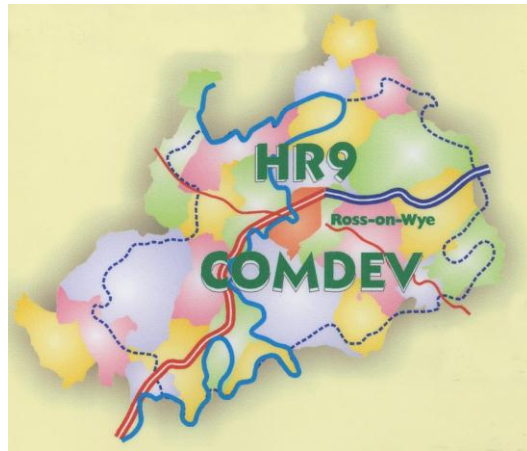


Sports and Leisure Survey in HR9

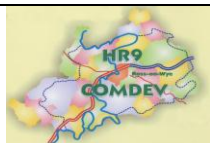
Final Report

July 2005

Comdev




Comdev Sports and Leisure Survey dated July 2005
Funded by Awards for All. URN: A4E/3/010138668
Compiled by Brian Atherton



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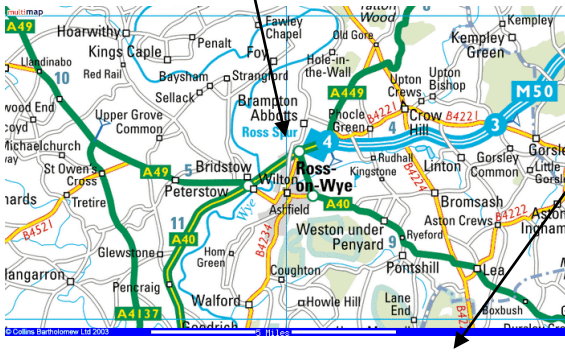
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| Comdev Sports and Leisure Survey in the HR9 area |  | July 2005 |
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This report details the opportunities and facilities for sport and leisure activities in the HR9 postal area, compiled in part from a March 2004 report to the then Ross and District Regeneration Partnership, authored by Les Duffin. It has been brought up to date by individual returns from the Clerks of each constituent Parish Council and new information from major sports clubs.

SUMMARY FINDINGS

There are hundreds of clubs and societies in the HR9 area, covering a very wide range of topics but most are intellectual rather than sports or leisure and are aimed at older people.

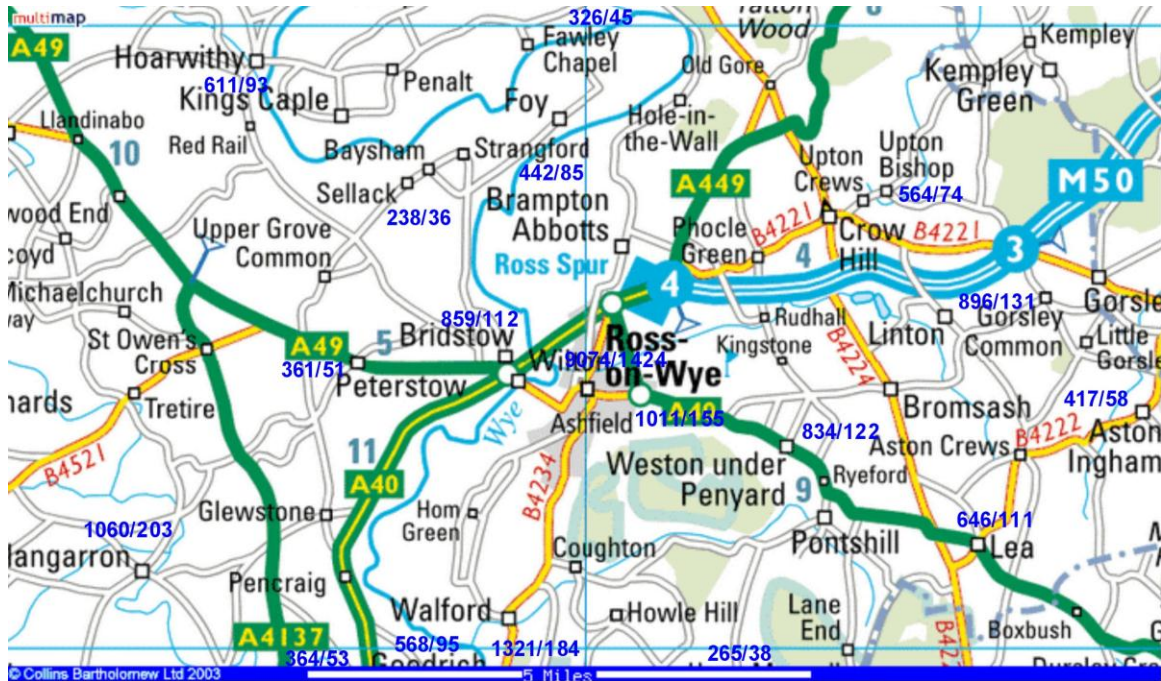
Dedicated sporting facilities are quite limited and do not have a comprehensive mix of equipment or services for the aspiring youngster. As can be seen from the following map, they are almost entirely in Ross itself, a location which is difficult for children and young people, outside of school hours.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| | <p>Ross: Badminton, indoor mat bowls, boxing, rowing, swimming pool, gymnasium, football, cricket, rugby, kung foo, tae kwon do, shotokai karate, table tennis, bowls, tennis, canoeing at Ross pool (and outdoor at Symonds Yat), cycling, volley ball, netball.</p> | |
|  | | <p>Linton: golf (two courses) both with good facilities. 16 clubs and societies using the village halls (2) or pubs (2).</p> <p>Lea village hall used for badminton and painting.</p> |
| <p>Llangarron village hall: bowls club and dog club. Llangrove village hall palates classes and line dancing.</p> | <p>Goodrich: 1 cricket pitch (22 players) and 3 tennis courts (12 players).</p> | <p>Weston-under-Penyard recreation ground: used for football; children's play equipment and occasional cricket.</p> |

Parishes are from 1 to 10 miles from Ross, distances which mostly require transport, especially for children. Public transport is limited (For Gorsley Village in Linton Parish it is good and Lea, Bridstow, Peterstow and others along the A49 have a daily bus service) but, apart from Route 32 through Gorsley none are frequent or have early/late services.



The paucity of facilities where they are needed can be seen by comparing this map of where the [adults/children](#) are, compared to the previous map.



| Parish | Population | Children (5 - 17) |
|--|------------|-------------------|
| Aston Ingham | 417 | 58 |
| Brampton Abbots, Foy | 442 | 85 |
| Bridstow | 859 | 112 |
| Ganarew, Whitchurch (Not shown on map) | 364 | 53 |
| Goodrich | 568 | 95 |
| Ballingham, Bolstone, Hentland incl. Hoarwithy | 611 | 93 |
| Hope Mansell | 265 | 38 |
| How Caple, Sollershope, Yatton | 326 | 45 |
| Lea | 646 | 111 |
| Linton | 896 | 131 |
| Llangarron | 1060 | 203 |
| Llanrothal, Welsh Newton (Not shown on map) | 314 | 60 |
| Marstow | 364 | 53 |
| Peterstow | 361 | 51 |
| Ross Rural | 1011 | 155 |
| Ross-on-Wye East | 9074 | 1424 |
| Sellack | 238 | 36 |
| Upton Bishop | 564 | 74 |
| Walford, Bishopswood | 1321 | 184 |
| Weston-under-Penyard | 834 | 122 |

(Figures from CHDC's Research unit)



CONCLUSION

Sporting and Leisure Facilities throughout HR9 are difficult to survey as, in the main, each facility is known only to those that use it and is not widely publicised amongst the area at large.

The outlying Parishes were surveyed by a request for information (Attached at Appendix 1) that was sent to every Parish Clerk in the area. Where there was no immediate response, each request was followed up by telephone or in person. Even so and despite promises to the contrary, only 8 out of the 26 replied. It is likely that those that did not reply have no facilities in their parishes.

What is clear is that over half the population lives in the outlying parishes where there are very few facilities. That is nearly 1,800 children who must rely on their parents to drive them into or collect them from Ross Town. Once there, there are only 18 activities available which must inevitably lead to considerable overcrowding of the more popular.

There is urgent need for more and better facilities within Ross Town and a substantial potential for more and better facilities in the outlying Parishes of HR9, unless public transport can be improved, allowing children to use the Town facilities without having to involve their parents.

WHERE NOW?

At pages 14 onwards is a critique of this report by Ruth Jackson of CHDC. Comdev does not disagree with any of Ruth's points but, unfortunately, does not have the resources to deal with any of the points raised. It is to be hoped that organisations that have more resources can use this report as a basis for carrying the work on.

Comdev Sports and Leisure Survey dated July 2005
Compiled by Brian Atherton



**APPENDIX A
SURVEY REQUEST SENT TO THE OUTLYING PARISHES
In March 2005**

A Plea for Your Help

Comdev has received a grant to complete a survey of Sports and Leisure facilities in HR9.

There is some purpose in such a survey as new money is becoming available to meet established needs partly as the Government is targeting "obesity", especially in Children.

The objective of the survey is to quantify both Lack of and Duplication of facilities. In determining these quantities, the survey will take into account rural transport problems. I.E. it may not help that there is a cricket pitch in Llangarron if the children that want to use it live in Walford.

The report will go to the usual agencies and stakeholders, including one or more copies per parish, as needed. Interestingly, it will also go to the Planning Authorities as one source of finance is a contribution from developers of new housing.

Rather than requesting form-filling which I'm sure you've all had quite enough of, I would appreciate it if you could find the time to send me or telephone me with a list of Internal and External Sports and Leisure Facilities in your Parish. Ideally, would you include for each:

- Which Parish
- Type of Facility
- Whether in or outdoors
- Approximate Number of People that can Use it at Any One Time
- A contact name and/or number for more information
- Finally, if you know of the regular use of a facility used in another Parish or even outside of the HR9 area, a brief note of what and how many from your Parish use it would be very useful.

With many thanks.

| | | |
|--|---|-----------|
| Comdev Sports and Leisure Survey in the HR9 area |  | July 2005 |
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**APPENDIX B
EXTRACTS FROM THE REPORT TO THE ROSS AND DISTRICT REGENERATION PARTNERSHIP
Published in March 2004**

Facilities in Ross

This section is taken from a Report to the Ross and District Regeneration Partnership in March 2004, authored by Les Duffin. The report draws upon:

- The **Comdev Survey** covered households in the HR9 postal district based on the Electoral Roll of 2002 and where shown have the prefix **Comdev**.
- The **Halo Survey** showing the population/households based on a fifteen-minute drive from the Ross Swimming Pool (from the Automobile Association) and where shown have the prefix **Halo**.
- The **BMG Research Report** published July 2003 includes a survey of sports in the county of Herefordshire and where shown have the prefix **BMG**.
- The **State of Herefordshire Report 2002/03** issued by the Herefordshire Partnership. This contains interesting and valid information.
- The **Recreation/Open Space Report** dated 4th March 2002 shows open spaces in the Ross area available for sport and leisure. It indicates that we cannot afford to lose any open spaces currently available.

General Sports Activities

The Percentages/Figures shown from the **Comdev** Survey refer to households (not individuals) as the questionnaire was to addresses. The actual figures quoted are, average in every case and 2% up or down should be allowed to show the range.

As a 'rough' guide to individuals, the percentages from Comdev Survey from HR9 (i.e. **8795** households) are being applied to the Halo figures (which show there are **12445** households with a population of over **30,000** within a 15 minute drive from the Ross Swimming Pool.)

Sports attendances

The **Comdev Survey** showed that of the **1895** households who answered the question **883 (ie 47%)** indicated that they participated in some form of sporting activity. Thus it can be construed that **47%** of all **8,795** households have one or more members involved in some sport or other (**4133**). Given a population of around 30,000 (Halo) this could mean that **14,100** people are involved in some form of sporting activity.

However **296 (15.6%)** households would like to participate in sports activities but do not. This equals **1,296** households (**4,680** individuals). The most common reason for not participating in sports listed was mainly due to there not being facilities available locally.

651 felt there was a need for a Centre for sport which represents **34%** which equals **3238** households or **10,200** people.

| | | |
|---|---|-----------|
| Comdev Sports and Leisure Survey in the HR9 area |  | July 2005 |
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Membership of Sports Clubs was as follows:-

Football/Hockey etc. 213 representing 11.25% equals 980 households **3,375** people.

Health/Fitness clubs 146 representing 7.5% equals 656 households **2,250** people

Walking Groups 33 representing 1.72% equals 122 households **516** people

The BMG Reports that almost half the population of Herefordshire, **88,250**, play or have an interest in sport.

INDOOR SPORTS

BADMINTON

Comdev Barrier to participating – claims “no courts locally/don’t know where to join a club” 51 represents 2.7% equals 236 households (810 people).

BMG shows 5% 8,825 of the county play badminton at least once a week.

Clubs

Ross Badminton Club

Meet at John Kyrle High School

The existence of courts specifically for badminton would be an advantage.

BOWLS INDOOR/MAT

BMG report shows 5% = 8,825 play at least once a week.

Clubs

Ross Indoor Bowls

Ross Short Mat Bowls Club

Weston under Penyard Short Mat Bowls Club

Upton Bishop Short Mat Bowls Club

Larruperz Short Mat Bowls Club

Brockhampton Short Mat Bowls Club

This is a very popular sport in age groups middle to elderly. A purpose built indoor links facility would appear to be a viable project from the number of people who regularly participate.

BOXING

Ross Amateur Boxing Club

Male members 10 over 21 – 4 of 16 to 21 – 6 of 5 to 15 years of age

Venue Ross Youth Centre

Needs are purpose built Sports Centre – Grant for equipment

GYM/FITNESS

Comdev. As main sporting activity 167 of 1895 questionnaires represents 8.8% equals 770 households (2,640 people).

However returns showed that 31 i.e. 1.64% equalling 144 households did not “mainly due to not being available at convenient times” (492 people).

BMG County report shows 13% = 22,945, visit a fitness gym at least once a week.

It also shows 9% = 19,885, attend an exercise class at least once a week.


Clubs

Ross Kung Foo Club

Ross Tae Kwon Do Club

Shotokai Karate Club

Ross Swimming Pool

| | | |
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| Comdev Sports and Leisure Survey in the HR9 area |  | July 2005 |
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SQUASH

Comdev Barrier to participating mainly due to no courts locally 62 represents 3.3% equals 288 households (990 people).

BMG county report shows 1% = 1,765 play squash at least once a week.

Comments from other leisure centres indicate there is less demand for this sport than previously and courts are being used for other activities.

SWIMMING

Comdev. As main sporting activity 262 of 1895 represents 13.8% equals 1208 households in HR9 postal district (4,140 people).

However 21 representing 1.64% equals 144 did not swim due to inadequacies of local pool (492 people).

BMG county report shows 16% = 28,240 swim at least once a week.

Clubs

Ross Swimming Club

Sub Aqua Club

The Ross pool has limitations and needs additional facilities for the very young to learn to swim.

TABLE TENNIS

Clubs

Ross Table Tennis Club

OUTDOOR SPORTS

ATHLETICS

Comdev 45 as main sporting activity represents 2.4 % equals 210 households in HR9 (720 people).

BMG county report shows 2% - 2,530, take part in track or field events at least once a week.

BOWLS

BMG county report shows 5% = 8,825, play bowls at least once a week.

Clubs

Bowling Association

Ross Bowling Club

7 Rinks at Crossfields. 80 male and 42 female members

No waiting list for members. Intend to rebuild old part of building – yet to raise funds.

CANOEING

Clubs

Wyedean Canoe Club

Male members 40 over 21, 10 of 16 to 21, 10 of 5 to 15

Female members 10 over 21, 4 of 16 to 21, 5 of 5 to 15

Indoor – Ross Swimming Pool

Outdoor – River Wye at Symonds Yat

Needs – sports Hall plus a pool for extra Water Sports. – No funds.

CRICKET

Clubs


BMG county report shows 2% = 3,530, Play cricket at least once a week.

Ross-on-Wye Cricket Club 2 senior 2 junior teams – Players: 52 male, 12 female.

Ground: The Parks Wilton Road Ross.

Strollers Cricket Club 1 senior team 31 male players. Ground John Kyrle High School - Needs a grass wicket

Total players 95

| | | |
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| Comdev Sports and Leisure Survey in the HR9 area |  | July 2005 |
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CYCLING

Comdev. 51 as main sporting activity represents 2.7% equals 236 households (810 people).

BMG county report shows 10% = 17,650 cycle at least once a week.

Clubs

Ross Cycling Club

EQUESTRIAN

Comdev. 48 as main sporting activity represents 2.5 % equals 219 households (750 people).

FOOTBALL

Comdev 41 as main sporting activity represents 2.16% equals 228 households (648 people).

BMG county report shows 7% = 12,355 play football at least once a week.

Clubs

Ross United Services 2 senior and three junior teams total players 73 male Ground at Ross Rowing Club – does flood occasionally.

Ross Town Ladies 1 team 20 players- Ground - Ross.

Ross Town Football Club Pitch/Ground, Talbot's Peck, Sports Centre off Wilton Road, Ross. Has planning permission for floodlighting and is currently working on a scheme to bring the facilities up to the standard of the Hellenic League Premier Division to which they are hoping for promotion next season. If this happens the ground will not be up to the standard necessary without improvements. There are plans for a second team next year to support the first team. There is an "under 11" team and they hope to start more junior teams next season.

Weston-Under-Penyard. 2 senior 4 junior teams – 70+ Players – Ground Weston Recreation Ground

Ross Rockets Girls under 8's under 10's under 12's under 14's. Ground John Kyrle

Additional clubs:-

Sunday Football League

Ross Junior Football Club

Whitchurch Football Club

St. John's Howle Hill Football Club

Football pitches near the river often flood during the season – this inhibits development on up to date facilities such as changing rooms, club house etc. More pitches are needed.

GOLF

Comdev. 126 as main sporting activity represents 6.6% equals 578 households in HR9 (1,980 people).

BMG county report shows 9% = 15,885 play golf at least once a week.

Clubs

Ross Golf Club

Twin Lakes Golf Club

HOCKEY

Clubs

Ross Men's Hockey Club 2 senior 1 junior teams – total players 30 – Ground Monmouth Boys School


Ross Ladies' Hockey Club 1 team – 16 players – Ground Ledbury occasionally

Total players 46

Needs – local pitches at least one all weather.

ROWING

BMG county report shows 1% = 1765 row once a week or more.

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|---|---|-----------|
| Comdev Sports and Leisure Survey in the HR9 area |  | July 2005 |
|---|---|-----------|

Clubs

Ross Rowing Club

Has 100 members of all ages. It uses river Wye from Club House on own site of 40 (?) plus acres. It holds the second largest Rowing Regatta in the country on August Bank Holiday. It is investigating the possibility of enlarging premises to cater for greater use.

RUGBY

BMG county report shows 1% = 1765 play rugby at least once a week and the same play once or twice a month.

Clubs

Ross Rugby Club

Use pitch of Wilton Road, Ross.

WALKING/ORIENTEERING

Comdev. 131 as main sport, represents 6.9% 604 households in HR9 or 2,070 within 15 minute drive of Ross centre.

SPORTS THAT CAN BE PLAYED INDOORS OR OUTDOORS

BASKET BALL

BMG report for county shows 1% = 1,765 play Basket Ball once or twice a year.

VOLLEY BALL

Club

Ross-on-Wye Hawaii Volley Ball club

12 male and 3 female over 21 – 4 male 16 to 21 years

Indoor – John Kyrle High School

Out door – Summer, River Fields

More Gym space required for all year round practice and fans. No funds

CLIMBING

BMG county report shows 1% = 1765 climb once or twice a month.

NETBALL

BMG county report shows 1% = 1765 play once a week or more.

Clubs

Ross-on-Wye Netball Club

9 Female over 21 and 5 Female 16 to 21 years of age

Indoor – no space available

Outdoor John Kyrle High School

Need are more Sports Halls. A very new club – no funds

SKATE BOARDING

Clubs

There is currently no skate boarding area. There are plans to restore a site at Wilton and funds are being sought to raise £46,000 the estimated cost. There is a great need for indoor facilities

TENNIS


Comdev 64 as main sporting activity equals 3.4% equals 298 households in HR9 or 1020 people.

BMG county report shows 3% = 5,295 play tennis once week or more.

Clubs

Tennis Centre, Walford Road, Ross.

FRINGE SPORTS

| | | |
|---|---|-----------|
| Comdev Sports and Leisure Survey in the HR9 area |  | July 2005 |
|---|---|-----------|

SNOOKER

Full sized tables in various locations in Ross.

TENPIN BOWLING

Comdev. 16 not participating represents .8% equals 70 households (2,400 people) “due to lack of local facilities”.

Summary of Sports

Total 29 Sports made up of 8 indoor, 13 outdoor, 6 in/outdoor and 2 fringe.



APPENDIX C

Sporting Opportunities for Disabled People in HR9

Herefordshire Disability Sports Forum is a part of the Herefordshire Sports Council and works in partnership with the Herefordshire Council's Leisure Services Department and disability specific organisations and carer groups.

There are approximately 21,000 people in Herefordshire who have a disability- 12% of the total population. The Forum is seeking to identify those who wish to take part in sport or physical recreational activities, whilst raising awareness amongst the community as a whole as to the rights of disabled people to have access to sporting opportunities.

The Forum stages "taster" sports sessions for disabled people in partnership with community sports clubs and aims to provide training opportunities for sports coaches and administrators to equip them to assist disabled sports people. Access into and within sport and leisure facilities is monitored and, where necessary, recommendations are made to the appropriate authority.

The Herefordshire Disability Sports Forum believes that disabled people should have equality of opportunity to be involved in sport as a player, official, administrator, spectator or in a purely social capacity. All those involved in sport in Herefordshire have the social responsibility to recognise these rights.

The sport organisations detailed in this Guide have specifically stated that they make provision for disabled people in Herefordshire and it is hoped that they will use the information contained in this Guide to assist them pursue their interest in sport and physical recreational activities.

Ross-on-Wye Bowls Club,

Mr. Keith Tanner, Meadowlands, Penyard Lane, ROSS-ON-WYE, Herefordshire HR9 5NR

Hereford County Canoe Club,

J. G. Calderbank, 10 Woodmeadow Road, ROSS-ON-WYE, Herefordshire HR9 5QG
01989563740

Ross Town F.C,

Tim Barnard, Apsley House, Whitchurch, ROSS-ON-WYE, Herefordshire HR9 6DJ
01600890722

Ross-on-Wye Swimming Club,

Trixie Pulsford, Aldaniti, Ledbury Road, ROSS-ON-WYE, Herefordshire HR9 7BG 01981 564088

Ross Table Tennis Club

Tony Alien 01989567544

Ross Tennis Centre,

Chris Friend, Crossfields, Walford Road, ROSS-ON-WYE, Herefordshire HR9 5AR 01989566607

If you require any further help or advice on disability sport please contact:
Dennis Hodgkins - The Regional Manager of The English Federation of Disability Sport - West Midlands. 26 Woodbury, University College Worcester, Henwick Grove, Worcester WR2 6AJ
Tel/Fax: 01905 855429



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Comments

Conclusion p 5 – “ It is likely that those that did not reply have no facilities in their parishes” **This may be true but it’s a bit over simplified and not based on evidence.**

Conclusion p 5 – “the outlying parishes were surveyed...” **Other than parish clerks and evidence collected from previous surveys what other investigation was undertaken, for example the local sports clubs asked for their views – should this be evidenced in the conclusion?**

Conclusion p 5 – “ that is nearly 1,800 children who must rely on their parent to drive them into or collect them from Ross” **There is an assumption here that all the children participate in Ross, this may not always be the case. Those who are able to travel may go further afield e.g. Monmouth or Hereford.**

Conclusion p 5 -potential for more and better facilities in the outlying parishes of HR9 unless public transport can be improved, allowing children to use the town facilities without having to involve their parents” **Although a valid point, must remember that children are not the only audience and that there is potential for community/multi sports use in facilities. Sustainability is an important factor when providing more facilities therefore the greater use by all the community the more likely the facility can be sustained.**

Conclusion p 5 – “ there is an urgent need for more and better facilities within Ross Town and a substantial potential for more and better facilities in the outlying Parishes of HR9” **Although valid should it be a bit more specific here to allow for action to be taken? Therefore (based on the evidence provided within the report) the overall conclusion could include:**

- **A full size indoor sports hall that is Disability Discrimination Act Part 3 compliant and dual use in nature could be sustainable**
- **A full sized, floodlit ATP (preferably dual use) could be sustainable**
- **Up to 3 full sized and 4 small-sided grass pitches are required. This demand could be part met by better access to educational sites.**
- **Multi purpose non specialist space would assist in creating sports development opportunities especially if provided at a managed site**

Recommendations:

- **Herefordshire Council commission HALO and an appropriate consultant to undertake a feasibility study into the development a community use site. Building**



on current work, Herefordshire Council continue to support the development of dual use grass pitches and an ATP at JKHS by seeking funding and securing planning permission.

Appendix A Survey request sent to outlying parishes

P 6 – “Finally if you know of the regular use of a facility used in another parish or even outside the HR9 area, a brief note of what and how many from your parish use it would be very useful” what displaced demand did you find – for example some badminton is played over in Monmouth but they would play in Ross if there was an indoor sports hall.

Appendix B Extracts from the report to Ross and District Regeneration Partnership

P 8 – Indoor sports

Badminton – fragmented clubs and low membership an issue.

Bowling - not much information supporting the suggestion that a purpose built facility would be a viable option. Not detail provided as to current use by the clubs and in our experience of other indoor facilities they are not viable. Would need strong supporting evidence for this.

Boxing – “Need a purpose built sports centre” again no supporting evidence - martial arts do not need specialist facilities a multi purpose space would be sufficient and more sustainable?

P9 Outdoor sports

Canoeing – “needs- sports hall plus a pool for extra Water sports – no funds – Why?”

P10 Hockey “needs – local pith at least one all weather - Identified future need – planning permission granted for one at JKHS

P11 Sports that can be played indoor and outdoors

Basketball, Volley Ball, Netball – a multi purpose full size sports hall.