

South Oxfordshire Local Plan 2034

Page 3: Part A - contact details

Q1. Are you responding as an:

Individual

Page 4: Individual contact details

Q2. Due to the plan-making process including an independent examination, a name and means of contact is required for your comments to be considered:

Title	Mrs
Full name	Samantha Gould
Business / Organisation name (if relevant)	-
Job title (if relevant)	-
Address line 1	██████████
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Page 7: Part B - your comments

Q5. For comments on the Local Plan, please provide the paragraph or policy to which your comments relates. You can view a list of policies here. If you wish to comment on one of the evidence documents or the policies maps, please state the document title as well as the paragraph or policy reference.

Document / Policy / Paragraph: Leisure strategy parts 1-5

Q6. Do you consider the Local Plan and supporting documents:

	Yes	No	Don't know	Not answered (OPTION HIDDEN FROM LIVE SURVEY)
are legally compliant?			X	
are sound?		X		
comply with the Duty to Co-operate?		X		

Q7. Please provide further information in relation to the previous question. e.g. why you do or do not consider the Local Plan to be legally compliant or sound.

The Leisure Strategy is not sound as it only considers supply and demand from the strategic sites in the Local Plan. In doing so, it ignores an anticipated population growth of 59% in Wallingford, Crowmarsh and Cholsey, taking it to 20,000 by 2032. Wallingford needs its own pay & play community sports centre and indoor pool to ensure the health of all its residents, including those without a car.

It is not sound because SODC appears to have decided on Didcot North East and Berinsfield as the sites for new leisure centres and pools with no evidence justifying their choice of location; despite being recommended back in 2011, a feasibility study for a sports centre & pool in Wallingford was never done. Proper evaluation of suitable sites INCLUDING Wallingford should be done.

The failure to include swimming and sports hall provision in Wallingford goes against TC2 10.9 ii) which says "Thame and Wallingford will be the focus of more localised main town centre retail, commercial and community facilities, leisure and services that reduce the need to travel."

It is not sound because Part 4 Community Halls excludes many of Wallingford's halls, 4 of which are in a poor state of repair and require significant investment now.

It does not comply with the duty to cooperate, as despite Wallingford Town Council calling out the need for additional indoor sport provision and an indoor swimming pool for Wallingford, SODC has chosen to ignore the clear evidence and consultation feedback and amend the Leisure Strategy.

It appears that Wallingford has been overlooked by SODC in favour of Berinsfield as the preferred site for a new leisure centre and indoor pool, despite Berinsfield having just 1/3 of Wallingford's population. This is negligence.

Q8. Please set out any modifications you consider necessary to make the Local Plan legally compliant or sound, having regard to your comments above. (NB - any non-compliance with the duty to co-operate is incapable of modification at examination). It will be helpful if you could put forward your suggested wording of any policy or text as precisely as possible.

The whole Leisure Strategy should be reworked to include non-strategic housing growth. Projected population density based on ALL planned housing (strategic and non-strategic) would be more accurate. The location of new indoor sports facilities and swimming pools should only then be decided.

Wallingford should be a priority for a new pay & play sports centre and indoor pool. Wallingford must be included in any FPM scenario modelling that determines where facilities should be located.

Revert back to the 2016 Leisure Strategy sub areas of "hubs" which more accurately reflects residents' behaviour. Wallingford is a hub town and the Local Plan identifies it as such as per TC2 10.9 ii (see above). A hub town needs its own sports and leisure facilities and cannot be expected to travel to Didcot or Berinsfield for swimming.

The previous hub strategy treated Didcot as a separate entity, with a Didcot Leisure Sub Area which included Vale of the White Horse. It's also vital to treat Didcot as a whole, and not just look at the SODC-side of the town, as facilities for Didcot must be joint-funded by the 2 councils regardless of which side of town they are in.

Protect and enhance the Riverside Pool as it is a much loved and used facility for Wallingford residents and visitors alike. Put aside £300,000 to develop the site up to 2034; £46k up to 2023 is not sufficient financial provision.

Update the Figure 57 Action Plan (Strategic Sports Facility Planning - West) as per below:

- 4 court Sports hall and pool in Wallingford
- Include Wallingford in the Sport England FPM Modelling for a new leisure centre and pool
- Provision of dedicated athletics facilities in Wallingford
- Ensure that Wallingford is included in the feasibility study options for dedicated gymnastics centres.
- Ensure that Wallingford School is included in the Community Use agreements on School Sites

Update Figure 58 - Site specific proposals by sub area table:

Wallingford: 25 x 4 lane pool, 4 court hall, Fitness suite with minimum of 100 stations, 2 x studio

Update the Fig 59 Action Plan for Playing Pitches: New Developments to say 3G pitch for Sports Park Wallingford.

Update Figure 6 for Part 4: Local Leisure Facilities with the following community halls:

- Regal Centre – closed. Rebuild estimated cost c. £2 million.
- Town Hall – Over £500k repairs.
- Rec Rooms – not even mentioned yet home to Preschool, CAB and Foodbank. To be closed in 2020 as building has reached the end of its life. No plans to replace so pressure for tenants to find new homes.
- Bull Croft Pavilion – to be replaced. Estimated cost £600k
- Scout Hut – not even mentioned. Building owned by SODC. Investment needed.

Update Figure 33 of Part 5: Open Spaces to state a Skate Park and Covered Seating for Wallingford Teenage Provision

Q10. Would you like to participate at the oral part of the examination, which takes place as part of the examination process?

No

Q11. Would you like to comment on another policy or paragraph?

No