



Burnley Indoor Sports Facilities Review: February 2015

Burnley Borough Council

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1. Introduction

As part of developing the Local Plan for Burnley, there is need to ensure that there is an adequate provision of facilities to support the Vision and proposals to be set out in the Plan throughout its proposed plan period to 2030.

This review has been prepared to assess the current provision of formal indoor sports facilities to inform the new Local Plan. It will complement other strategies related to outdoor and indoor recreation and sports facilities. These include:

- Greenspaces Strategyⁱ, which reviews facilities such as parks, natural/semi natural greenspace and allotments;
- Playing Pitch Strategyⁱⁱ, which reviews outdoor sports pitches such as football, cricket and hockey pitches.
- Retail, Office and Leisure Assessmentⁱⁱⁱ, which includes a review of some indoor facilities such as ice rinks and gyms.

Further details on the production of the above studies can be found in Appendix 1.

The current population of the borough of Burnley is estimated to be 86,900¹ and according to the most recent population projections² is anticipated to remain constant throughout the plan period.

This Indoor Sports Provision Review will assess:

- Sports Halls
- Swimming Pools
- Health & Fitness Suites
- Ice Rinks
- Indoor Bowls
- Indoor Tennis Centres
- Squash Courts
- Village Halls

The Sport England (2014)^{iv} has been used to review sport provision within the borough. The Local Sport Profile is a profile of up-to-date data for a local area which is updated by Sport England annually and covers sports participation, facilities, health, economics and demographics.

In addition, Sport England's Sports Facilities Calculator (SFC) has been used to assess the likely demand for facilities. The SFC is a planning tool which helps to estimate the demand for key community sports facilities that is created by a given population.

¹ 2013 mid-year population estimates ONS

² 2012-based Subnational Population Projections for Local Authorities in England ONS

The Burnley Retail, Leisure and Office Assessment (2013) which was developed for Burnley Borough Council by Nathaniel Lichfield & Partners (NLP) has also been used to assess service provision.

In undertaking this Indoor Sports Facilities Review, facilities that are available in adjoining boroughs that are likely to be accessible to Burnley residents have also been taken into account.

Informal consultation on a draft of this review took place between 9th-30th January 2015 with Burnley Leisure (Burnley's Leisure Trust), Burnley Borough Council's Greenspaces service and Sport England with each being invited to comment on the content of the draft review and also provide any additional information they felt would help develop the review further. No consultation responses were received.

2. National Policy

The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) (paragraph 70) states that:

“To deliver the social, recreational and cultural facilities and services the community needs, planning policies and decisions should:

- plan positively for the provision and use of shared space, community facilities (such as local shops, meeting places, sports venues, cultural buildings, public houses and places of worship) and other local services to enhance the sustainability of communities and residential environments;
- guard against the unnecessary loss of valued facilities and services, particularly where this would reduce the community's ability to meet its day-to-day needs;
- ... ensure an integrated approach to considering the location of housing, economic uses and community facilities and services.”

In paragraph 73 the NPPF states that “Access to high quality open spaces and opportunities for sport and recreation can make an important contribution to the health and well-being of communities. Planning policies should be based on robust and up-to-date assessments of the needs for open space, sports and recreation facilities and opportunities for new provision. The assessments should identify specific needs and quantitative or qualitative deficits or surpluses of open space, sports and recreational facilities in the local area. Information gained from the assessments should be used to determine what open space, sports and recreational provision is required.”

3. Local Policy

The vision of the Burnley Community Strategy 2014-2017^v states that: “By 2017, Burnley will be an area where health inequalities are less marked ... more people will take regular exercise, and will be thoughtful about what they eat. There are more opportunities to incorporate exercise into everyday life, and school children will be positively encouraged to take part in sport or other physical activity.”

4. Sport Participation in Burnley

Sport England conducted an Active People survey during 2012/13 and this suggested that 70.1% of Burnley residents do not participate in sport at least once a week. This has increased by 5.4% from 2011/12 (Figure 1 below).

Figure 1:

| Adult (16+) Participation in Sport (at least once a week[^]), by year | | | |
|---|----------------|-------------------|----------------|
| Year | Burnley | North West | England |
| 2005/06 | 32.3% | 33.7% | 34.2% |
| 2007/08 | 33.3% | 35.7% | 35.8% |
| 2008/09 | 35.9% | 36.0% | 35.7% |
| 2009/10 | 31.6% | 35.7% | 35.3% |
| 2010/11 | 35.2% | 35.2% | 34.8% |
| 2011/12 | 35.3% | 36.1% | 36.0% |
| 2012/13 | 29.9% | 35.8% | 35.7% |

Source: Active People Survey, Year: 2005/06 (APS1), to 2012/13 (APS7)
Measure: Adult participation, aged 16+
[^] 1 session a week (at least 4 sessions of at least moderate intensity for at least 30 minutes in the previous 28 days)
[For more information click here](#)

Source: Sport England Local Sport Profile, 2014

When this data is analysed further, 34.9% of males participate in sport at least once a week, compared to 25.1% of females. These figures are 7.4% below the North West average for men and 4.5% below the North West average for women.

5. Burnley's Indoor Facilities

5.1 Swimming Pools

Within Burnley borough there are four indoor swimming pools, two of which are public and two private:

| Location | Pool Length |
|--|---|
| St Peter's Centre (public facility) | 25m (plus a training pool with a moveable pool floor) |
| Padiham Leisure Centre (public facility) | 25m |
| Crow Wood Leisure (private facility) | 25m |
| Halstead Centre (private facility) | 10m |

In addition, there are further indoor swimming facilities within the adjoining boroughs which Burnley residents are able to use, such as Pendle Wave Lengths in Nelson (private facility).

In terms of demand (Sport England Local Sport Profile 2014), swimming is the third most popular sport within the borough and is specified as the sport that adults want to participate in the most. However, the take-up rate is 8%, compared to the regional rate of 11.6% and national rate of 11.5%.

The Sport England Sports Facility Calculator identifies that with a population of approximately 87,000, Burnley borough requires 4.35 pools. As stated previously, the borough already houses 4 pools and there are a number of other pools within close proximity (in adjoining local authority areas).

From the evidence gathered, there is currently no requirement to identify further provision for swimming pools within the borough in the Local Plan as demand is met by the borough's existing pools and the pools of neighbouring authorities, particularly Pendle. However, this situation will need to be kept under review during the Local Plan period to ensure suitable levels of provision are maintained.

Even though no requirement for additional pools has been identified at this stage, it may be necessary to support or upgrade existing facilities during the plan period. Planning contributions towards this provision, including through the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) if introduced, would be need to be considered.

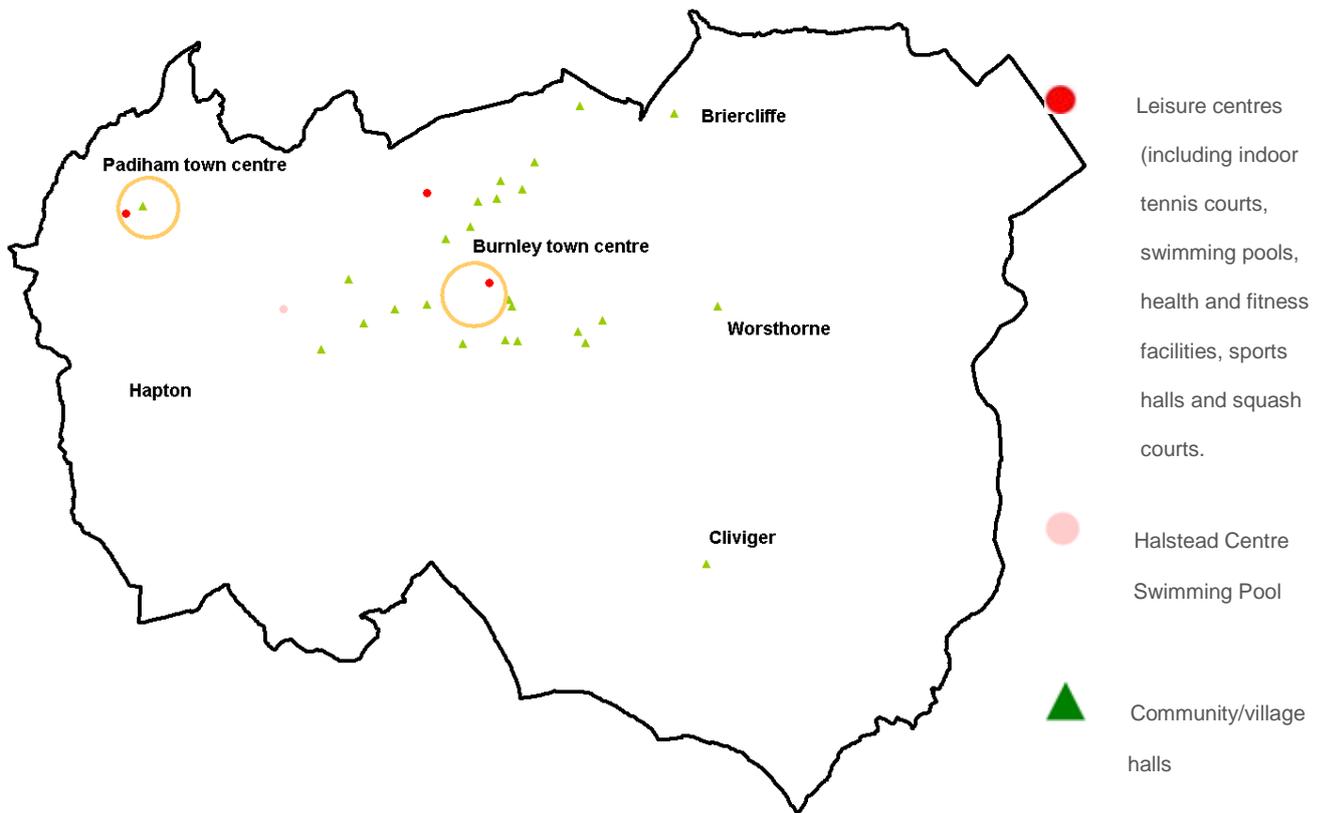


Diagram 1: Location of swimming pools, leisure centres and community/village halls within the borough.

5.2 Health & Fitness Suites

In recent years, gyms and fitness suites have grown in popularity. In 2013, Burnley Borough Council commissioned NLP to carry out a Retail, Leisure and Office Assessment which suggested that there were seven identified fitness clubs within the borough.

Overall, health and fitness suites are currently the most popular form of indoor sport activity in terms of participation within the borough (Sport England Local Sport Profile 2014). In the Retail, Leisure and Office Assessment (2013), the adult population of the Study Area (wider than the Burnley borough with its total population of 86,900) was calculated at approximately 81,400 (children are not included within the catchment population for health and fitness suites) and this could generate demand for around 9,770 public and private membership places, based on the national average membership rate (12%). Taking into account this figure and the seven identified health and fitness clubs in the Borough, there is an average of around 1,396 members per club which is similar to the national average for private fitness clubs (1,375 members).

Since the Retail, Leisure and Office study was completed, further facilities have opened which explains why, according to the Sport England Local Sport Profile

(2014), there are now thirteen facilities located within the borough; six private and seven public.

From the evidence gathered, there is currently no requirement to identify further provision for public or private health and fitness suites within the Local Plan as demand is being met by both public and private sector providers. However, this position will need to be kept under review during the Local Plan period to ensure suitable provision is maintained.

Even though no requirement for further public or private health and fitness suites has been identified at this stage, it may be necessary to support or upgrade existing facilities during the plan period. Planning contributions towards this provision, including through the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) if introduced, would need to be considered.

5.3 Ice Rinks

There are no ice rinks within the borough; however, there is a facility located in Blackburn, approximately 10 miles to the west of Burnley. The 2013 Retail, Leisure and Office Assessment suggested that in general, commercial leisure facilities, such as multiplex cinemas, ten pin bowling centres, family entertainment centres and ice rinks, draw the main part of their trade from residents living within a radius of up to 20 minutes travel time. Major leisure facilities such as ice rinks require a large catchment population and often benefit from locating together with other facilities on large out-of-centre leisure parks.

The catchment population for ice rinks identified in the Retail, Leisure and Office Assessment Study Area was approximately 110,000. This is a larger catchment than that for health and fitness suites as children are also included within the ice rink figures. As Burnley residents currently have access to ice rink facilities in nearby Blackburn, it is unlikely to be commercially viable to develop such a facility within the borough.

From the evidence gathered there appears to be insufficient demand to support a new ice rink within the borough of Burnley.

5.4 Indoor Bowls

There are no indoor bowls facilities within the borough and no indoor bowls teams are currently set up within the borough. However, the Sport England Sport's Facility Calculator suggests that there may be a future need for a facility (0.99 of a facility) based on the existing population figure.

In terms of demand for indoor bowls, Burnley Leisure Trust (who manage both the St Peter's Centre and Padiham Leisure Centre) have confirmed that demand is very

sporadic and if it is requested by residents it can be accommodated within an existing sports hall either at the St Peter's Centre or Padiham Leisure Centre.

There are ten public outdoor bowls facilities available within the borough. There is one indoor ten-pin bowling centre.

From the evidence gathered, there is no evident demand for the Local Plan to make provision for indoor bowls facilities. However, this situation will need to be kept under review during the Local Plan period to ensure that, if necessary, suitable provision is made.

Even though no requirement for indoor bowls has been identified at this stage, there may be a future need to provide facilities which could house the sport. Planning contributions towards this provision, if a need or demand is identified, including through the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) if introduced, would need to be considered.

5.5 Indoor Tennis Centres

The St Peter's Centre houses a four court multi-purpose hall and a single court hall that provides casual usage for people wishing to play short tennis. There are also two private tennis courts at Crow Wood Leisure, adjacent to junction 11 of the M65. The Active Places Power^{vi} data from Sport England suggests that the regional average for indoor tennis provision is 0.02 courts per thousand population. From reviewing the amount of courts within the borough there are:

- 0.02 courts per 1000 population based on the two tennis courts at Crow Wood
- 0.04 courts per 1000 population based on the four short tennis courts at St Peter's Centre
- 0.06 courts per 1000 population based on the six combined courts at Crow Wood and St Peter's Centre.

From the evidence gathered, there are currently sufficient indoor tennis facilities available for residents and there is no requirement for the Local Plan to provide for further facilities. However, this situation will need to be kept under review during the Local Plan period to ensure that suitable provision is maintained.

Even though no requirement for further indoor tennis courts has been identified at this stage, it may be necessary to support or upgrade existing public facilities during the plan period. Planning contributions towards this provision, including through the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) if introduced, would need to be considered.

5.6 Sports Halls

Within the borough there are ten sports halls according to the Sport England Local Sport Profile; of which one is private and nine are public. Sports halls can be used for a variety of activities including:

- Badminton
- Basketball
- Football
- Table tennis
- Netball
- Dodgeball
- Martial Arts
- Exercise classes

The Sport England Sports Facility Calculator suggests that for Burnley's population, 6.05 halls are required. The borough already has ten; therefore there is no requirement for the Local Plan to provide for further facilities. However, this will need to be kept under review during the Local Plan period to ensure that suitable provision is maintained.

Even though no requirement for further sports halls has been identified at this stage, it may be necessary to support or upgrade existing public facilities during the plan period. Planning contributions towards this provision, including through the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) if introduced, would need to be considered.

5.7 Squash Courts

There are four squash courts in the borough, two within the St Peter's Centre (public) in Burnley town centre and two within Crow Wood Leisure (private). The St Peter's facilities are glass back squash courts on maple sprung floors with coaching and viewing areas.

Within Hyndburn, the adjoining local authority to the south west, there are four newly refurbished courts available at Hyndburn Leisure Centre. As a result there are six readily accessible squash courts to the residents of Burnley. Therefore, there is:

- 1 squash court per 21,750 people within the borough of Burnley itself
- 1 squash court per 10,875 people within the borough of Burnley and Hyndburn which are accessible to Burnley's residents.

In terms of accessibility, the diagram below shows that the majority of the borough residents would have access to both centres when driving for 10 minutes at 30 mph as the crow flies.

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-  St Peter's Centre accessibility
 -  Crow Wood accessibility

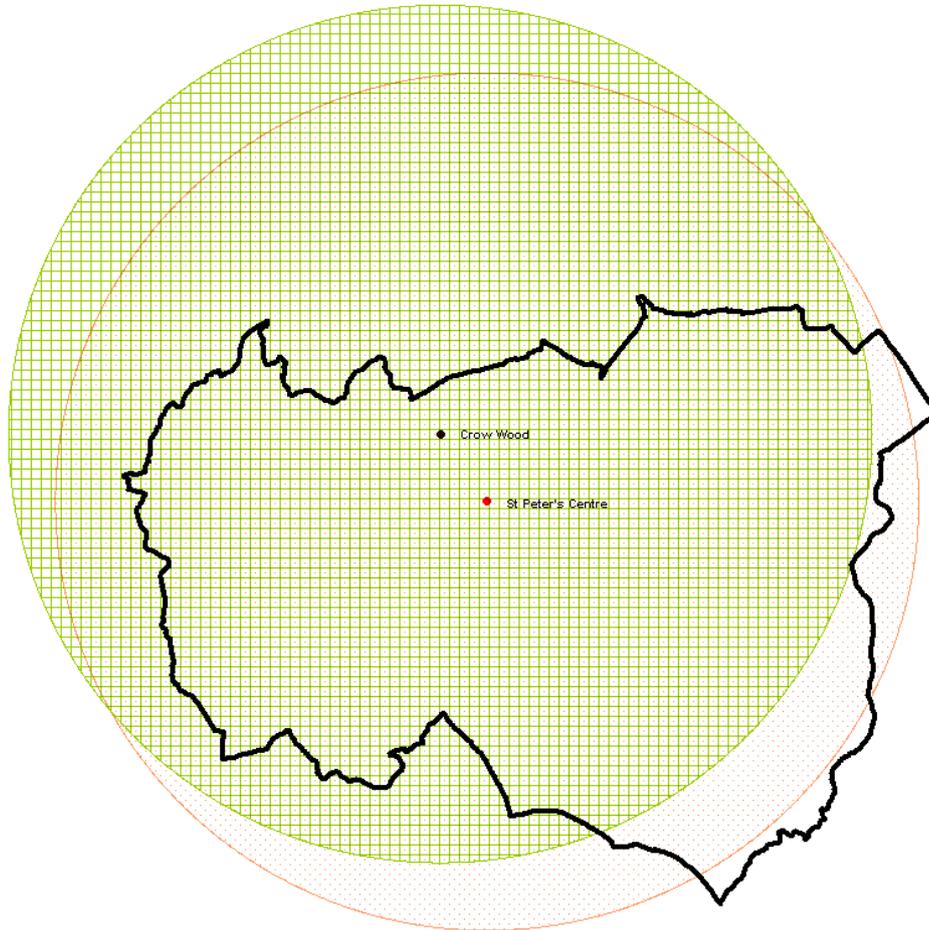


Diagram 2: Accessibility of both squash centres within the borough

From the evidence gathered, there are currently sufficient squash courts available for residents and there is no requirement for the Local Plan to provide for further facilities. However, this situation will need to be kept under review during the Local Plan period to ensure that suitable provision is maintained.

Even though no requirement for further squash courts has been identified at this stage, it may be necessary to support or upgrade existing public facilities during the plan period. Planning contributions towards this provision, including through the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) if introduced, would need to be considered.

5.8 Village Halls

There are 25 village halls and community centres within Burnley, including:

- The Library Building, Colne Road;
- Jubilee St Community Centre, Briercliffe;
- Belmont Community Centre, Brunshaw;
- Brunshaw Youth Club;
- Easden Clough Community Centre;
- Temple Street Community Centre;
- Healey Wood Community Centre
- Cliviger Village Hall;
- Chai Centre, Daneshouse;
- St James Parish Hall, Brougham Street
- North Street Community Centre
- Burnley Boys Club, Barden Lane
- Daneshouse Youth and Community Centre;
- Gannow Community Centre;
- Padiham Town Hall;
- South West Burnley Community Centre;
- Burnley Wood Community Centre;
- Burnley Wood Children's Centre;
- Howard Street Community Health Centre;
- Vanguard Centre, Bevington Close;
- Worsthorne Reading Rooms;
- Linkbridge, Swinless St
- Kibble Bank Community Centre, Underley St
- Brennand House, Fraser St
- Hargher Clough Community Centre, Venice St.

These facilities provide a hub for the community they serve and are a valuable resource in relation to social interaction and opportunities for participating in events, fitness classes and for the general wellbeing of residents.

The Local Plan should aim to protect these community facilities and encourage their improvement where necessary.

There are also further community hubs across the borough, for example, church and school halls which have not been taken into account in this study, but are often available for community use; although this can be time-limited in respect of school halls.

Not all residential areas have village halls, for example, Dunnockshaw; however, there are good public transport links to community facilities close by. From reviewing

the existing facilities, it would appear that there is no requirement for the Local Plan to allocate further land for such facilities. However, this will need to be kept under review during the Local Plan timeframe to ensure that suitable provision is maintained.

Even though no requirement for further village halls has been identified at this stage, it may be necessary to support or upgrade existing halls during the plan period. Planning contributions towards this provision, including through the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) if introduced, would need to be considered.

6. Conclusions

Based on the population projections for the plan period (up to 2030), the current indoor sports facilities within the borough, taking into account the facilities available in adjacent local authority areas, is such that there is no current need to allocate land for further provision for indoor sports facilities in the new Burnley Local Plan. However, this position will be kept under review and where deficiencies arise or facilities require support, planning contributions or other action to secure direct provision would be considered to ensure appropriate levels and quality of provision are maintained.

Appendix 1 – Study References

ⁱ The Greenspaces Strategy is being prepared by the Greenspaces and Amenities Dept. of Burnley Borough Council and is being updated in 2014/15.

ⁱⁱ The Playing Pitch Strategy is being prepared jointly by Burnley Borough Council, Pendle Borough Council and Rossendale Borough Council and will be published during 2015.

ⁱⁱⁱ The Retail, Office and Leisure Assessment was commissioned from NLP by the Policy and Environment team at Burnley Borough Council and was published in February 2013.

^{iv} Sport England Local Sport Profile (2014)

^v Burnley Community Strategy 2014-2017. Burnley Action Partnership

^{vi} The Sports Facilities Calculator from Sport England (2014)

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