



# A **Sport** Development Plan for 2021/22

## **Produced in four main sections:**

[Preceded by an Introduction]

- A. The benefits of sport and physical activity for Farnham
- B. The current scale of sport and physical activity in Farnham
- C. The issues that affect the promotion and development of sport and physical activity for everyone in Farnham
- D. What the Farnham Sports Council with the support of their partners will do [action plan]

**Appendix A** – questionnaire and results of Farnham Sports Council’s sports clubs COVID-19 [August, 2020] Survey

**Note** - The audited accounts and the annual report of the Chairman are presented at each year’s AGM, and are available separately

**The Farnham Sports council advocates and promotes partnership working.**

**Our key partners, besides are local clubs, are Active Surrey, Waverley Borough Council, Farnham Town Council and the Surrey Playing Fields. We value these working relationships. Farnham Sports Council meets termly plus hosts an AGM in November each year. It also establishes and provides ‘working groups’ for a number of its key activities [as outlined in section D].**

*At the Farnham Sports Council AGM in November 2015, the following aims were adopted:*

- 1. To increase the number of people taking part in sport and physical activity in and around Farnham*
- 2. To support the town’s valuable sports clubs to be sustainable and enjoy a higher profile*
- 3. To act as the umbrella organisation and the voice for sports clubs and associations in the town*

**This is what we’re here for!**

## **Introduction.**

**Welcome to Farnham Sports Council's Sports Development Plan for the year 2021/22.** The plan is updated annually or more frequently, especially the sections relating to the local emerging issues and action plan.

**The years of 2020 and 2021 have been a massive challenge for sport at all levels. This latest Sports Development Plan comes at a critical juncture for both local sport and the local community. The COVID-19 pandemic has simultaneously reinforced the importance of sport, physical activity and healthy lifestyles to the lives of individuals and local communities in the Farnham area - but also highlighted how easily it can be taken away.**

Sport and physical exercise is good for mind, body and spirit. Watching your hard work pay off and achieving your dreams or ambitions through sport or for health reasons or personal image brings about a feel-good factor and tons of self-confidence.

We have to be honest, sport isn't for everyone, though physical activity and active lifestyles are crucial for healthy individuals and communities. More than a century ago, Oscar Wilde was once asked if he ever took part in physical recreation. He replied 'whenever I feel the urge to take part in physical recreation, I lie down until the feeling goes away'. For some people in our town, 'sport' may not be 'their thing'..... but for many it is, and Farnham Sports Council along with its key partners will do all that we reasonably can to ensure that a varied and high-quality sport and active recreation service, promoting and encouraging active lifestyles, is available to the community.

A famous American Footballer was once asked on a television show what he liked most about the game. He said, "do you know what my favourite part of the game is - the opportunity to play". These days, we are 'fed' with more sport than ever. Television stations devote lots of time to covering the Premier League, the cricket, the rugby, the tennis..... Sky Sports, for example, covers just about every sport and sports event from around the world.....while there are countless ways to talk about or read about sport everywhere, including the growth of streaming services and the internet. We can even 'play' sport on the Playstation or the computer, taking the reins of, say, Manchester United on the virtual football field. E-sports are big business in Asia and North America – and now in the UK.

But all of it is, in the end, just a distraction from the real fun and benefit of actually playing sport or doing real exercise. Whether it is part of an organised team at the weekend, playing in the playground or park during lunch breaks at work or school, or even on your own, nothing beats the simple pleasure of it. It's also a chance for us to compete, to bond with friends and family and to get some excitement and exercise. Sport matters in Farnham

We hope that the Farnham Sports Council 2021/22 plan will reflect the current sporting landscape and some of the issues we need to focus on in the coming year, especially following a pandemic.

***David Gill, Chairman***

# We promote Sport for All

## Section A. The benefits of sport and physical activity for Farnham

1. Historically, through organisations such as Sport England and Active Surrey, the emphasis on community sport has very much been on sport for sport's sake [the sports development pyramid]. Since then, the political agendas have increasingly emphasised the health and physical activity elements of providing sport, particularly with a creaking NHS and an ageing population. Nowadays or wherever the agendas shift, it's crucial that we all work together in partnership to maximise resources and opportunities. Our key allies and partners are Active Surrey, Waverley Borough Council, Farnham Town Council and all the community sports clubs in the town. The nationwide network of County Sports Partnerships – of which Active Surrey is one – were, from 2019, changing their group identity with a new brand: Active Partnerships. A sign that the agenda is evolving.
2. New strategies and priorities emanating from Government, Sport England [the latest is called Uniting the Movement] and sports and public agencies such as Active Surrey and Waverley Borough Council emphasise the strong and emerging priorities for promoting health and 'physical activity' – and these will be strengthened by the social impact of the COVID-19 pandemic - but there are other priorities, too, in Farnham which largely fall outside the pure health and physical activity agenda.
3. If we asked all of those sport clubs what they could relate to - sport and/or physical activity - I think that virtually all of them would say that their rationale is 'sport'. We say this because - at a time when we are trying hard to encourage and motivate the 'non' or less active in our communities - our best ambassadors to make the case for sport and active lifestyles will be family and friends, specifically those who already benefit from such activities. The 'sport' element of what we're trying to achieve and promote, for all ages, is key. It's well organised in our town and it gives it a vibrancy. Similarly, if Farnham [as we do] promote, encourage and support 'elite and high performance' sport, then those who succeed – names from Farnham include racing driver, Mike Hawthorn, cricketer Graham Thorpe, rugby player Jonny Wilkinson, Paralympian Rachel Morris and amateur sailor Nick Craig - are our standard-bearers and role models.
4. Local authorities and other key public organisations in the area are of course concerned with improving the health of their communities, but they will [or ought to] be just as concerned about the wider 'quality of life' matters for the residents of Farnham. Politically, we don't think you'll find many Farnham councillors within the county, borough and town councils - and educational and public bodies - who don't place a very high emphasis on 'sport' and the broader value – such as the inclusivity and social cohesion - in their local communities.
5. Whilst Farnham is a relatively wealthy area to live and work, there is crime and there are areas in the town of [relative] deprivation. Tackling social exclusion - through the message and action of

sport, the language many people understand, might be a priority for Farnham Sports Council in terms of supporting the development and outreach work provided by local authorities and other agencies. In the current world climate, where exclusion, racial and religious tensions sometimes exist, potentially even locally, 'sport' is a language understood by everyone and is still often the 'breakthrough' mechanism to help our nation – and specifically our own town. In other words, sport has the power to make a difference to bond and create more socially cohesive communities.

6. Community Safety is also vitally important to local communities. Sport [specifically] can reduce the chances of young people slipping into lives of crime. There is a reduced risk of a person offending or re-offending if they can be encouraged to participate in sport. Ask many of the town's residents and they will tell you that crime, and the fear of crime, is a top issue for them. Sport, specifically, with the help of community sports clubs and community outreach work, can make a difference to supporting those lives. People at the wrong end of crime really do want the voluntary sector and public agencies to do, or be seen trying to do or provide, something to help them on their own terms.

7. For disabled people - many of whom we don't reach, and who do feel excluded from sport in their community - you are more likely to reach them, not just through the physical activity message, but crucially through the fun, well organised and social element of sport. It can make a huge difference to their lives but the medium by which you try to achieve it is crucial. We don't want the London 2012, the Rio 2016 [and, due to take place in 2021, the Tokyo Games] Paralympic Games to be a wasted opportunity. It's crucial that all sections of the community in Farnham feel that sport is inclusive and that clubs and sporting [and health] centres are welcoming environments. In fact, sport is, and should be, for everyone.

8. Environmental issues are also important. Parks and public open spaces – areas we are proud to have for leisure use - and sport fields provide focal points and green 'lungs' for the town, while new and high-quality facilities can inspire more people to take part in sport [eg. Farnham Rugby Club, David Lloyd Club]. In the countryside around Farnham, and there's much of it, sports such as canoeing, rambling, cycling, sailing, contribute to healthy lives and the sustainability of the rural economy. Environmentally, the government's Housing agenda and targets must be monitored carefully - it provides both opportunities and threats to places where sport is played, both informal and formal. We need to safeguard recreational open spaces and playing fields for future generations.

9. Children need to learn lessons that will stand them in good stead for the rest of their lives - a process in which sport can play a valuable role. It teaches people not just the health benefits, but the benefits of rules, self-discipline, team work, mutual respect and fair play. It enables youngsters, in particular, to channel their energy, competitiveness and aggression in a personally and socially beneficial way. Reflecting the COVID-19 pandemic period, sport has so much to offer and help young people. Schools, of course, have a vital role to play but the value of all of our precious community sports clubs in this respect cannot be understated.

10. Urban Connection and Regeneration, for example, providing and improving sports facilities and hosting sporting events can enhance the town's image and improve local self-esteem. Such benefits are often intangible, but their knock-on effects can be truly substantial. Examples are numerous in our town – they include key sports club events and local running and cycling events. For runners a range of significant events take place locally throughout the year and the annual Farnham Pilgrim marathon and half marathon events in September are highly respected. Similarly, for cycling in the community, the annual Charity Bike Ride and the Festival of Cycling are well organised events.

11. The Value of Volunteers - voluntary activity is a key element in creating and sustaining an active and inclusive society, and community sport is one of the main ways in which people choose to do something with family members [very important in today's society] and/or put something back into their communities. The previous strategy – and latest one from Sport England [Uniting the Movement] - continues to place a high emphasis on the value of volunteering, both to the volunteer and to the sports club or organisation they want to help.

In conclusion, **SPORT** and physical activity is important to everyone in the town. Thousands of people in Farnham benefit directly through regular active participation and, for thousands more, the benefits are less direct but no less important. Sport matters in Farnham.

## **Section B. The current scale of sport and physical activity in Farnham [an overview]**

**Most sports, it seems, have satisfactorily and ordinarily resumed after the coronavirus pandemic. This section – in no particular order - is designed to give a scale and a flavour of the sport and physical activity provision in the Farnham area:**

### ***Recreation Grounds in Farnham***

The town's jewel in the crown is Farnham Park which provides a range of sport and recreation amenities but most of the public recreation grounds are located on the periphery of Farnham – for example, in the villages at Wrecclesham, Rowledge, The Bourne, Hale, Heath End, Weybourne and Badshot Lea. Some of the facilities, especially pavilions, on public recreation grounds need modernisation and many of these facilities have been identified in the [2017 and 2020] Farnham Neighbourhood Plans and were submitted to the [2018] Waverley Playing Pitch Strategy.

### ***Cycling***

Especially since the London 2012 Olympic Cycling events were held in Surrey, Farnham and the surrounding areas offer new and serious cyclists – young and old of all abilities - casual or club opportunities. Cycles and equipment are at Halfords and a specialist shop at Hoops Velo. Farnham Road Cycling Club and VC Meudon are amongst the active cycling clubs in the area. Local events include the Farnham Charity Bike Ride and a Cycling Fair.

### ***Rugby***

Farnham Rugby Club has a relatively new ground and a strong emphasis on the local community, with state of the art facilities and plenty of teams to accommodate all ages and abilities – including a huge number of youngsters in the youth and minis sections. Past players include Jonny Wilkinson and Peter Richards who both played for the winning English World Cup team in 2003. The club require more playing space to accommodate the demand especially from youngsters players.

### ***Golf***

The Farnham countryside is ideal for golf, the nearest course to the town centre is the Farnham Park Golf Course located in Farnham Park. It's a par 3, nine-hole course, which is ideal for those now less active, or beginners or those with limited time. The Farnham Golf Club was founded in 1896 and is located on the outskirts of the town in The Sands. Other golf clubs in the area include Hankley Common Golf Club, with its British Open qualifying course. Also, close by, there's Blacknest Golf & Country Club and – though reported in the Farnham Herald [March 2021] to be in difficulty - Oak Park Golf Club, Crondall.

### ***Running and Walking***

The surrounding forest, heath and common landscape is perfect for casual running. There is an active local running club, Farnham Runners, who welcome all ages and fitness abilities and the club organise the regular Alice Holt Forest

parkruns. Amongst various local events, the Weyside Rotary organise the hugely successful Farnham Pilgrim Marathon and Half Marathon each September. The local landscape is ideal for Ramblers and Walkers, too. A number of private and commercial fitness and ‘commando’ type operators provide their services in and around Farnham

### ***Football***

Founded in 1906, the Farnham Town Football Club [they aspire to upgrade their ground facilities] has been the senior football club in the town until recently. Badshot Lea Football Club was initially formed in 1907 and now competes at a similar level and the club finally moved into a new and needed ground of their own - at the former rugby club site - from 2019/20 season. Both clubs have to meet the requirements of the FA’s ground grading regulations. The clubs also run youth sections and there are numerous other senior and youth football clubs in the area – and walking football at Weydon School

### ***Cricket***

Farnham Cricket Club is the oldest established club in Farnham and one of the oldest clubs in the country. Founded in 1782, the club maintains its main site adjacent to the castle in Farnham. One of the largest and most successful clubs is Rowledge Cricket Club on the southern outskirts of the town. There are numerous other important cricket clubs in and around the town, many of whom also operate youth cricket sections, including the Bourne who are due to fully replace their pavilion facility [benefiting the local clubs of football, cricket and running] thus improving the facilities for sport locally. Tilford Cricket Club has shown significant growth in participation in recent years.

### ***Angling***

Farnham has a wide diversity of fisheries to cater for the needs of the local anglers. Founded in 1906, Farnham Angling Society is one of the oldest and most successful angling societies in England and members enjoy fishing in over 32 ponds, lakes and stretches of river including Badshot Lea Ponds, Frensham Great and Little Pond and the River Wey. With well over 3000 members, it has the largest membership of all the clubs in Farnham.

### ***Sailing***

The Frensham Pond Sailing Club has produced many top sailors and the sport of sailing is available for all ages and abilities on the beautiful Frensham Great Pond. They also have an outstanding Sailability section for disabled sailors.

### ***Farnham Leisure Centre.***

The town’s public sport and leisure facility, run by Places Leisure on behalf of Waverley Borough Council, offers community access to almost every sport and the complex facilitates swimming pools, sports hall, squash courts, dance, fitness and exercise rooms, and more. The centre provides swimming lessons and coaching in other sports and hosts the well-established Farnham Swimming Club. The Farnham Disabled Swimming Club [Swimability] is also based at the Leisure Centre as is the Farnham Senior Sports Club [aimed at those aged over 50].

### ***Private Health Clubs***

In addition to the gym provided at Farnham leisure centre, the David Lloyd Club and the Nuffield Health Clubs offer modern and high quality facilities for sport, health and fitness activities. There's also an Anytime Gym in the town centre.

There is also an abundance of private operators providing opportunities for aerobics, dance, yoga, keep fit, weightwatchers and other related activities

### ***School based facilities***

Local Secondary Schools offer some of their facilities for club and community use, such as the all-weather pitch at Heath End and the Sports Hall at All Hallows. However, Weydon School has recently secured significant improvements in the range and quality of their sports facilities, including two outdoor, artificial pitches, which they make available to the local community, and they aspire for a new sporting and dance complex. The University of Creative Arts have very limited sport facilities and tend to hire facilities.

### ***The Bourne Club***

One of Farnham's most established and popular 'member' sports clubs provide excellent tennis facilities as well as squash, badminton and other recreational activities. Some of their facilities have recently been upgraded.

### ***Badminton***

Besides the leisure centre and the Bourne club, there are numerous badminton locations in the area, mostly small in size and often located in village and community halls around Farnham.

### ***Athletics***

The Aldershot and Farnham Athletics Club are based at the Army's Military Stadium, a short journey away from Farnham. Over the years, they have produced numerous national and international athletes. The facility is Army-owned and it is managed by their appointed contractors [so the club have little control] and located in the adjacent borough of Rushmoor but it is a vital athletics facility for residents of Farnham.

### ***Archery***

The Farnham Archers are located on the outskirts of Farnham. At the inaugural Farnham Community Games in 2012, the Farnham Archers were easily the most popular activity – they enjoyed the longest queue for the public 'to have a go'! They recognise that because of their isolated location they need to become a more visible activity.

### ***Tennis***

Tennis is one of the most popular sports in the Farnham area with some excellent facilities at the Bourne Club and the David Lloyd club as well some excellent community tennis clubs operating locally including Brightwell, and on the recreation grounds at Wrecclesham, Bourne and Badshot Lea.

### ***Netball.***

The Waverley Netball Club play at Farnham Leisure Centre and netball is a popular school activity, though not many clubs operate in the immediate area, though a club for walking netball has been established in Farnham. The Wavell School in Aldershot is the regional centre for netball.

### ***Judo and Martial Arts.***

A number of martial arts clubs [eg. Karate, Tae Kwon Do, Judo] operate in the area, particularly at the Farnham Leisure Centre. Some of the members of these clubs have achieved national and world titles.

### ***Basketball.***

The town's senior club play and practice at Farnham Leisure Centre, though most of the higher-level basketball activity in the area takes place at Guildford and other larger adjacent towns. Walking basketball is a new concept which is trying to get established in Farnham.

### ***Hockey.***

The Aldershot and Farnham Hockey Club, based at Heath End School on their artificial pitch, are one of the most successful clubs in the region, offering a large number of playing and training opportunities for men, women and youth. The club have been keen to secure their own dedicated hockey facilities, to meet their growing membership needs, with their own adjacent clubhouse

### ***Bowls.***

Another popular sport in the area, Bowls venues are located at Farnham [Bear Lane] and in the surrounding villages. The Farnham Bowling Club have a significant issue relating to car parking limitations and they have been in discussion with Waverley over re-location options in the area.

### ***Horse riding.***

There are a number of private stables offering horse and pony riding, including disabled provision for carriage driving and through the Riding for the Disabled Association.

### ***Gymnastics.***

Clubs for the community operate at the Farnham Leisure Centre and the growing Stellar Gymnastic Club now based at Heath End School. The 'focus' club in the region, however, is the Rushmoor Gymnastics Club which is located nearby in Aldershot.

### ***American Football.***

The Farnham Knights American Football Club is based at the Farnham Rugby Club, providing for both senior and juniors players. They are one of the more ambitious and successful American Football Clubs in England.

### ***Boxing***

The Atomic Boxing Club have made a positive contribution to the local community during their short existence in Farnham but they continue to seek a venue and funds for a permanent boxing location in the town.

### ***Roller Hockey***

The successful Farnham Roller Hockey Club have produced some England internationals over the years. They started their life at the Farnham Maltings but now operate from the Farnham Leisure Centre.

### ***Boccia***

The Farnham Boccia Club began its life in 2016 as a Farnham Sports Council initiative and it has grown and developed from its David Lloyd Club base. Boccia is especially popular for those with disabilities and it is a Paralympic Games sport.

### ***Skating and skateboarding***

Adjacent to Farnham Leisure Centre, there are some excellent ramps and other facilities for the various types of skating, skateboarding and cycling

### ***Triathlon***

Triathlon comprises swimming, cycling and running. The Farnham Triathlon Club are based at the Farnham Leisure Centre and they have produced many successful triathletes over the years

***Other sports in and around Farnham*** – There is a wide range of other sports available locally or reasonably close by, mainly within a short driving or travelling time, especially in the Aldershot or Guildford areas. Among them, pistol and rifle shooting, petanque, rowing, canoeing/kayaking, orienteering, carriage driving, ice skating and ice hockey, fencing, croquet, sub-aqua, trampoline, table tennis, volleyball, climbing, water polo and skiing/snow boarding on artificial slopes

## **Section C. The issues that affect the promotion and development of sport and physical activity for everyone in Farnham**

The issues have been identified through the local knowledge of the Sports Council and from guidance from local sports clubs and key partner organisations:

**1. The following sports clubs do or might well have 'significant needs' to meet the demand for more playing/water space and/or new provision or major improvements to their ageing facilities during the timeframe of the Farnham Local Neighbourhood Plan and, crucially, they have informed Waverley Borough Council's most recent Leisure Facility Strategy [2017] and Playing Pitch Strategy [2018].**

- Frensham Pond Sailing Club/Sailability
- Farnham Swimming Club
- Rowledge Cricket Club
- Farnham Cricket Club
- Farnham Rugby Club
- Farnham Town Football Club
- Farnham United [youth] Football Club
- Badshot Lea Football Club
- Badshot Lea Youth Football Club
- Badshot Lea Cricket Club
- Aldershot & Farnham Hockey Club

**2. There are some pavilions on public recreation grounds in and around the town which will require replacement or modernisation during the life of the Plan. These include the recreation grounds at Wrecclesham, Rowledge, The Bourne [the highest priority], Weybourne, Hale, Heath End, Badshot Lea, Farnham Park and some of the outlying villages.**

**3. Disability sport in Farnham is reasonably well catered for but mainly with activities such as boccia, swimming and sailing. However, more emphasis will need to be placed on sporting opportunities and provision to meet the needs and wants of disabled sports enthusiasts of all ages and abilities. The umbrella group, formerly the Farnham and District Sports Association for the Disabled, are called 'Farnham Swimability' because of their swimming activity emphasis. The Annual Club Conversations event in 2018 revolved around disability sport awareness. National surveys on disability sport inform us that 'inclusivity' and the welcoming aspect of joining clubs is a key element to participation.**

**4. The town has some excellent and modern private health club facilities and, in a changing world, the health and fitness agenda will become more critical during the years to come. There are some good running and walking routes in close proximity or within a short journey time for most residents. Cycling in the area, however, needs better and safer routes/places to encourage more cycling participation by individuals and families.**

**5. The Farnham Leisure Centre plays an important part in the provision of community sport and fitness, especially in respect of community access and affordability and because there are 'pay and play' opportunities. However, the opportunities are limited because demand exceeds supply during peak times, especially for the swimming pools and the sports hall. Some large clubs, therefore, such as the Farnham Swimming Club, need more swimming space to accommodate club training and events. An extensive refurbishment of the centre was due to take place in 2019/2020 but it stalled – and remains stalled - following the pandemic.**

**6. A number of clubs are looking for permanent homes, such as the Atomic Boxing Club and The Farnham School of Tae Kwon Do and this situation will fluctuate on an on-going basis. More options to accommodate current or emerging sports clubs and activities need to be identified, including better access to community halls and school's facilities. Some schools in Farnham have excellent sports facilities both for the general public to hire and for linking sports development opportunities with local sports clubs. The Farnham Floorball club folded during the pandemic but this, we understand, was more to do with its profile and a lack of awareness of the sport. The progressive Stellar Gymnastics recently secured a more permanent venue for its activities at Heath End School.**

**7. There are a number of very good 'membership' sports clubs in the Farnham area covering sports such as tennis, golf and bowls and these clubs have varying levels of cost but are generally open to everyone to join.**

**The Farnham Bowling Club's membership levels have dwindled, largely due to lack of car parking in the vicinity of the club. There is, however, demand for more 'easy access' or 'pay and play' sports opportunities in Farnham. The Bourne club is one of the longest-established clubs in the area and seeks to continually modernise to maintain its membership base especially with the range of alternative health and tennis clubs now available. The David Lloyd Club and the Nuffield Health Club amenities both provide excellent facilities and services.**

**8. The quality of sports and recreation facilities - both indoor and outdoor - and the level of support services [administration, coaching and volunteers] will be crucial in order to compete for people's leisure-time and organisations such as the local authorities and sports governing bodies will have a continuing key role to play in supporting the valuable community sports clubs in the town. Securing sufficient volunteers to help out is a key issue for many clubs.**

**9. The marketing of sports opportunities in the town will be crucial to encouraging and making all the community aware of sports and recreation opportunities and this will largely fall to individual sports and health clubs to raise their own profiles. However, the local authorities, the governing bodies of sport and the Farnham Sports Council all have a promotional and coordinating role to play to ensure that all sections of the Farnham community are included, welcomed and encouraged to participate in sport and active lifestyles. One of the challenges for sport in Farnham is keeping up to date contact details for sports clubs. Some information was to be found on websites relating to Waverley BC, Farnham TC, Active Surrey and the Sports Council but all organisations find it hard to track the correct, up to date contact information – some form of 'sharing' of information between**

**bodies might be useful in future. The sports council website has been upgraded and modernised and this represents an opportunity to coordinate club contact information.**

**10. Regular survey and research work has been undertaken by Farnham Sports Council, for example local sports clubs were invited to identify the key issues and priorities in Farnham in 2015 as part of a major survey and at the AGM's at the end of 2015, 2016, 2017 'Club Conversation' events – held in conjunction with Active Surrey and Waverley Borough Council, and held at Farnham Rugby Club - reacted to the key needs of clubs by organising seminars on relevant topics.**

**Farnham Sports Council piloted 'Club Conversations' for Active Surrey in 2015 and they are the only local sports councils in the county to still be organising such events for their local clubs. It is important that the Farnham Sports Council keeps in tune with the key issues facing local sports clubs in a fast-changing world and, to this end, club surveys are carried out every few years to maintain contact and ascertain intelligent data. The most recent Farnham sports club survey was carried out in August 2020, a Survey Monkey to assess the challenges clubs were facing during the coronavirus pandemic [see Appendix A]**

**11. Because of the coronavirus pandemic, 2020/21 has been the most challenging year for Farnham Sports Council since it was established in 1981. Similarly, it goes without saying that it has been an incredibly difficult time for all our sports clubs, the community leisure centre and local health clubs. Many clubs – and the leisure centre and health clubs - have had long periods of closure in what has been an unprecedented period. We would like to congratulate so many of our local community facilities – and their excellent volunteers - for being so committed and resilient. The sustainability of all of our precious sports and healthy living amenities was always going to be paramount during such a seismic event. Farnham Sports Council undertook a 'club survey' in August 2020 to gauge the situation [see Appendix A]**

## **Section D. What the Farnham Sports Council with the support of their partners will do [action plan]**

**The feedback from clubs and sports council meetings – and our work with key partners - has helped to identify the main priorities in 2021/22 for Farnham Sports Council. The following activities have been identified as the key priority work areas for the coming year;**

### **Introduction**

**Farnham is blessed with a wide variety of sports choices, and virtually every main sport is well catered for and available to the local community, thanks to the quality of the sports clubs in Farnham and to the volunteers who run them. As a local sports council, we review the variety of active and sporting opportunities on offer to our community and, in recent years, we've helped a number of local clubs with issues or problem-solving. It goes without saying that the town's sports volunteers are the lifeblood of community sport and their goodwill helps to enrich the quality of life for all of the town's residents. Encouraging and promoting healthy and active lifestyles in our local community – especially following a pandemic - will continue to become more and more a feature of the community agenda for us and our key partners.....**

#### **1. Engage with, and involve, more clubs**

The Farnham Sports Council has been operating for over 40 years, though not much has been done to radically update the constitution until recently. At the November, 2017 AGM, a new constitution was agreed. All our key partners – Waverley BC/ Farnham TC/ Active Surrey – were consulted and they received the revised version having been party to its development. Stemming from this work, **the action for 2021/22 is to continue to engage with more local sports clubs in the Farnham area and make them part of the sports council's work and communications.**

At the same time, the sports council are conscious of supporting a range of external strategies emanating from the Government, Sport England [a new 10 year strategy was launched in 2021], Active Surrey, Waverley Borough Council and others. Locally, these include the Farnham Neighbourhood Plan [2020] and a Facilities strategy [2017] and Playing Pitch Strategy [2018] from Waverley Borough Council.

Farnham Sports Council attends many 'partnerships' events and it organises a minimum of three meetings each year, plus an Annual General Meeting, as well as numerous informal Executive meetings.

#### **2. Promote wider participation in the annual Farnham Sports Awards**

The annual Farnham Sports Awards are a regular and well-established feature of the town's activities and in the pandemic year [2020] Farnham was the only local sports council in Surrey to

operate an awards scheme. Hosted on 'Zoom', it was a worthwhile event, as featured in a full page by the Farnham Herald and as photos later in the report will show.

Historically, the event has been promoted and administered in conjunction with Active Surrey, but Active Surrey have recently reviewed their working priorities and withdrawn from the partnership arrangement with all local sports councils in Surrey. **The action plan for the sports council is to actively encourage wider and greater participation in the local award's scheme** whilst also lobbying for a high-profile county event - particularly to recognise and value our committed volunteers and sports clubs on a bigger stage. One positive for the sports awards in the last two years has been the support the sports council received from the Farnham Herald and this promotional benefit is expected to continue in 2021.

### **3. Actively support a limited number of worthwhile community events**

Community events which promote sport and active lifestyles are relevant to the aims of the sports council, and 2021/22 will continue to see a review and re-assessment by the sports council of what types of events - directly run or in partnership with others - will work well for Farnham to promote sport and active lifestyles. The Leisure Centre Open Day, and Sport Relief 2020, in partnership with Places for People [who run the leisure centre on behalf of Waverley] is an ideal opportunity to grow and broaden participation in active lifestyles. The sports council will also actively support [as it did in 2017, 2018, 2019 and 2020] the Woodland Woggle and also the Farnham Pilgrim Marathon, which attracts hundreds of runners, and has achieved national recognition for its organisation and the scenic route through the Surrey Hills. **The sports council also needs to be aware of, and support, the wider range of community sports and active lifestyle events that happen in Farnham.**

The sports council's policy, since the withdrawal of the Farnham Community Games - which Farnham Sports Council ran for five years following the London 2012 Game - is primarily to act as an enabler, advisor or partner in local events that promote active and healthy lifestyles.

### **4. Opportunities for talented young sports people**

The sports council will continue to support talented young sports people. There is a contractual requirement for the David Lloyd club to offer 15 memberships of their club to talented athletes and sports stars in Farnham, to support and help with their training needs in a high quality and prestigious location. The membership scheme is owned by Waverley Borough Council and the sports council aim to work in partnership with the council, offering support and advice on who should benefit locally. Active Surrey and Waverley Borough Council operate schemes for talented young sports people to use local sports and leisure facilities. **Through the David Lloyd scheme and other means available, Farnham Sports Council is committed to raising the profile of, and actively supporting, our star athletes** and, despite limited financial resources, the sports council are sometimes able to give small training or much needed equipment grants to worthy young individuals. Furthermore, given our connections to Surrey Playing Fields, and others, we are able to signpost clubs and individuals to grants and bursaries.

Farnham Sports Council also needs to more widely promote the Free Access for County Sportspeople [FANS] scheme in conjunction with Waverley Borough Council and Active Surrey. This initiative allows talented young sports people at county level to have free access to training facilities at Farnham Leisure Centre and other leisure centres in the borough of Waverley.

## **5. Post- COVID 19 monitoring**

As stated, 2020/21 has been the most challenging of years for Farnham Sports Council and the community clubs and leisure facilities.

Most have come through it – perhaps not entirely unscathed – but some clubs have not been able to re-start, mainly because their membership is made up of more vulnerable people. Clubs include the Farnham Swimability and the Farnham Boccia Club.

**The main action for 2021/22 is to monitor clubs ‘at risk’ and give them every ‘TLC’, support and encouragement in the months and even years ahead.**

There is still much work to do in relation to making sport more inclusive for the wider community. We shall strive to make more sport, more accessible, to more people. Despite the testing year, some clubs have responded by positively looking at ways and means to make their club more inclusive. Disability sport is especially sensitive because in 2020 the participants often came under the umbrella of ‘vulnerable groups’ and we must in the coming year give special support to clubs and groups who organise sporting opportunities for those people with disabilities or disadvantage or special needs, they’re important.

## **6. Improve partnership working and opportunities**

The Farnham Sports Council actively promotes partnership working, and crucial to its effectiveness are Waverley Borough Council, the Farnham Town Council, Active Surrey and the Surrey Playing Fields. Partnership working to create better networks, awareness and opportunities for the benefit of sport in Farnham will be maintained and, where possible, improved. Our key aspiration for 2021/22 will be to examine further partners to promote our aims, and this has been reflected in the membership aspect of the review of the new constitution. So, **the key action for the coming year will be to engage the charitable organisations that run ‘sport and physical activity’ events and ALL local sports clubs into the ‘Farnham Sports Council family’ thus increasing the range of key partners we work with.** We are planning to arrange meetings with the Farnham Health Centre to look at ways to work in partnership to promote more active and healthier lifestyle initiatives and ‘referrals’, particularly focusing on mental health following the pandemic.

The sports council will continue to support and monitor the important work of the Farnham Neighbourhood Plan and the Farnham Infrastructure Plan, and also any opportunities for sport through the Community Infrastructure Levy [CIL].

## **7. Arrange Sport England ‘Club Matters’ workshop**

Many clubs in the Farnham area have acknowledged the support of the sports council and appreciated the benefits of being part of the Team Farnham promotion, including the provision of the club promotional banners. The aim of the scheme is about:

- a) increasing opportunities and participation in sport for EVERYONE and
- b) promoting the awareness issue highlighted by many local sports clubs

The Sports Council will further develop the Team Farnham scheme as we support and engage with more clubs.

**The sports council will arrange a Sport England/Active Surrey workshop based on their Club Matters scheme.** The topics include – club structures, marketing strategy, business planning, participant experience, volunteer experience and club leadership teams – but it may reflect any needs of our clubs, post-pandemic.

## **8. Improve the visibility of the Farnham Sports Council**

In partnership with the University for the Creative Arts, the sports council produced a film three years ago promoting sport in Farnham. It's now on the front page of the sports council's website but the film needs to be updated.

The theme of the film deliberately links in with the Team Farnham message of 'sport for everyone'. However, **the critical promotional tasks in 2020/21 are to ensure that the Farnham Sports Council website content/design is updated regularly and that we maintain a strong relationship with the Farnham Herald – and our key partners - to maintain our profile and visibility.**

A sporting video 'Farnham's Sporting Greats' was completed in January, 2019 and placed on the website, and on YouTube, to let the community know more about our local sporting heroes. In January, 2020, the Farnham Herald produced a major two-part feature on sport and active lifestyles in Farnham as well as unprecedented coverage of Farnham's sports awards, all in conjunction with the sports council. During the 'lockdown' periods, the Herald newspaper – largely because of the withdrawal of live sport - gave the sports council and local sports clubs unprecedented publicity opportunities. These articles maintained the profile of sport on the back pages of the paper for long periods and gave many sports clubs in the community the chance to profile their work and activities.

## **9. To actively encourage a greater variety of sports/clubs in Farnham**

Whilst Farnham offers a wide range of sporting opportunities to its community, there are some additional sports that would give 'added value'. For example, there is no recognised clubs for volleyball, trampoline, stoolball, lacrosse, baseball in Farnham – though some of these sports have expressed an interest [but finding the host facilities isn't always easy]. In 2021/22 we will continue to engage and help/advise new and different sports to promote their sport or activity in the area. The Farnham Sports Council has a good track record of setting up new clubs in the area, or helping existing ones.

Surrey County Council currently have on offer to their communities a significant grant fund called 'Your Fund' and many Farnham clubs and organisations [sporting and non-sporting] are applying to this unique funding opportunity. All of these are bona fide enhancement projects.

**Of special interest to Farnham Sports Council – and a key action for 2021/22 – is to support the proposed sports schemes at Weydon School, which meets a number of identified and key sporting needs in Farnham [including sports not currently provided for and, crucially, disability sport] and the Bourne Pavilion project [given the age and condition of the current facility and the number of local community clubs for cricket, football and running that will benefit].**

## **10. Maintain and improve the level of external grants to support our work**

The sports council cannot operate without some funding assistance yet the funding support picture is changing. Waverley Borough Council have historically been our primary funders but they have had to review their funding priorities and there may not be any monetary support, at least for the foreseeable future. We can apply to Farnham Town Council for occasional funding support for specific projects. So, as the Farnham Sports Council undertakes to support a considerable range of community activities, the monetary issues become more critical. We presently have a low income and expenditure commitment – because we do everything voluntarily - and a low balance. **The sports council's action in this respect is to continue to secure grants from the relevant local authorities and to apply for external grants for special projects that the sports council wishes to pursue and which will meet the criteria of selected grant funding sources.**

## 11. Coordinate a Sports Directory for Farnham

Because Active Surrey and our local authorities are now insufficiently resourced to maintain and update local 'sport directories' [listings of sports clubs and other active lifestyle facilities and events in the town], **Farnham Sports Council will undertake the research of local sports clubs and amenities and publish – on our website and through printed copies – a Farnham Sports Directory.** This will need to be updated annually, at least. A grant from Farnham Town Council of £250 is the catalyst to produce some printed copies.

However, post-pandemic, and to support our local community clubs and sporting facilities, we aim for this directory information to reach out to all households in Farnham if we can secure a grant for the distribution of leaflets to all household in the GU9 and GU10 postcode areas. It is proposed that a grant application be made to the Farnham Institute [and/or others] to cover the full amount of the printing and distribution costs.

## 12. Re-invigorate the annual Club Conversations workshops

Farnham Sports Council led the way amongst all local sports councils in Surrey and Sussex [after a joint county's bid by Active Surrey and Active Sussex for all local sports councils in those counties to initiate a networking event] by hosting the very first Club Conversations event in 2015. Farnham also, uniquely, have kept their event going each year – until the pandemic happened.

**The proposal for 2021/22 is to hold two Club Conversation events, these have already been planned and organised with speakers:**

- a workshop on Sport and Dementia, led by Sue Keogh, a 'Dementia Friend' trainer
- at the November AGM, and prior to awarding the David Lloyd club memberships at the AGM, a session on the 'Talent Myth' led by Paul Adlam, who coaches leadership courses.

## 13. Sports Volunteering and Funding for Clubs in Farnham

Two of the key issues for sport clubs in Farnham, especially resulting from a pandemic, are funding support for clubs - many of whom have taken advantage of a number of Sport England and/or local authority lifeline schemes specifically available for support sports clubs – and volunteering.

The regular availability of volunteers for sports clubs is the primary issue of concern raised by clubs in Farnham. **However, through the sports council's Secretary who manages the voluntary marshalling 'Helpline' for the COVID-19 vaccine roll-out at the hospital, an opportunity is presented for new volunteers to be secured – particularly for clubs 'at risk' – to help ensure the sustainability of all our community sports clubs in the future.**

## 14. Acknowledge the achievement of Russ Mantle

In the summer of 2019, Aldershot resident Russ Mantle became the first person in Britain to officially cycle one million miles, an incredible effort. He received much national publicity for his achievement, the story was covered by most of the national media. 84-year-old Russ has been a member of the local cycling club, the Farnham Road Club, since 1952. **Farnham Sports Council judges that this milestone needs to be recognised and we will continue to support our application for Russ to have a plaque on Farnham's Wall of Fame, where the great names of the town are celebrated.** At a time when healthy activities and environmentally-friendly means of travel are positively encouraged, Russ' dedication and efforts should be promoted and serve as an inspiration to our community. Russ Mantle was the special guest at the November 2019 Farnham Sports Awards. His story is quite exceptional and needs to be recorded in the town where his road cycling club is based.





## **Appendix A**

### **FARNHAM SPORTS CLUB SURVEY – August 2020**

***23 out of 46 clubs responded to the survey***

**How does your club currently feel about its financial situation?**

- Not anxious at all: 34%
- Slightly anxious: 48%
- Very anxious: 18%

**How does your club currently feel about the level of players / memberships at the club?**

- Not anxious at all: 30%
- Slightly anxious: 65%
- Very anxious: 5%

**How does your club feel about the current level of volunteers available to help run the club?**

- Not anxious at all: 45%
- Slightly anxious: 50%
- Very anxious: 5%

**Thinking ahead, how does your club feel about the prospects for the future?**

- Not anxious at all: 26%
- Slightly anxious: 52%
- Very anxious: 22%

**Does your club have a dedicated written development plan?**

- Yes: 52%
- In draft form: 13%
- No: 35%

**Does your club have a recognised quality accreditation through your sport's governing body or similar accreditation standard?**

- Yes: 70%
- In draft form: 0
- No: 30%

## FARNHAM SPORTS CLUB SURVEY – August 2020 - additional feedback

**How does your club currently feel about its financial situation?**

- Not anxious at all: 8 (34.78%)
- Slightly anxious: 11 (47.83%)
- Very anxious: 4 (17.39%)

### Comments

- We have produced a detailed cash flow and done all we can to mitigate the financial implications for the Club. However, if a full start to Rugby is delayed or the 2020/21 season cancelled we shall have serious problems like many others as we will not be able to offer members competitive Rugby.
- Hoping to get funding for club improvement projects to better the facilities for members. Also additional funding may now be needed to resurface courts where they are now in almost constant use.
- We have had little or no income since mid-March and still don't know if we can return to training. If and when we do, we don't know if our students will return or if we can cover our costs.
- The Lockdown caused us to shut down completely for 2 months which meant that our income was zero and bills had to be paid (eg rent). Thankfully golf has been a popular sport that was allowed to resume earlier than most and we have been able to operate reasonably successfully. However we are concerned that another Lockdown will take us back to square one.
- As we are not an asset owning club we are not impacted by running costs
- As a Charity, we currently have reasonable reserves but the current and future financial climate may reduce the opportunities to raise funds for ongoing operations.
- Unable to coach since mid March and very restrictive guidelines for reopening.
- Things are ok at the moment but membership renewal in the autumn may dip which would affect the finances. Also being unable to run the full set of training courses is having an impact
- Our main concern is the drop in membership, with around 50% so far not renewing their membership.
- Prior to Covid-19 we were in a stable financial position but now it is becoming increasingly difficult as our revenue continues to fall. Monthly membership fee income has fallen by 30% but the overall income has fallen by some 50% as there is no revenue from equipment sales,

member licences (we froze the charge on these so as to assist our members), belt grading exams, seminars, workshops, additional squad training sessions, tournaments.

- It's not this year for us but next, as we have reserves that we are eating into, but if there is a wet season next year we will have some major issues to cover our reserves or maybe never.
- We have built up reserves over previous years, which mean we can survive this year. However, there is a reduced level of funds available to invest in improvements to the Club
- We have enough money in our "sink" fund to resurface all courts and to still be able to invest in the club
- In the short term up till end of the year we have no problems, our out goings have been considerable reduced. We have about 30% reduction in membership which if is next year we will have to considerable increase our subscriptions.

#### **How does your club currently feel about the level of players / memberships at the club?**

- Not anxious at all: 7 (30.43%)
- Slightly anxious: 15 (65.22)
- Very anxious: 1 (4.35%)

#### **Comments:**

- We have just commenced membership subscriptions for the current season. We shall be closely monitoring any "fall-outs".
- We have been very fortunate thus year with the number of new members. However, the testing time will be whether they renew their membership in April 2021.
- Many have engaged during lockdown, some have a little, many haven't at all.
- Similar to comments in 3 above.
- Unsure how many will return after Covid-19 and any impact the members have financially had that stops them participating.
- At present, we do not know how many of our existing members will renew their membership. This applies to both sailors and volunteers. We are currently re-introducing limited activities but a lot will depend upon whether we can resume normal activities next year.
- Our membership is good, but we will lose students during lockdown.
- No immediate issues but membership renewal in the autumn may present a problem
- As above, only 50%, roughly have renewed their membership but we are getting renewals most days, actively encouraging members to renew and also looking at ways to encourage new members to join the club.
- Prior to the pandemic and lockdown we were thriving, with a full membership and burgeoning waiting list. Many of our members have stood by us during lockdown and have supported our efforts to provide online Tae Kwon Do sessions via Zoom. Nonetheless, we have lost 30% of our members and we would expect this loss to increase as the recession hits and people are facing greater personal financial pressure. We are still receiving enquiries from potential new members but are not in a position to enrol new members until we can resume full training with no restrictions.
- The demographic of bowls clubs is such that we do have a relatively high turnover of members under normal circumstances. We have yet to see what effect the virtual loss of a complete season will have on the existing membership and our ability to recruit next year. Only time will tell.
- We have had well over 60 of our members not resign for this short season and I hope this does not have a knock on effect in 2021. We may struggle for senior players.

- We are always looking to increase the number of senior and junior members, but there is no cause for concern at present
- The Covid 19 crisis has resulted in increased membership and interest.
- We have lots of new members this year
- With no schools athletics this summer, we are unlikely to have a significant number of recruits this year.

#### **How does your club feel about the current level of volunteers available to help run the club?**

- Not anxious at all: 10 (45.45%)
- Slightly anxious: 11 (50%)
- Very anxious: 1 (4.55%)

#### **Comments:**

- Comes down to the same people. Some new members have offered support.
- I have had some members help me with risk assessments and adhering to guidelines for our return.
- Generally we do not use many volunteers, though the individual groups of players (eg Seniors, Ladies, etc) need voluntary support to operate but this has not been an issue.
- We always need more but we are driving through with coaching opportunities and paying for coaching courses to upskill our volunteers
- See above. Additionally, many of our volunteers are over 70 so it does depend on how vulnerable they feel.
- Generally we have a great response from our members when we ask for volunteers; the slight anxiety at the moment is the fall in the number of qualified leaders, although again we are actively encouraging members to take the EA course, the cost of which will be met by the club.
- There are a number of members who volunteer but they are under pressure in their family/work lives too so it is difficult to expect too much of them. They are well-intentioned but it is not always practical to rely on them in the current situation.
- Very difficult to get anyone to "step up" and join the committee. Plenty of willing helpers but few prepared to take the lead. Existing committee members having to take on extra work to fill the void.
- We always need more volunteers but we have sufficient to operate at present
- We have a great team that is mainly made up of mums. We lack men willing to come onto the committee and any potential candidates for any of the major 4/5 roles.
- We have considerable reduction in contact with parents to recruit from

#### **Thinking ahead, how does your club feel about the prospects for the future?**

- Not anxious at all: 6 (26.09%)
- Slightly anxious: 12 (52.17%)
- Very anxious: 5 (21.74%)

#### **Comments:**

- As stated above previously much depends on the return to competitive community rugby. Premiership Rugby is currently completing 2019/20 fixtures without too many problems. The RFU has now cleared Community Clubs to move to level D on the return to Rugby.

- With new facilities and extended club hours because if floodlights, the club should go from strength to strength. This all reliant on planning being approved.
- Martial Arts will change and we will have to adapt and be flexible; we will certainly have to work harder for less.
- We just don't know if we have a viable business moving forward. Halls are expensive and people will cut costs.
- Worried about how we can maintain the activity through the winter months
- We are confident that over the coming months we will attract members to renew by putting on a closed club championship, albeit in a different form, following government guidelines and by offering a beginners course in September, again in a different way and with reduced numbers to attract new members. Our clubhouse needs developing, planning permission has been granted but the benefactor has pulled out, so fundraising needs to be done by the three clubs sharing the clubhouse in order for the development to take place.
- As we own the land where our green is situated, we are trying to have discussions with the local council and developers to arrange a move to a new location where we could have parking which we believe would attract more members, as our current location has restricted parking and we have been refused permits even just for our greenkeeper. Whilst the developer is on board getting the council to commit or even respond is another matter.
- We have still not been able to return to training - we expect to do so in September. When we do though, it will not be possible to resume training in many of the elements of Tae Kwon Do and, the longer those restrictions are in place, the less likely it is that our club will be viable. We have been established for 10 years and were very positive about the future until the pandemic.
- wet summer then we have issues as no bar, or cricket to be played means no income
- We do an annual plan that is constantly updated, along with an overall 3 year plan. Both of which are on course to meet and or exceed.
- We are slowly getting our athletes back training, but specialist events have had to have reduced number training.
- If we enter another lockdown I think the situation will change as the children will go inside themselves.

#### **Does your club have a dedicated written development plan?**

- Yes: 12 (52.17%)
- In draft form: 3 (13.04%)
- No: 8 (34.78%)

#### **Comments:**

- Welcome have always noted our aspirations for the coming year at our AGM. At least renewal the future development was discussed and noted with WBC, our landlord.
- It has a number of documents and ideas, but not written specifically as a formal plan.
- As part of our Clubmark
- Lots of work has been done to develop a safe sailing environment using guidance from the RYA
- Not that I'm aware of, but with a new committee recently elected at our AGM this month, this is something to consider for the future.
- Pre-pandemic, yes, and it was about to be implemented in April of this year. Frankly, it is now redundant as all that matters is to limit the damage of the pandemic and make sure that we survive. We have a plan in place in terms of how we operate in the short- to medium-term once we can re-open (expected to open 7th September). Once we are back on

a stable footing then we will review our development plan; it will be modified as a result of some of the lessons we have learned during the pandemic. It is already clear that there will be some significant changes to the original plan.

- It is a Five Year Strategic Plan which is reviewed and updated each year
- I wrote one several years ago. However, with our heavy dependence on the Military Stadium we have little control of our future and we are effectively reactive. A good instance is that the Stadium will be closed for 2 months at the start of next year's Track and Field season. There are no other facilities for athletics in the area.

**Does your club have a recognised quality accreditation through your sport's governing body or similar accreditation standard?**

- Yes: 16 (69.57%)
- In draft form: 0
- No: 7 (30.43%)

**Comments:**

- Our NGB does not do karate related ones, but we have martial arts safeguarding award.
- Our members feel they are not prepared to pay a proportion of their membership to the Sport's Governing body as the Club is not really big enough to warrant such an expense. That is not to say that the Club does not operate according to the CONGU rules of the governing body.
- Clubmark England Hockey
- RYA Sailability
- Safeguarding in Martial Arts
- Accreditation with the RYA
- Farnham Runners is affiliated to England Athletics.
- We believe the main governing body (BTC) to not be fit for purpose which is why we went independent in 2010. We are verified by another governing body (ITC), are pursuing accreditation to the Safeguarding Code in Martial Arts (recognised by Sport England) and we put our coaches through development course and workshops (such as safeguarding and 'Duty to Care') through UK Coaching. Although not a quality accreditation, we have been awarded Farnham Sports Club of the Year twice (2013 and 2019).
- We are Clubmark accredited
- We did have club mark status, this has lapsed, now as it seem like a box ticking exercise which took a lot of effort with no benefit.

**Please let us know what is the most pressing need(s) for your club at this moment in time either for welfare and sustainability or growth and development.**

- The return to competitive rugby which will stabilise and ensure membership continuance. The playing of competitive rugby also ensure we shall have an income stream vis bar proceeds, Sportsmen's Lunch and hopefully our Fireworks Night which currently attracts 3000 people per annum.
- Financial support to realise the club facilities improvement, floodlights and replacement clubhouse.
- Number of players / membership levels to maintain four teams on a Saturday.
- Pool time is essential. We are down 50% of our normal pool time at Farnham Leisure Centre, meaning that we cannot serve our membership. In result, we risk losing a lot of members who will move to other swimming clubs in the area. This will also have an impact at the

leisure Centre as our members subscribe to a series of memberships like gym, squash etc. plus they use the centre's other services (for example, cafe, shop, etc.)

- We have just turned from not for profit to a company and as a result, been unable to claim any support or help. Our revenue has dropped to almost zero and we support a lot of people in the local communities mentally and physically. We would like support if available.
- To maintain the support of Waverley Council in operating Farnham Park Golf Club and Cafe as a worthwhile Sports Club and Social facility for
- Funding for a new pavilion on the Bourne Green. Availability of new adult players. Ability to restart junior program for the long term future of the club.
- For growth we are looking at the needs for a clubhouse and 2 pitches that are our own. We currently rent and hire all our facilities and we want to find a home
- No immediate pressing need but difficult to keep both sailors and volunteers engaged. We are restarting our activities but these will be limited until the end of the season (end October)
- Marketing and social media for both growth and sustainability.
- No immediate concerns but we are worried about how things will progress over the winter months
- More members funding to go ahead with the development of our clubhouse.
- Talks with the Council to take place with a view to a possible move, to move forward rather than staying stagnant as they appear to be at present.
- Immediately, it would be to find help with an additional or larger temporary venue at a subsidised rental/hire fee that would enable us to run sessions for more members with adequate social-distancing. Aside from surviving the impact of the pandemic, in terms of our growth and development, and indeed, the welfare of our members, it is the same main issue that prevailed for the past ten years; the lack of a full-time venue (whether that be exclusive to us or shared with another sports club). We have explored many options over the years but have been thwarted at every attempt.
- Probably sustainability
- Income of funds to replace our reserves for large projects that were postponed in 2020 due to COVID.
- Funding to update our 1930s pavilion to make it more accessible, and to make it flexible enough to host other community groups, thereby improving the Club's long term financial sustainability.
- If we experience the flooding again that we had earlier this year on a regular basis.
- No real concerns at present
- Getting back to competition and the loss of facilities next spring.
- Making sure we are COVID compliant so that our hirers will let us use the spaces to run classes
- Unfortunately, it is the situation we all find ourselves, in I think it is going to take some time to reassure. Due to the nature of our sport we are still very restricted to what we can achieve. But we are doing our outside sessions. Clearance to use fields or open areas would be great. Or if there are any open areas with overhead protect from the rain would also be great.

Ends Report

**THANKS FOR SUPPORTING FARNHAM SPORTS COUNCIL**

