

## Draft Sports Centre Improvement Plan 2015

### a summary prepared by the Friends of Southampton Sports Centre

#### Background

September 2015: Southampton City Council has just released the long awaited draft of the Sports Centre Improvement Plan and some provisional drawings / plans for how the Centre could grow and develop to replace, refurbish, improve and enhance its offer for both competitive sports and recreational and leisure users. The draft has been developed from the consultations and drop in sessions held in late 2013 together with discussions with sport national governing bodies and other assessments of the City's sporting facility need. The document presents a bold, yet holistic vision for how the centre could look and what it could offer. It includes several different draft options for the layout of a revamped centre and several different draft options for the nature of a pavilion to replace the current block 1.

The improvement plan itself is a long and detailed document, containing many interesting facts and statistics about Centre use, the City and the City's needs. It is well worth reading in full, but we appreciate that not everyone will have the time to do so. Therefore the aim of this document is to present an objective and unbiased summary of the key features of the plan, to inform and encourage discussion and feedback through the consultation.

#### Have your say

Council is now seeking input from the City and other stakeholders to refine this draft and thus establish priorities through an online consultation. To quote Council:

*"Your feedback is important to help the council determine the future of the Sports Centre. The consultation feedback will not result in the council spending large sums of money on delivering any improvements, but will enable it to be clear about priorities, to work with funding bodies to secure money to deliver those priorities and to implement elements of the agreed vision as resources become available. Without a grand plan, it is unlikely that any funding will be secured, so we need your views to help progress this."*

Undoubtedly, some people will love some or all of the proposals and others will not. This is why it is vital that as many people as possible respond to the online consultation, giving personal thoughts, comments and ideas so that a widely supported and robust consensus can be achieved and then acted on to deliver sports, recreation and leisure facilities fit for current and future generations of all City residents. **The online consultation runs till mid December 2015.** The consultation, together with all of the original supporting documents and plans can be found on the Council's WWW site at:

<http://www.southampton.gov.uk/council-democracy/have-your-say/sports-centre-consultation.aspx>

The questions asked in the consultation are reproduced at the end of this document:

## **Proposals / suggestions / features that are common to all of the suggested schemes:**

### **Retained, existing features:**

- All 5 existing cricket pitches
- Athletics track
- Both existing sand dressed all weather hockey pitches
- 3 current full size grass football pitches
- 1 current junior football pitch (most games transferred to new AGP pitches)
- As far as we can tell, minimal loss of current woodland
- At least 6 of the outdoor tennis courts / netball courts – those “lost” being replaced by indoor equivalents
- Virtually all current open access, walking space (pitches not being considered as open walking space), excepting small areas around tennis courts where enlarged crazy golf, beach volleyball, relocated bowls greens etc. could be sited

### **Added, new features:**

- 2 full sized, all weather, artificial grass pitches (AGPs) for senior football and mini soccer
- Closed loop, tarmac cycle track at north of site (replaces track that was once around athletics track, whose loss to accommodate an enhanced athletics track was considered to be of regional significance)
- 1 km and 3 km walking / jogging routes
- Dedicated, small nursery ski slope
- Skate / multi wheeled sports park
- Extra car parking by The View

### **Features improved by replacement with updated versions:**

- 2 full size grass football pitches replaced by 2 full size AGP pitches
- Block 1 (outdated and limited existing functionality) – replaced by a Pavilion at approximately the same location – various options are suggested, varying in size and in the range of indoor sports and recreational facilities they could offer
- Block 2 (no longer fit for purpose and not economically viable to upgrade), replaced by a club hub in a new position along the 100m sprint edge of the athletics track, incorporating changing for athletics, AGP pitches and all weather hockey pitches, club rooms, café, bar,
- Track grandstand (poor condition) – incorporated into hub replacement for Block 2
- Alpine lodge (well beyond expected life and too small to meet demand) replaced with larger equivalent
- Crazy golf – replaced with larger, modern version, possibly relocated to the other side of tennis courts

### Features removed

- Kiosks by boating lake
- All portacabins on athletics track
- Small amounts of currently open walking space (around tennis courts and where cycle track would be located)
- Boating lake
- Putting green up by The View - to provide additional parking (several alternative greens are available on the Golf Course)

### Features that vary between the draft schemes

- Size of replacement for block 1 and the range of indoor facilities it could offer
- Inclusion of outdoor beach volleyball courts by tennis courts
- Location of relocated crazy golf
- Number of outdoor tennis / netball courts retained ("lost" ones being mitigated by indoor ones)
- Relocation of bowls green
- Location and extent of additional car parking
- Possible loss of The View

### Things that appear not to be addressed by the draft schemes:

- Provision of an outdoor gym
- Any detailed consideration of provision for disabled sports and disabled players
- Much thought about landscaping and planting to minimise the visual impact of and to enhance new features
- Consideration of the possibility of providing additional parking on the disused Council Nursery Site and underused Council depot site up by the ski slope
- How access to Pleasure Park, Holly Hill entrance and Golf Course would fit with suggested position of cycle track
- Nature of surface of possible internal car park (grass and plastic grid or tarmac) and whether this would be for special events only or in permanent use
- How the full range of catering and community facilities offered by the View could be integrated into any of the draft designs for the Pavilion
- Nature of surface of 1k and 3k trails – wheelchair friendly or not?

**Of course, it may well be that elements drawn from all of the draft concepts would be incorporated into a final vision, which is why it is important that as many people as possible provide feedback using the online consultation.**

The word cloud below, represents the 200 most common words in the draft improvement plan , scaled according to their frequency of use. It demonstrates both the breath of the study and the holistic approach with no obvious bias towards any one sport or user group.

## Draft Site Option 1



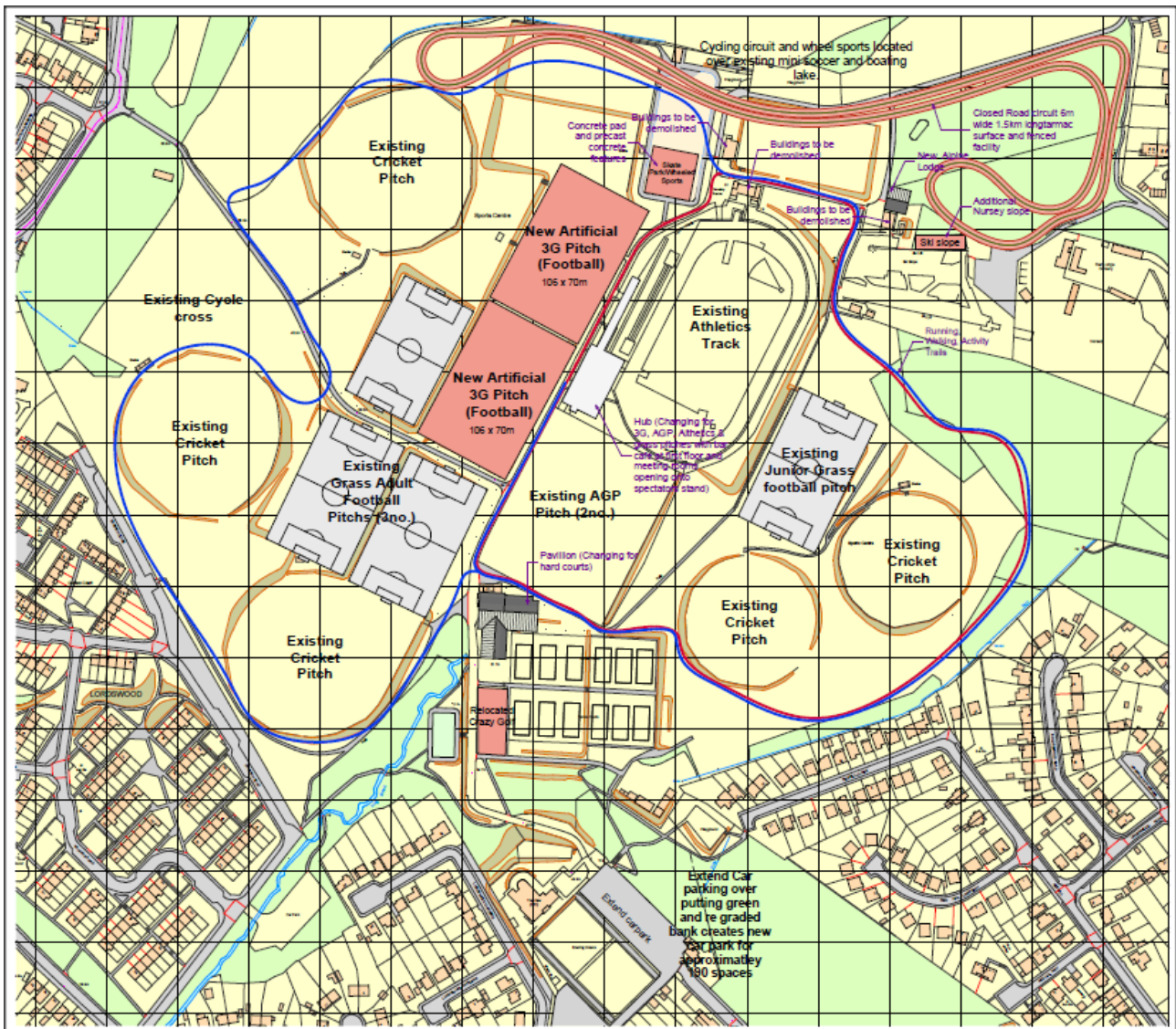
### Features

- Relocate crazy golf
- Relocate bowls to main site
- Add 2 beach volleyball court
- Small pavilion – option 1 - changing facilities only
- Car park on site of existing bowls green and The View

Original at: <http://www.southampton.gov.uk/policies/sports-centre-improvement-site-plan-option-1.pdf>



## Draft Site Option 2



## Features

- Expand crazy golf
- Retain all outdoor tennis and netball courts
- Small pavilion – option 1 – changing facilities only

Original at: <http://www.southampton.gov.uk/policies/sports-centre-improvement-site-plan-option-2.pdf>

## Draft Site Option 3



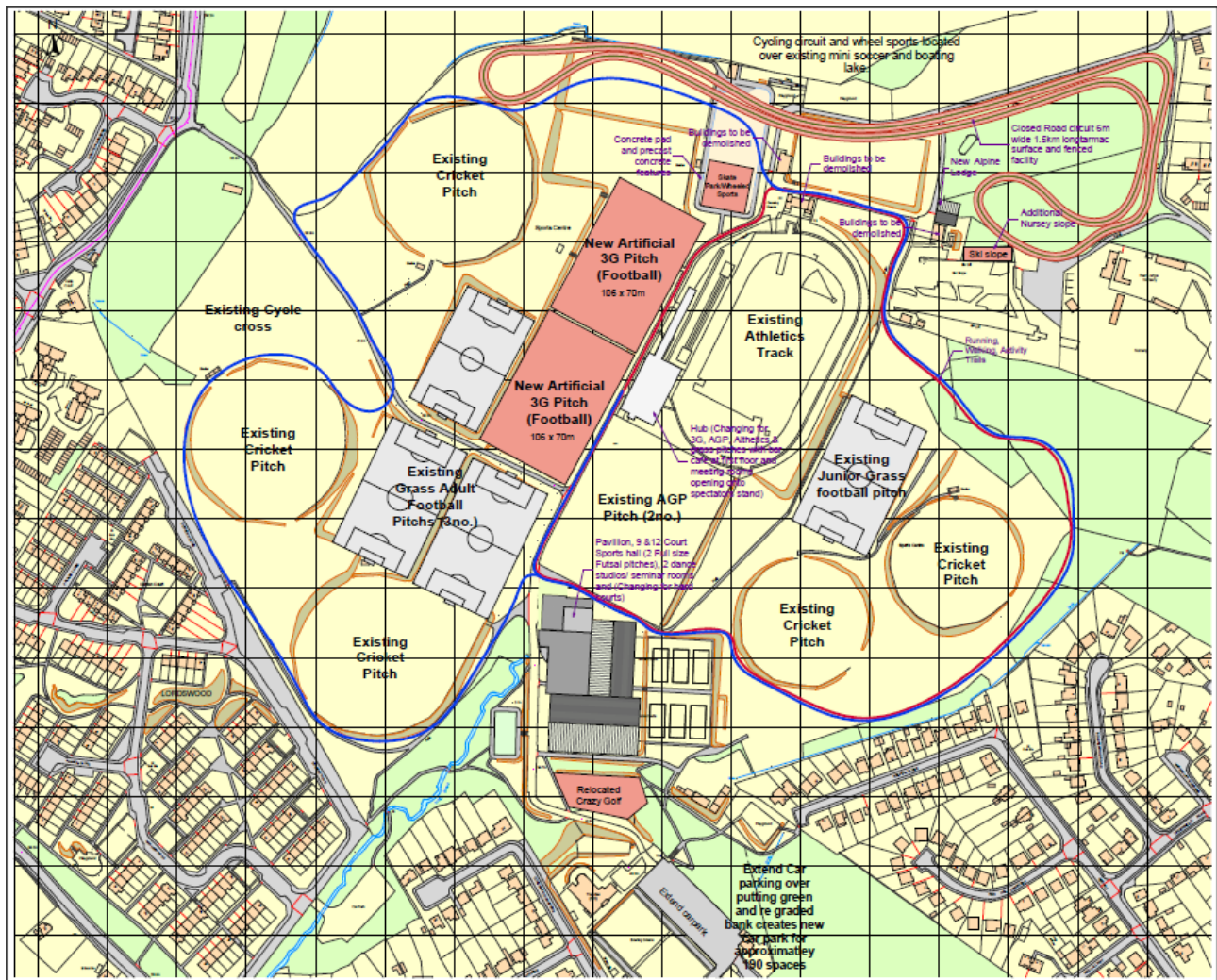
## Features

- Relocate crazy golf
- Add 2 beach volleyball court
- Small pavilion 2 storey – option 2 – changing facilities and small indoor sports provision

Original at: <http://www.southampton.gov.uk/policies/sports-centre-improvement-site-plan-option-3.pdf>



## Draft Site Option 4



### Features

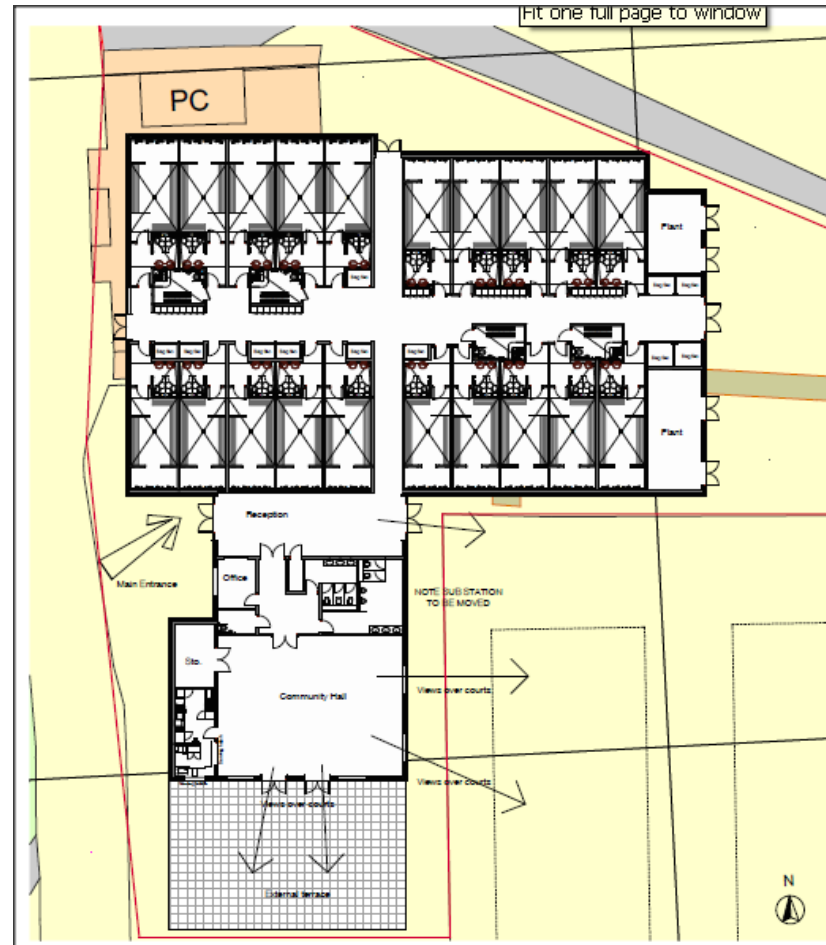
- Relocate crazy golf
- Larger pavilion – changing facilities and multiuse indoor courts with spectator seating, studios, lecture rooms etc.

Original at: <http://www.southampton.gov.uk/policies/sports-centre-improvement-site-plan-option-4.pdf>



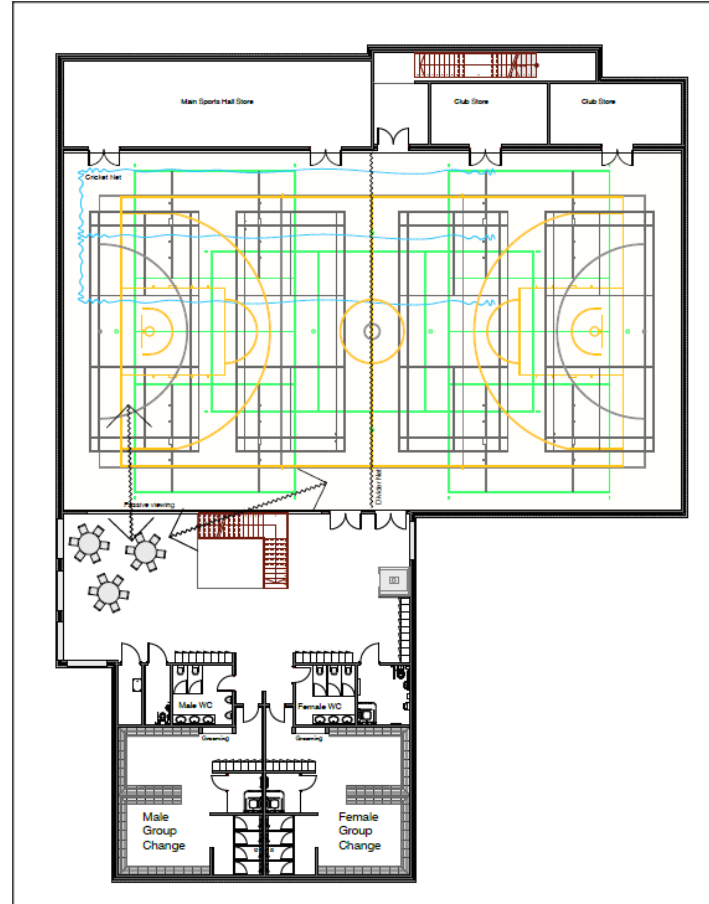
### Pavilion option 1:

Single storey, with changing rooms, community space, catering only.



Original at: <http://www.southampton.gov.uk/policies/sports-centre-improvement-pavilion-plan-option-1.pdf>

### Pavilion option 2 – 2 storey:

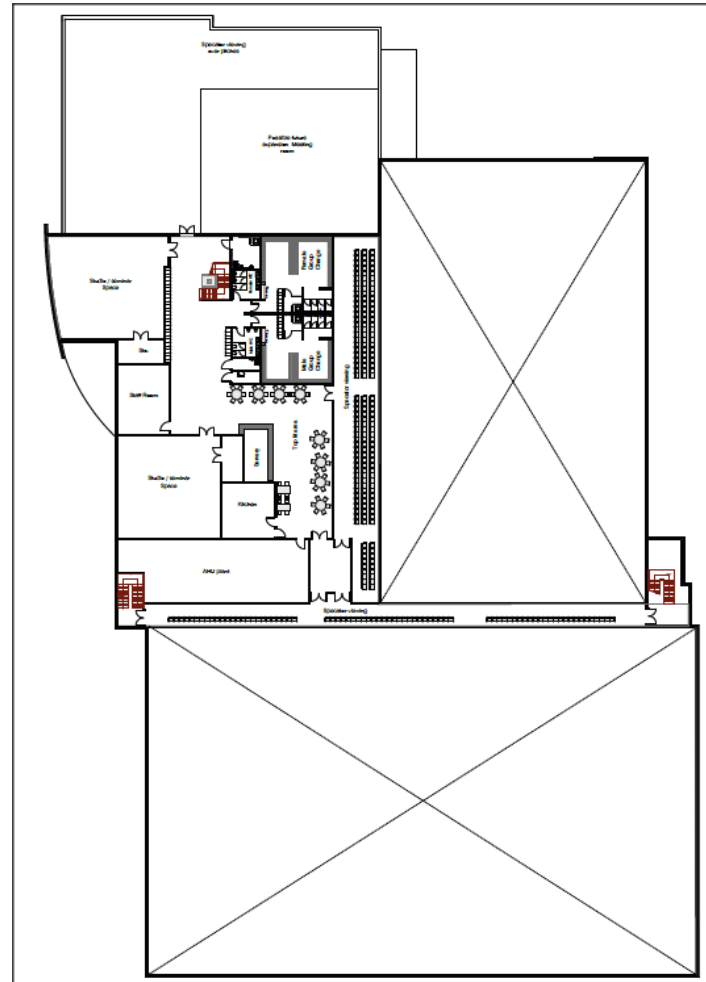
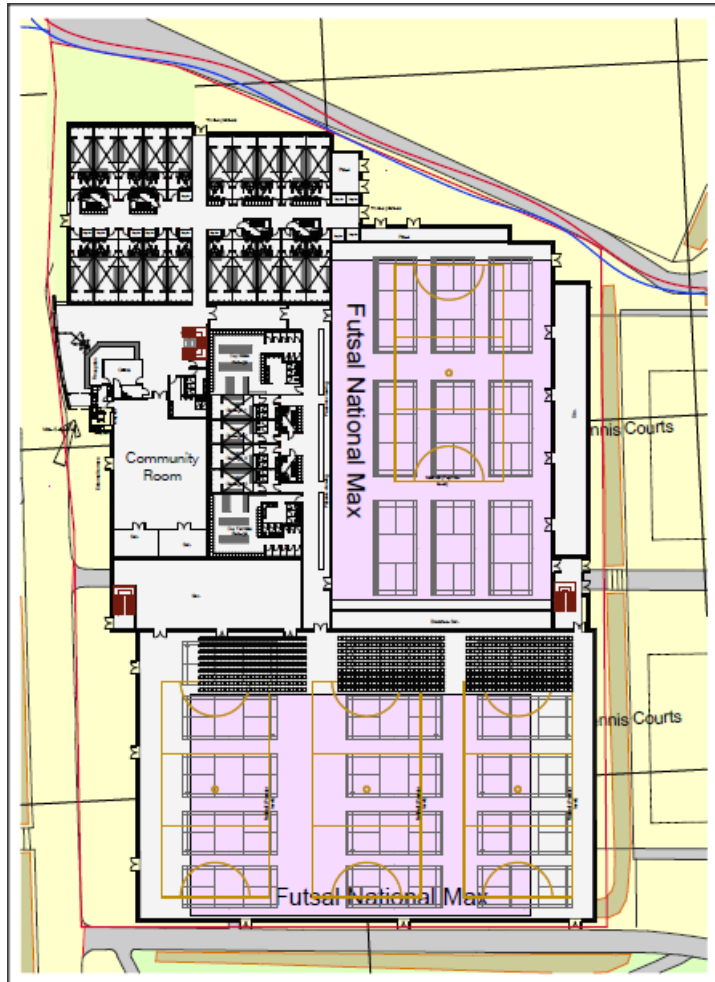


Ground floor: large changing rooms, community space, catering, office, terrace

Upper floor: small changing rooms, viewing area, multi-use sports hall

Originals at: <http://www.southampton.gov.uk/policies/sports-centre-improvement-pavilion-plan-option-2-ground-floor.pdf> and <http://www.southampton.gov.uk/policies/sports-centre-improvement-pavilion-plan-option-2-first-floor.pdf>

### Pavilion option 3 – 2 storey



Ground floor: large changing rooms, community space, catering, office, 2 multi-use courts with spectator seating.

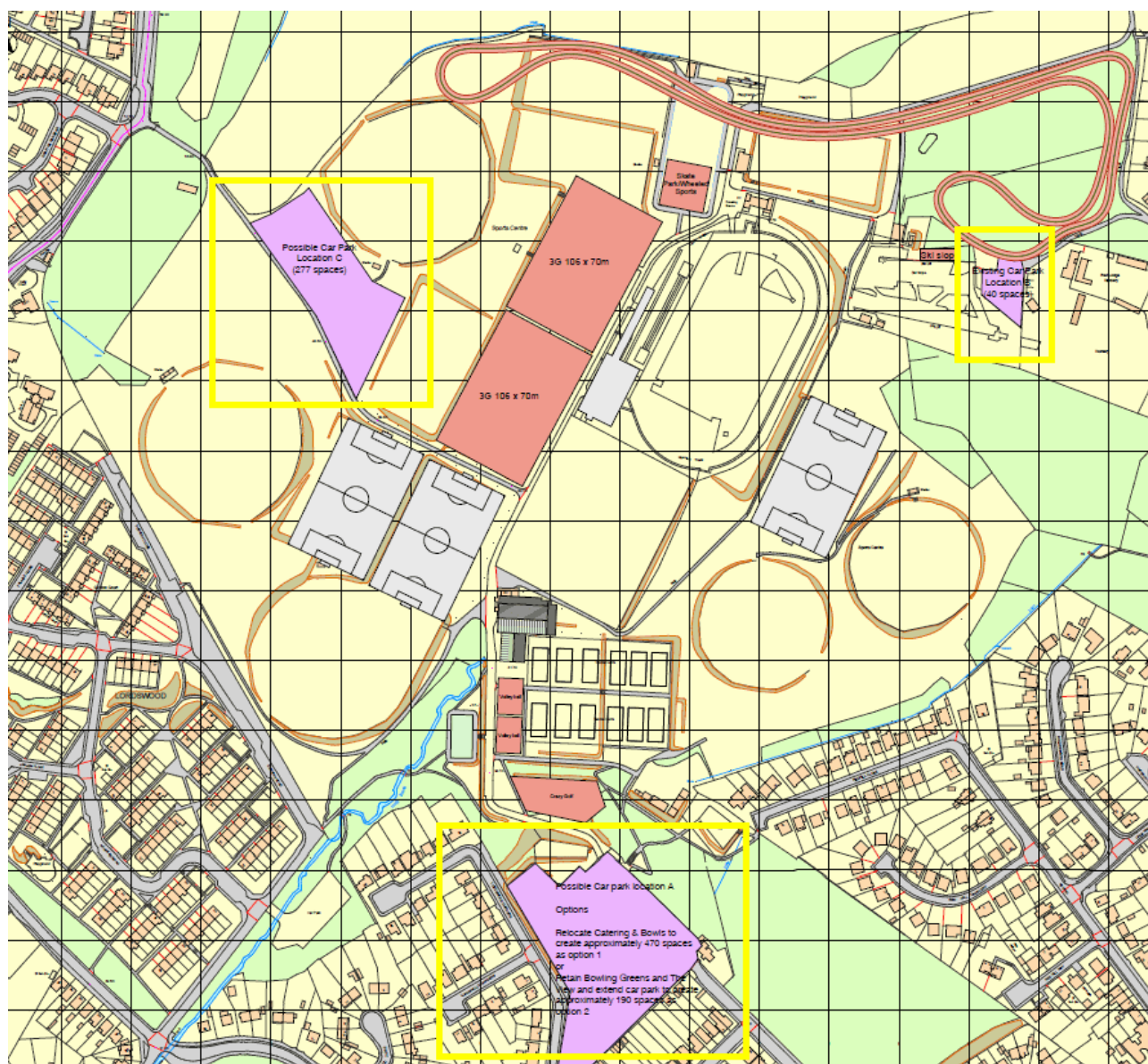
Upper floor: studios / seminar rooms, roof terrace, additional spectator viewing for courts

**Note: although this building may appear large, its footprint represents only about 1.5% of the Sports Centre's area.**

Originals at: <http://www.southampton.gov.uk/policies/sports-centre-improvement-pavilion-plan-option-3-ground-floor.pdf> and <http://www.southampton.gov.uk/policies/sports-centre-improvement-pavilion-plan-option-3-first-floor.pdf>



## Draft Parking Options



Original at: <http://www.southampton.gov.uk/policies/sports-centre-improvement-site-plan-car-parking.pdf>

## **The Online Consultation:**

*“Your feedback is important to help the council determine the future of the Sports Centre. The consultation feedback will not result in the council spending large sums of money on delivering any improvements, but will enable it to be clear about priorities, to work with funding bodies to secure money to deliver those priorities and to implement elements of the agreed vision as resources become available. Without a grand plan, it is unlikely that any funding will be secured, so we need your views to help progress this.”*

**Q. To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statement: The existing outdoor sport centre facilities would benefit from significant improvement?**

Strongly Agree / Agree / Neutral / Disagree / Strongly disagree

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*The most recent consultation has re-validated a number of the suggested improvements from the earlier consultation and identified a number of key themes.*

*In summary, the high priority areas in the consultation are:*

- *Development of Hub(s) to include; changing and toilet provision, meeting rooms, Café/refreshment provision, which is fit for purpose and meets the needs of different sports and recreational users of the site. (Capital improvement)*
- *Sports facilities to potentially include; indoor sports provision, 3G pitch, Multi Use Games Area, Beach Volleyball, Pitch drainage improvements. (Capital improvement)*
- *Creation of Physical Activity Opportunities to include; marked running/jogging route, cycling road circuit, Skate Park/Wheeled Sports facility, Outdoor gym(Capital/ Programming improvement)*
- *Infrastructure Improvements; increase and improve car park provision, improve lighting on access route within the site (Capital/Operational improvement)*

**Q. To what extent do you agree or disagree with the priority areas?**

Strongly Agree / Agree / Neutral / Disagree / Strongly disagree

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**Q. If improvements were made to the sports centre do you feel you would use it more often?**

Strongly Agree / Agree / Neutral / Disagree / Strongly disagree

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**Q. Which of the following do you think Southampton sports centre should aim to be?**

- City Sports Facility
  - City and Regional Sports Facility
  - City, Regional and National Sports Facility
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**Q. Out of the three proposals each for the pavilion, which is your preferred option?**

- Option 1 - Changing for hard courts, beach volleyball and bowls, community space

- Option 2 - Changing for hard courts, beach volleyball and bowls, community space and indoor sports hall (overmarked for example to accommodate 4 Badminton courts, 1 Netball, 1 indoor 5-a-side football, 1 Volleyball)
- Option 3 - Changing for hard courts, and bowls, community space and indoor sports hall, overmarked for example to accommodate 2 Futsal courts, 4 Netball, 21 Badminton courts

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**Q. Out of the following proposed improvements please pick your top five.**

- Wheeled Sports/Skate Park
- Pavilion development (which ever is preferred from last question)
- Ski Slope - Additional nursery slope with traveller
- New Alpine Lodge, capacity for 20-30 people to be issued with kit, reception/foyer with seating and vending space, single storey
- Artificial Grass Pitch ( x 2) 3G artificial grass pitch in line with FA guidance and over marked for mini soccer
- Grass Pitches - Works to improve quality of pitches
- Hub to provide Changing for AGP, Athletics Track, and grass football and cricket pitches. To include meeting rooms, bar/café area, exterior balcony, linked to spectator stand
- Bowls Greens (x2): Option to relocate Flat green bowls greens with 6 rinks per green
- Crazy Golf: 18 hole course concrete and artificial grass construction
- Beach Volleyball (x2)
- Running/walking/activity Trails
- Route signage, distance markers, interpretation boards. Relocate existing trim trail plus additional features
- Car Parking - Options to improve and expand existing and/or creation of new car parking

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**Q. Do you have any further comments or alternative suggestions on the future of Southampton Outdoor Sports Centre?**

Free text box to add other comments

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**Q. I am responding to the consultation on the potential development of Southampton Outdoor Sports Centre as a:**

Resident of Southampton / Member of Southampton Sports Club / Community Group / School / College / University / Other

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**Q. How regularly do you use Southampton Outdoor Sports Centre?**

Every day / 2-6 times a week / Once a week / Once a fortnight / Once a month / Occasionally / Never

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**Q. Which of the following activities do you regularly partake in? (tick all that apply)**

Walking/ dog walking / Track athletics / Football / Netball / basketball / Gym / Racquet sports i.e tennis / squash / Hockey / Lawn bowls / Cricket / Rugby /Cycling / Skiing / Road running / Other



**Q. Which of the following do you use? Other than at Southampton Outdoor Sports Centre**

A fitness gym / 5-a-side football pitch / Football pitch / Cricket pitch / Hockey pitch / Netball / basketball courts / Cycle track / Racquet courts / Other

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**Q. Age**

Under 10 / 11 – 16 / 17 – 21 / 22 – 29 / 30 – 39 / 40 – 49 / 50 – 59 / 60 – 69 / 70+

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**Q. Gender**

Male / Female

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**Q. Home postcode:**

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