

# Hampton Common

## Consultation on proposed creation of new football pitch

### Summary of Results

#### 1. Background

As part of the Council's continued commitment to improve our parks and open spaces, we are proposing to create an additional football pitch in Hampton Common to accommodate and grow football in the borough in particular girls football which is a fast growing sport internationally.

We would like to be able to provide sport opportunities for all and we recognise the health benefits sport can bring to individuals and the community.

However, the current football facilities at Hampton Common are not enough to accommodate additional new teams. The proposed new pitch would allow for additional teams to be developed, as well as protecting existing pitches from overuse.

An indicative map showing the original proposed location of the new pitch can be viewed in the appendix below. This was the original location requested by current sports clubs booking the site. However, as outlined later in the report this location has now changed to align with existing facilities on site (see appendix below).

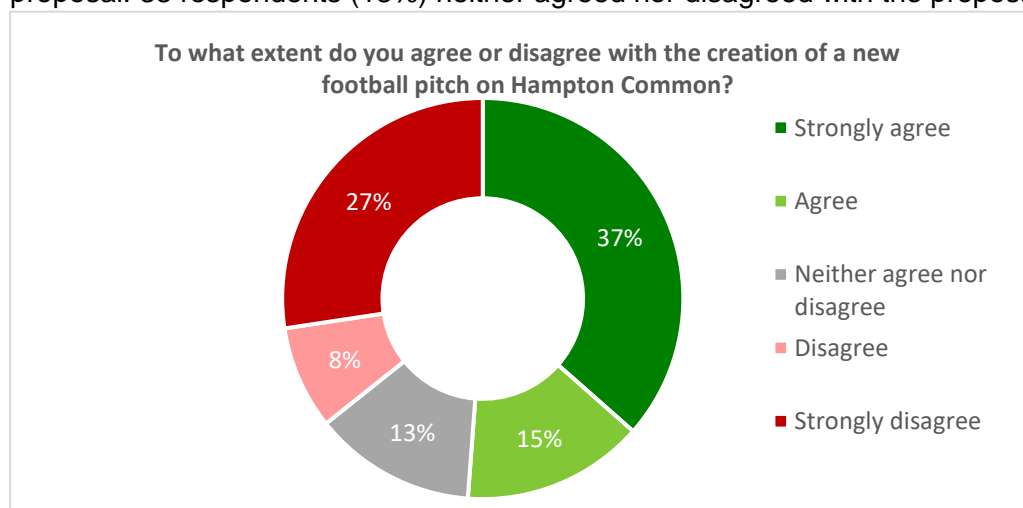
Football sessions are to be held only during the football season (August to April). If the proposal is supported, the pitch would be prepared in time for next season 2021/22. Sports clubs would also be encouraged to promote sustainable travel or car shares to and from the park to ease the pressures of parking on adjacent roads.

This consultation took place between 23<sup>rd</sup> of June and closed on the 21<sup>st</sup> of July 2021

#### 2. Summary of Results

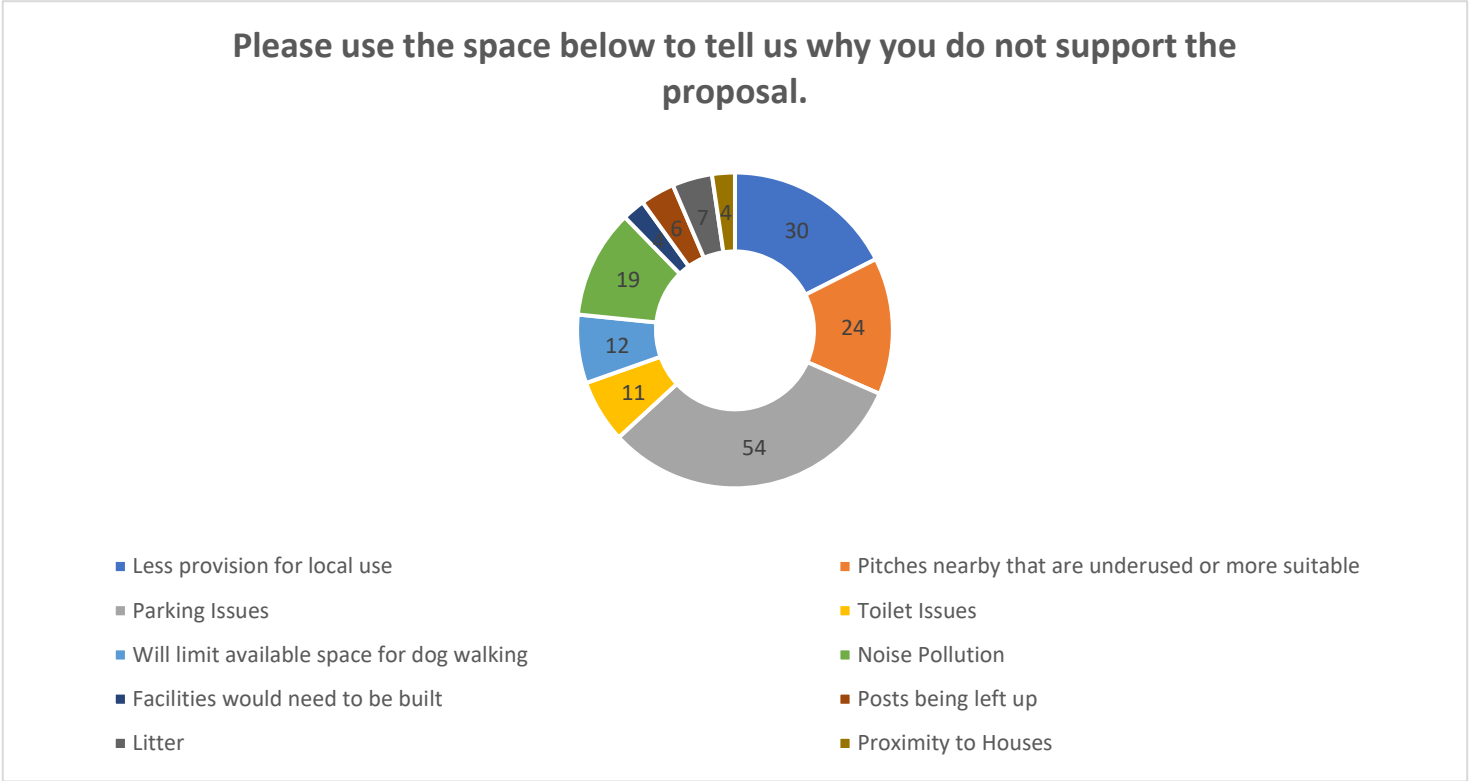
253 people responded to this consultation via the online [survey](#).

To the question of whether they agree or disagree with the creation of a new football pitch on Hampton Common, 129 of respondents (52%) either strongly agreed or agreed with the proposal. In contrast, 90 respondents (35%) either strongly disagreed or disagreed with the proposal. 33 respondents (13%) neither agreed nor disagreed with the proposal.



**Reasons why respondents do not support the proposal:**

Respondents who strongly disagreed or disagreed were asked why they did not support the proposal, of which 86 of the 90 left comments.. Of these comments many people noted 2 or more reasons for their disagreement to the proposal.



Further analysis of these comments highlighted that main reason for opposition was parking or traffic related issues, 54 comments noted this. Of the 54 comments, nearly half (23) mentioned the congestion that would result on Buckingham Road. Some suggested that although sustainable travel to the ground would be promoted, they didn't feel certain that promotion of this would result in the intended outcome, with most visitors still opting to travel by car. Even with the proposed option of using Sainsbury's Car Park respondents still believed the local roads would be used to park as they are closest to the Common.

The second most reported concern was that another pitch would result in the park having less space for the local community (30). Where the proposal of another pitch would mean that the local residents would have less provision for their own enjoyment including exercise, dog walking and family time. There were 12 concerns related to dog walking, most mentioning that dogs currently do not have to remain on leads in Hampton Common and with the addition of another pitch this would no longer be a suitable place for dogs to remain off lead. One respondent mentioned antisocial behaviour of football goers towards them and their dog.

Many respondents suggested alternative locations for the addition of a new pitch or that there are pitches in the area which are underused (24) and therefore could support the addition of another team. Some mentioned that the pitch already located at Hampton Common was underused and could accommodate the addition of new teams. Other locations mentioned for the pitch or placement of the team were local school facilities (4), Snakey Lane (2), Hatherop Park (7), Hanworth/Feltham Air Parks (4).

Other notable comments included the increased noise pollution to the area from increased visitors on match day and the lack of toilet facilities which result in public urination and

defecation. This also resulted in concerns that there would need to be new facilities built which would reduce local space further and increase vandalism and loitering.

Under the further comments section many of the concerns above were presented again. The main topics for concern were parking and traffic issues that would arise, that there would be less provision for local use and noise pollution.

**Preferred pitch location:**

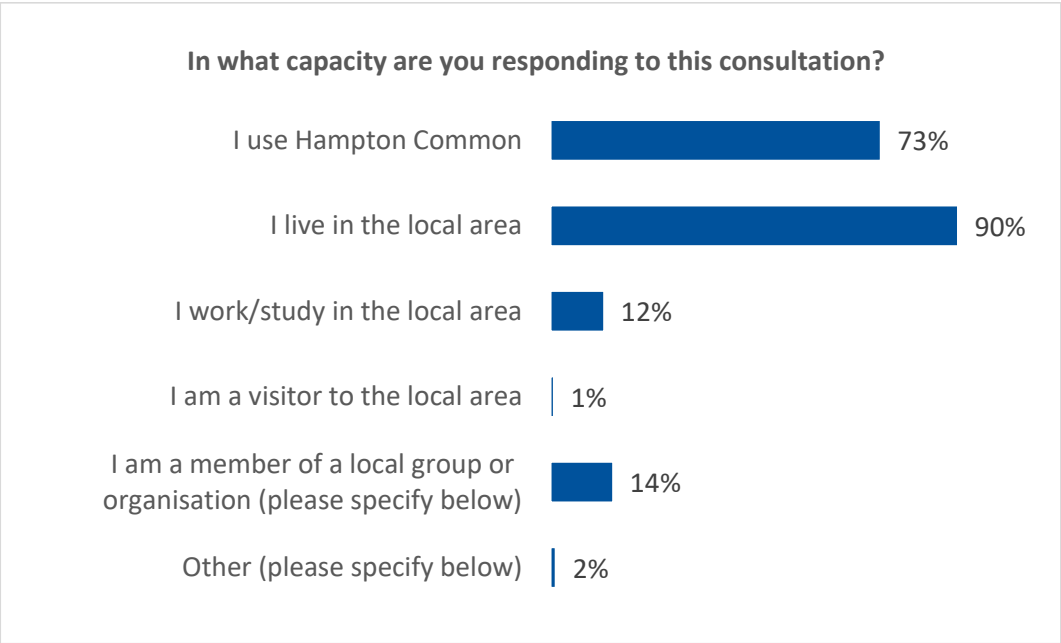
Respondents were asked to choose between option A and option B for the proposed new pitch. There were 240 answers with 71 (30%) saying A and 125 (52%) saying B. 44 (18%) had no preference.

**General comments:**

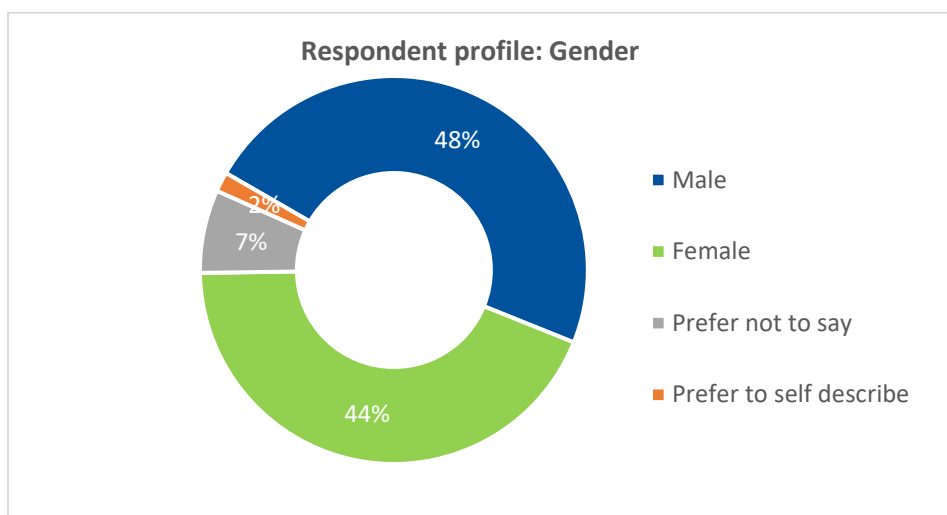
Lastly participants were asked to leave any further comments that they had which 147 did so. Of these comments 55 were in support of the proposal citing various reasons such as the benefits to mental health and wellbeing, exercise provision for young people, supporting girls’ football in the borough and promoting sport in outdoor spaces.

Around the same number (53) left further comments against the proposal. Citing similar concerns to those previously mentioned, such as the impact on other park users, that there is no requirement for additional pitches, the exiting pitches are not used enough and there would be concerns about the impact on residents due to increased parking pressures. The remaining 39 comments focussed more on their preferred location, but this has already been mentioned above.

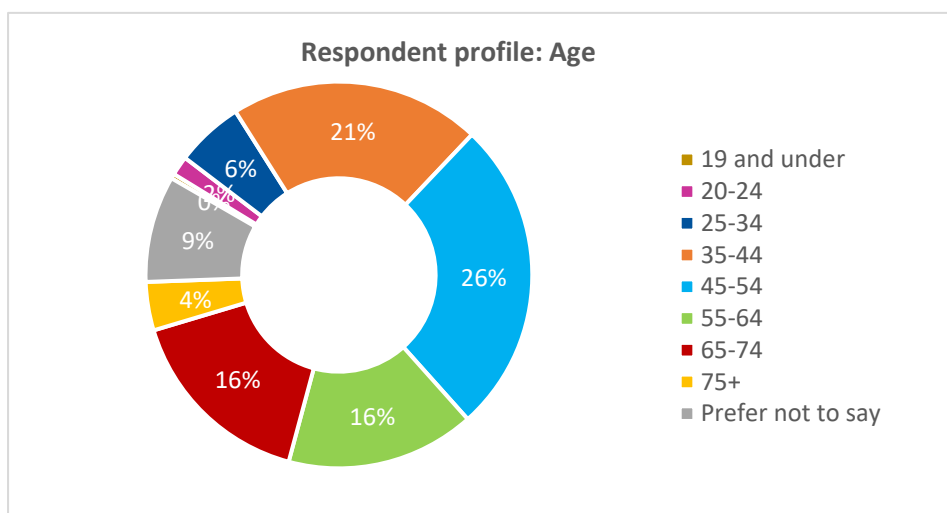
**User information**



245 respondents supplied their gender: 117 (48%) were male and 107 (44%) were female.



247 respondents provided their age:



### 3. Next steps

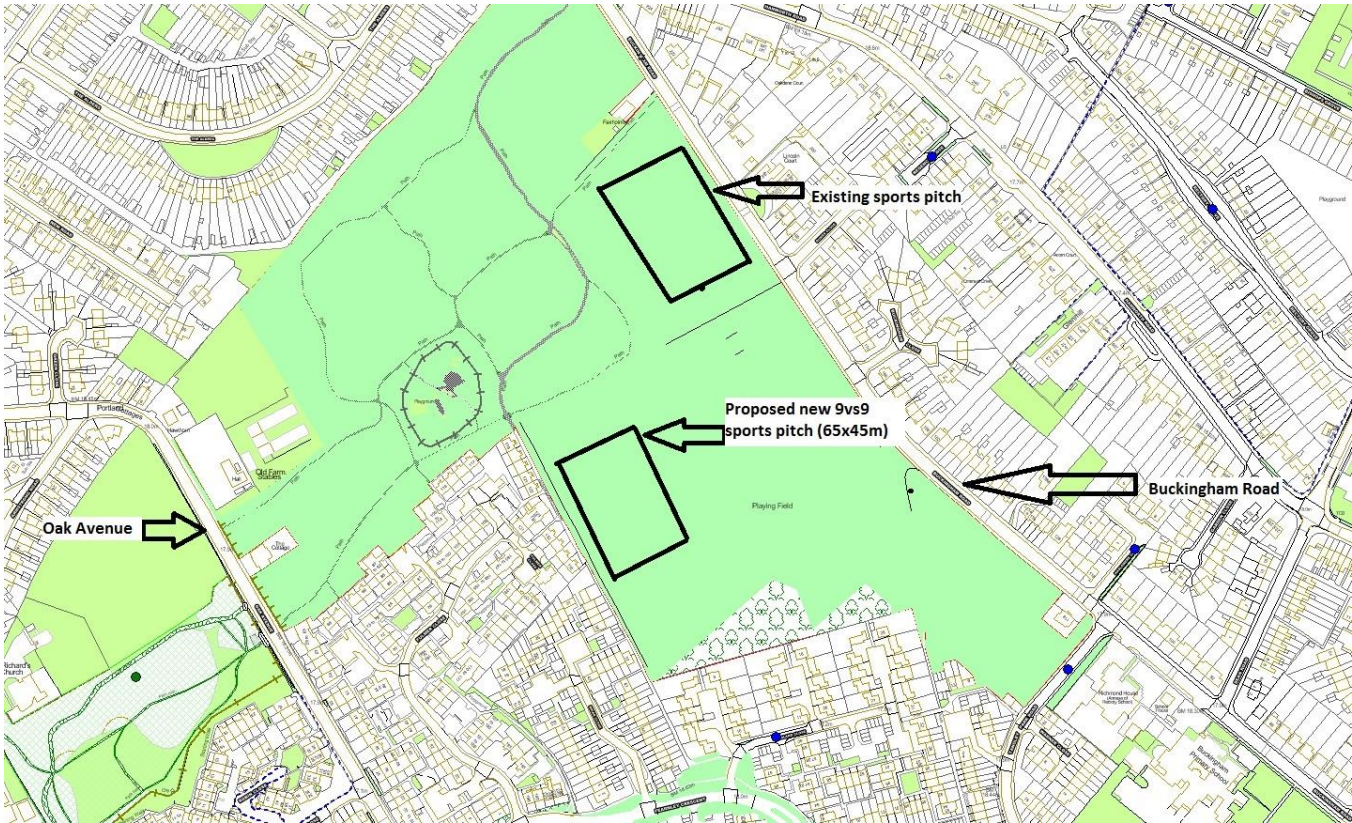
The Parks and Open Spaces Team plan to:

- Share the report with the Friends of Hampton Common and ward Councillor's.
- Work with our sports contractor on preparing a trial pitch in location B for the 2021/22 season. **N.B.** Due to a delay in sourcing materials the trial will now run for half a season (January to May).
- Work with our sports contractor on sourcing removable goals and a small container in preparation for the new pitch and in agreement with the Friends of Hampton Common
- Conduct the trial season with all queries and complaints logged with the Council and reviewed in summer 2022.
- Any prospective club will be informed about encouraging sustainable travel and avoidance of parking in neighbouring roads. This will be reiterated through the Council's sports booking system.
- Inform park users of the decision via posters on site and through the Council's consultation webpage.

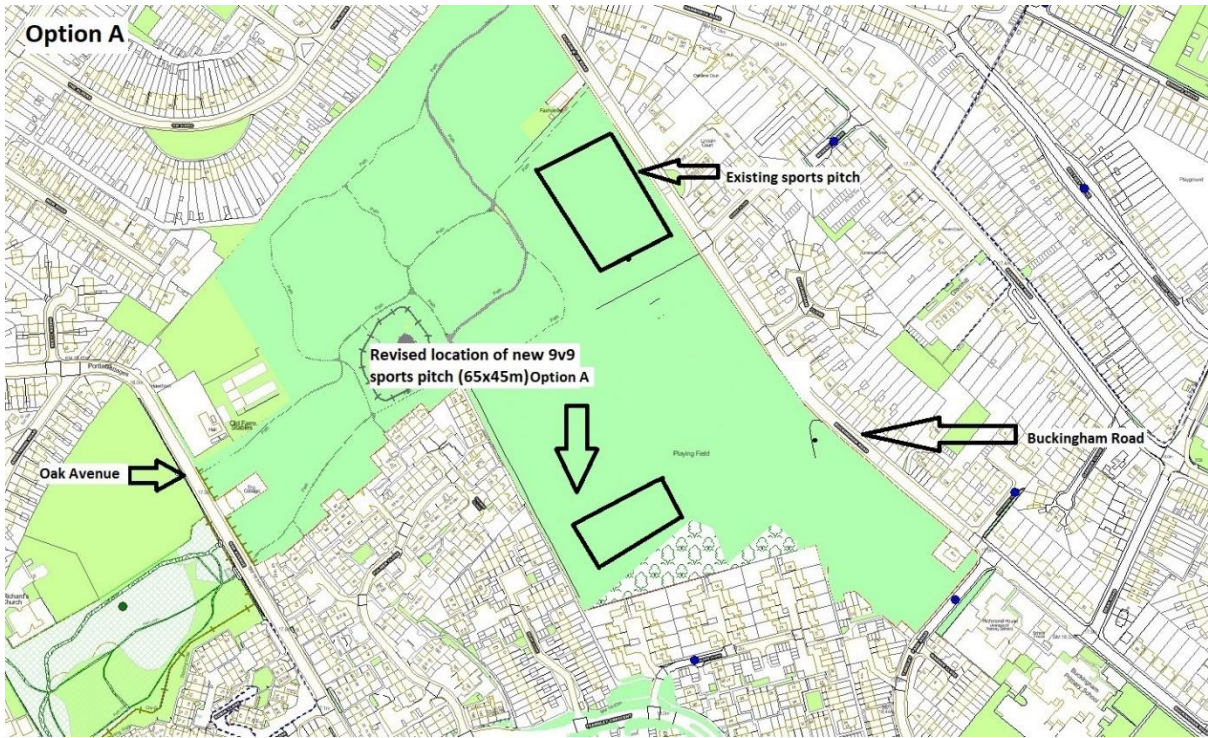


Appendix:

Original indicative location for the new sports pitch (9vs9 65m x 45m):

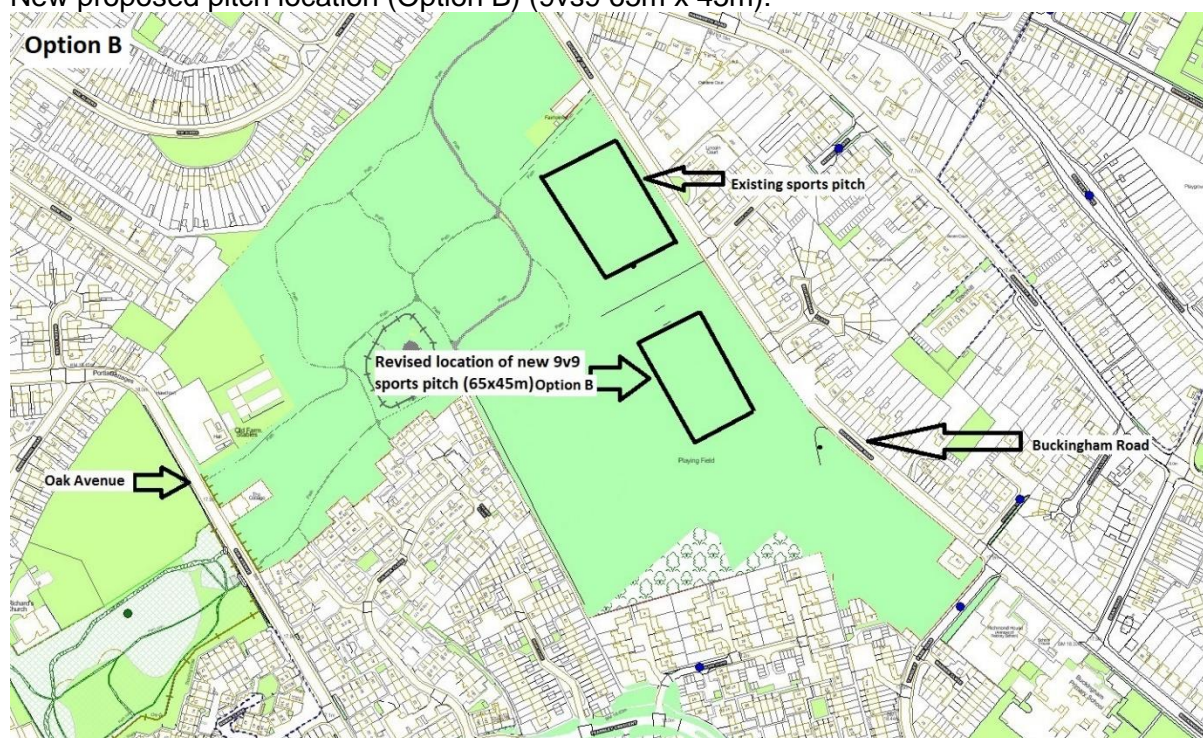


New proposed pitch location (Option A) (9vs9, 65m x 45m):





New proposed pitch location (Option B) (9vs9 65m x 45m):



N.B. The existing pitch is a full-sized football pitch.