

1.1. Feedback provided by those concerned regarding the proposals

Issue	Officer response
<p><i>Loss of shared green space</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Concerns that Hampton Common is being turned into a dedicated football facility, reducing access for informal recreation such as walking, picnics, and family activities. Objections to the perception that the space is being prioritised for one club, undermining its status as common land for all. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hampton Common is a large site. The new pitch and training grid will not occupy a relatively small amount of space. The pitch and training grid will only be in use for the football season from September to May each year, for a few hours per week. Goals will not be left up permanently on the new 9v9 pitch, as with the existing 9v9. Leaving plenty of space for all park users to undertake their preferred activities within this site. It is common for football clubs to have home sites where most of their activities take place. There are two resident clubs using Hampton Common, both have expressed strong interest in using this site for expanding girls and boys football teams.
<p><i>Parking and traffic congestion</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Widespread concern about unsafe and inconsiderate parking during match days and training sessions, particularly on Buckingham Road and surrounding streets. Fears that increased use will worsen congestion and lead to resident parking restrictions. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Officers from the parks service have discussed this concern with parking colleagues. Once the pitches come into use, mobile enforcement officers will monitor the surrounding road for parking contraventions during booked site use. This will also allow for ongoing monitoring of the situation. To report a vehicle which is contravening parking restrictions or parking dangerously, residents can call - Telephone: 020 8744 0462 - 7am to 7pm Monday to Saturday; 9am to 7pm Sunday, bank and public holidays (excluding Christmas Day) Out of hours: 0797 428 9802 - 7pm to 10.30pm every day including bank and public holidays (excluding Christmas Day)

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We will work with clubs to encourage those taking part in football activities at Hampton Common to walk or cycle, in line with Richmond's active travel strategy. • We will work with clubs to direct any participants arriving by car to use the Tangle Park Road (Sainsburys) car parks.
<p><i>Noise and disruption</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Anticipated increase in noise, crowds, and disruption during evenings and weekends, affecting the peaceful enjoyment of the park by local residents. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The pitch/training grid would only be in use for a few hours each week. Demand for pitches tends to be concentrated on certain times.
<p><i>Environmental impact</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Potential harm to wildlife and natural habitats due to increased footfall and pitch maintenance. • Concerns about littering, use of chemicals, and degradation of green space. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The increase in footfall will be on the larger amenity area of the Common. The conservation area located towards The Alders side will see minimum impact from the pitch use. • Refuse bin provision will be monitored once the new facilities come into use. Increased provision will be provided if required. • All sports pitches overall condition is monitored by our Greenspace Management Contractor Krinkels UK Ltd. Only pitch areas are subject to our sports maintenance program, minimising impact on the remainder of sites.
<p><i>Anti-Social behaviour and vandalism</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increasing use of a building that has not been in regular use for some years should not increase anti-social behaviour locally. We anticipate more regular use would deter such activity. Any new toilet facilities would be accessible.

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Risks associated with permanent toilets and new facilities attracting vandalism and misuse. • Worries about maintenance, cleanliness, and safety of public amenities. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Toilet facilities would only be available in conjunction with pitch bookings. • The maintenance of the building would be included in our Greenspace Management Contract.
<p><i>Lack of transparency and planning</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Requests for clearer information on costs, maintenance responsibilities, and long-term plans. • Calls for formal planning processes and proper consultation beyond surveys. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There will be a formal planning process including all required surveys. The final internal layout for the Old Ambulance Station has not yet been decided. Any changes to the building's exterior will be minimal. We are not seeking to expand the building's footprint. Funding will be sought to support these improvements for local grass roots sport. Any capital programme funding allocation would be through the council's public budget setting process. • Bookings and cleansing of the building will be managed by our Greenspace Management Contractor Krinkels UK Ltd who is responsible for this at all our sports pavilions. Maintenance of the building will be undertaken by the Facilities Management Team.
<p>Equality and community access</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Questions about whether facilities will be open to all or reserved for specific clubs. • Concerns about prioritising one group (e.g. girls' football) over others, with calls for inclusive sport provision. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All our pitches are booked on a first-come first-served basis and are open to all. However, it is not unusual for clubs to have a home site and book the pitches in these locations year after year. This is important to maintain league schedules and fixture timetables. • While increasing provision of girls' football, the new pitches will be available to all. Providing additional capacity for those currently underrepresented particularly promotes inclusion as it widens participation and addresses clearly

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	identified need in line with the council's sport and leisure strategy Richmond Moves.

1.2. Feedback provided by those who supported the proposals

Issue	Summary of feedback
<i>Support for youth and grassroots Sport</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strong endorsement for improving access to football facilities for children and young people, particularly girls. • Recognition of a shortage of suitable pitches in the borough and the value of Hampton Common as a location to meet this need. • Emphasis on the importance of sport in promoting physical activity, teamwork, and healthy lifestyles.
<i>Improved facilities for park users</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support for the introduction of permanent toilets and storage facilities to replace temporary or inadequate provisions. • Acknowledgement that accessible toilets are essential. • Suggestions that additional amenities such as water fountains, changing rooms, and a café would enhance the park's usability.
<i>Community and wellbeing benefits</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Belief that the proposals would strengthen community ties by encouraging inclusive, local participation in sport.

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recognition of the mental health benefits of outdoor activity and structured recreation. • Support for making better use of underutilised space to serve a broader range of residents.
<i>Inclusivity and equal access</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encouragement for facilities that support both boys' and girls' football, as well as adult recreational teams. • Calls for Hampton Common to become a hub for grassroots sport, accessible to all ages and backgrounds.
<i>Backing from local organisations</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local clubs and organisations expressed strong support for the proposals, highlighting the need for improved infrastructure to support growing participation. • Suggestions included reinstating a cricket square, creating a safe and structured space for sport, and enhancing the park's role as a community asset.

