



NOTTINGHAMSHIRE
COUNTY CRICKET CLUB



Facilities Strategy 2023 – 2032

CONTENTS

PART 1: INTRODUCTION

Page 2

- 1.1 Need
- 1.2 Purpose
- 1.3 Scope
- 1.4 Approach

PART 2: THE COUNTY LANDSCAPE

Page 5

- 2.1 Demography: Population, Ethnicity, Age, Gender, Deprivation, Disability
- 2.2 Physical Activity Levels

PART 3: THE CRICKETING LANDSCAPE

Page 10

- 3.1 The Cricketing Landscape Overview
- 3.2 Transforming the Women & Girls Game
- 3.3 Creating Welcoming Environments
- 3.4 Tackling Climate Change
- 3.5 Pathway & Performance

PART 4: HEADLINE FINDINGS FROM THE ASSESSMENT

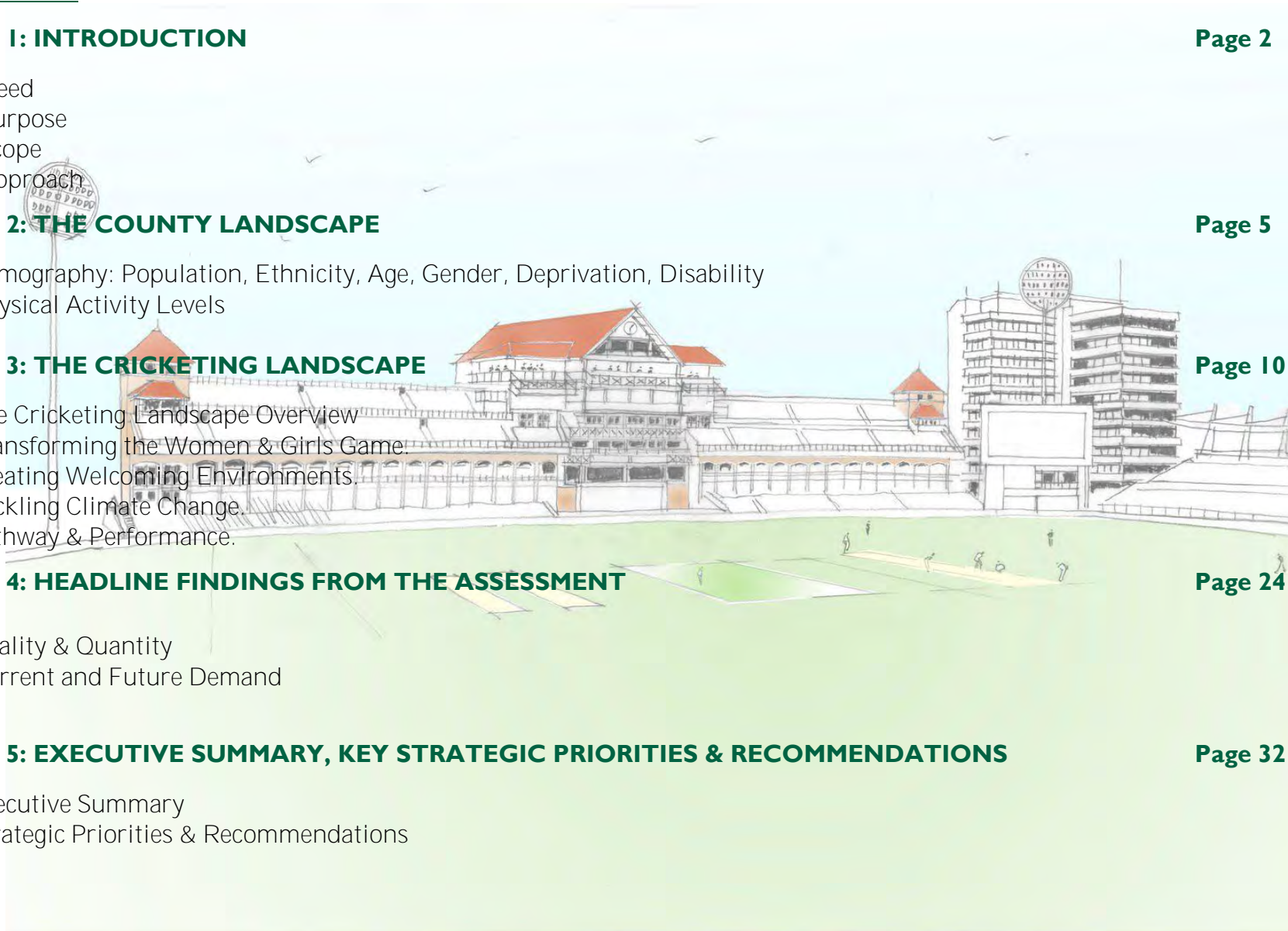
Page 24

- 4.1 Quality & Quantity
- 4.2 Current and Future Demand

PART 5: EXECUTIVE SUMMARY, KEY STRATEGIC PRIORITIES & RECOMMENDATIONS

Page 32

- 5.1 Executive Summary
- 5.2 Strategic Priorities & Recommendations



PART I: INTRODUCTION

In 2019 Nottinghamshire Cricket Board merged with Nottinghamshire County Cricket Club. Nottinghamshire CCC is responsible for the future growth of the recreational game in the county and in doing so are committed to ensuring the recreational game is supported through its Cricket Development Department.

One of the key areas of the club's strategy is Places to Play. The aim, to drive participation growth and positive change by taking projects and programmes into communities throughout Nottinghamshire. The club will do this by, **performing a detailed review of our club and hub communities (existing and potential) to target our cricket offering and community programmes to maximise growth and reach.**

1.1 Need

Inspiring Generations, the ECB Strategy for Cricket 2020-24, is a growth strategy, at the heart of which is an ambition to inspire a generation to say that 'cricket is a game for me'. Alongside that sits our club's strategy 'Inspiring Nottinghamshire through Cricket' and our Recreational Game Strategy 'The Declaration' Growing the Game at Grassroots.

All of which depend heavily on cricket facilities that are accessible, high quality and sustainable, that can provide both playing and practice facilities that are within easy reach and affordable for all those that wish to play.

Growth of the game is at the heart of all our plans, we have extended our reach into communities we have not engaged with in the past and that has reflected in the number of young people and adults playing the game.

Insight gathered for this strategy suggests that despite our efforts over many years to improve our facilities the inequality of access still exists, no more so apparent than in urban areas, amongst women and girls, diverse communities and people from lower socio-economic groups.

1.2 Purpose

Having an overarching strategic facilities plan for the county that looks into playing facilities indoor and out, practice facilities, clubhouses and pavilions, will not only help us to understand where we are currently but will help to present an opportunity to identify future demand and inform us of our priorities for future investment.

Our Strategy will help us to:

- Give a vision of the future of cricket facilities within the county that will help support the continued growth of the game.
- Identify current and future restrictions to growth due to the lack of, or quality of cricket facilities.

- Provide a case to be able to access and bid into future funding and investment opportunities, either through the ECB or other funding organisations.
- Help identify strategic priority areas for investment within the county.
- Provide insight to local authorities that will help inform and shape decision making around cricket facilities in any future planning and housing developments.

I.3 Scope

As this is a long term 10-year strategy it is important to consider the need for long term environmental factors that may impact on facilities, such as population growth, changes to local demographics and weather.

The strategy includes insight on all cricket facilities within the county and where appropriate bordering counties, specifically around quantity, quality, capacity and distribution. It covers affiliated and non-affiliated usage and the assessment provides a picture of supply and demand for all community cricket activities. It covers the following cricket facility types:

- Fine Turf Pitches, Non-Turf Pitches and outfields
- Practice Facilities – including both turf and non-turf
- Indoor facilities
- Pavilions and clubhouses
- Machinery
- Covers, sightscreens and scoreboards
- Grounds Maintenance

It incorporates all cricket facilities that currently and potentially provide recreational and community usage including sites owned and/or operated by:

- Nottinghamshire CCC, Community clubs, Sports Associations, Charities, Local Authorities, Schools, Further education, Higher Education and Independent Schools

The cricket square at Trent Bridge was not included in the insight gathering as the site is elite stadia for professional and international cricket use. As a consequence, it is not accessible for community use other than ad hoc community festival finals.

The strategy will address issues and challenges the game is facing in the short and long term and where possible provide recommendations and solutions.

I.4 Approach

Our approach to the strategy is that it is an insight and evidenced based document that will help guide investment, development and improvement in cricket-based facilities in the county of Nottinghamshire. Playing Pitch Strategies from Local Authorities, **where they exist, will help shape and inform the strategy. There are eight local authorities in the county, all have a PPS's**, four PPS's are currently being reviewed and updated (Rushcliffe, Gedling, Newark & Sherwood and Ashfield) and will be completed by the end of the 2023 season and the remaining four are existing versions and out of date (Nottingham City, Bassetlaw, Broxtowe and Mansfield). There is no detail of when these will be commissioned.

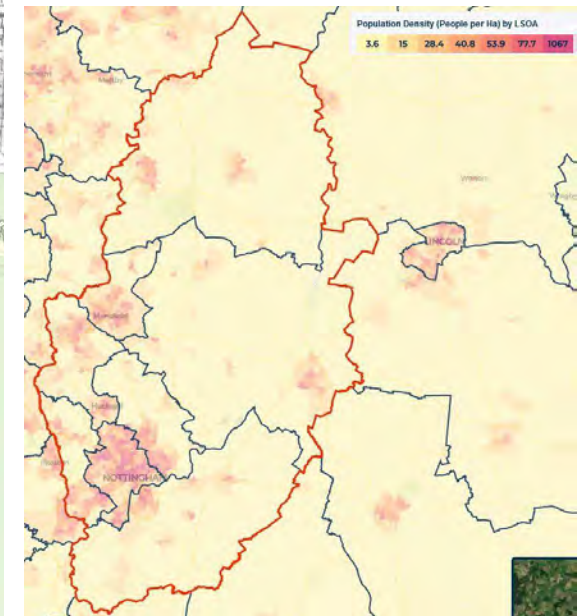
To assist in the assessment, the county has been split into eight areas, these are districts or boroughs making up the county of Nottinghamshire. (Ashfield, Bassetlaw, Broxtowe, Gedling, Newark & Sherwood, Nottingham City, Mansfield and Rushcliffe). The City of Nottingham is a Unitary Authority. The strategy will look at each of these areas in isolation to help give a more detailed look into the counties cricket facilities.

Analysis areas

Nottinghamshire Local Authority Areas	Population (2021 census)
Nottinghamshire County	824,800
Ashfield District	126,300
Bassetlaw District	117,800
Broxtowe Borough	110,900
Gedling Borough	117,300
Mansfield District	110,500
Newark & Sherwood District	122,900
Nottingham City	323,700
Rushcliffe Borough	119,000

Population Density per square Km	
Ashfield	1153
Bassetlaw	185
Broxtowe	1385
Gedling	978
Mansfield	1441
Newark & Sherwood	189
Nottingham City	4338
Rushcliffe	291

Figure 1.1 Population Density (2021 Census)



PART 2: THE COUNTY LANDSCAPE

2.1 Demography

Nottinghamshire has an estimated population of 824,800 people (Census 2021).

In Nottinghamshire 20% (168,500) of the population are children (0-17 years old), 59% (489,800) are working age, 18-64 years old, and 21% (175,100) are over 65 years old.

The population of Nottinghamshire is slightly older than the national average, with 21% aged 65+ in 2020 compared with 18% in England. The total population of Nottinghamshire is expected to increase by some 67,000 persons to 895,000 from 2019 to 2031, an 8% increase.

Between the last two censuses (held in 2011 and 2021), the population of Nottingham increased by 5.9%, from just under 305,700 in 2011 to around 323,600 in 2021.

The population here increased by a smaller percentage than the overall population of the East Midlands (7.7%), and by a smaller percentage than the overall population of England (up 6.6% since the 2011 Census).

In 2021, Nottingham was home to around 31.0 people per football pitch-sized piece of land, compared with 29.3 in 2011. This area was the second-most densely populated local authority area across the East Midlands (after Leicester). In 2021, Nottingham ranked 33rd for total population out of 309 local authority areas in England, moving up four places in a decade.

Just below 30% of the population in the city are aged 18 to 29 (full-time university students comprise about 1 in 7 of the population)

It is estimated that the population growth in the next ten years will increase in Nottinghamshire by a predicted 5.6%, with the highest growth predicted in the Rushcliffe (8.1%) and Ashfield (7%).

Age & Gender

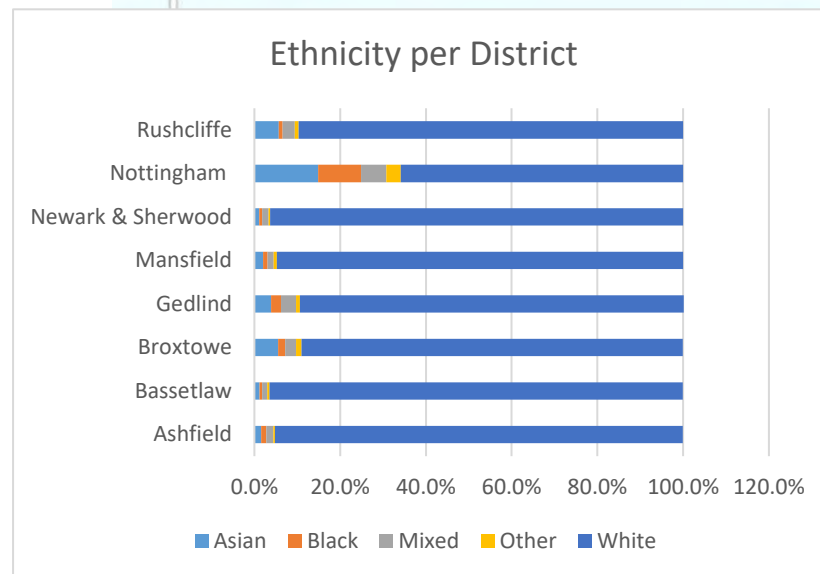
The population of Nottinghamshire has 49% males and 51% females. The median average age in Nottinghamshire in 2021 was 31.7, with over 18s representing 82.6% of the population. The biggest increases between the 2011 Census and the 2021 Census are seen in those aged over 70 with a 23.4% increase. Newark and Sherwood had the largest increase in this age group (26.2%) whereas in Nottingham City the population in this age group only increased by 3.2%. Nottinghamshire has a slightly higher proportion of residents aged over 50 - 42.3% compared to 37.8% in England.

Ethnicity

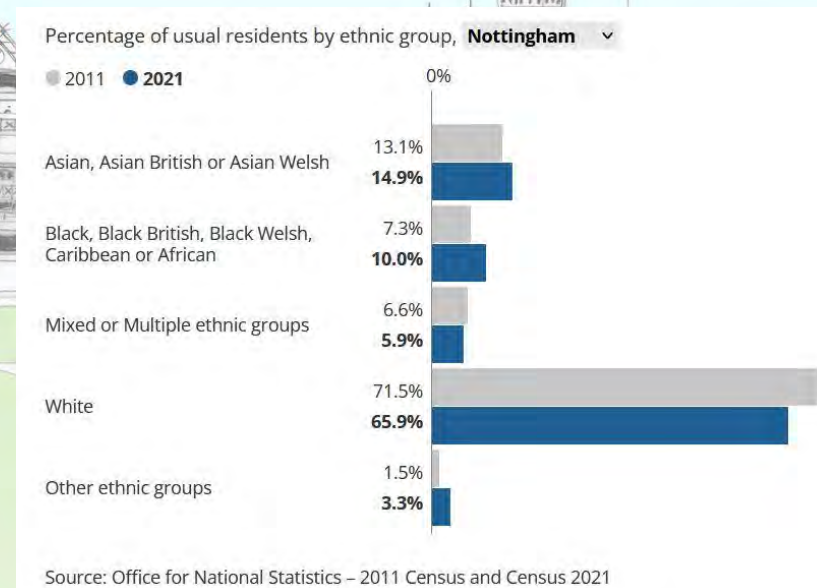
Black and minority ethnic (BME) populations are relatively low in Nottinghamshire, 4% compared with 15% nationally. BME populations in Nottinghamshire generally have a younger age profile than the general population (Census 2011). The 2021 Census shows 34.1% of the city population as being from BME groups; an increase of 7.7% since 2011. The Asian population is the highest at 14.9% followed by Black at 10%.

The table below shows the breakdown of ethnicity for the county by district. Urban areas such as Rushcliffe, Mansfield, Ashfield and Broxtowe have higher levels of ethnicity in comparison to their rural partners.

Ethnicity per district (2021 Census)



Ethnic diversity – Nottingham (2021 Census)



Deprivation

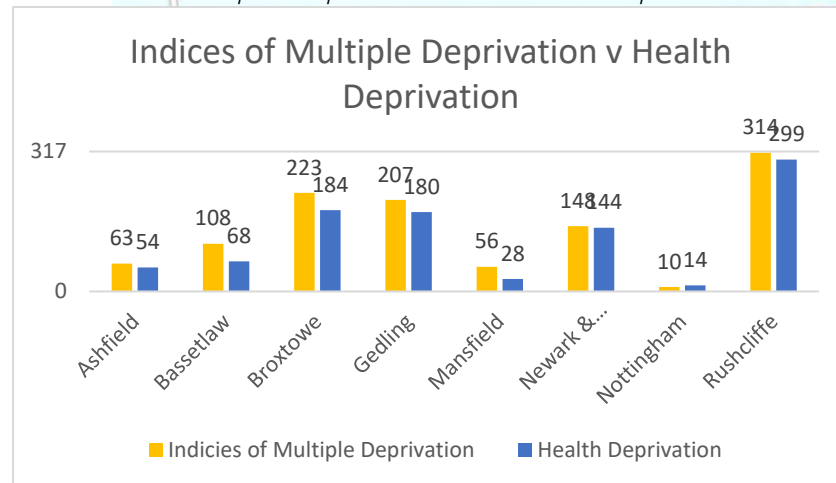
Deprivation levels vary across Nottinghamshire. Mansfield and Ashfield Districts are the 56th and 63rd most deprived Local Authority Districts (LAD) out of 317 lower tier Local Authorities in England. Rushcliffe District is ranked 314 least deprived out of 317 lower tier Local Authorities in England.

Overall 16% of the population in Nottinghamshire live in the most 20% deprived areas in England. Nottingham has high levels of deprivation and ranks 10th out of the 317 districts in England

Nottingham has high levels of deprivation and ranks 11th out of the 317 districts in England, an increase from 8th in the 2015 IMD. Just under a third of super output areas in the City are in the worst 10% nationally. 34.2% of children and 25.8% of people aged 60 and over are affected by income deprivation.

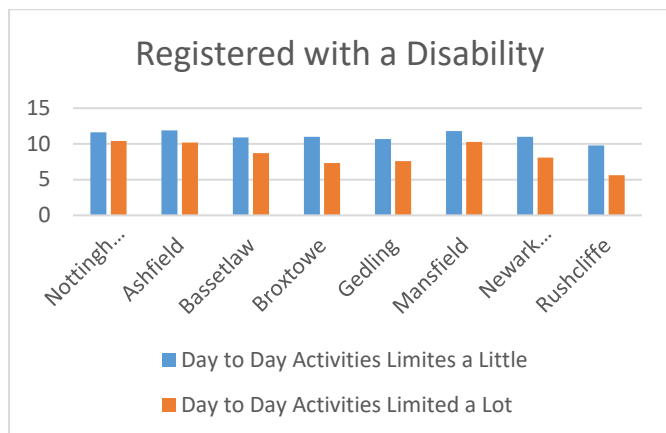
The graph below shows there is a correlation between Indices of Multiple Deprivation and Health inequalities, showing that it is more likely that the population living in an area of IMD will suffer a higher likelihood of poor health.

Indices of Multiple Deprivation v Health Deprivation – 2021 Census



Disability

In 2021, 11.6% of Nottingham residents were identified as being disabled and limited a little and 10.4% disabled and limited a lot. Other districts with similar percentages are reflected in Ashfield, Bassetlaw, Mansfield and Newark & Sherwood. Similar to the link between deprivation and physical activity levels, there are similarities relating to disability and deprivation.



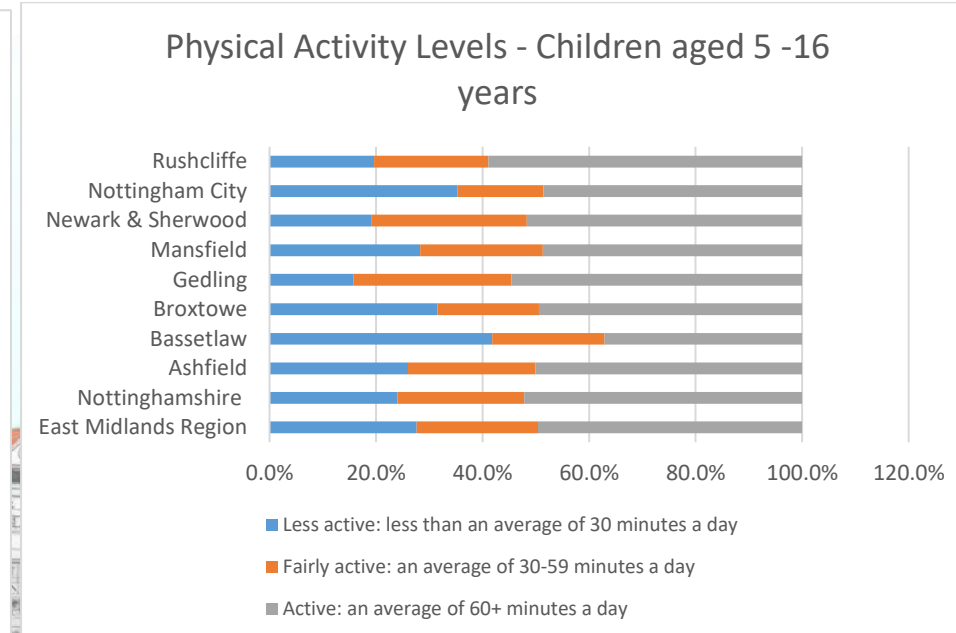
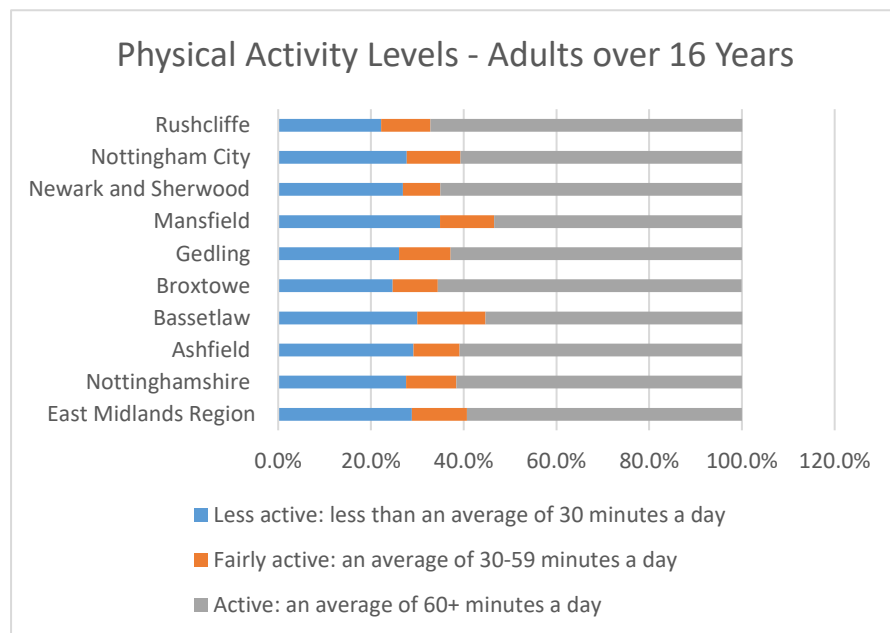
2.2 Physical Activity

Adults and children in Nottinghamshire are more active than their counterparts in the East Midlands.

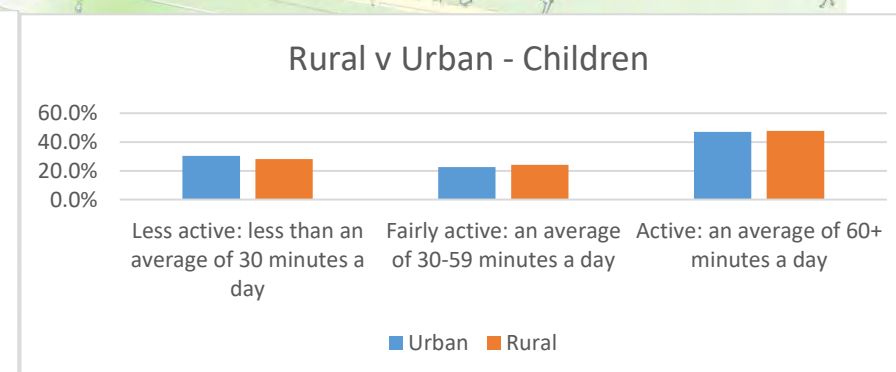
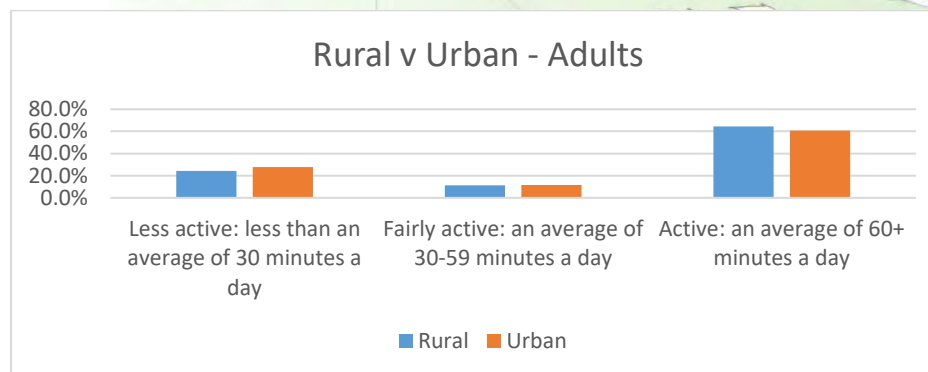
Adults and children living in rural parts of the county are more active than those living in urban settings. Rural areas in the county are generally more affluent areas. (Broxtowe, Gedling, Newark & Sherwood and Rushcliffe). Those living in urban areas are doing less than 30 minutes of activity a day. This also correlates with areas of socio-economic deprivation (Ashfield, Bassetlaw, Mansfield and Nottingham City)

The graphs below show the activity levels per district.





Physical Activity Levels – Adults (Sport England Active Lives survey 2021) Physical Activity Levels – Children (Sport England Active Lives survey 2021)



Physical Activity Levels – Rural v Urban

PART 3: THE CRICKETING LANDSCAPE.

3.1 The Cricketing Landscape Overview.

The county has a total of 102 clubs with 646 teams competing in 6 adult leagues and 6 junior leagues. The breakdown of sections and teams by gender is outlined below.

Clubs and Teams (Two Circles info from 2022)

Number of clubs/sections	Men Section	Men Team	Women Section	Women Team	Boys Section	Boys Team	Girls Section	Girls Team
Ashfield	7	22	1	2	3	10	0	0
Bassetlaw	13	45	5	10	7	22	2	4
Broxtowe	10	39	4	7	6	26	1	1
Gedling	11	37	1	3	5	22	2	3
Mansfield	4	16	1	4	2	5	1	1
Newark	21	72	3	9	12	39	4	4
Nottingham	10	40	1	1	3	19	1	2
Rushcliffe	23	94	4	8	13	69	4	10
Totals	99	365	20	44	51	212	15	25

Adult Cricket

There are a total of 102 clubs in the county, **all have a men's section, with a total of 357 teams** playing across four adult Leagues.

- Nottinghamshire Premier League – 2 Divisions (Saturday League)
- South Notts Cricket League – 14 Divisions (Saturday League)
- Bassetlaw Cricket League – 7 Divisions (Saturday League)
- Mansfield District Cricket League – 7 Divisions (Sunday League)
- Newark Club Cricket Alliance – 3 Divisions (Sunday League)

There are 4700 unique players making up 63% of the playing population, playing on average 11 games a season against the national average of 8.8. Leagues provide only Hardball formats. The majority of cricket is played on Saturdays and Sundays, there is some midweek cricket but this is informal and delivered outside the formal league competitions. Generally, Saturday cricket matches are being played with few games being cancelled because of lack of players, however, Sunday cricket has been impacted by availability of players, in particular the Newark League. In the last year we have focused our attention on the Sunday leagues to try and understand the challenges they are facing and to try and find solutions together.

SENIOR LEAGUES 2022	Completed	Played	Cancelled	Abandon	Conceded	Short sided
South Notts Cricket League	1054	91%	4%	2%	3%	8%
Bassetlaw & District League	511	92%	2%	0%	6%	7%
Notts Premier League	222	98%	0%	2%	0%	0%
Mansfield & District League	200	87%	5%	1%	8%	11%
Newark Club Cricket Alliance	162	73%	7%	1%	19%	14%

Junior Cricket

There are a total of 51 junior clubs (boys and girls), this is 50% of the total number of clubs in the county. There are four Junior Leagues providing competitive hardball formats at U10 through to U15 (Nottingham, Bassetlaw, Newark and Mansfield) A County U9 Kwik League is delivered by Nottinghamshire CCC as well as an U19 Hardball Hundred League. In 2021 a new Indoor League for U9/11/13/15 was launched providing a much needed winter offer, this was delivered by Nottinghamshire CCC. The four junior leagues do not offer any girls, softball, transition or hardball format cricket.

Junior fixtures are generally played over eight weeks during June and July. In the 2022 season games conceded in the leagues ranged from 4% to 13% and many games played with short sided teams, ranging from 8% to 26%. A summary of junior games played, cancelled, abandoned and conceded is summarised below. (Play-Cricket annual report).

LEAGUE	Completed	Played	Cancelled	Abandon	Conceded	Short sided
U9 Kwik	418	89%	3%	0	8% (33)	0
Nottingham YCL	331	94%	5%	0	0	12% (40)
Newark CYL	111	94%	1%	2%	4% (4)	21% (23)
Bassetlaw DJCL	105	74%	19%	0	7% (7)	13% (14)
Mansfield DYL	101	72%	16%	1%	11% (11)	8% (8)
Nottinghamshire U19 100	31	65%	23%	0	13%	13% (4)
Nottinghamshire GDL	27	96%	4%	0	0	26% (7)

Since the introduction of National Programmes in 2017 there has been little growth in new junior teams joining the leagues, there has been some growth in the younger age groups but not the expected growth reflected of the number of new junior players being introduced to cricket through national programmes. Although there is little growth the number of overall teams have been retained. There are many reasons why clubs have been unable to transition new junior members into teams into the league and this will need to be investigated to help support clubs if we are to continue to grow our competitive offer for young people.

Since the Launch of All Stars back in 2017 only two teams who were not in any junior league joined a league after running an All Stars Programme. (Edwinstowe CC and Clipstone CC), during this same time, an additional 8 clubs have delivered national

programmes and have not yet converted into any teams in junior leagues. (Mansfield Hosiery Mills CC, Hoveringham CC, North Wheatley CC, Sherwood Colliery CC, Selston CC, Awsworth CC and Underwood CC). Over this time 5 clubs have left junior leagues (Flintham CC, RHP CC, ICCA, Woodsetts CC and Clifton CC)

The tables below show the breakdown of the number of teams and formats being offered through the four junior leagues, there is a strong hardball offering for boys/mixed cricket, however, there is no current offer for girls only cricket.

		2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	
Bassetlaw Junior & Youth Cricket League	Format	Teams	Teams	Teams	Teams	Teams	
U11	8 Pairs?	9	10	14	14	13	4
U13	11 A Side	10	9	10	13	12	2
U15	11 A Side	8	7	10	9	9	1
U17	11 A Side	4					0

		2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	
Newark Colts Youth League	Format	Teams	Teams	Teams	Teams	Teams	
U11	8 Pairs	11	12 DNP	9	11	16	5
U12	8 Pairs	5	6 DNP	5	6	9	4
U13	11 A Side	12	11 DNP	8	10	9	-3
U15	11 A Side	9	11 DNP	7	6	12	3

		2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	Growth since 2019
Nottingham Youth Cricket League	Format	Teams	Teams	Teams	Teams	Teams	
U10	8 Pairs	12	DNP	Friendlies and Cup Comps Only	14	16	4
U11	8 Pairs	18			16	17	-1
U12	11 A Side	14			12	14	0
U13	11 A Side	12			13	15	3
U14	11 A Side	9			12	11	2
U15	11 A Side	14			15	13	-1
U15 Girls	8 Pairs	4					0

		2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	
Mansfield & District Cricket League	Format	Teams	Teams	Teams	Teams	Teams	
U11	8 Pairs	9	11 DNP	6	9	12	3
U13	11 A Side	8	7 DNP	6	10	11	3
U15	11 A Side	8	8 DNP	6	5	8	0

A Girls Development Hardball League organised through the Women and Girls Strategic Group runs each year with 7 clubs. The U9s Kwik League has a specific format for girls with 13 clubs/ 16 teams.

In 2022 a total of 1873 children were engaged in ECB National Programme, which was a decrease of 6.7% on 2021. These programmes took place at clubs, community and school settings. 54 clubs have a Hardball offer for boys/mixed teams. The number of teams per district by age group is summarised below. This data is from play cricket.

Number of Junior Teams	County	Ashfield	Bassetlaw	Broxtowe	Gedling	Mansfield	Newark	Nottingham	Rushcliffe
Boys Teams	212	10	22	26	22	5	39	19	69
Girls Teams	25	0	4	1	3	1	4	2	10
Boys Sections	50	3	7	6	5	2	12	3	12
Girls Sections	15	0	2	1	2	1	4	1	4

3.2 Transforming the Women & Girls Game.

The women's game has seen by far the highest increase in participation over the past four years. The introduction of the ECB's Softball Festivals ignited a wave of women and girls to pick up a bat and ball and in turn organise themselves into softball teams. Since **2019 there has been an increase in 22 new women's sections at clubs** and a growth of 45 teams, with women transitioning into the super 8 and Hardball Long format over that time.

County	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Nottinghamshire Clubs	2	6	14	19	25
Nottinghamshire Teams	3	8	25	41	48

Formats	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Softball	0	4	12	20	26
Super 8's HB	1	0	7	13	14
Long Format HB	2	4	6	8	8

Consultees

To get a better overview of the Women and Girls game we consulted with The Blaze Regional Academy Director, Women and Girls Clubs, The East Midlands Women's Cricket League and the Girls County Age Group Pathway Manager.

Potential female playing population

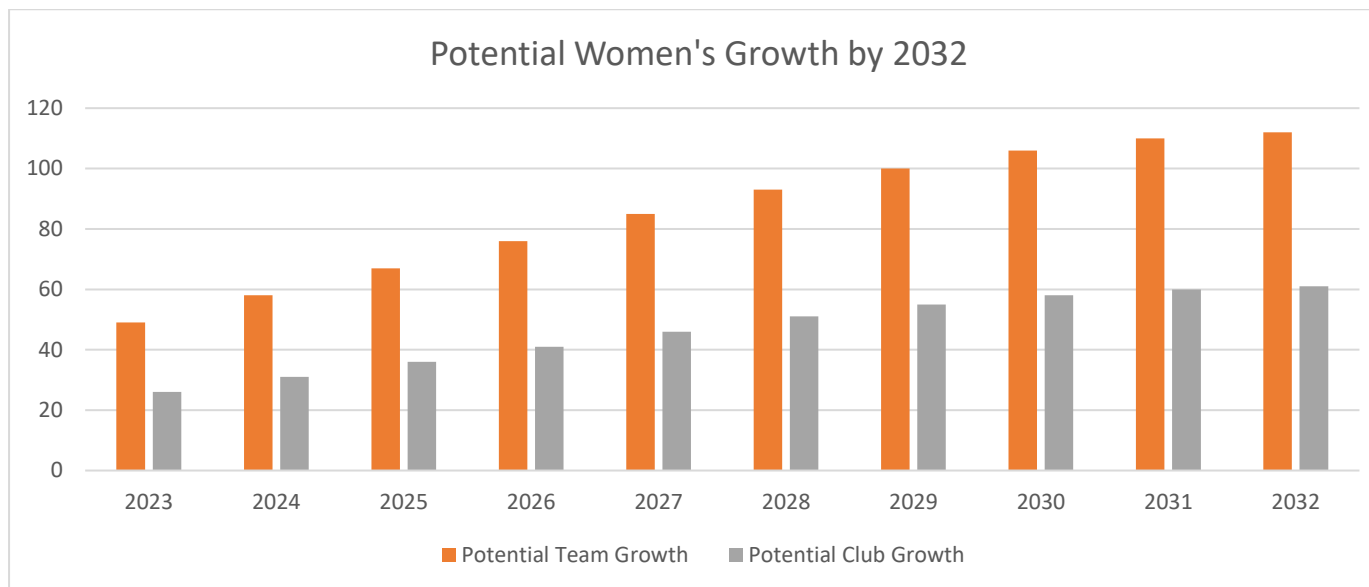
The potential female playing population in the county breaks down into over 67,000 five to 19-year-old school aged girls, in the county and 34,000 in the city. 15% of the city female population are full time university students aged 18 to 29 years. There are another 212,000 in the county and 94,000 city that are female playing age 20 – 60yrs.

Current adult female playing landscape

Data provided by the EMWCL shows that there are currently 159 teams playing at 99 clubs with 1305 unique adult female players actively playing cricket across the East Midlands. 31% of these women play in Nottinghamshire (405 unique players) across 48 teams in 25 clubs.

Potential growth of female adult players, teams and clubs

Based on growth to date in the league, and taking into account depreciation in numbers of women that will engage in cricket over the next 10 years, Nottinghamshire could see a potential increase in growth to around 112 teams playing at 61 clubs with 1680 unique players by 2032.

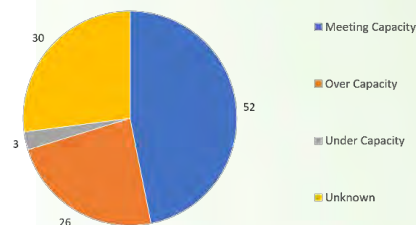


3.3 Creating welcoming Environments.

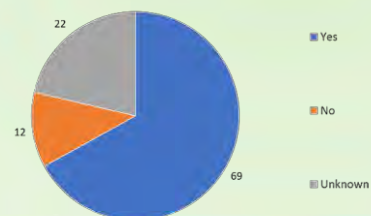
We have a total of 112 sites, 16 are non-club sites. 78 sites are at least meeting capacity (the ability to provide one changing room per team should the facility be at full capacity. E.g. two changing rooms for sites with one square. Four for sites with two squares)

Changing facilities for Officials was a self-declaration by clubs through the survey. We have no detailed information to tell us of the quality of these. Clubs can often repurpose another room for officials to change in.

Changing Rooms – Nottinghamshire



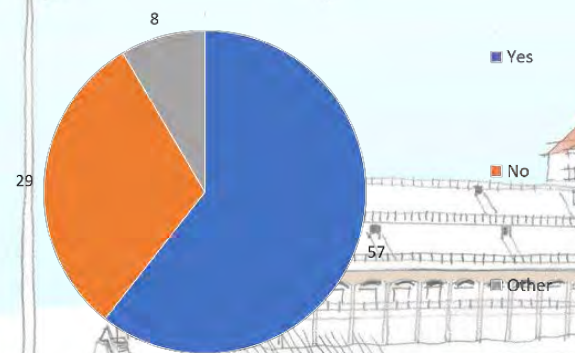
Officials' Changing Rooms – Nottinghamshire



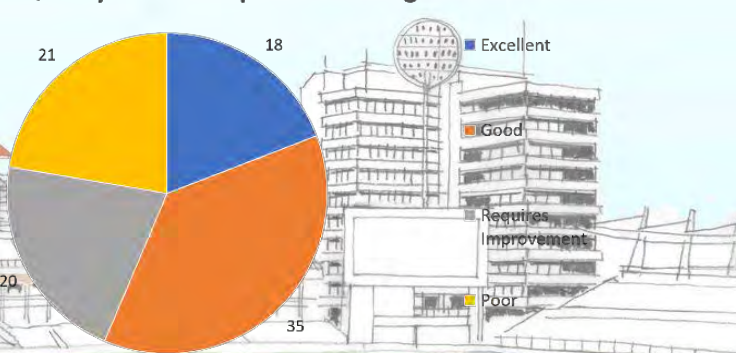
Social Space/Function Room, Toilets and Showers

95 of 100 clubs (at time of survey) responded to the survey. Of those that responded 68% have access to a social space or a function room. 56% of clubs say that these facilities are either excellent or good, some having made improvements over the past few years with the support of ECB County Grants. 43% however say that their facilities require improvement or are poor. This follows a similar trend with toilet provision (62% excellent or good and 38% needing improvement or are poor.) and showers (56% excellent or good and 44% needing improvement or are poor). 'Others' means clubs as part of a welfare, social club or have access to pubs very local to them.

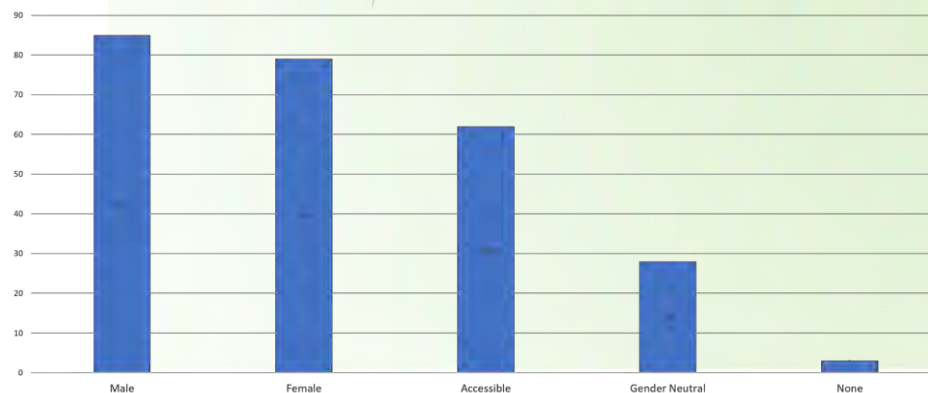
Social Space/Function Room – Nottinghamshire



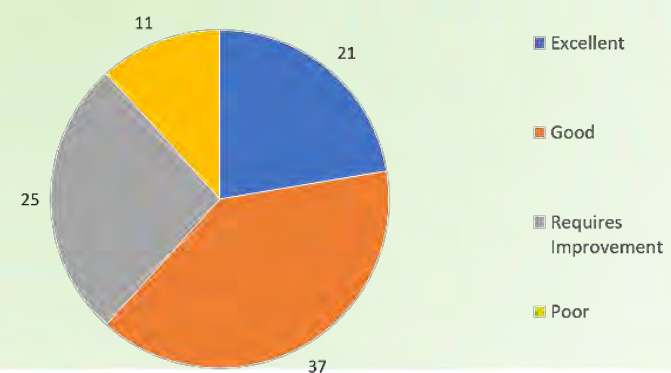
Quality of Social Space – Nottinghamshire



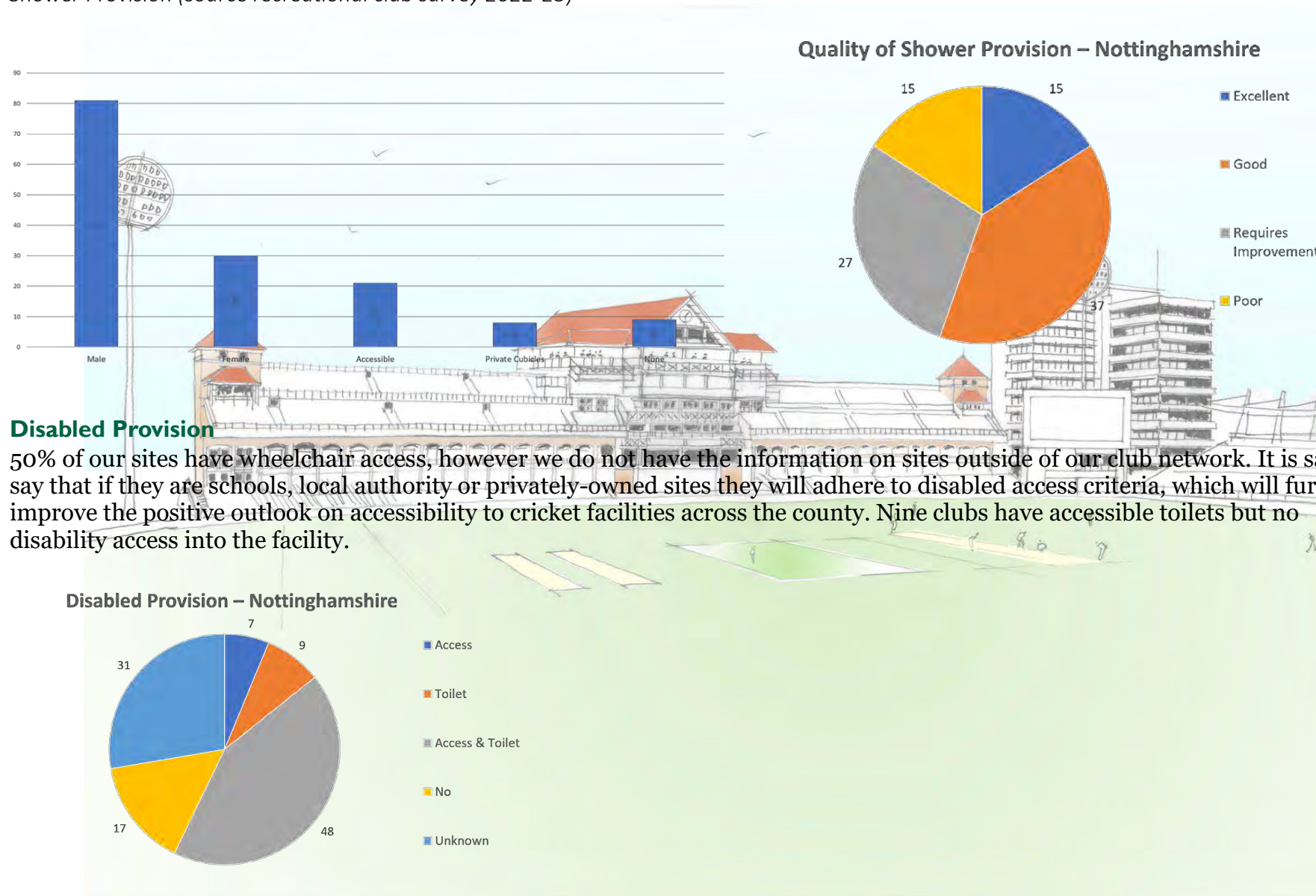
Toilet Provision (source recreational club survey 2022-23)



Quality of Toilet Provision – Nottinghamshire

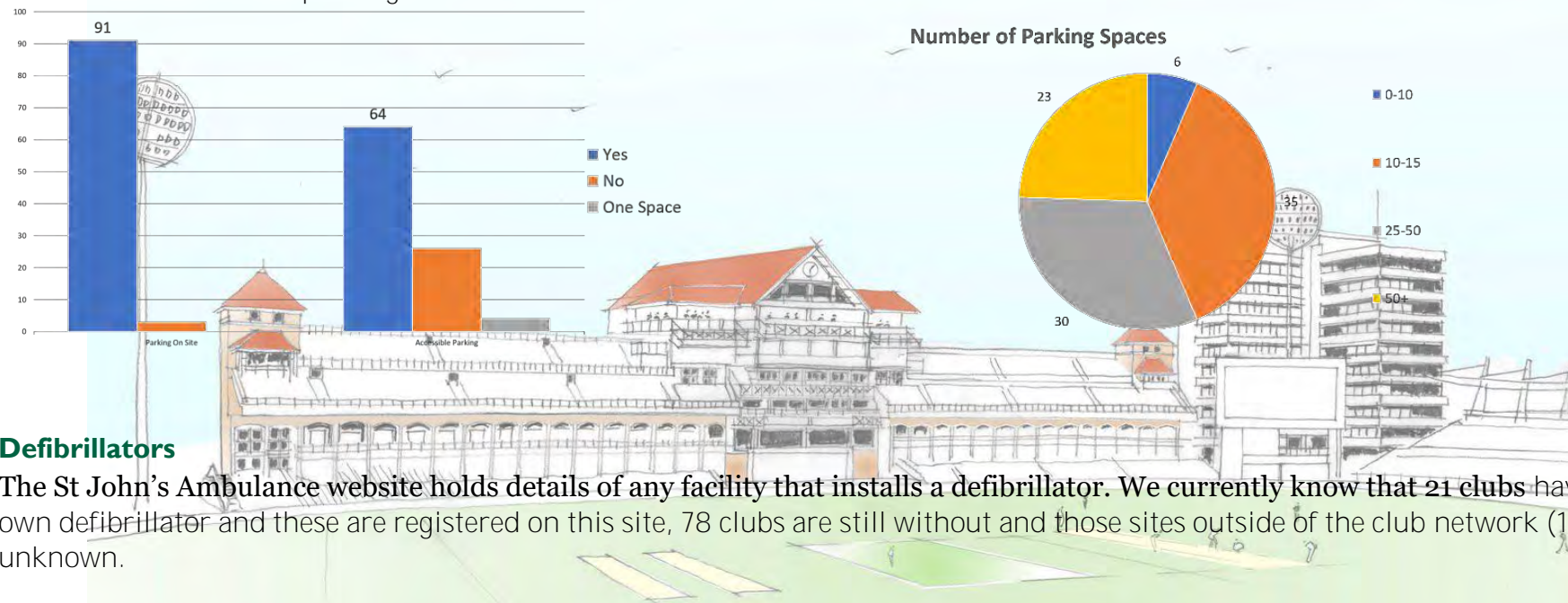


Shower Provision (source recreational club survey 2022-23)



Parking Provision

There is parking provision for 92% of clubs whether that be onsite or nearby, however the number of parking spaces enough for a home and visiting team is only available at 56% of the clubs. 44% of clubs only have access to between 0-15 car parking spaces. 65% of clubs have accessible parking.



Defibrillators

The St John's Ambulance website holds details of any facility that installs a defibrillator. We currently know that 21 clubs have their own defibrillator and these are registered on this site, 78 clubs are still without and those sites outside of the club network (13) are unknown.

3.4 Tackling Climate Change.

Climate change / Environmental Impact on cricket

2022 was the warmest year on record for the UK. While the summer saw extreme heat, what has been noteworthy in this year was the relatively consistent heat through the year, with every month except December being warmer than average. 2022 saw the highest annual average temperatures across the UK, exceeding previous records set in 2014. Seven of the last ten summers (2011-2020) have reached a temperature of 34°C, before this, just seven of the previous 50 summers (1961-2010) reached 34°C.

Six of the ten wettest years on record have been since 1998. Although these records are not a definite sign of things to come. We also can't say that climate change caused them, but it does make them more likely. Compared to our climate in 1990, by 2070 the Met Office projects that winters will be between 1 and 4.5°C warmer and up to 30% wetter. Summers will be between 1 and 6°C warmer and up to 60% drier, depending on the region.

The impact of warmer weather on pitches means we will require new approaches to water conservation, pitch preparation and how we run our matches. This is especially so as the population grows, more houses are built, water becomes scarcer. Players, officials, and spectators are increasingly vulnerable to heat exhaustion, and changing weather patterns will lead to new pests and diseases affecting turf grass.

The ECB in their recently produced Environmental Sustainability Plan highlight that:

‘We can do more to enhance these benefits by making small changes to the way that we manage our grounds. The playing areas form part of the local patchwork of green space providing habitat, foraging and resting space for a wide range of birds and other wildlife. Extend this to the whole cricket ground and the environmental value is considerable: trees, hedges, uncut grassy and wildflower areas, landscape planting, drainage swales and ditches, and even green walls and roofs on buildings. Cricket grounds can connect green space, providing a corridor for nature to move into and through urban and rural environments. Cricket grounds in urban settings are vital green spaces that provide environmental amenity, ecology, water retention, flood protection, and health and wellbeing - allowing communities to come together and to be in nature.’

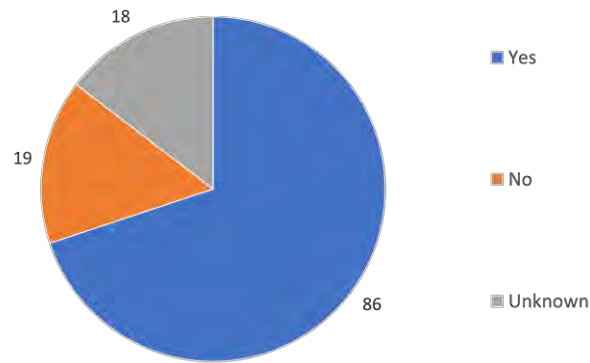
Three priorities for action have been identified across the game in England and Wales. These are: tackling climate change, managing resources, and protecting and enhancing the natural environment.’

Drought and Irrigation

According to the Grounds Management Association (GMA) irrigation of squares is required throughout the season to maintain not only a good surface but to allow the soil particles to be squeezed together during the process of rolling. Rolling a dry soil will result in it cracking, producing an unacceptable playing surface. Water access is fundamental in maintaining a good quality square.

The current situation with clubs in Nottinghamshire highlights that **of the 123 sites, 86 squares (70%) have access to water for this purpose, nineteen squares have no access to water at all and four are Non-Turf Pitches at Victoria Embankment. Of the 18 unknown sites, seven are non-club sites such as schools and universities.**

Water Access to Square – Nottinghamshire



Rainfall and Flooding

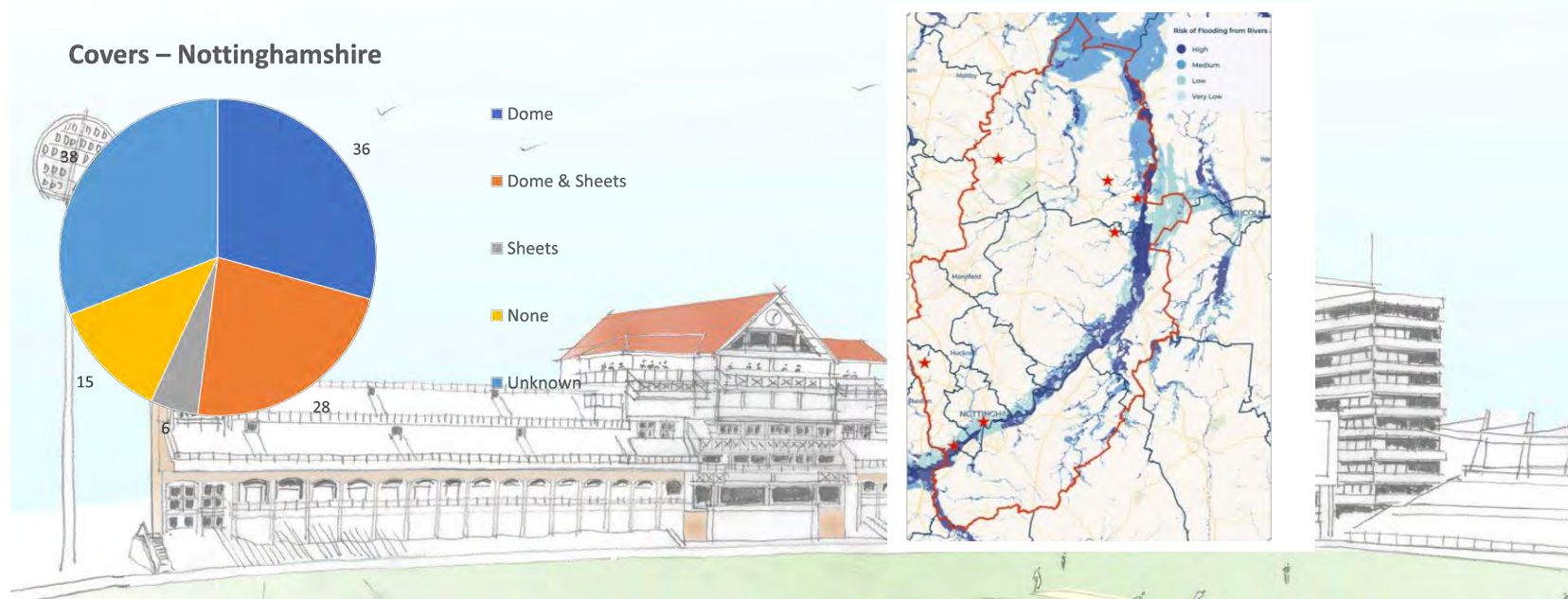
The most visible long-term change to the climate in Nottinghamshire is that of rainfall. The latest trends in the East Midlands shows similar amounts of rainfall on an annual basis, with an increase in the winter months during October to March, with a decrease in the summer, April to September.

There are four clubs that have been significantly affected by flood historically (Attenborough, Lowdham, Newark Ransom & Marles and Worksop), three of which are still at risk of flooding annually. Investment by the Environment Agency in an inland flood protection scheme for the River Trent was completed in 2012 which prevented any further flooding of Attenborough CC. In the last few years Lowdham, Newark and Worksop have been hugely affected by flood and have been supported through the ECB Emergency Fund to enable them to play during the season. In the last year two additional clubs have been affected by rain and received ECB Emergency Funding, Caunton CC and Notts Unity Casuals. Eastwood CC has a shallow brook running through their land that is at risk of flooding.

50% of our club sites have dome covers. Considering the amount of local authority sites across the county, we see this as a strength due to significant take-up of the ECB Small Grant Scheme between 2016 and 2019.

Of the 15 sites we know that have no covers, 12 are local authority owned. Access to storage or potential vandalism are an obstacle in making covers a safe and reasonable investment for them. Unknown sites here include eight privately-owned sites and gaps within our club insight.

Funding for covers is no longer available through ECB County Grant Funding (Funding is available through the ECB Interest Free Loan Scheme). The costs for clubs to replace or buy a full set of dome covers is circa £ 5, 000.



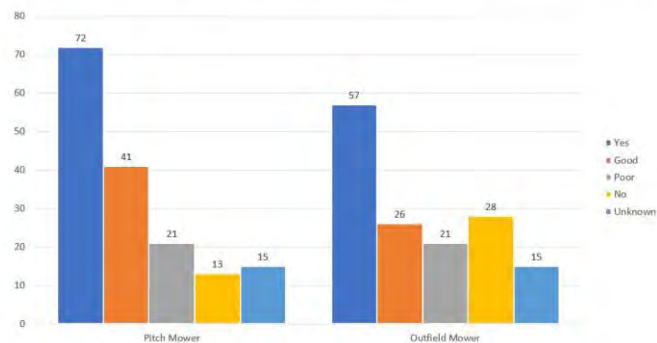
Maintenance of squares - Machinery

Our County Pitch advisor has advised that the three essentials for the preparation and maintenance of a cricket square are, water access, a pitch mower, and a roller. These are the minimum requirements to maintain a good quality surface.

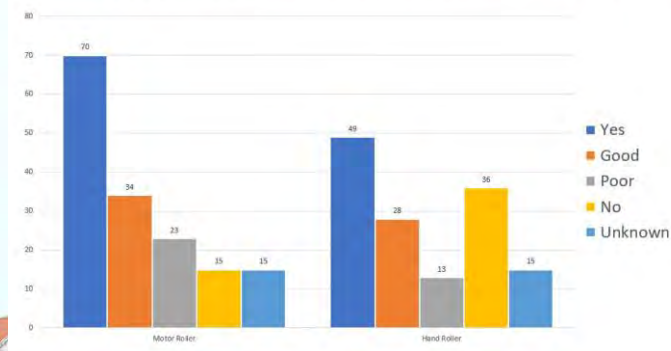
Of the 91 clubs for whom we have full information, 58 have access to all three. Nine clubs have access to one or fewer of these (8 of whom use local authority sites).

Our survey of clubs also highlighted that the condition of machinery, 32% of rollers and mowers were in poor condition. Lack of grant funding opportunities for investment into new machinery has hindered clubs being able to replace ageing equipment, very few clubs have planned for the cost of replacement machinery in their development plans and we believe our club volunteer workforce responsible for the upkeep and maintenance of grounds are not trained well enough to support the maintenance of grounds or machinery. The workforce is ageing and there is little interest from younger club members to get involved.

MACHINERY PROVISION - MOWERS



MACHINERY PROVISION - ROLLER



Energy & carbon emissions, biodiversity, sustainable operations.

Very few clubs have engaged in any sustainability or environmental initiatives. Four of our clubs are known to have bore-holes. To date, we have had no clubs apply for 'Tackling Climate Change' under the ECB County Grants Scheme, however, we will be prioritising the use of this funding going forward to encourage clubs to review their own sustainability. This is a clear priority for clubs moving forward and we will use the ECB Environmental Sustainability Plan to help shape the support what we offer clubs over the next ten years.

3.5 Pathway and Performance

To understand the current need and capacity for pathway and performance cricket in the county we consulted with the Director of Cricket Mick Newell, The Blaze Regional Director James Cutt and the Elite Pathway Manager Matt Wood.

The pathway and performance teams are made up of Men's 1st XI, 2nd XI, Boys U10, U11, U12, U13, U14, U15, U16, U18, Emerging Players Pathway and Academy. The women's: Women 1st XI, Girls U11, U13, U15, U18.

The Blaze Women's Regional Team and Academy moved to Trent Bridge in 2022. In March 2023 Nottinghamshire applied to become a Tier 1 Women's Team. **The success our application gives a home to The Blaze for the next four years. The Blaze has** a 1st XI Team, Emerging Player Pathway and Academy (both these will remain regional)

Indoor and outdoor practice, training and match play facilities – Men's Pathway and Performance

Notts 1st and 2nd XI **Men's** teams, Notts Women, The Blaze and all Boys and Girls County Age Group train indoors at Trent Bridge (Trent Bridge has a total of 9 indoor nets over three halls) and for the men at Loughborough University, on occasions until February when they move outside to Lady Bay Sports Ground where they use the grass practice nets covered by a temporary marquee until the weather allows outdoor practice.

A total of 632 **training hours need to be facilitated at Trent Bridge for Men's and Boy's pathway and performance.**

Lady Bay is jointly managed by Nottinghamshire County Cricket Club, Nottingham Rugby Club and Nottingham Corsares RFC (who also train and play there). A Service Level Agreement is in place. Lady Bay has 60 grass practice nets of which 8 are hybrid. On the grass square there are 8 pitches of which 1 is hybrid.

Lady Bay is home to the Men's 2nd XI, they also use Worksop College and Trent College and Welbeck CC, and along with the Boys **Academy for training and match play. The Men's 1st XI** play at Trent Bridge and Welbeck Cricket Club, this gives them a north and south venue within the county. Grantham Cricket Club has been used as an out ground in the past for the **Men's 1st XI**, but due to facilities not being at the level needed for first class cricket the pathway and The Blaze are now using it for six days of match play.

There are no other out grounds within Nottinghamshire or surrounding counties that meet the standards required for First Class County cricket.

Accessing the current facilities at a time that is appropriate for the pathway age groups is also an issue, especially when factoring in travel time to and from the training venue.

Indoor and Outdoor practice, training and match play facilities – Women's Pathway and Performance

Between Nottinghamshire Women, The Blaze 1st XI, Regional Academy, Regional Emerging Player Pathway and the Girls County Age Group there is an increased need on facilities. Currently the following facilities are being used; Trent Bridge, Loughborough University, Stamford School, Trent College, Worksop College, Repton College, Lady Bay Sports Ground and Oakham School.

All facilities are of a quality that provide good training/practice opportunities but not all have access to Merlin Bowling machines which is a requirement for performance coaching. Since the relocation to Trent Bridge in 2022 of The Blaze from Loughborough University it has proved a juggling act to accommodate all indoor training requirements for Nottinghamshire Senior Men and Women, The Blaze Women and both Boys and Girls County Age Groups and Boys EPP/Academy. Notts Women, Girls Pathway and The Blaze (Girls Pathway 144hrs, Blaze 1st XI 616hrs, Blaze Academy 242hrs and EPP 66hrs) need over 100 hours of indoor training access, **this is on top of that of the men's game.**

From 2024/25 onwards The Blaze will need to find 132 hours of indoor winter training facilities in the south of the county to accommodate the Blaze Academy two nights a week. Currently there is no facility that has the level of lighting and quality of nets

needed, outside of Trent Bridge. Outdoor grass training nets are currently provided at Trent Bridge and some access at Lady Bay, however when there is match play, these facilities are not available for training.

The Blaze senior women use Leicestershire CCC, Derbyshire CCC, Trent Bridge, Lindham CC, Loughborough University and Chesterfield CC. Nottinghamshire Senior Women use Lady Bay Sports Ground and Welbeck CC. The Blaze Academy games (35 days of cricket in the summer) are currently played across eight venues across the region as there is no capacity at Lady Bay. (Loughborough Uni, Trent College, Worksop College, Grantham CC, Denby CC, Repton School, Spondon CC and Kibworth CC). The solution would be a dedicated Blaze home ground/facility that could accommodate all home games. Conversations with Rushcliffe BC are ongoing on a potential lease of a cricket specific facility (West Park). If this was to happen it could also provide a base for **girl's pathway and Blaze EPP**.

Recreational Clubs used for Boys and Girls County Age Group Cricket

In 2023 twenty-one clubs were used across the county to provide match play for both the Boys and Girls pathway. They have been identified purely on quality and availability. There is a good spread geographically across the county and locations are selected depending on the visiting county. However, availability of these clubs can change on an annual basis as clubs circumstance change. The main challenges that are faced by the pathway is the capacity of clubs to be able to provide the volume of cricket needed for both their own members and the additional multi day pathway cricket for U14 – U18 boys specifically. There are only two recreational clubs with the quality of wicket and capacity to host U18 Boys fixtures (Thoresby Colliery CC and Collingham CC). With the added challenge of an ageing population of volunteer ground staff struggling to prepare squares for the volume of cricket required by them, including their own club requirements. There is a concern for the future of pathway cricket in Nottinghamshire. Sundays are becoming a pinch point for cricket in particular because of **ECB U18 Girls and Women's One Day Competitions** and pathway fixtures being played on Sundays and where the pathway tries to reduce the time players take out of school mid-week.

Over the past year the pathway has lost two grounds they used regularly (Attenborough CC and Caythorpe CC) due to the growth within the club of the women and junior sections. Universities are also now seeking more recreational club match play facilities to provide games for their 1st to 4th XI teams, four premier league clubs are giving priority to university teams over pathway cricket due to the amount they are paying for the use of facilities. It is likely that over the next ten years, with the predicted growth across the **game this will have an impact on other clubs' capacity to provide pathway cricket. This year alone over 400 hours of outdoor training needs facilitating, along with one hundred and ninety two days of match play cricket.**

PART 4: HEADLINE FINDINGS FROM THE ASSESSMENT

4.1 Supply, Quality & Quantity Clubs and Squares

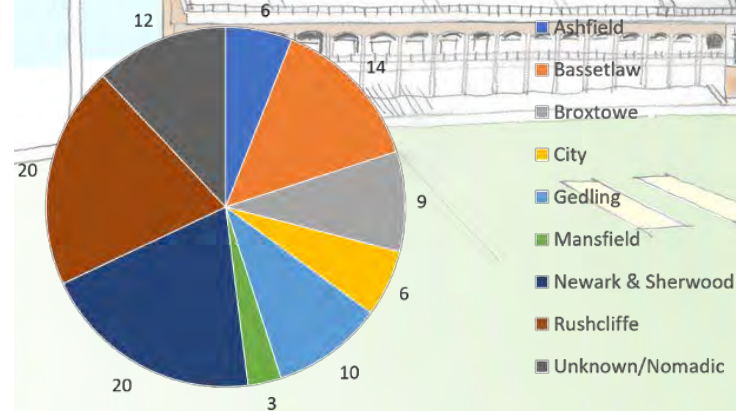
There are a total of 99 clubs affiliated in Nottinghamshire, with Mansfield District having the least number of clubs per district (four). Newark & Sherwood District and Rushcliffe Borough both having the most at 21 and 23 per district.

There are a total of 123 squares on 110 sites across the county, these sites are any facilities with a grass square or Non-Turf Pitch. These include recreational clubs, schools, and local authorities.

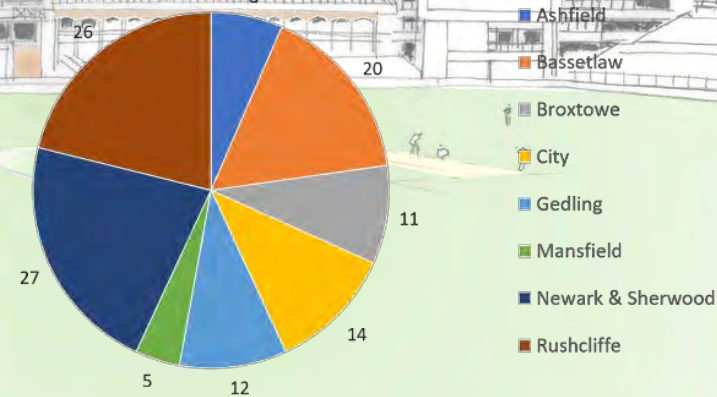
In the time that this strategy has been written two squares have become inaccessible due to a) unsuitable ancillary facilities and b) unsafe square playing conditions. Two teams should be catered for by one square.

(Clubs and Squares by District (source Recreational Clubs Survey 2022/23))

Clubs by District – Nottinghamshire



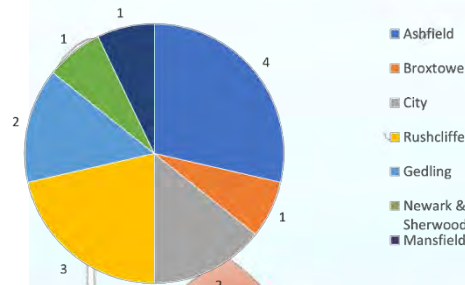
Squares by District – Nottinghamshire



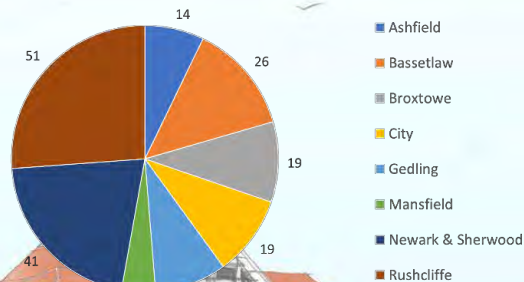
Teams Travelling

Fourteen of our clubs travel outside of their district/county to play cricket, this number has doubled within the past twelve months. Only clubs in Bassetlaw have quality pitches that are accessible to cater for the demand within the borough.

Teams Playing Outside Of District – Notts



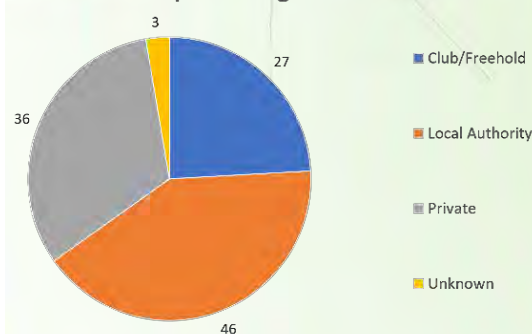
Saturday Teams by District – Nottinghamshire



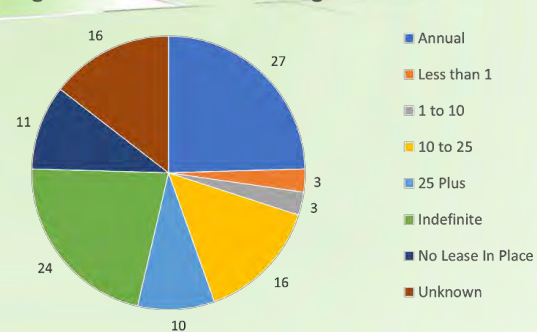
Site Ownership and Tenure

Thirty sites officially have 12 months tenure or less but some of these grounds are more secure than others. Sixteen of these are Local Authority sites. ECB have reduced the tenure require for grant funding to 12 months. No lease in place refers to privately owned non-club sites. These include schools and universities.

Site Ownership - Nottinghamshire



Length of Tenure Sites - Nottinghamshire



Capacity

There are a total of 195 teams playing competitive Saturday cricket in Nottinghamshire. On the basis that two teams per square equals capacity and assuming all squares are accessible, there is capacity countywide for 246 teams. A total of 39 sites have Saturday capacity, some of the reasons for this is issues with quality and access.

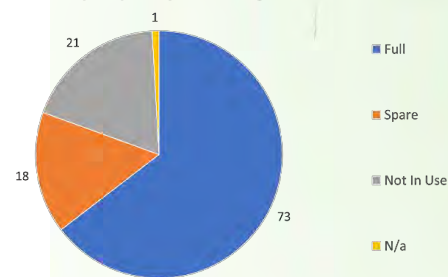
Eight of the unused sites are privately owned non-club or Local Authority sites (Larwood Park, Nottinghamshire Sports Club, Ranby House, Worksop College, Grove Farm University Fields, Nottingham Trent University, Queen Elizabeth School and Norwood Park), we don't know if these sites are accessible. One site is Haydn Road Community Cricket Club which is not fit for Saturday adult cricket due to ball strike issues. Rushcliffe is the only district which does not have enough squares to accommodate current demand.

We know that there is less demand on facilities on Sundays than Saturdays. However, the below figures overstate the capacity available as they do not consider the following factors:

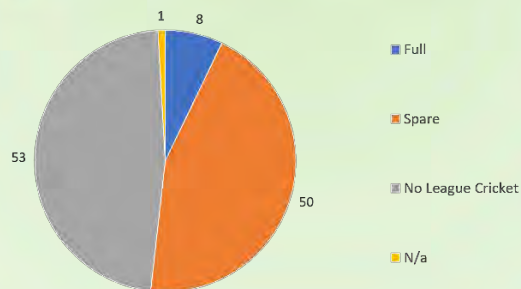
- Friendly cricket which is increasingly popular
- Saturday league cup competitions
- Junior league Sunday fixtures
- **Women's Soft ball Festivals and friendlies**
- Challenges related to square size/maintenance affecting capacity

There is still a need to further understand and determine what current square capacity is accessible and available to be used.

Saturday Capacity - Nottinghamshire



Sunday Capacity - Nottinghamshire



Square size and Quality

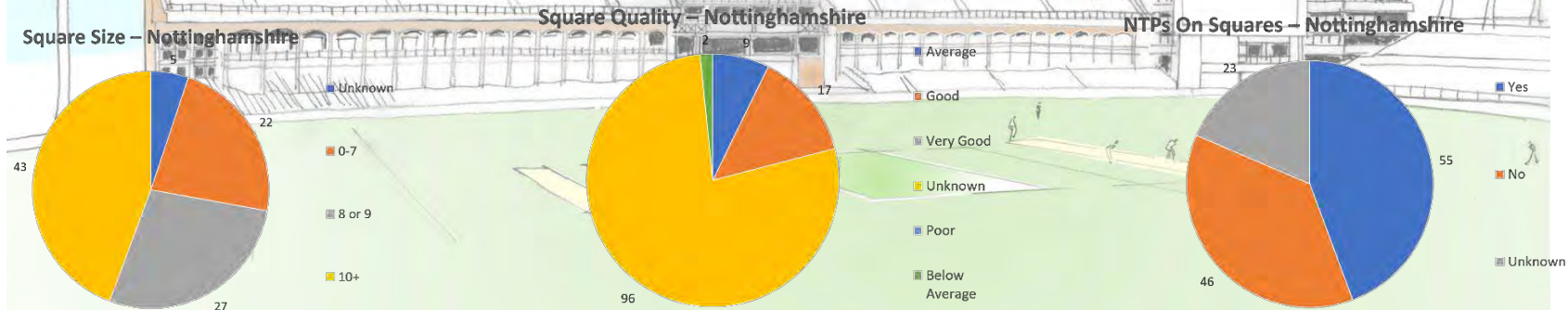
There are a total of 122 squares in the county. A normal grass wicket will have on average 4 games per season (Clubs would need a minimum of 8-10 strips to accommodate full capacity cricket).

There are 22 sites that are not capable of offering full capacity cricket at the required quality.

The quality of the squares have been based on insight from the Nottinghamshire Premier League (NPL), Bassetlaw District Cricket League (BDCL) pitch marking scores and existing Performance Quality Standards (PQS) a means of determining the quality of a cricket square or pitch at any given time.

Of the 122 squares only 54 have a non-turf pitch. There is no current provision to measure the quality of these pitches and other than Local Authority owned sites it is difficult to ascertain the accessibility for use by recreational cricket of NTP's owned privately unknown.

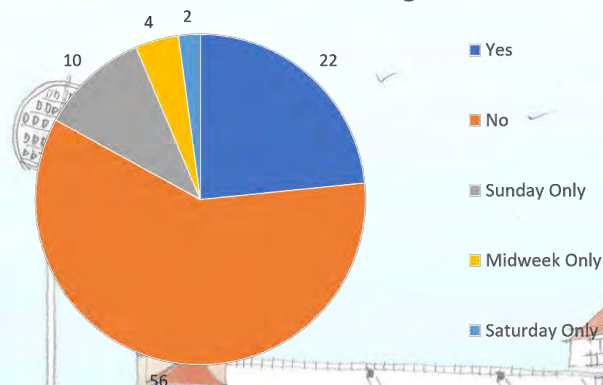
There are three facilities with hybrid wickets in the county, Lady Bay Sports Ground owned by NCCC, Nottingham University and Nottingham Trent University (Clifton Campus)



Clubs leasing their facilities/squares

95 of 100 clubs responded to this specific question in the survey. Thirteen of the 34 who are open to leasing to other clubs, already do so, however, our biggest challenge is encouraging these clubs and their workforce (grounds staff) to provide more capacity.

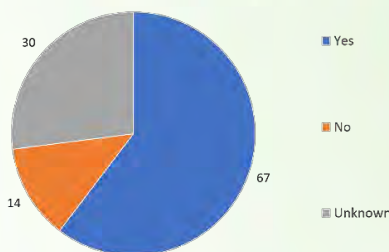
Lease to other clubs? – Nottinghamshire



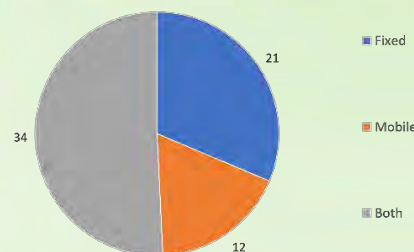
Practice Facilities

Practice facilities are those that are located at recreational club sites, either fixed nets, mobile nets or both. There are a total of 55 sites with fixed nets. Of the clubs with only one lane, five of the 13 have hardball junior sections.

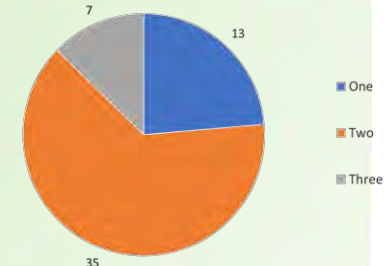
Access To Practice Facilities – Nottinghamshire



Type of Practice Facility – Nottinghamshire



Number of Fixed Practice Lanes – Notts

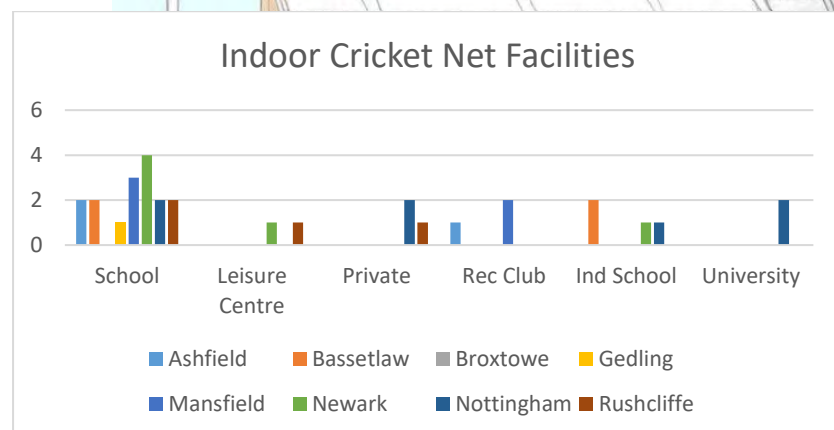


Indoor Net Facilities

Gathering information on indoor cricket net facilities has been difficult, the information gathered does not reflect the quality of the nets/mats and capacity for community access. Many of the facilities are used already by recreational clubs but further insight needs to be gained to get an understanding of the potential for further investment in these facilities, to understand where there is no current community access how we can encourage this.

Overall, we know we have a total of sixteen schools with indoor net provision, the only local authority area without a school with facilities is Broxtowe. Only two local authorities have indoor net provision in a leisure centre. Three of our recreational clubs have their own indoor net provision all based in the north of the county. With seven facilities being privately owned (University, Independent school or privately owned)

Nottinghamshire County Cricket Club historically has provided access to indoor nets to the recreational clubs, however in the last 12 months the increase need by pro cricket at the club has impacted the availability of these nets for recreational clubs. **The Blaze moving to Trent Bridge has put further pressure on the club's ability to provide the same availability as it has in the past.** Last year a number of clubs had to relocate their winter net training as a result.



4.2 Current and Future Demand

Our base-level insight tells us that, as it stands, there is enough capacity to meet the demands of cricket across the county. The most popular format of cricket in the county is Saturday league cricket which has 195 teams playing across 123 squares. On the basis that each site should be able to house two teams simultaneously, that could give us a maximum capacity to grow the game to 246 Saturday league teams.

However, a more in-depth analysis of the insight will inform us that not all of these are squares are available for Saturday league cricket, which dramatically changes the countywide picture. Of the 123 squares in Nottinghamshire, 21 are not in use at all for Saturday league cricket. This is due to a combination of factors such as:

1. lack of access, in the case of school and university sites and sites managed by other sports clubs
2. ball-strike issues making them not viable for senior cricket
3. Squares being non-turf only and not having a grass option
4. Quality of square making them undesirable for league cricket

There are a further 18 sites which are only operating at half capacity for Saturday cricket. In these cases, accessibility and quality are again the fundamental underlying issues. In this case, the issues are exasperated by limitations within the workforce. Local authority sites are limited by workforce time and expertise, and quality of machinery, and club sites are limited by volunteer resource and quality of machinery.

Because of these issues, our capacity to facilitate Saturday league cricket is much closer to 200 league teams, which means we have limited capacity to grow the game over the next 10 years. Our Saturday leagues are holding steady in terms of membership. For example, the South Nottinghamshire Cricket League (SNCL) has three more teams than it did 10 years ago (having lost five teams to the formation of a second Premier League division, effectively creating a net gain of eight). Meanwhile, the Bassetlaw & District Cricket League have gone from 86 teams to 73 teams in the same period (having also lost five teams to the formation of a second Premier League division, effectively creating a net loss of 8). This trend would be supported by the fact that – for the first time in league history – teams wanted to enter the SNCL for the 2023 season but could not find a suitable venue for home matches. This lack of ground availability is being compounded by losing Local Authority grounds at an increasing rate. Prior to the 2023 season, the Burnt Stump at Ravenshead was condemned due to the condition of the pavilion. In 2024, cricket has been displaced at Hickings Lane in Stapleford by a football development. We are also currently fighting to retain facilities managed by Nottingham City Council who have confirmed to us that they will be foregoing all square maintenance on their cricket sites at the end of the 2024 season.

Potential new grass square venues which have been explored with partners with varying degrees of likelihood are:

- Pit Lane, Trowell – as part of the Hickings Lane relocation plan for Stapleford Cricket Club
- Papplewick Green
- Gamston Housing Development
- Keyworth Cricket Club, Platt Lane
- Fernwood School, Wollaton

We need to be able to support the installation of new grass cricket squares to combat the amount of threatened facilities. We acknowledge that new grass squares are expensive solutions so to support us to do this, we need to be able to:

Access additional external funding to be able to invest in new facilities

- Support clubs with facility development plans through their Club Officer
- Understand which current facilities can be more accessible to clubs and how

While the Sunday landscape is less immediately concerning – far less league cricket is played - the growth of the Women & Girls game will challenge this notion over the next 10 years. As per paragraph 3.2 of this strategy, our insight informs us that we could **increase the number of women's teams by up to 50 teams by the year 2032. Although we would have enough squares to support this** growth, 27 of our squares are not large enough (seven strips or smaller) to accommodate a full schedule of Saturday and Sunday open-age cricket. Non-turf pitches on smaller squares – or any square – could help to support this growth. Current trends suggest **that of 50 new women's teams, around 70% would be in the softball or Super 8s format, which can be accommodated on non-turf pitches as per East Midlands Women's Cricket League rules. The use of non-turf pitches** for more participative open-age cricket should be discussed with leagues as a possible solution. Of the 22 clubs who have a square size of seven pitches or under, 12 of them are already equipped with non-turf pitches.



PART 5: EXECUTIVE SUMMARY - KEY STRATEGIC PRIORITIES & RECOMMENDATIONS

5.1 Executive Summary

- There are enough facilities across the county to cater for *current* demand. However, we will not be able to meet demand in the next 10 years unless we are able to access and utilise existing facilities or develop new ones.
- Population growth over the next 10 years will mean a shortfall in grass pitches in the Boroughs of Rushcliffe and Broxtowe and Ashfield District.
- We require significantly more insight into the quality of our grass, non-turf pitches and indoor nets.
- We need more insight on 'friendly cricket' in the county to understand the possible impact on facilities in the future.
- Sustainability of square maintenance is threatened by the condition of machinery and lack of access to funding to replace and service effectively as well as a shortfall of suitably trained ground staff.
- There are a lack of accessible indoor net facilities due to restricted access due to the majority being on school sites.
- There is enough Sunday capacity to support the current rate of growth in the women and girls recreational game, however a number of squares in clubs are not large enough to accommodate a full schedule of Saturday and Sunday open age cricket.
- More hybrid and non-turf pitches are needed to accommodate the potential growth in the next 10 years.
- **There are not sufficient 'Welcoming Environments' (including changing rooms, toilets, showers and social space) for the women and girls game.**
- Very few clubs have engaged in any sustainability or environmental initiatives, with no clubs applying for the ECB County **Grants under the 'Tackling Climate Change' theme.**
- There is little knowledge about clubs existing facilities regarding boilers, lighting and utility providers.
- Changes to the climate, prolonged hot summers and warmer and wetter winters have impacted on the quality of grass pitches across the recreational game.
- Out grounds, grass net training facilities and indoor net provision for The Blaze and Pathway are limited due to quality and access needed.
- Boys Academy and Emerging Player Pathway **can't train in the evening at Lady Bay when there is Men's 2nd Team 1st XI or Blaze match play**, local recreational clubs are used however the quality of training facilities in the recreational game are lower than at Lady Bay and there are no grass training nets.
- The possible introduction in 2024-25 of an Early Engagement Programme aimed at widening the reach and access to the pathway for boys and girls at U11 and U13 will impact on the need for additional hours of indoor and outdoor facilities for training and match play.

- Year on year the quality of recreational club pitch quality has decreased (in the last year two clubs in particular have been deemed too dangerous to play on) meaning fewer clubs each year are able to host county age group cricket matches, especially over two or three days.
- There are few high quality grass net **training facilities within the county for men's and women's pathway cricket outside of Lady Bay.**
- Clubs own capacity to provide their own members training and match play has reduced capacity for County Age Group cricket.
- There is a miss match of recreational facilities for pathway use, e.g. high quality pitch but poor pavilion, changing facilities and vice versa
- There is no current incentive or support for recreational clubs, with the quality of facilities needed for pathway cricket, to host games.
- There is **not enough indoor training net capacity of the quality needed for women's pathway at Trent Bridge due to** already being at full capacity use. There needs to be a long-term solution to provide additional indoor training/practice facilities that will allow growth of the performance game, in particular the women and girls game.
- **A dedicated training and match play facility is needed for the CAG pathway and the Women's game possibly West Park**
- Additional hybrid pitches are needed at Lady Bay and West Park to account for additional match play and training requirements.

5.2 Key Strategic Priorities and Recommendations

The Strategic priorities for Nottinghamshire are:

1. To increase the volume and access to Indoor and outdoor Practice Facilities.
2. To increase the quality and accessibility of grass squares.
3. To support the growth of the women and girls game with investment into off – field facilities.
4. To address the shortfall of pitch availability in the Borough of Rushcliffe and Broxtowe and Ashfield District.
5. To provide access to funding that will support the recreational game to invest in its cricket facilities to help improve the quality and access to play.
6. Develop a long term plan to minimise the impact of climate change.
7. Increase access to high quality facilities for the Pathway and Performance cricket, for women, girls and boys.

Key Strategic Priority 1: To increase the volume and access to Indoor and outdoor Practice Facilities.

Recommendations:

- A. Create new opportunities for indoor and outdoor practice provision by investing in existing multi-use facilities across the county (including schools, leisure centres and community centres).
- B. Identify and establish partnerships with existing facility providers to improve access to indoor and outdoor practice facilities.

Key Strategic Priority 2: To increase the quality and accessibility of grass squares.

Recommendations:

- A. Roll out the use of the PitchPower App to gain further insight and understanding of the quality of our grass squares to help identify priority investment.
- B. Work collaboratively with all leagues to extend and improve a countywide pitch marking scheme.
- C. Roll out a countywide recreational grounds maintenance scheme that will specifically target Local Authority and Parish Council Pitches.
- D. Use our County Pitch Advisors to provide training, advice and support to upskill the grounds workforce in local recreational clubs, Local Authorities and Parish Councils.

Key Strategic Priority 3: To support the growth of the women and girls game with investment into off field facilities.

Recommendations:

- A. Carry out a deep dive report on pavilion facilities to identify key priority clubs to invest in.
- B. Continue to prioritise 'Creating Welcoming Environment' applications within the County Grant Scheme.
- C. Identify and produce case studies from the County Grants Scheme to share with the club network.

Key Strategic Priority 4: To address the shortfall of pitch availability in the Borough of Rushcliffe and Broxtowe and Ashfield District.

Recommendations:

- A. Support and influence local authorities to update their Playing Pitch Strategies to reflect shortfalls in cricket facilities and pitches.
- B. Gather further detailed insight to understand barriers to accessibility of existing club sites and find solutions.

Key Strategic Priority 5: To provide access to funding that will support the recreational game to invest in its cricket facilities to help improve the quality and access to play.

Recommendations:

- A Use the County Facilities Strategy to prioritise ECB funding investments into recreational clubs and Multi use facilities.
- B Identify other external sources of funding for facility development and share with the recreational game network.
- C Support recreational clubs to develop and align their facility development plans with the objectives of our County Facilities Strategy and Countywide Recreational Plan.

Key Strategic Priority 6: Develop a long term plan to minimise the impact of climate change.

Recommendations:

- A Undertake a detailed audit of clubs facilities, specifically around energy efficiency and produce a report of the findings.
- B Provide clubs with advice and support on ways they can make their club facilities more environmentally sustainable.
- C Prioritise clubs **using the ECB County Grants 'Tackling Climate Change' theme** over the next 10 years.

Key Strategic Priority 7: Increase access to high quality facilities for pathway and performance cricket, for women, girls and boys.

Recommendations:

- A Identify an existing facility that can become a specific cricket home for the increased professional demand of The Blaze Women's Team and Nottinghamshire's County Age Group Pathway (boys and girls).
- B Invest in more hybrid pitches in recreational clubs and other facilities that provide increased capacity to host pathway and professional match play and training.
- C Support and prioritise recreational clubs willing to host county age group match play cricket with access to ECB County Grants and other funding pots to improve grass pitches or internal pavilion facilities.

