

# **Northern Devon Playing Pitch Strategy 2017 – 2031**

## **Third Review Progress Report (North Devon) 25/1/21**

### **Introduction**

North Devon District Council and Torridge District Council worked together in partnership with Sport England and the National Governing Bodies for Football, Rugby Union, Cricket, Hockey and Bowls to develop a Playing Pitch Strategy (PPS) for the area.

The Vision for the Strategy being “to fully understand the quantity and quality of our current stock of playing pitches and changing provision to ensure that we: Protect the facilities that are used and valued by our current population, Provide new facilities in the right locations to cater for increased demand and population and Enhance facilities to ensure that quality meets twenty-first century expectations and attracts new and existing users.”

Both Councils adopted the joint PPS in 2017 (Executive Summary attached).

This Briefing Paper is to update the Steering Group on progress for review period 3 (February 2021 – February 2022), highlight the key priorities for 2022-23 and highlight emerging issues.

### **Delivery against Action Plan February 2021 – February 2022**

#### **NDBA 21 – Swimbridge Playing Fields**

Informal 7v7 pitch has been delivered.

### **Emerging Issues February 2022**

The following are considered to be emerging issues that the group identified as key risks to the playing pitch strategy:

#### **NDBA 5 – Bratton Fleming Sports Club**

A legal battle has been taking place with the landlord who has evicted the sports club at the end of an expired lease. The site is currently in limited use, but some facilities and pitches are deteriorating.

#### **NDBA 11 – United Services Bowls Club**

The club started their project to replace the roof and extend their clubhouse but have run out of funding. The new roof and shell of the extension are complete; but the club need further funds to complete the internal fit-out. Still waiting for relevant S106 funds to be banked.

#### **NDBA 16 – Tews Lane Community Sports Ground**

Currently only one team using the site for Saturday afternoon football (Barum United). Barnstaple FC had two teams folded 3 seasons ago. One team reformed, but has since folded. The site is still used by Barnstaple FC Youth sections.

**NDBA 20 – Riverside Park, Fremington**

The site has been adopted by Fremington Parish Council, but the committee at Fremington FC (the end user) are concerned with some of the terms within the lease. The site is therefore not being used formally currently. The club want to use the site so talks are required with Fremington Parish Council to find an alternative approach to usage – pay & play or annual licence could be workable options. NDC Parks and Leisure Officer to support talks.

**NDSM 12 – New Site Land off B3226, South Molton Football Club**

South Molton Football Club has purchased their new site, £230,000 s106 funding provided by North Devon Council. The club are now developing plans for delivery of pitches and supporting facilities. NGB support needed.