

### Indoor sport and recreation

- 14.1 A broad review of sport and recreation facilities within Harborough has been undertaken to help guide future planning. In addition to the outdoor sports facilities discussed within section 10, PPG17 also recommends the assessment of existing indoor sport and recreation provision.

#### *Local context*

- 14.2 The Harborough District Council Best Value Performance Plan 2003 – 2004 highlights the increasing importance the Council is placing upon improving sport and activity. This is particularly relevant to sports facilities, and emerges following the recent publication of Game Plan, a national document by Sport England which sets the target of increasing participation by 70% through 5 sessions of activity of 30 minutes per person each week by the year 2020.
- 14.3 A survey undertaken for the Best Value Performance Plan in 2003 - 2004 highlights that 63% had used a sports facility during the five weeks prior to the survey. The plan advocates the setting of targets for increasing participation, which will be measured by a five-year survey.
- 14.4 The commitment of the Council to the development of indoor sport and recreation is further highlighted through the priorities for 2003 / 2004 which include the opening of the Lutterworth Sports Centre. The Council also states that planning permission would be granted to extend the range of indoor recreation facilities in the district where a number of criteria regarding parking, neighbourhood areas, landscaping, location and ecological affects are met.
- 14.5 This commitment is further highlighted where it is stated that the District Council will support the establishment and retention of key facilities, including village halls, community buildings and local recreation facilities. Permission will not be granted for proposals that would result in the loss of such facilities, unless alternative facilities are available, or the facility is not financially viable and cannot be retained. In addition, the local plan states that the District Council will support and encourage the renovation and development of village halls appropriate to the needs and residents in the district.
- 14.6 The on the street survey, conducted as part of the development of the Cultural Strategy during September 2002 illustrated the current opinions of residents of the district regarding the existing sport and recreation facilities – 39% indicated that they felt that existing facilities are inadequate and do not meet the needs of the population.
- 14.7 The importance of cross border issues when assessing indoor provision in Harborough must also not be overlooked – nearly 40% of users of the main Leisure Centre reside in Northamptonshire, and similarly, many residents of Broughton Astley and surrounding areas travel into Leicester rather than to facilities within Harborough.
- 14.8 There is a particular movement, driven by Broughton Astley Parish Council, for the village to own its own sports facilities. There is an area of open space (Devitt Way) that has been given to the Parish Council to develop facilities but this land must be handed back to the developer if nothing is built by 2006. It is a relatively small piece of land and several options including a Scout building and youth shelter are being considered.

14.9 Current revenue funding applications have been made to Sport England to facilitate sports development in the rural areas. The audit of village and community halls will help to provide a facility asset list to help with this development.

### ***Indoor sport and recreation provision***

14.10 Alongside the main audit of open space a smaller secondary audit of indoor sport and recreation facilities has therefore been undertaken. This has included:

- Leisure Centres
- School Halls
- Village Halls and Community Centres
- Swimming Pools
- Private Gyms

14.11 We have used a number of sources to ensure the audit is as comprehensive as possible. The co-operation of parish councillors was important to gain information on village halls and we have also consulted with local sports clubs asking them to indicate which facilities they used. The questionnaires sent to each club can be found in Appendix D.

14.12 The responses from parish councillors and sport clubs provide a useful insight into both the usage of indoor facilities within Harborough and the perceived quality and quantity of indoor sports facilities within the district.

14.13 For the purpose of this study the provision of indoor facilities within Harborough has been divided into two types:

1. Sports facilities
2. Other recreational facilities

14.14 A supply and demand assessment has been carried out for the three main types of indoor sports facilities.

### **Supply and demand analysis**

14.15 This section assesses the current supply and compares it to the demand for different types of sports facilities. Research was undertaken to assess how this relationship might change in future years.

14.16 The supply against demand in Harborough has been analysed for the following facilities:

- Health and Fitness Gyms
- Sports Halls (includes village halls and school halls above a certain size)
- Swimming Pools.

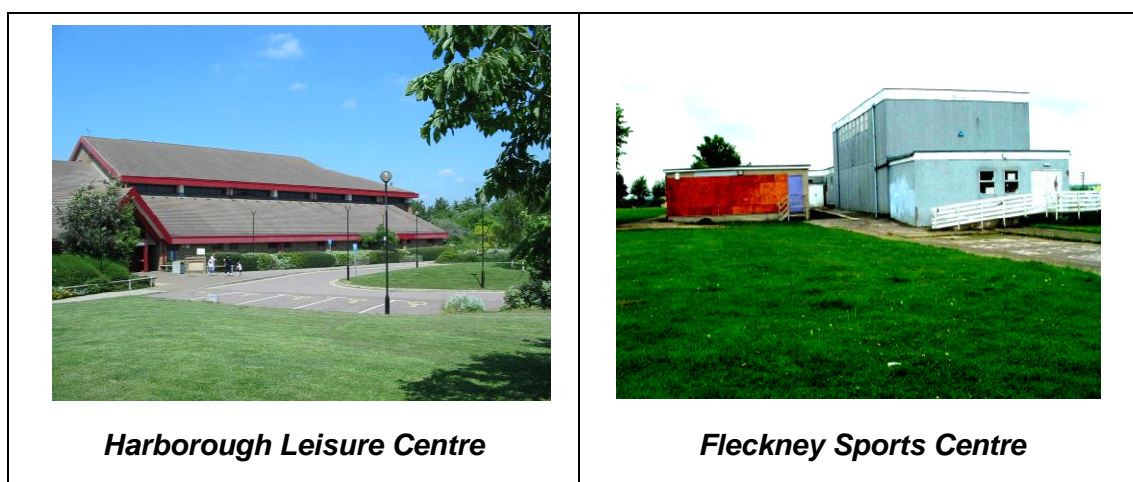
14.17 As has already been discussed we have used a variety of sources to ascertain the existing supply of all the above facilities. All known planning applications were also considered in order to assess the likely level of future provision.

## **SECTION 14 – INDOOR SPORT AND RECREATION**

---

- 14.18 Two levels of supply (present and future 2010) were compared to an estimated demand for each type of facility. The foundations of all demand assessments are an analysis of the demographic nature of the resident population within an accurate catchment area of a site. As a result of the fast changing nature and high rate of development of indoor sport and recreation facilities and the affect that changing participation rates may have on the local requirement for facilities, future supply is measured only up to 2010.
- 14.19 The population statistics are calculated using output areas and GIS boundaries and therefore differ slightly from the figures used for other elements of the open space study. Assessment of indoor sports provision using the geographical analysis areas was not considered appropriate for indoor sport and recreation facilities due to the wider target catchment and dispersed nature of these facilities.
- 14.20 We have therefore used the district boundary as one catchment area but it is important to indicate this has its limitations as it excludes any facilities on the edge of the district.
- 14.21 The geographical nature of Harborough, in particular the location of two (Market Harborough and Lutterworth) of the three main towns (and subsequently the main indoor sports facilities), means there is a large amount of inward and outward migration when it comes to sports centre usage. With this in mind a second catchment area including a 3-kilometre buffer around the district boundary has been applied to more accurately take into account the impact of facilities on the periphery of the district and cross boundary movement.
- 14.22 This buffer takes into account the facilities in close proximity to Harborough, which may affect the demand for sites within the district. It is however assumed that the number of people travelling out of the district will roughly equal those travelling in. This buffer does not suggest that people will not travel from further than 3km, it is used purely as a basis for analysis.
- 14.23 Once the resident population has been profiled, market penetration rates and frequency of participation rates of each sport or leisure activity are used to quantify demand. This ensures that results are specific to the requirements of the population of Harborough.
- 14.24 The demand for facilities was also evaluated through a postal survey to current sports clubs which will be examined later in the section.

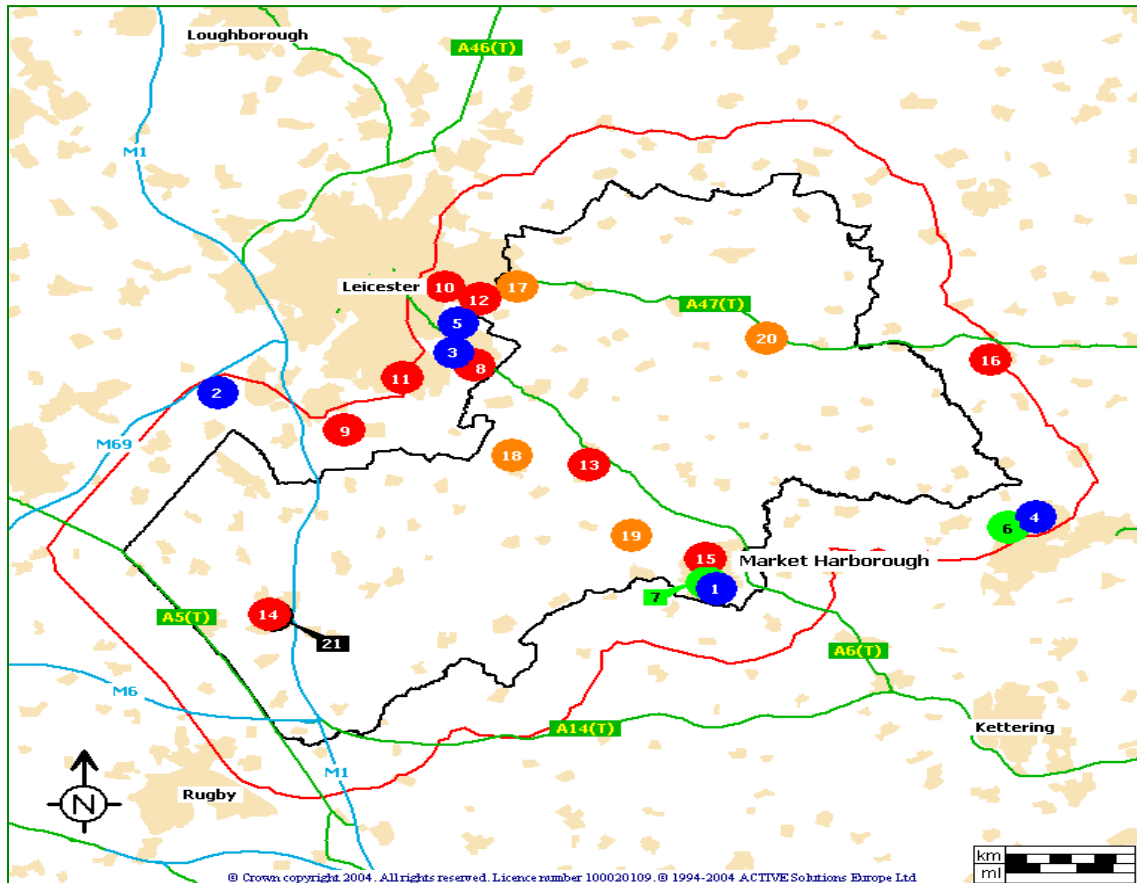
***Picture 14.1 – A contrast of provision within the District***



**Sports Hall provision – supply / demand modelling**

14.25 The supply of sports halls in Harborough is illustrated in Figure 14.1 below. Full supply and demand models and a list of the assumptions made can be found in Appendix E. The key messages are highlighted below.

**Figure 14.1 Sports Halls in the district of Harborough plus a 3km Buffer Zone**



**Key:**

- Harborough District Boundary
- 3km Buffer Boundary
- Public Facilities
- Club-use Facilities
- Dual-use Facilities
- Other Facilities
- Planned Facilities

**ID Name**

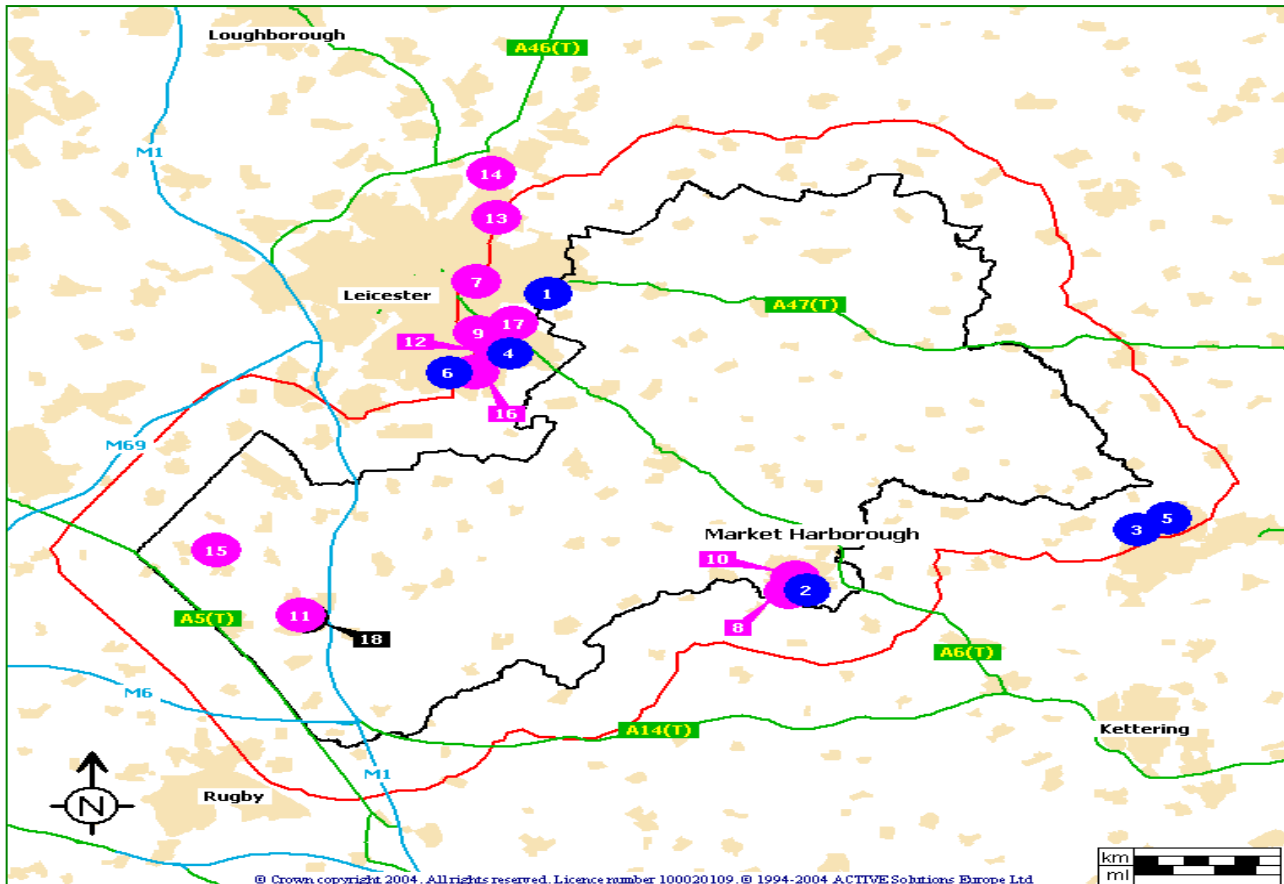
- 1 Harborough Leisure Centre (4 court hall)
- 2 Huncote Leisure Centre
- 3 Parklands Leisure Centre
- 4 Rockingham Triangle Sports Complex
- 5 University of Leicester
- 6 Lodge Park Sports Centre
- 7 Welland Park Community College
- 8 Beauchamp College
- 9 Countesthorpe Community College
- 10 Crown Hills College
- 11 Guthlaxton Community College
- 12 Judgemeadow Community College
- 13 Kibworth Sports Centre
- 14 Lutterworth Community College Sports Centre
- 15 Robert Smyth Upper School
- 16 Uppingham School Sports Centre
- 17 Coplow Centre
- 18 Fleckney Sports Hall
- 19 Foxton PC Sports Hall
- 20 The Tugby Centre Sports Hall
- 21 Lutterworth Sports Centre (4 court hall)

<b>Sports Halls</b>	<b>Supply v Demand – Key Messages</b>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• only publicly accessible facilities are included in the modelling, therefore facilities which are only available for club use (i.e. can not be booked for casual use by individuals) such as Lutterworth Community College are discounted</li> <li>• supply at dual use facilities (Welland Park Community College) is reduced by 25% to reflect restricted access</li> <li>• only halls of 3 courts and above are considered in the modelling in line with Sport England guidelines – halls of smaller size are unsuitable for a number of sports</li> <li>• within the district of Harborough there is currently only 1 publicly accessible leisure centre and 1 dual use facility, all other facilities within the district are either for club-use only or below 3 courts in size, for example Kibworth Sports Centre</li> <li>• existing supply is equal to 7 courts, 4 courts at Market Harborough Leisure Centre and 3 courts at Welland Park Community College (there are 4 courts at the College but as previously stated supply reduced by 25%)</li> <li>• existing demand (based on population and participation rates) is equivalent to 16 courts</li> <li>• existing undersupply is equivalent to 9 courts</li> <li>• a new sports hall is nearing completion in Lutterworth which will increase supply by 4 courts, thus reducing the undersupply to 5 courts</li> <li>• there are a number of halls located just outside the district which contribute to the sport and recreation provision for residents of Harborough District. In addition, 34% (23% from Northamptonshire) of participants at Market Harborough Leisure Centre reside outside the district</li> <li>• the undersupply could be reduced through better partnership agreements with schools and other education sites, which allow the community access to school facilities</li> <li>• if targets of increased participation are met, the undersupply of sports halls within the district will substantially increase</li> <li>• the new covered air dome (adjacent to Market Harborough Leisure Centre) has an important role to play in the provision of sport and leisure facilities in Harborough, and will reduce some of the pressure on sports hall facilities. It is not currently marked out for badminton</li> <li>• smaller village and community halls also play an important role in leisure and recreation provision and this will be discussed in more detail later in the section.</li> </ul>






Health and fitness provision – supply / demand modelling

14.26 The supply of health and fitness facilities in Harborough is set out below. A full supply and demand model along with the assumptions and parameters used is found in Appendix E. The key messages are highlighted below:

Figure 14.2 Health and Fitness facilities within Harborough plus 3km Buffer Zone



**Key:**

-  Harborough District Boundary
-  3km Buffer Boundary
-  Public Facilities
-  Private Facilities
-  Planned Facilities

**ID Name**

- 1 Evington Pool
- 2 Harborough Leisure Centre
- 3 Lodge Park Sports Centre
- 4 Parklands Leisure Centre
- 5 Rockingham Triangle Sports Complex
- 6 Wigston Swimming Pool
- 7 Abbey Court Leisure Centre
- 8 Bruno's Gym
- 9 Chase Hotel & Leisure Complex
- 10 Inches Health & Beauty
- 11 Lutterworth Community College Sports Centre
- 12 Oadby Workhouse II
- 13 The Engine Room Health & Fitness Centre
- 14 The Regency Health Club
- 15 Ullesthorpe Court Hotel & Golf Club
- 16 Unique Physique
- 17 University of Leicester
- 18 Lutterworth Sports Centre

**Health and Fitness**

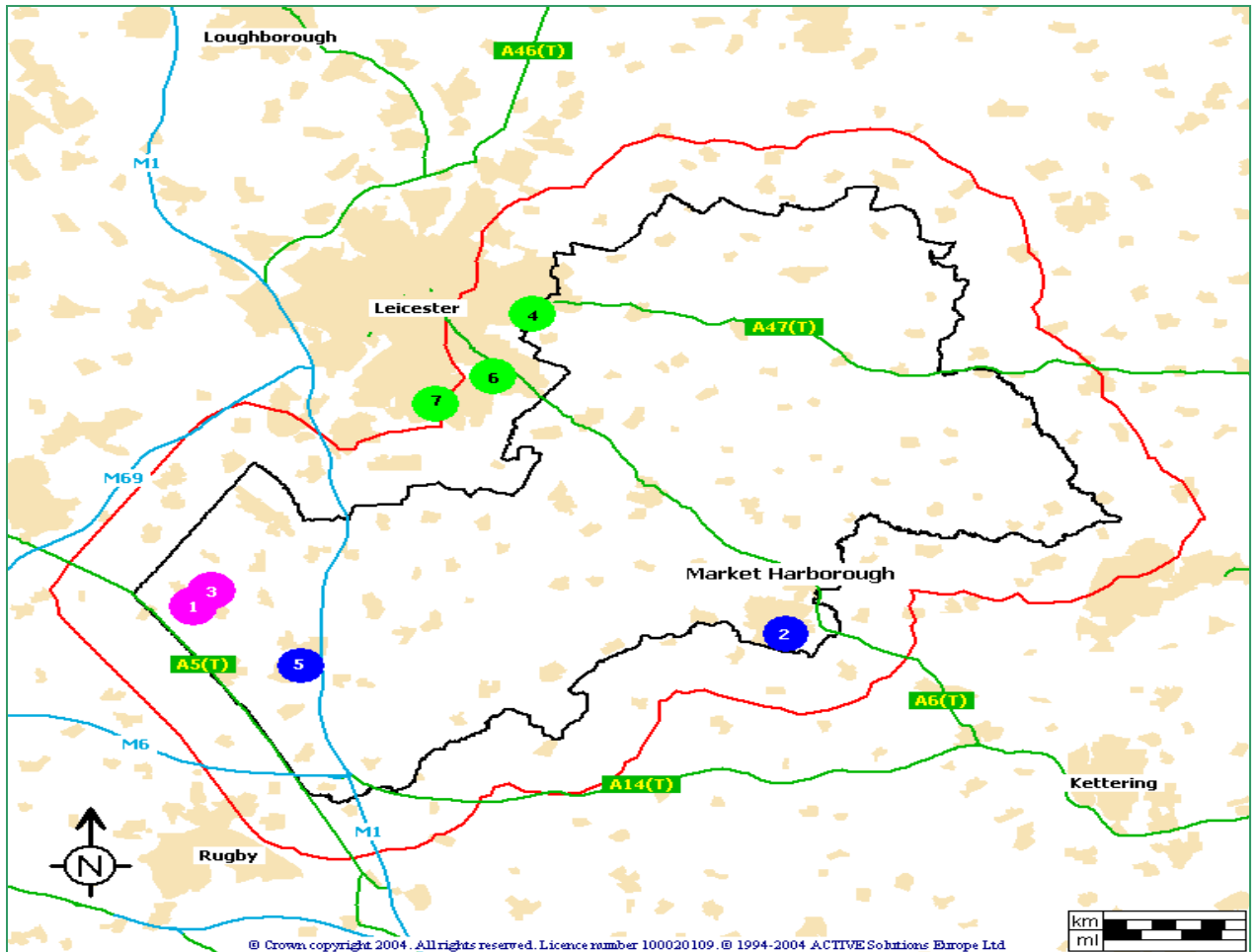
**Supply v Demand – Key Messages**

- there are currently 1 public and 4 private health and fitness facilities within Harborough district – these facilities are all located in the larger urban areas of the district – on the edge of the district boundaries
- demand in Harborough is for 303 stations (based on population and participation rates). As indicated in 14.26, a full supply and demand model along with the assumptions and parameters used can be found in Appendix E.
- the existing supply is equal to 161 stations
- existing unmet demand is therefore equivalent to 142 stations
- the soon to be opened Lutterworth Sports Centre will contain approximately 60 stations hence the under supply will reduce to around 100 stations
- as with sports halls there is a tendency for residents of neighbouring authorities to use the facilities within Market Harborough. There is also usage of facilities outside the district by Harborough residents especially from those living in the North of the district
- the demand models show that taking into account the 3 kilometre buffer there is an unmet demand of 426 stations. This is perhaps a little misleading as the majority of the extra population in this catchment is within a 10 minute drive of Leicester, the majority of the city's facilities falling just outside the scope of the audit.






**Swimming pool provision – supply / demand modelling**

14.27 The supply of swimming pools in Harborough is set out in Figure 14.3 below. A full supply and demand model, along with the assumptions and parameters used can be found in Appendix E. The key messages are highlighted below.

**Figure 14.3 Swimming Pools in Harborough plus 3km Buffer Zone**



**Key:**

-  Harborough District Boundary
-  3km Buffer Boundary
-  Public Facilities
-  Private Facilities
-  Dual-use Facilities

**ID Name**

- 1 Claybroke Parva School
- 2 Harborough Leisure Centre
- 3 Ullesthorpe Court Hotel & Golf Club
- 4 Evington Pool
- 5 Lutterworth Swimming Pool
- 6 Oadby Swimming Pool
- 7 Wigston Swimming Pool

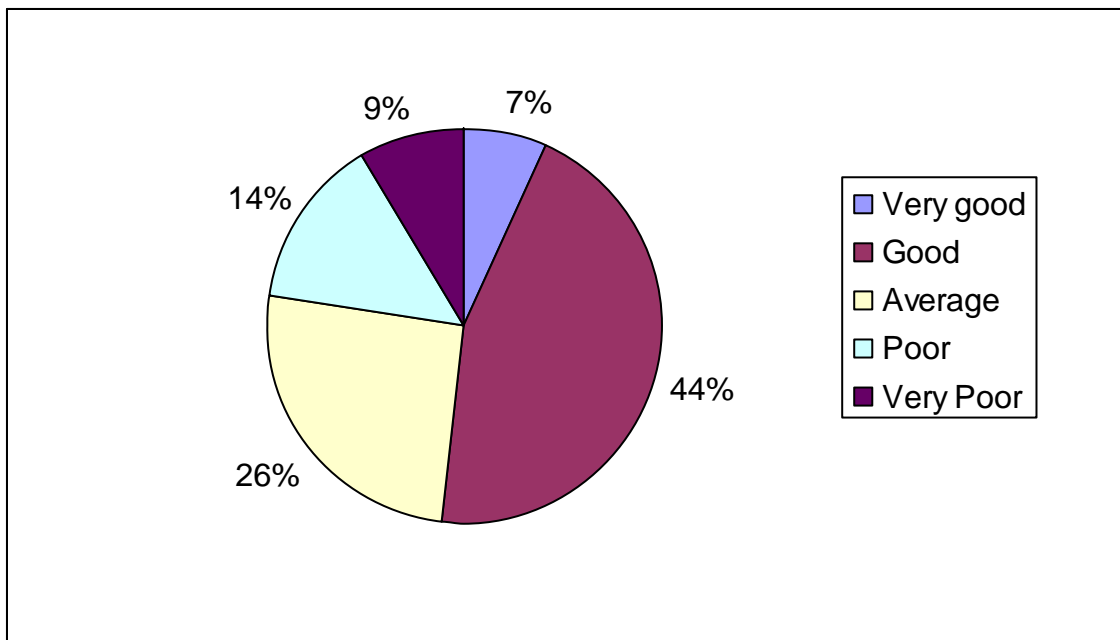


<b>Swimming Pools</b>	<b>Supply v Demand – Key Messages</b>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• according to Sport England , one pool unit = 212m<sup>2</sup> or a 4 lane 25m pool</li><li>• only public facilities with casual access are included – hotel pools are not included as they have no casual access</li><li>• there are currently 2 publicly accessible facilities within Harborough – these facilities are all located on the edges of the district – there are no facilities within the geographical centre</li><li>• current demand is equivalent to 274m<sup>2</sup> (based on population and participation rates). As identified in 14.27, a full supply and demand model along with the assumptions and parameters used can be found in Appendix E.</li><li>• current supply equals 338m<sup>2</sup></li><li>• hence there is a small oversupply of 64m<sup>2</sup></li><li>• the new pool at Lutterworth Sports Centre will further increase the over supply of swimming pool area within the district</li><li>• taking into account the 3 kilometre buffer there is currently an unmet demand equivalent to 175m<sup>2</sup> , as with all other sports facilities non Harborough residents also use the district’s swimming pools and the new pool in Lutterworth should account for this unmet demand</li><li>• however, if Government Game Plan targets advocating an increase in participation were met, it is likely that there would continue to be an undersupply of pools within the 3km buffer</li></ul>

**Sports club consultation**

- 14.28 In section 10 consultation with sports clubs was briefly discussed. The following section analyses this in more detail.
- 14.29 64 sports clubs from across the district responded to the sports and recreation survey, a copy of which can be found in Appendix D. These included clubs from a variety of sports from pitch sports like football and cricket to indoor sports such as badminton and table tennis, through to dance and sub-aqua.
- 14.30 The responding sports clubs represented both a range of sports and geographical areas. The two largest towns of Market Harborough and Lutterworth were well represented as were some of the more rural areas of Kibworth, Fleckney, Great Glen and Thurnby and Bushby. A full list of responding clubs is found in Appendix F.
- 14.31 Each club was asked to rate the overall provision of leisure facilities within the district of Harborough, the results of which are illustrated in Figure 14.4. Just over 50% of respondents rated leisure provision as either good or very good. 23% of respondents rated provision as poor or very poor.

**Figure 14.4 Rating of leisure provision within the district of Harborough**



- 14.32 Reasons cited by those respondents who rated provision as poor included:
- leisure centres are too far away and difficult to access
  - insufficient facilities in rural areas
  - Harborough Leisure Centre often overcrowded
- 14.33 Clubs were also asked whether or not existing leisure provision met the current needs of their club or organisation. Of those clubs that responded 65% answered no

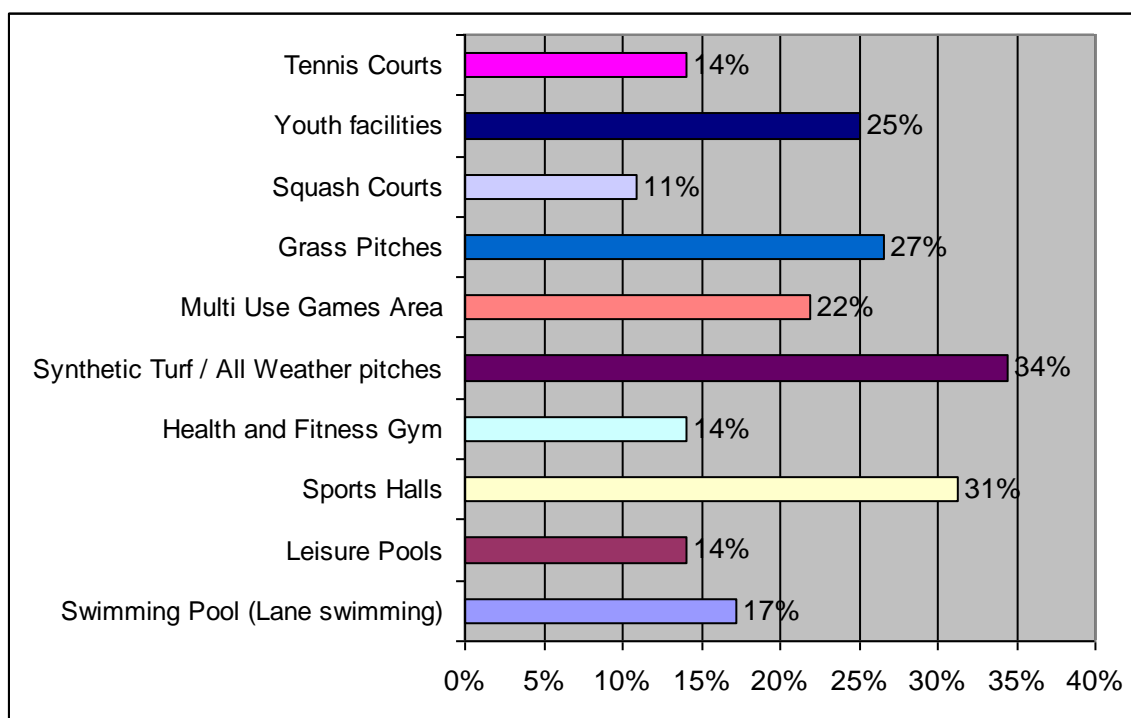
## SECTION 14 – INDOOR SPORT AND RECREATION

to this question. Reasons cited for negative responses with specific reference to indoor facilities included:

- difficult to book sessions at leisure centre as limited space and availability
- insufficient community halls and facilities within rural localities
- leisure centre too expensive
- poor accessibility to most indoor facilities.

14.34 Clubs were asked to comment on what they would like to see more of in the district and what they feel there is a demand for in Harborough. The responses have to be treated with a degree of caution as there is a tendency for individual sports to select facilities which directly benefit them. The results are illustrated in Figure 14.5.

**Figure 14.5 Facilities clubs would like to see more of and believe there is a demand for in Harborough**



14.35 34% of respondents said they feel there is a need for all weather pitches and 22% multi-use games areas, both of which are outdoor facilities. The benefit of these facilities is their multi-sport nature and such facilities enable football training, for example, to move outside and thus 'free up' indoor space for dedicated indoor sports.

14.36 Nearly a third of respondents indicated that a greater number of sports halls were required. There was however an appreciation that the situation would be significantly improved when the Lutterworth Sports Centre opens.

14.37 Clubs were asked to comment on possible improvements to indoor leisure provision. The following is a summary of frequently raised issues:

- provision of affordable halls for use by smaller clubs

- fair and equal treatment of clubs and a fair pricing system
- development of more facilities outside of Market Harborough
- provision of a bus service to and from the two main leisure centres
- improved maintenance of existing facilities
- develop school sport facilities to link with sports clubs
- partnership approaches were generally considered to be the way forward

14.38 Clubs were encouraged to provide general comments on Harborough's leisure provision. A number of interesting comments were made:

- Harborough needs to work at providing equality in sports; many of the region's sports facilities are neglected. Prestigious sports developments do not provide the best solution to the provision of sport for all. Small grants and more equal distribution to existing sport facilities should be considered
- the quality of current provision is good but may need to be reviewed in the light of new housing developments in Market Harborough and Kibworth
- thought should also be given to non 'athletic' sports such as motorcycling, horse riding, model aircraft flying, model car race users, model boating groups, skate boarders, and roller and skate rinks.

### **Parish council consultation**

14.39 Parish councillors were also asked to comment on indoor leisure provision within Harborough. Respondents believed the two most restrictive factors affecting residents use of all types of indoor leisure and recreational facilities are the location of facilities and poor public transport.

14.40 In terms of what leisure facilities parish councillors would like to see more of and believe there is a demand for there was a fairly even spread of responses for swimming pools, sports halls, health and fitness gyms and village and community halls.

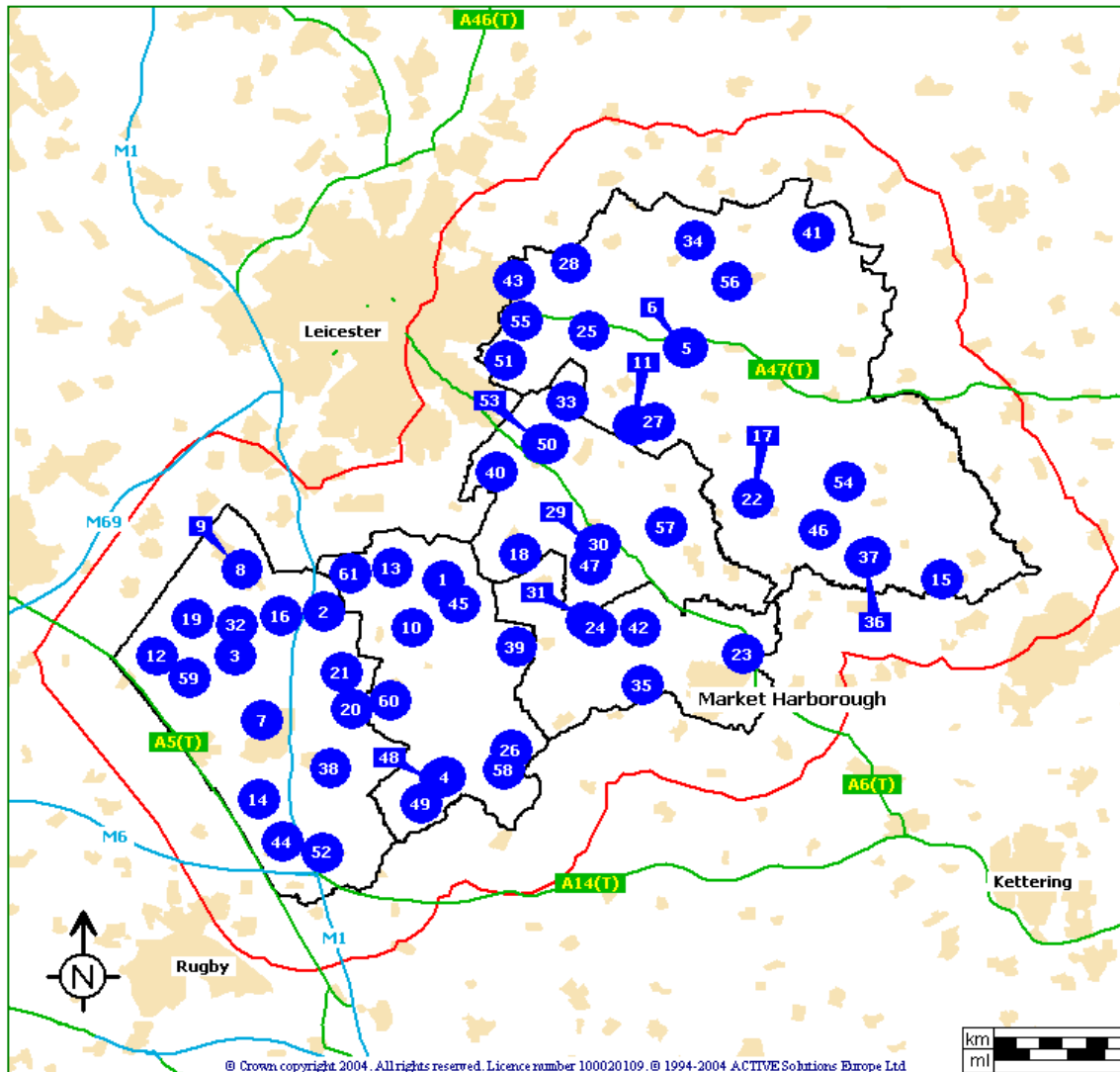
### **Other recreational facilities**

14.41 Dedicated indoor sports facilities are not the only form of indoor recreational facilities available to Harborough's residents. The district has a number of village and community halls many of which are used regularly as recreational facilities.

14.42 Parish Councillors were asked to provide details of existing facilities within their parish and to rate the usage and quality of such facilities. The survey completed by the parishes can be found in Appendix G.

14.43 A map illustrating the location of village and community halls is illustrated overleaf and a full list of all halls and the facilities they offer can be found in Appendix H.

Figure 14.6 Location of Village Halls within the District of Harborough



Key:

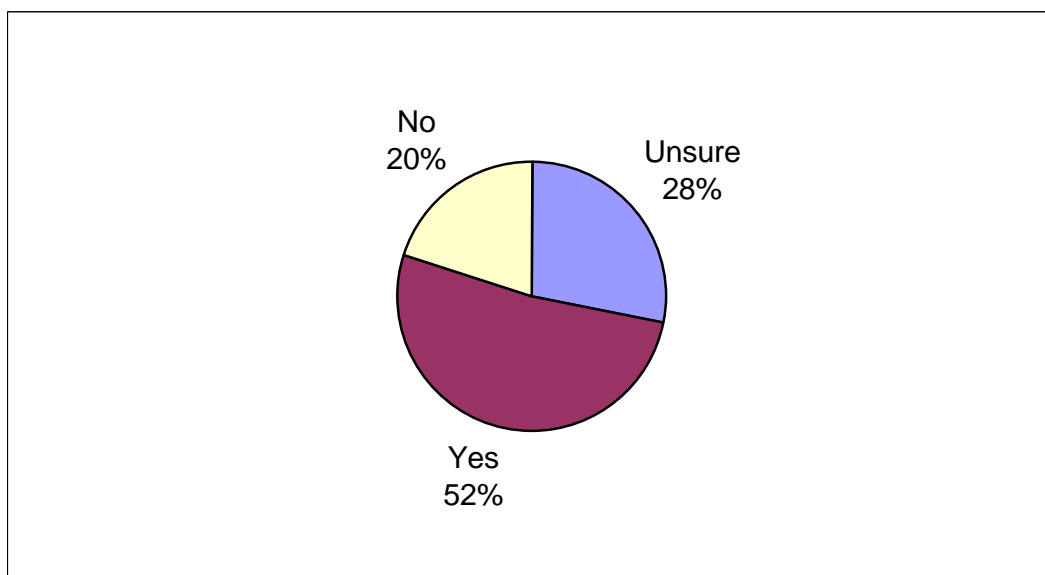
ID	Name of Parish	Indoor Recreational Facility	ID	Name of Parish	Indoor Recreational Facility
1	Arnesby	Village Hall	32	Leire	Village Hall
2	Ashby Magna	Village Hall	33	Little Stretton	Village Hall
3	Ashby Parva	Village Hall	34	Lowesby	Village Hall
4	North Kilworth	Belgrave Village hall	35	Lubenham	Village Hall
5	Billesdon	Baptist Chapel	36	Medbourne	Medbourne Sports Club
6	Billesdon	Old School	37	Medbourne	Medbourne Village Hall

## SECTION 14 – INDOOR SPORT AND RECREATION

7	Bitteswell	Village Hall	38	Misterton with Walcote	Memorial Hall
8	Broughton Astley	Scouts Hall	39	Mowsley	Mowsley Village Hall
9	Broughton Astley	Village Hall	40	Wistow Cum Newton Harcourt	Newton Harcourt Village hall
10	Bruntingthorpe	Bruntingthorpe Village Hall	41	Owston & Newbold	Village Hall
11	Burton Overy	Village Hall	42	Foxtton	Robert Monk Hall
12	Claybrooke Magna	Village Hall	43	Scraptoft	Scraptoft Village hall
13	Peatling Magna	Coronation Hall	44	Shawell	Shawell Memorial Hall
14	Cotesbach	Village Hall	45	Shearsby	Village Hall
15	Drayton	Drayton & Bringham Village Hall	46	Slawston	Slawston Village Hall
16	Dunton Bassett	Village Hall	47	Smeeton & Westerby	Village Hall
17	East Langton	Horsia Hut	48	North Kilworth	Sports Club
18	Fleckney	Village Hall & Library	49	South Kilworth	Village Hall
19	Frolesworth	Frolesworth Village Hall	50	Great Glen	St Cuthberts C E School
20	Gilmorton	Pavilion (GCPFA)	51	Stoughton	Village Hall
21	Gilmorton	Gilmorton Village Hall	52	Swinford	Swinford Village Hall
22	Glooston	Glooston Village Hall	53	Great Glen	The Scouts Hall
23	Great Bowden	Great Bowden Village Hall	54	Hallaton	The Stenning Hall
24	Gumley	Village Hall	55	Thurnby & Bushby	Memorial Hall
25	Houghton-on-the-Hill	Houghton Village Hall	56	Tilton-on-the-Hill	Tilton Village Hall
26	Husbands Bosworth	Church Hall	57	Tur Langton	Tur Langton Village Hall
27	Illston on the Hill	Village Hall	58	Husbands Bosworth	Turville Memorail Hall
28	Keyham	Village Hall	59	Ullesthorpe	Memorial Hall
29	Kibworth Beauchamp	Grammar School Road	60	Kimcote & Walton	Walton Village Hall
30	Kibworth Beauchamp	Village Hall	61	Willoughby Waterleys	Village Hall
31	Laughton	Village Hall			

- 14.44 The map illustrates an excellent geographical spread of facilities across the district, highlighting the important role these facilities play in the life of residents, particularly in the more rural areas.
- 14.45 These facilities are used for a wide range of pastimes. The larger halls can accommodate indoor sports such as table tennis and badminton for example Husbands Bosworth, Burton Overy and Thurnby and Bushby.
- 14.46 The majority of halls are too small for formal sports although a number of halls do offer keep-fit classes, yoga, short mat bowls and dance and ballet classes.
- 14.47 The primary function of the majority of halls is for village social activities such as coffee mornings, parish meetings, arts activities and youth clubs. The full range of activities offered at each facility is illustrated in Appendix H.
- 14.48 Of those parishes who indicated that they have village/community halls, 84% agreed that these facilities provide a vital leisure facility for the residents of the parish. Parish councillors were also asked whether or not they feel there is greater potential for the use of these facilities by the community. The results are illustrated in Figure 14.7.

**Figure 14.7: A greater potential for use of village halls by the community?**



- 14.49 Over half the parishes believe there is potential for greater use of facilities within the parish. Only 20% believe that facilities are currently at full capacity.
- 14.50 Parish councillors were asked to comment on the quality of indoor facilities within their parish. The majority of parishes were happy with their current facilities and believed them to be adequate for the size of their villages. There were however a number of recurring issues:
- facilities in need of upgrading
  - poor disabled access
  - limited space means activities offered are limited

- lack of changing facilities

14.51 A number of facilities have recently undergone refurbishment or are seeking funding to enable refurbishment. These include:

- The Stenning Hall, Hallaton - fitted a disabled ramp and toilet, and added kitchen and baby changing facilities
- Ashby Parva Village Hall - currently undergoing major restoration and refurbishment over a 4 yr period
- Willoughby Waterleys Village Hall - has recently been refurbished and the facilities are considered to be good
- Claybrooke Magna Village Hall - recent improvements to disabled toilets, floors, heating and storage, thanks to fund raising and grants
- Belgrave Village Hall, North Kilworth - in the process of applying for grants having just completed a business plan

### **Summary**

14.52 The existing undersupply of sports halls within the district indicates that the provision of additional sports hall space should be a priority. This was supported by consultation. Partnership approaches and agreements with local schools could address this shortfall. Policies in the existing local plan support both partnerships with school, and public use of private recreation facilities. Population growth and potential increases in participation may result in increased levels of demand in future years.

14.53 Existing swimming provision marginally exceeds demand, hence there is no immediate need (or future need based on current participation rates) for additional facilities. The new Lutterworth Pool will enhance the quality of the existing provision within Harborough.

14.54 There is an undersupply of health and fitness provision within the district, equivalent to over 100 stations. The new Lutterworth Leisure Centre will address much of this undersupply, however additional health and fitness facilities within the district are also needed.

14.55 The village halls have an important role to play in the provision of leisure and recreation facilities within the district. It is important that this community provision is maintained and updated. This is supported by policies in the existing local plan that protect village halls and community recreation facilities.