



Poringland
Parish Council

COMMUNITY LAND PROJECT

Initial consultation report (stage 1)

Detailing participation and feedback received in January 2016



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1. Introduction

Poringland Parish Council will be given some land by Norfolk Homes as part of a Section 106 agreement and has an opportunity to provide some new community facilities on it.

The Parish Council is asking local residents and stakeholders for their views on what facilities they would like to see, following an initial Feasibility Study that was carried out to look at a number of sports facility options.

The first stage of the Community Land Project consultation centred on a drop-in event held on the 20th of January 2016. This event introduced the local community to the Project and invited feedback and suggestions. Comments were invited by the 29th of January to enable a review of suggestions prior to a follow-up public meeting, to be held on 3rd February, where this report will be made available.

There will be a number of opportunities for local people to have their say before a decision is made on which facilities will be provided on the land. This is a long-term project and the Parish Council will be inviting ideas and feedback throughout.

2. Publicity and Participation

Poringland Parish Council wanted to make sure that as many people as possible from the local communities were aware of and could take part in the consultation.

Letters were posted to all properties within a 1.75km radius of the centre of the village (2,484 properties) on the 7th of January. It was noted that some of the newer properties in the village did not receive the letter, so these were hand delivered around a week later. The letter introduced residents to the project and invited recipients to the consultation event.

On the 8th of January, a number of local stakeholders including county, district and parish councillors (including neighbouring parishes) and third party groups, were emailed with a copy of the letter and invited to the event.

On the 11th of January, a press release was issued to publicise the event as widely as possible; and posters were produced that were displayed at the Community Centre, on village noticeboards, and in shops and service buildings around the village.

A drop-in consultation event was held at the Community Centre on Wednesday 20th January from 2pm to 8pm. Six information boards were displayed and members of the Parish Council and their consultants were available to answer questions. Comment forms were provided to capture attendees' feedback and suggestions.

Approximately 225 people attended the event. 121 comment forms¹ were returned during the event; and a further 13 afterwards. Additionally, 2 letters and 14 emails were received prior to the 29th January initial consultation 'deadline'. Therefore 150 'submissions' were received in total.

¹ This figure includes documents provided at the event that had been prepared by attendees beforehand, sharing their ideas.

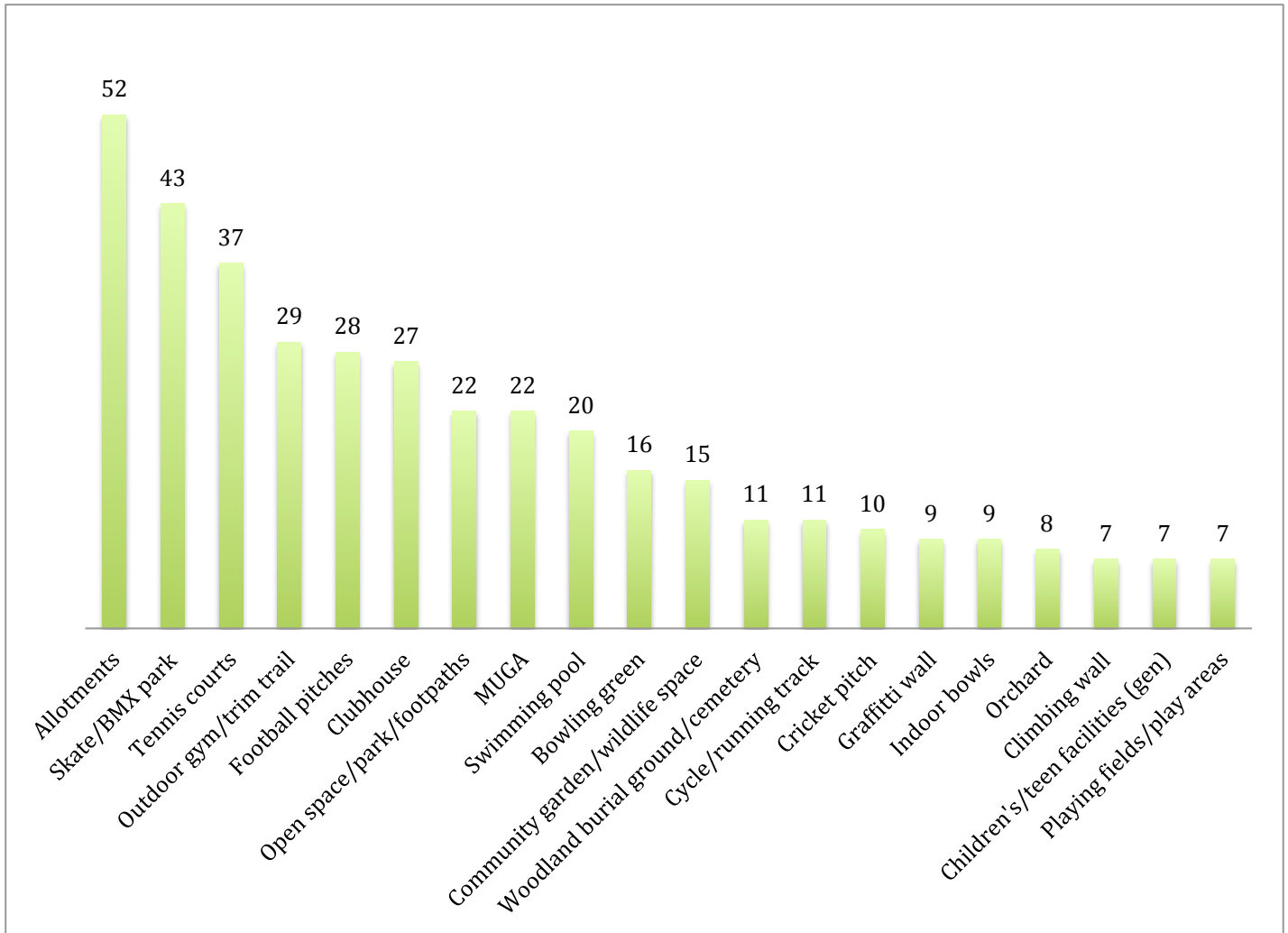
3. Overview of Feedback Received

Although the information boards displayed at the event provided some initial ideas for possible Community Land Project facilities, local residents were invited to provide their own suggestions as well.

The following facilities were suggested (in alphabetical order, with those referred to on the boards and in the Feasibility Study shown in italics):

- Allotments
- Basketball court
- Bird watching area
- Bowling green
- Burial ground (woodland) /cemetery
- Children's/teen facilities
- Climbing wall
- *Clubhouse*
- Community garden/wildlife space
- Community hall
- Crematorium
- *Cricket pitch*
- Cycle paths
- Cycle/running track
- Dirt track
- *Football pitches*
- *Graffiti wall*
- Gym
- Gymnastics club
- Indoor bowls
- Indoor sports hall
- Memorial garden
- Men's shed
- *Multi Use Games Area (MUGA)*
- Nursery/infants school
- Open space/park/footpaths
- Orchard
- Outdoor gym/trim trail
- Outdoor table tennis
- Parkour course
- Petanque/boules
- Picnic area
- Pitch & putt
- Playing fields/play areas
- Rugby pitch
- Sandpit
- Scout hut
- Secure dog walking areas
- *Skate/BMX park*
- Snooker club
- Solar panels
- Splash park
- Swimming pool
- Swings for adults
- Ten pin bowling
- *Tennis courts*
- Trampoline
- Wildflower meadow
- Woodland
- Zip wire

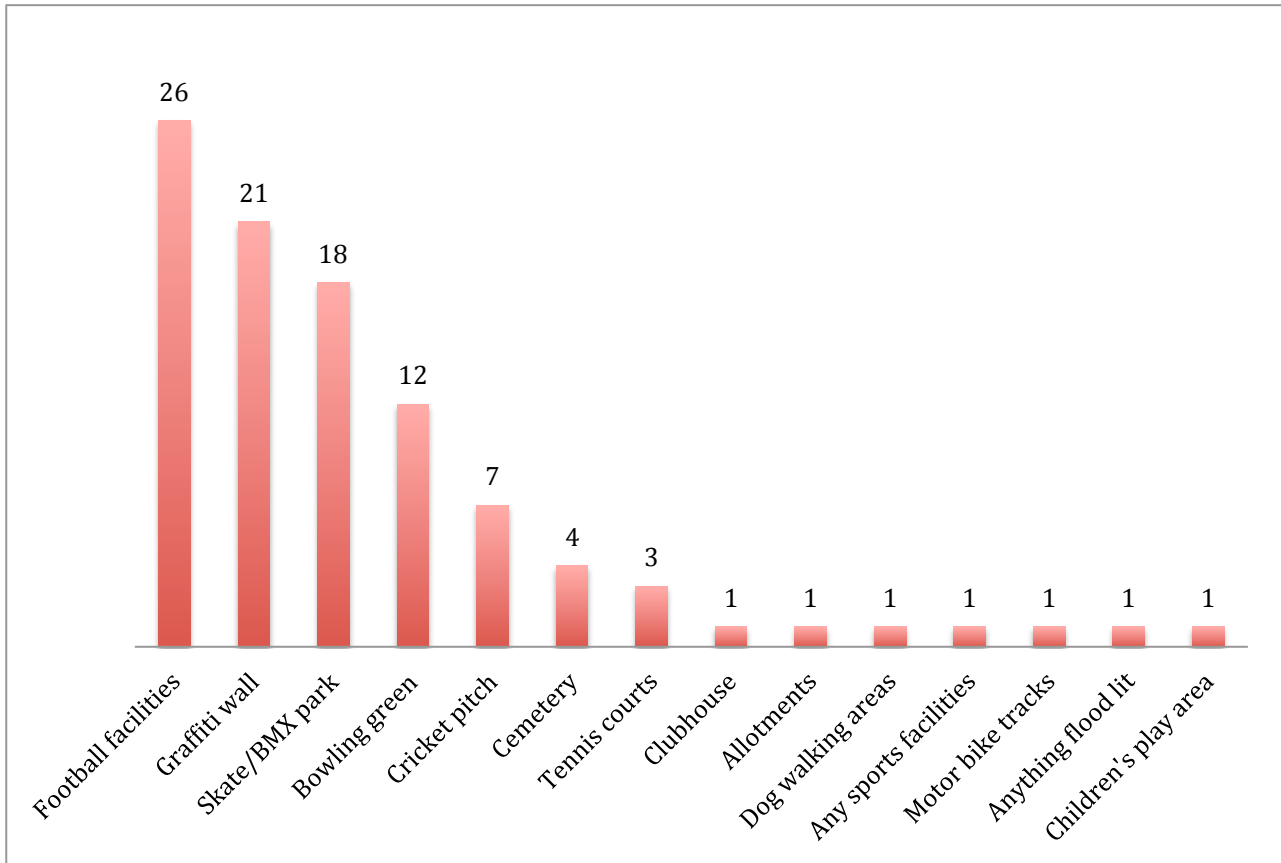
This chart shows the top 20 suggested facilities, with the number of submissions they were mentioned in:



Key themes:

- Many people said it is important not to duplicate what is already in the village or nearby, and to have new facilities that can be used by a range of ages
- Allotments were thought to improve the sense of community in the village and be good for health and education
- Where support for football pitches was expressed, this was mostly for 3G Artificial Grass Pitches and training facilities
- A community garden was highlighted by many as a good option for children and disadvantaged groups, improving well-being, providing educational opportunities and enhancing wildlife
- A MUGA would be able to host a range of sporting activities and therefore would be a versatile option
- Many people would like a park or open space with footpaths and benches, somewhere safe and quiet to enjoy and reflect

A number of submissions also stated which facilities respondents would not like to see on the land.

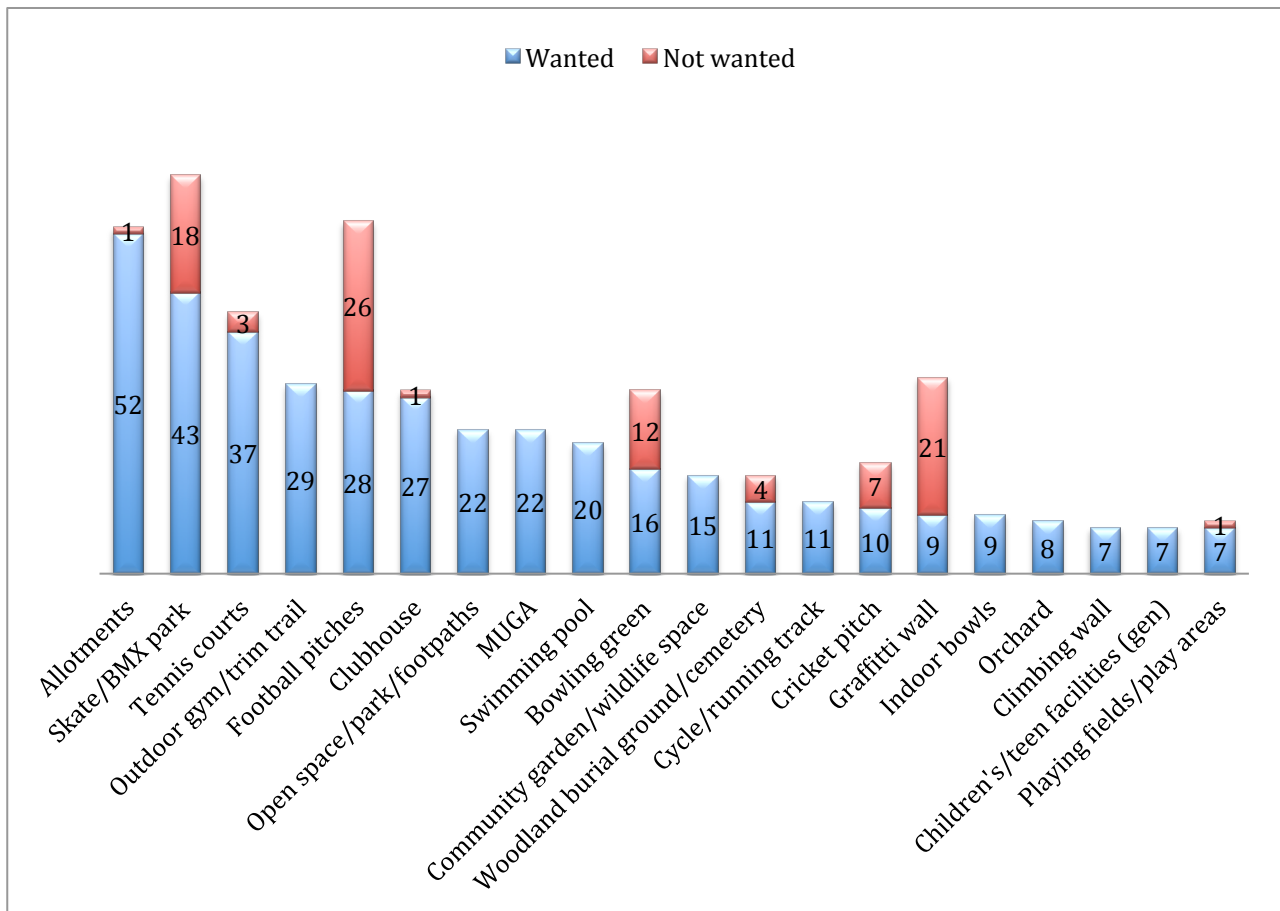


Key themes:

- Perception that there is sufficient football, cricket and bowls facilities in the village/local area already
- There was concern that a graffiti wall would lead to graffiti elsewhere
- There was concern that a skate/BMX park could lead to anti social behaviour
- Some were concerned that tennis courts wouldn't be used

NB. It should be noted that the comment forms did not specifically ask respondents to specify which facilities they would not like, therefore this data may not be a true reflection of the 'least wanted'.

This chart compares the 'most wanted' with the 'not wanted' facilities:



- Just under half the number of people who would like to see a skate/BMX park would not like to see one
- Almost the same number of people who would like football pitches, a bowling green or a cricket pitch would not like to see these facilities on the land
- Double the amount of people who would like to see a graffiti wall would not like one

General comments made:

The following comments were put forward by local people for consideration:

- Drainage on the site is currently an issue
- Facilities can help create/improve community spirit
- Must consider access and parking
- Must consider potential for anti social behaviour
- Green spaces are important for well-being, education, community spirit (and are lower cost than 'built' facilities)
- Must consider the maintenance costs of any facilities

- Lots of suggestions for similar/model facilities elsewhere: Gorleston and Pilling Park (gym equipment); Waterloo Park in Norwich (splash park); Saxlingham Nethergate Scout Hut; and Waveney Valley Pool in Bungay.
- Must consider the positioning of facilities in relation to nearby homes, including any potential for noise and light disturbance
- Whilst some children and young people did come to the consultation event, the majority of attendees were over 50

4. Next steps

The Council will take this feedback, together with comments raised at the public meeting, and formulate an action plan for the future use of the Community Land. This will be discussed at future Parish Council meetings, and at the Annual Parish Meeting, where members of the public are welcome to attend and offer comments during the public participation part of the meeting.

The Council welcomes further comments on the project at any stage, these can be emailed to the Parish Clerk at clerk@poringlandparishcouncil.gov.uk or by writing to the Parish Council at the Community Centre, Overtons Way, Poringland NR14 7WB.

APPENDIX 1 – List of all facilities suggested and number of submissions

Facility	Number of submissions that suggested this
Allotments	52
Skate/BMX park	43
Tennis courts	37
Outdoor gym/trim trail	29
Football pitches	28
Clubhouse	27
Open space/park/footpaths	22
MUGA	22
Swimming pool	20
Bowling green	16
Community garden/wildlife space	15
Woodland burial ground/cemetery	11
Cycle/running track	11
Cricket pitch	10
Graffiti wall	9
Indoor bowls	9
Orchard	8
Climbing wall	7
Children's/teen facilities (general)	7
Playing fields/play areas	7
Men's shed	6
Indoor sports hall	5
Woodland	5
Secure dog walking areas	4
Gym	4
Community hall	4
Outdoor table tennis	3
Gymnastics club	3
Zip wire	2
Pitch & putt	2
Splash park	2
Cycle paths	2
Memorial garden	2
Picnic area	2
Bird watching area	2
Scout hut	1
Solar panels	1
Ten pin bowling	1
Wildflower meadow	1

Basketball court	1
Dirt track	1
Parkour course	1
Rugby pitch	1
Swings for adults	1
Nursery/infants school	1
Snooker club	1
Petanque/boules	1
Crematorium	1
Sandpit	1
Trampoline	1