

Comments on REP7-074 – Draft Section 106- Doc 8.167

Schedule 2-Re-provision of sports pitches.

Wigmore Valley Park has only been used as a site for football, and those pitches were withdrawn when flint migration to the surface caused them to be deemed dangerous. They also suffered from severe waterlogging.

For this reason I understand why this document concentrates on replacement football pitches.

The document only lists two of the current football sites within Luton for investments, Stopsley/Lothair and Ely Way/Lewsey Park.

The Luton Borough Council website lists all the sports pitches in the town:-

https://m.luton.gov.uk/Page/Show/Leisure_and_culture/Parks_and_recreation/Pages/Football-pitches.aspx

There are many other sports grounds listed on that site, including cricket, rugby and bowls.

Could the applicant explain, why in the interest of improving all sports facilities throughout the town, more sports sites have not been allocated equal shares of any Section 106 income?

Could the applicant detail how many football teams there are in Luton who require use of Step 5 Class football facility?

For the benefit of the ExA I ask these questions, as the entire sporting infrastructure under the control of Luton Borough Council has seen a lack of investment for many years, due to budget cuts by the Council. Investing across all sites and all sports, would give a greater share of the population the chance to continue in, or take up, sporting exercise that meets their interests, not just football?

The costs, both in construction and running, a Step 5 facility are extensive. Is such an investment for the benefit of one or two teams a better use of monies than investment over a broader selection of sporting activity for the residents of Luton?

There is a shortage of small size youth pitches in Luton, 5/7 and 9 a side. Providing these at local sites would be of better community value than a single large Step 5 facility.