

Torquay Neighbourhood Planning

Sports Facility Comments

- The Torquay Neighbourhood Plan recognises the importance of sporting activities for the health and wellbeing of all members of our community. It is important to encourage the young to be involved in sport for life long health reasons and it is equally important for elder population to remain active and for the social opportunities that sport provides.
- Many Torquay policies concentrate on attracting tourism to the region but often ignore our existing population of 65000. The last surveys of sporting facilities (2009) within the bay indicated that there were significant shortfalls in sporting facilities especially at the junior level. This again reflects Torquay's age profile. Furthermore, existing facilities often do not address changing requirements for sporting facilities.
- Torquay is fortunate that we can offer land based as well as sea based activities and we believe that much more could be made of the bay for sailing activities and could become a centre for excellence.
- Existing sports facilities need to be protected and should a requirement for moving an existing facility be necessary then the presumption should be that this should be relocated and operable before the existing facility is closed
- There should be a programme of improvements to existing sports facilities. This should include improvements not only to the playing surfaces but also changing and parking facilities
- Torquay would welcome a facility of national or international significance which in its own right would attract tourism
- Sporting facilities could be located within green belt areas if appropriate
- A full review of sporting activities needs to be undertaken by each Community Partnership area in order that an accurate audit of the existing usage and type of sporting facility to build up a picture of the missing requirement.
- We welcome the council policy of 40 year leases to existing sports clubs as this enables clubs to access much needed sports grants.
- This plan welcomes facilities located at schools we do however, have concerns about how accessible these are to members of the public.
- With regard to the Shipway and Willows Partnership area there has been a provision for playing fields on the old Barton Tip area for 4 pitches and associated changing rooms. The local authority received the finance for these more than 20 years ago. With the growth of population in this area it is now important that this is given the highest priority.