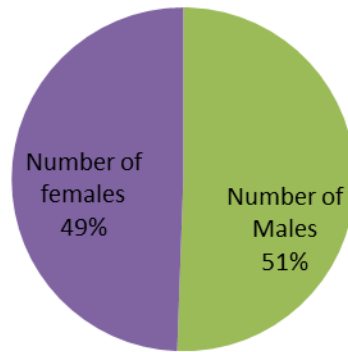
0-4	28
5-9	42
10-14	44
15-19	21
20-24	9
25-44	79
45-64	108
Over 65	31
Prefer not to answer	0



Appendix 2 – Breakdown by gender

Male	175
Female	171

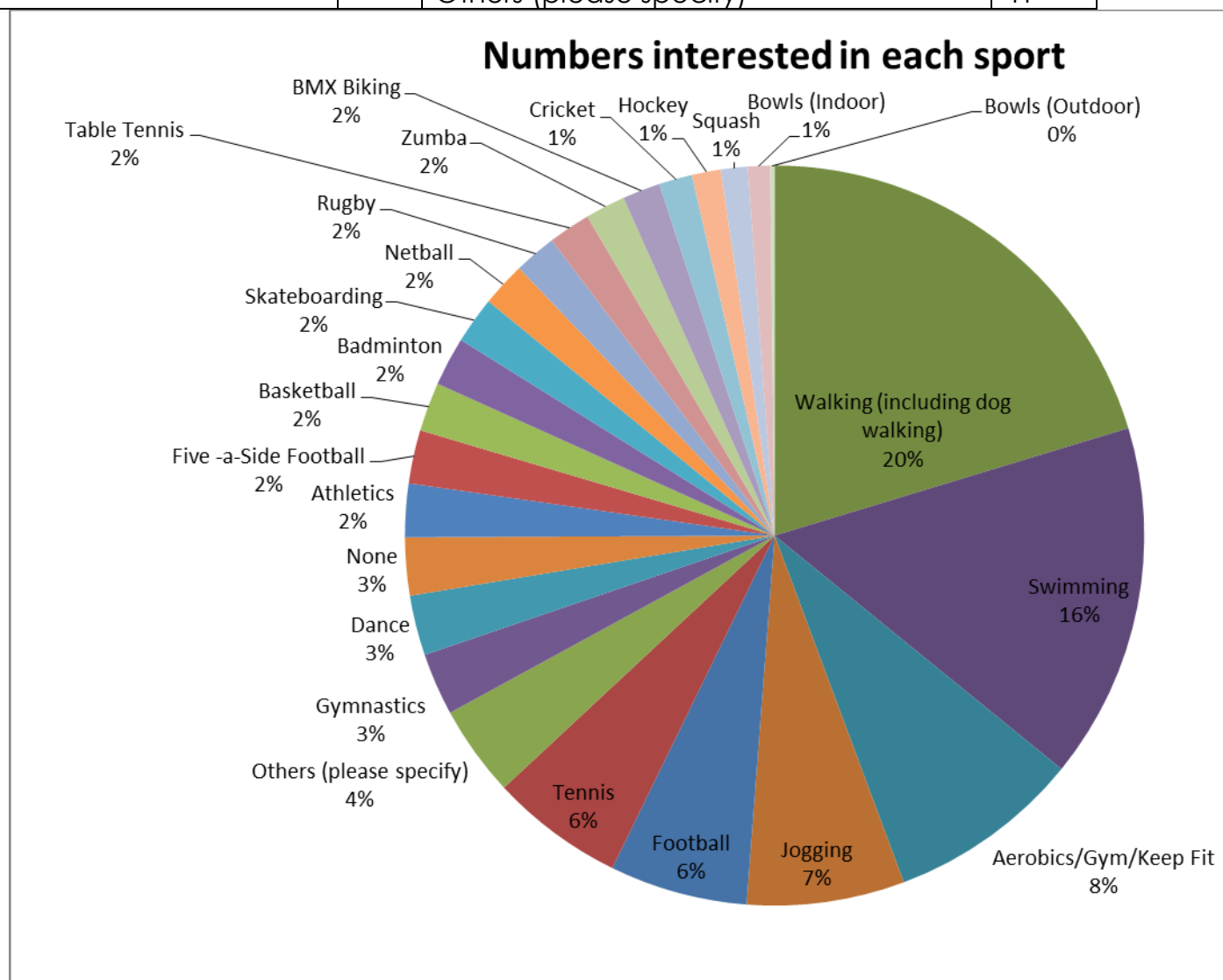
Breakdown Males/Females



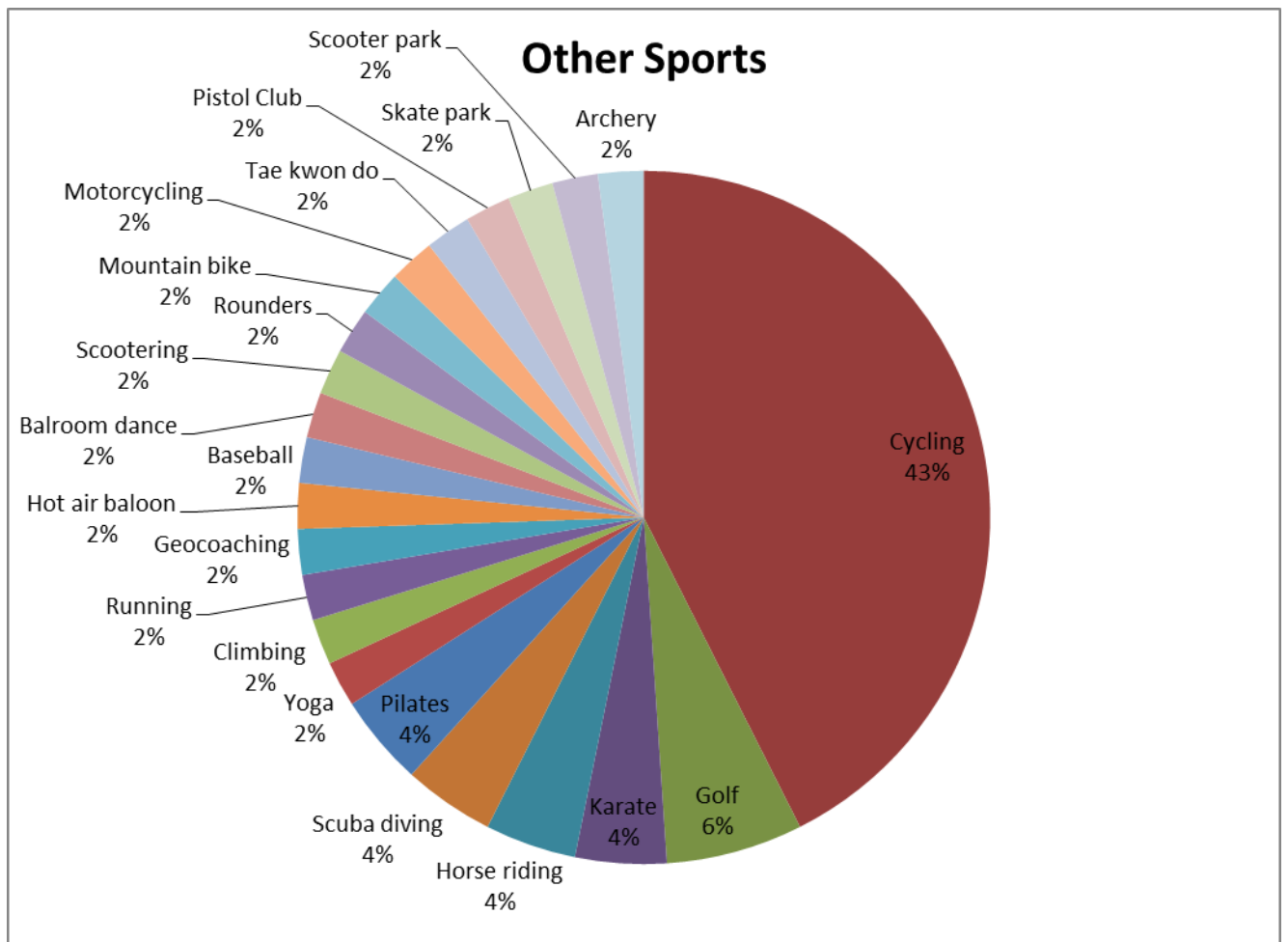
Appendix 3 – Breakdown of current participation by sport

In which sports or activities below do you/members of your household participate at present?

None	26	Gymnastics	28
Aerobics/Gym/Keep Fit	87	Hockey	13
Athletics	24	Jogging	71
Basketball	22	Netball	20
Badminton	22	Rugby	19
BMX Biking	17	Skateboarding	21
Bowls (indoor)	10	Squash	12
Bowls (outdoor)	2	Swimming	160
Cricket	15	Table tennis	19
Dance	27	Tennis	60
Five-a-side football	24	Walking (including dog walking)	209
Football	62	Zumba	18
		Others (please specify)	41



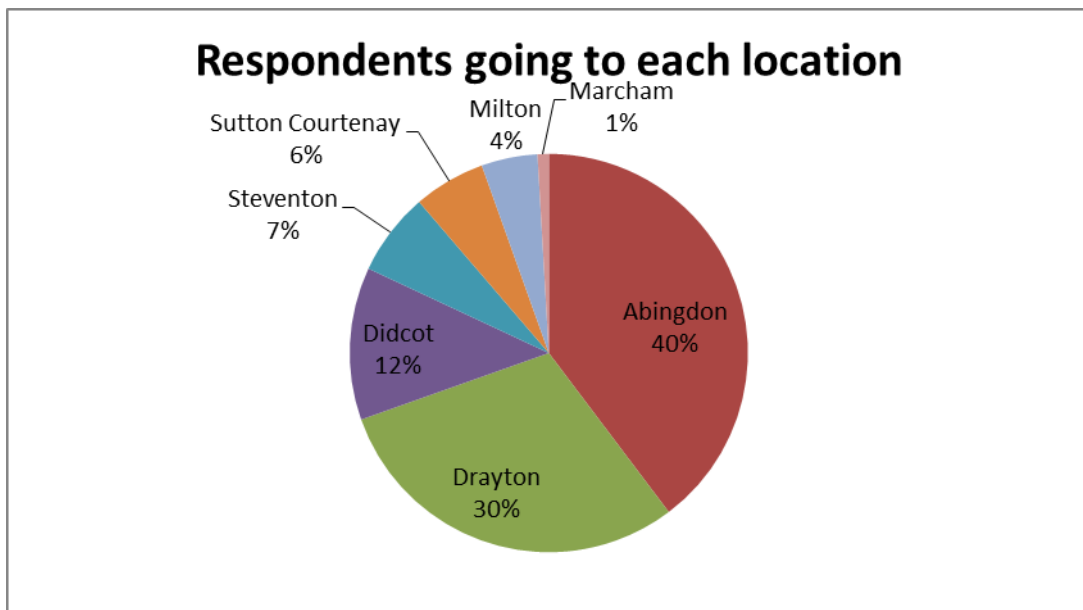
Breakdown of participation in sports given under 'Other'



Appendix 4 – Break down of locations that residents go to in order to play sport/ do physical activity.

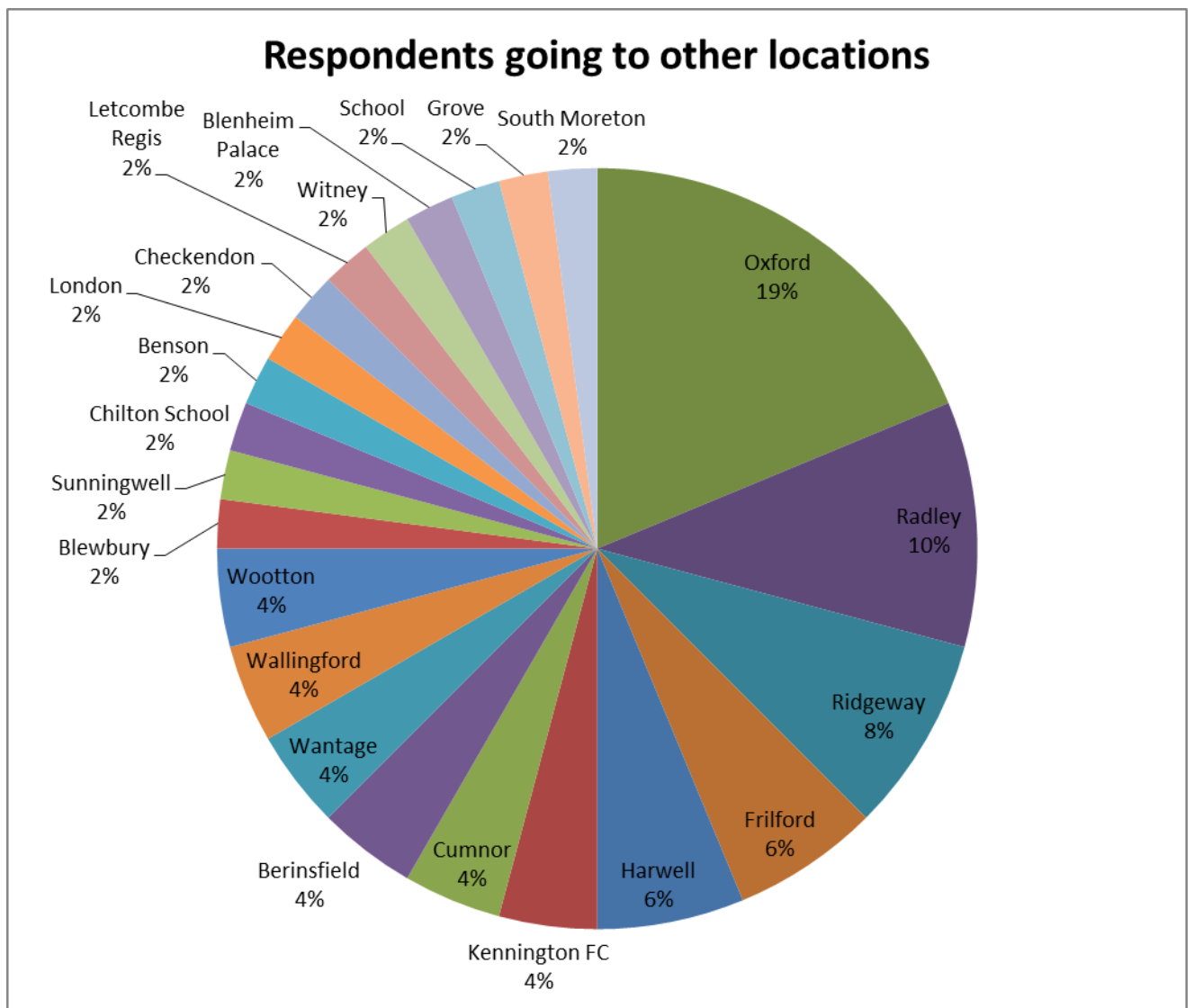
Q4 - Where do you and your household go to take part in your sports activities?

Abingdon	218
Drayton	164
Didcot	68
Steventon	37
Sutton Courtenay	32
Milton	25
Marcham	5



Break down of respondents going to other locations

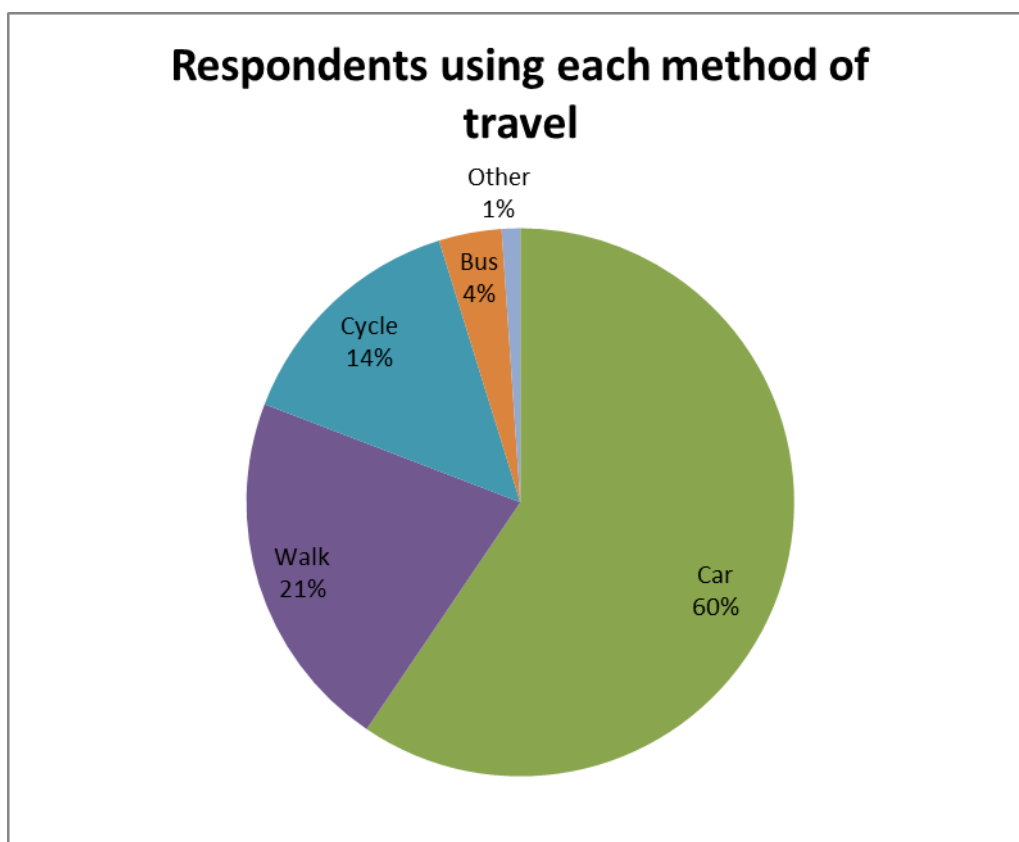
Oxford	9	Sunningwell	1
Radley	5	Chilton school	1
Ridgeway	4	Benson	1
Frilford	3	London	1
Harwell	3	Checkendon	1
Kennington FC	2	Letcombe Regis	1
Cumnor	2	Witney	1
Berinsfield	2	Blenheim Palace	1
Wantage	2	School	1
Wallingford	2	Grove	1
Wootton	2	South Moreton	1
Blewbury	1		



Appendix 5 – Breakdown of method of travel used by respondents

Q5 -How do you normally get there?

Car	273
Walk	98
Cycle	66
Bus	17
Other	5

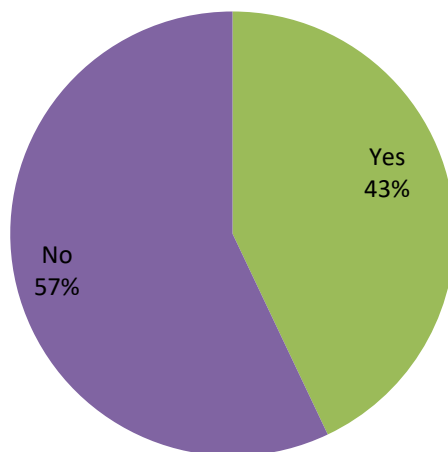


Appendix 6 – Breakdown of responses to Q6

Is any member of your household a member of a sports/leisure club or team?

Yes	134
No	178

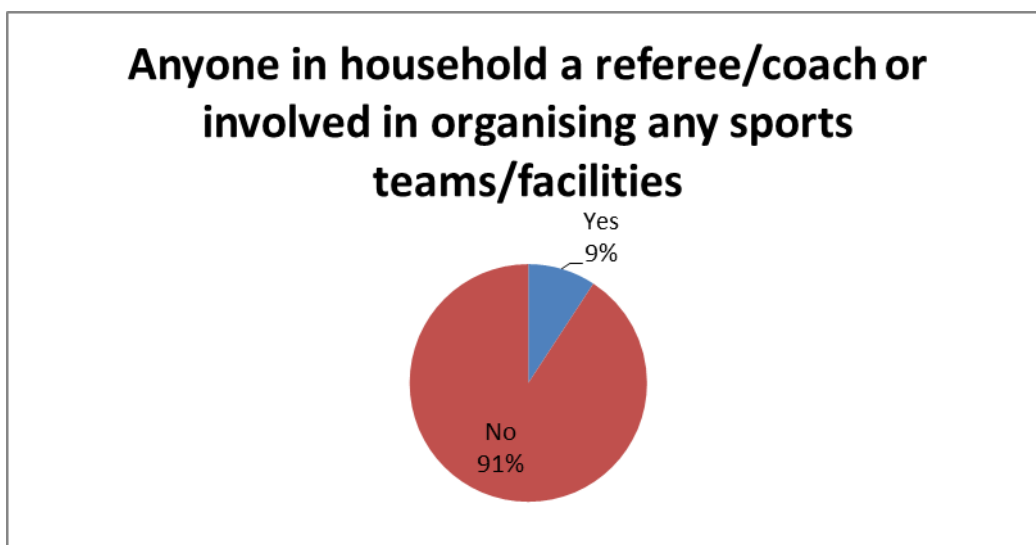
Any member of household member sports/leisure team



Appendix 7 – Breakdown of responses to Q7

Is any member of your household a referee/coach or involved in organising any sports team or facilities?

Yes	29
No	285

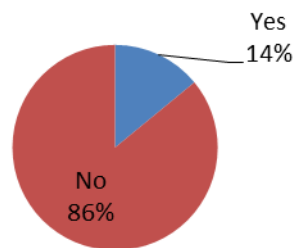


Appendix 8 – Breakdown of responses to Q8

Would you or any member of your household be prepared to start up or assist a new sports/leisure activity in Drayton if facilities existed?

Yes	43
No	263

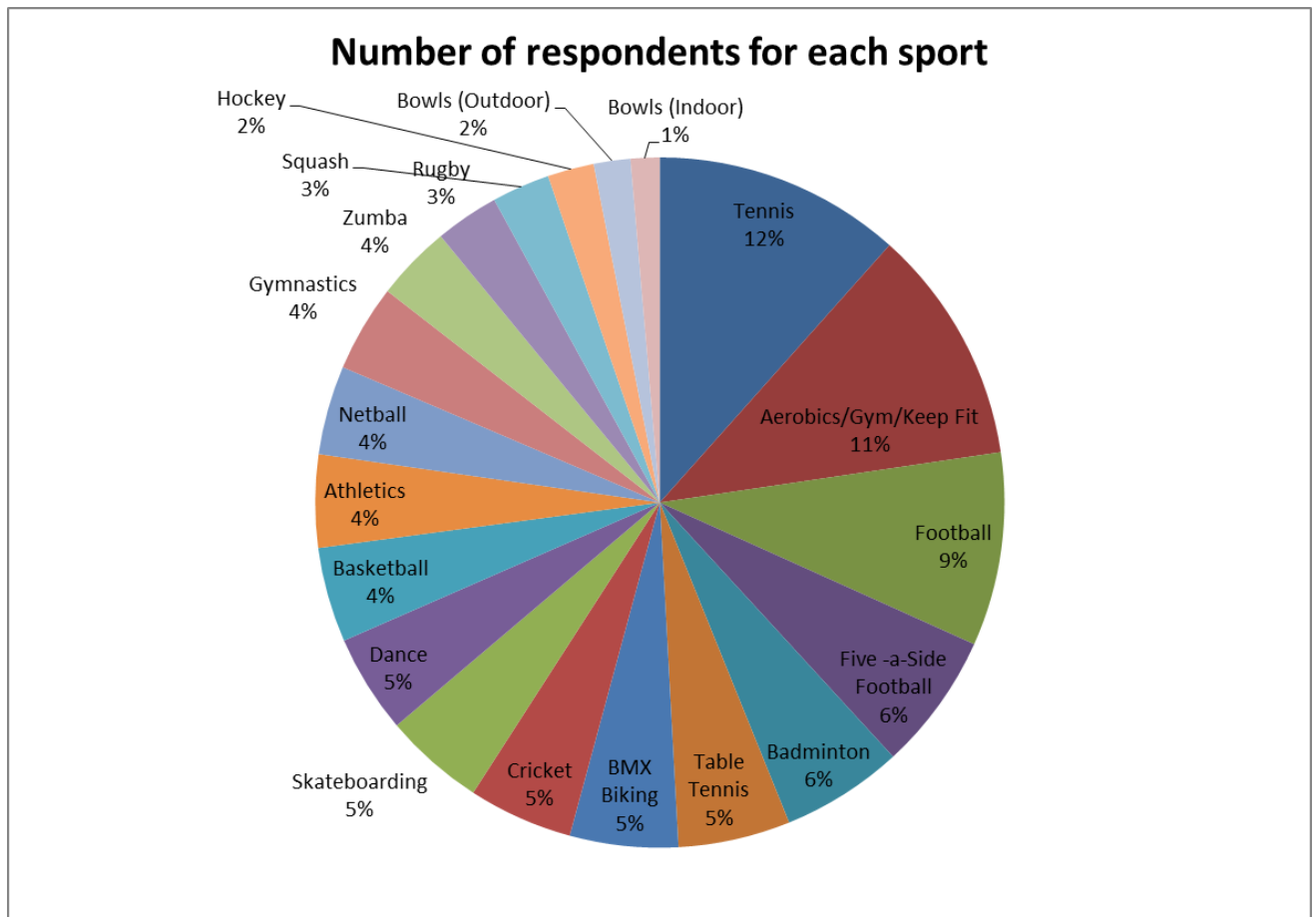
Anyone in household prepared to start/assist new sports/leisure activity in Drayton if facilities there



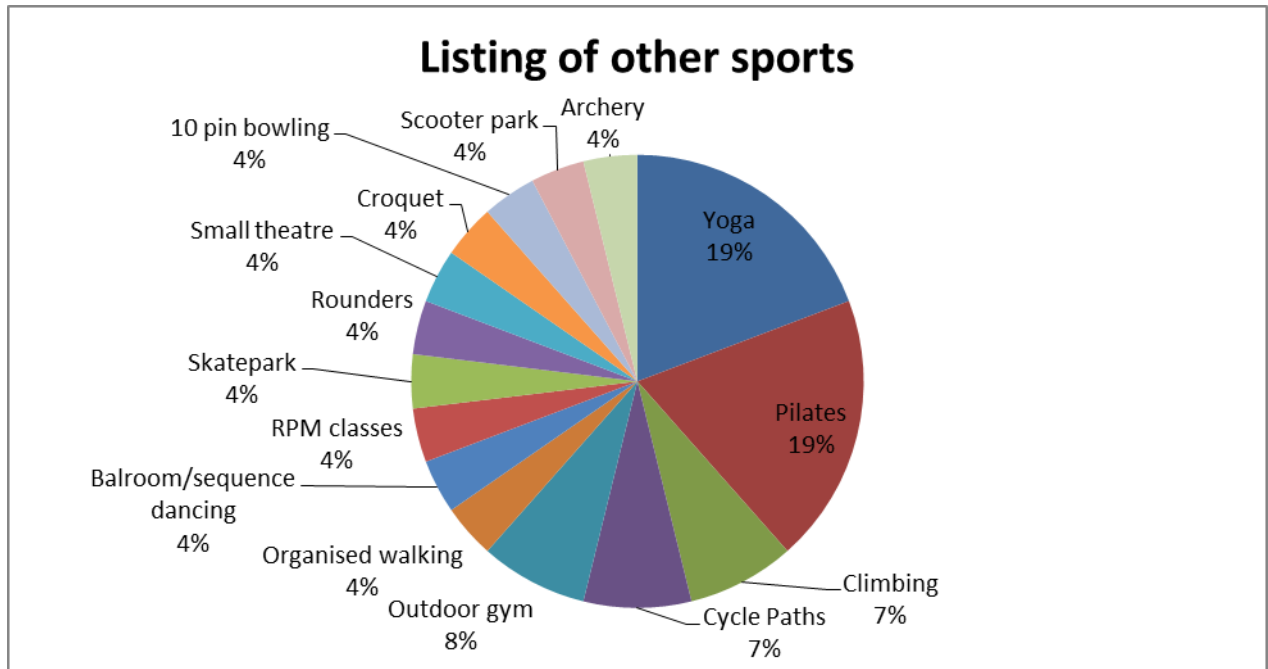
Appendix 9 – Breakdown of the sports that residents would like the new facilities to cater for

Q9 What activities would you like to see provided from the list below when the Barrow Road sports facilities and village hall refurbishment are completed?

Tennis	128	Basketball	49
Aerobics/Gym/Keep Fit	122	Athletics	48
Football	100	Netball	46
Five-a-side football	71	Gymnastics	45
Badminton	63	Zumba	39
Table tennis	58	Rugby	33
BMX Biking	56	Squash	30
Cricket	54	Hockey	24
Skateboarding	52	Bowls (outdoor)	19
Dance	51	Bowls (indoor)	15



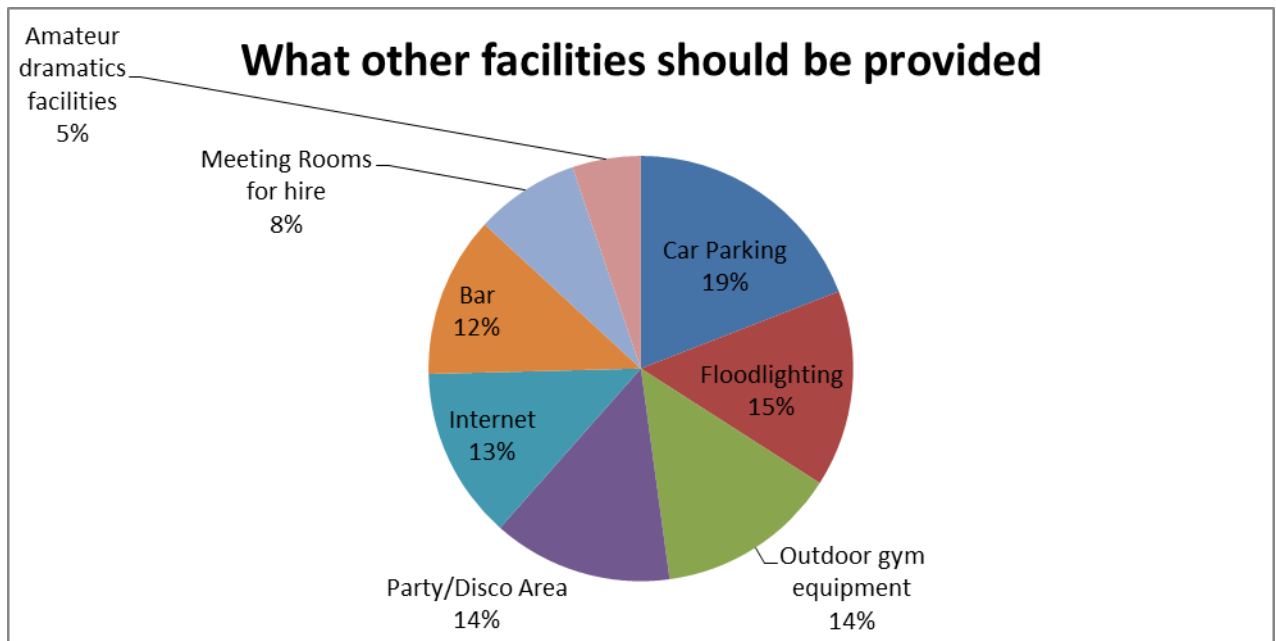
Breakdown of sports that residents would like the new facilities catered for, listed under 'Other'



Appendix 10 – Breakdown of responses for what other facilities should be provided

Q10 What other facilities should be provided at Barrow Road/Walnut Meadow or at the refurbished Village Hall?

Car parking	212
Floodlighting	166
Outdoor gym equipment	153
Party/disco area	152
Internet	145
Bar	136
Meeting rooms for hire	88
Amateur dramatics facilities	58



Appendix 11 – Responses given at Q12

Q12 Please use this section to make any comments on sports facilities in Drayton which may not have been covered in this questionnaire

- 'Need a park at barrow road and i like the idea of a gravel mile track around the outside.'
- 'A small bouldering wall could be good for children and adults'
- 'While we are unlikely to use new sports facilities, we believe it is important for the younger people in the village to have the opportunity to take part in sports facilities which we would have done if we had been younger. Also a better hall would create a great place for a whole range of leisure activities and provide a focal point for existing and new members of the village when the new developments have been completed.'
- 'Scooter park/ ramps would be fantastic for the children. Nothing exists locally and our family like any others have to go to Didcot or Abingdon for this activity.'
- 'The fact that there is already a football pitch at Lock Way in Drayton means that we do not support any further football facilities in the village'
- 'We have some keen cyclists in the village could we encourage them to help those who are new to the sport'
- 'This survey is focused on sports facilities and less on leisure. It would be good to see some general leisure facilities like picnic tables, benches, pay as you go BBQ facilities, pergolas to encourage people outdoors and into the community. Simple outdoor games - like Hopscotch grids, Square, Sidewalk Twister, Mazes - all permanently marked on paving. More emphasis on nature and walking trails would be welcomed - colour coded signposted trails with information plaques on the way identifying key points of interest in the village.'
- 'Please do not inflict a skate park BMX track on those of us living near the village hall'
- 'It is unfortunate that all the lower branches of climbable trees in the village have been cut off making them unclimbable. Children should be encouraged to climb and so learn to assess risk and develop ways to avoid it.'
- 'With the success of the facilities provided at the Sutton Courtenay rec, it would be great to have similar facilities in Drayton'
- 'Fitness classes or activities for the elderly.'
- 'Our main interest is ballroom & sequence dancing & although the existing Drayton Hall has a nice dance floor, it is a bit small for larger

dances. We travel to neighbouring towns & villages to access larger halls. We accept that "proper" dancing takes up more room than most other activities & the provision for this may be a step too far for any new facilities. We also understand that the present Drayton Sequence Club has a dwindling membership.'

- 'We are disappointed that tennis courts have not been considered as a choice. We also haven't seen any evidence that the village could sustain sports teams that warrant a pavilion.'
- 'A skatepark.'
- 'A larger park / play area. The current one is too small. I.e. like Steventons and Abingdons (Lambrick Park off Preston Road)'
- 'The Millennium Green is another recreational facility'
- 'Think it's a couple of years now since we looked at plans for a revamped village hall. These were very expensive - and would involve massive disruption. I did subsequently wonder if a simple new hall would be an idea (additional to the present one, not instead of) to avoid any activity clashes, improve facilities? IF the present football pitch is to be re-used, there could be space for such a hall, including changing facilities, with a BMX/skateboard park, and a 5-a-side pitch to help bring in some funds?'
- 'Drayton TT club is a great club struggling in a somewhat difficult venue. But cost of hire of new facilities would make or break any move.'
- 'In need of tennis courts'
- 'The 2013 village survey revealed a very high interest (about 200 people) in 'smallholding' that has been completely ignored by the NDP, and a relatively low interest in more football pitches (7%, which is less than half that number). Consultation with the football club was completely inadequate as a way to establish the need for the proposed facility at Barrow Road and the demand for a 'village farm' should have been part of this survey. If the results of the previous survey were ignored, what confidence can there be that the people involved armed with the results of this survey (with a vital question missing) would make a decision which most benefits the village? The possibility of SUGA at existing recreation ground seems to have been missed - as have alternative and better locations for any new sports pitches.'
- 'There are adequate facilities in Abingdon with no necessity to duplicate in Drayton'
- 'An excellent initiative in every way- and that includes this questionnaire'

- 'It would be nice to have a park next to a playing field as hard to supervise children at the White Horns way park when one wants to play football and the other wants to play on the equipment. Thank you'
- 'For the Barrow Road development, sufficient car parking must be provided onsite. Small lanes are already overcrowded. '
- 'What about the planned playground?'
- 'Don't expect/make the village hall compete against any of the new facilities to retain or keep its current customer base.'
- 'If some Drayton residents pay more to the parish council for these facilities, how would it be fair that other residents and non-Drayton residents would benefit but not pay?'
- 'Drayton could benefit from younger boys football teams, as the school is growing, and a lot of boys play for neighbouring teams.'