

Ashby Sports Hub

Key Points

- There are identified shortfalls for various sports within the Ashby-de-la-Zouch Analysis Area. However, most of these can be addressed without providing a new dedicated sports hub site (grass football, grass rugby union, hockey, cricket).
- New facilities that are required in the Area include two 11v11 size 3G (one potentially being World Rugby compliant), padel courts, a NewGen athletics track, and a community space.
- There is also a desire to have indoor tennis courts, archery, and cycling provision.
- A wider feasibility study is required to fully understand if this facility mix could form a new dedicated sports hub site.
- Alternative options should also be explored as to whether the shortfalls for new provision identified could potentially be addressed at current sporting sites within the Ashby-de-la-Zouch Analysis Area that already have some level of established infrastructure.
- The above examples could include putting an air dome over the tennis courts at Ashby Castle Lawn Tennis Club and the creation of one 11v11 size 3G pitch at either Ashby Ivanhoe FC or Ashby RFC, with both of these options replacing grass pitches.
- If the above can be achieved, a smaller new site could be developed which accommodates the remaining provision required. For example, with a facility mix which includes one 11v11 size sports lit 3G pitch with a potential NewGen athletics facility and adjacent cycling facility and tennis/padel courts. This could be accompanied by a multipurpose community room within accompanying ancillary facilities.

Sports Facilities

Football

- There is currently a shortfall in youth 11v11 and 9v9 pitch sizes in the Ashby area. All other pitch sizes meet demand.
- Future demand based on population growth aligned to the Local Plan would lead to a shortfall in all pitch sizes except adult pitches.
- If small quality improvements were made to the pitches (maintenance and drainage), then there would be no current shortfalls.
- However, with small quality improvements there would still be future shortfalls in all pitch sizes except adults.
- If quality improvements were made to pitches that got them all to a standard of 'good', then there would only be future shortfalls in children's 7v7 and 5v5 pitch sizes.
- If clubs develop as per their aspirations, then this would lead to future shortfalls in youth 11v11 and 9v9 as well.
- If the number of football teams in Ashby grow at the same rate as they have since 2017 then there would be a shortfall in all pitch sizes.

3G Pitches

- There is currently a shortfall of just over two full-size 3G pitches in the Ashby area.

- With future demand, this shortfall increases to just under three full-size 3G pitches.
- A rugby compliant 3G pitch would remove the future shortfall for rugby union pitches.

Rugby Union

- There is a current shortfall in rugby union pitch provision in the Ashby area, which will increase with future demands.
- If pitch quality improvements were made, this would effectively meet current shortfalls, but there would still be a future shortfall.
- If lighting were installed on all pitches, this would meet future demand.
- If a rugby 3G compliant pitch was developed, this would also meet future demand.

Hockey

- Demand is currently met in Ashby.
- Future demand is likely to create a shortfall in provision in the Ashby area, although this could be met in the Coalville area. Therefore, there is no need for new provision.

Cricket

- Current cricket demand in Ashby is met.
- Future demand is likely to create a shortfall in provision on Saturdays.
- This shortfall could be met by reinstating unused cricket squares

Tennis

- There is no shortfall of outdoor tennis courts in Ashby either currently or in the future.
- There is a shortfall of seven padel courts across the district.
- There Lawn Tennis Association identifies a shortfall of indoor tennis provision in Ashby with Ashby Castle Lawn TC also stating an aspiration to access indoor tennis courts

Netball

- Current and future demand in Ashby is met by current provision

Athletics

- There is demand for a New;Gen facility in the district

Bowls

- Current demand in Ashby is met by current provision, although future demand may create a shortfall in provision.

Sports Halls

- Whilst there is adequate provision to meet demand in Ashby, consultation indicates there is an unmet demand.
- Future demand may also create a shortfall.
- However, if sports hall provision is delivered in Castle Donington and Isley Woodhouse, this will likely meet future demand.

Swimming Pools

- Current and future demand for swimming pools is met by current provision.
- Supply could be increased with the temporary covering of Ashby Lido.

Fitness Rooms

- Current and future demand for fitness rooms is met by current provision.

Gymnastics

- There is a potential shortfall of a purpose built gymnastics facility in the district.

Squash

- Current and future demand for squash is met by current provision.

Community Buildings

- There is a shortfall of a larger community facility in the Ashby area
- Ashby Town Council have secured land for a facility as part of the Moneyhill development and are developing an evidence base to support the need for such a facility

Open Space

- The Ashby area is noted as having potential shortfalls in allotments and play areas.

Sports Clubs

Football

- None of the football clubs consulted report aspirations to relocate to a hub site and prefer to improve their current facilities.
- Assistance can be provided to Ashby Ivanhoe FC and Ashby United Community FC to create new provision at Ashby Ivanhoe Football Club and Ashby School / Ashby RFC, respectively.

Rugby Union

- Ashby RFC does not state an aspiration to relocate and instead aspires to develop its own facilities, such as improving pitch quality.

Cricket

- Neither Packington CC nor Ashby Hastings CC indicate an aspiration to relocate.

Tennis

- Ashby Castle Lawn TC state an aspiration to access indoor tennis courts.

Bowls

- No identified demand for relocation.

Archery

- Ivanhoe Archers currently use Ivanhoe School indoor sports hall during the winter, and the school grounds during the summer.
- The Club would like its own indoor dedicated facility.
- Current issues: storage at the school, need more sports hall slots, currently has a waiting list.

Cycling

- Ashby Ivanhoe Road Cyclists would like a dedicated off road 'closed' circuit, either at the leisure centre or at one of the schools.
- Without this, it feels its junior section will struggle to exist.

Athletics

- Ivanhoe Robins Junior AC has clear ambitions to establish provision to service its demand with the current lack of provision restricting its growth.